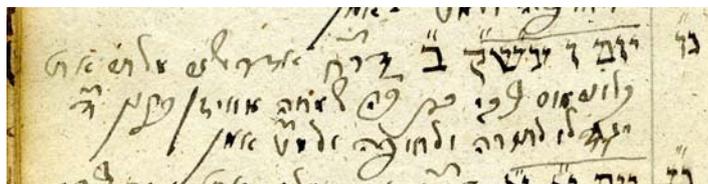


# BAMBERGER circumcisions

In the collection of Hebrew manuscripts belonging to the *Séminaire Israélite de France* (or *École Rabbinique de France*) in Paris, I have found in June 2006 a small volume under call-number **ER 141** composed of :

1. A printed booklet under title זוכר הברית (*Zokher ha-Berit*). It is an in-12°, constituted of 16 folios, 8 in Hebrew and 8 in לשון אשכנז (*Leshon Ashkenaz*). It has been published in Amsterdam in 1714 by Solomon-Zalman LONDON and never re-printed<sup>1</sup>.
2. A handwritten register of circumcisions containing 687 acts ; the *Mohel*, whom I have identified, Ascher BLUMENTHAL<sup>2</sup>, lives in Altenschönbach, Low Franconia, Bavaria, between Würzburg-am-Main and Fürth; this village is situated today in Landkreis Kitzingen. His activity begins Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> october 1797 and ends Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 1855. This *Mohelbuch* contains 56 folios ; wrong bounded. It begins at folio 4r, unto folio 41v (circumcision N° 504). Afterwards, from folio 2r (there is no folio 1 !) unto folio 3v (N<sup>os</sup> 505 to 529), and finally from folio 42r unto 55v (N<sup>os</sup> 530 to 687).
  - 95 x 150 mm.
  - Paper with watermark.
  - 7 articles of circumcision by page on average.
  - Dates of circumcision in square Hebrew writing, the rest of the text in ashkenazic cursive, XVIII<sup>th</sup>-XIX<sup>th</sup> century.
  - The flyleaf of this volume bears, by the same hand, receipts for stopping the blood of the *Milah* to flow, written in *jüdisch-deutsch*.
3. A bifolio in parchment (95 x 140 mm), fol. 56-57, containing Ne 9.8-11 (from וזכרת עמו הברית), then Ex 14.10-15.18, then Ps 22.29, then Ob 1.21, then Za 14.9 and Dt 6.4 (cf. *Shacharit, Siddur ashkenaz*).

## 1 - Act of circumcision N° 56, folio 8r :



The 6<sup>th</sup> day, eve of the Holy Sabbath, 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Rosh-Chodesh Adar II [562]<sup>3</sup>, I have circumcised Kalonymos-Tsevi, son of His Honour the rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

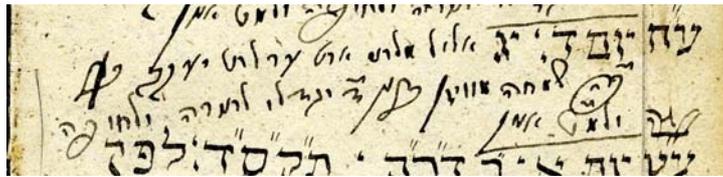
<sup>1</sup> Cf. Vinograd, *Thesaurus of the Hebrew Book*, Jérusalem, 1993, vol. 2, N° 1014, page 54, with an error about the described size; Ch. B. Friedberg, *Bet Eked Sepharim*, vol. I, N° 113, page 318.

<sup>2</sup> At the act of circumcision N° 501, he doesn't write תק"א, but אשר, his first name, which is the same *gematria*.

<sup>3</sup> Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 1802. If so, he is born Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> Februar 1802.

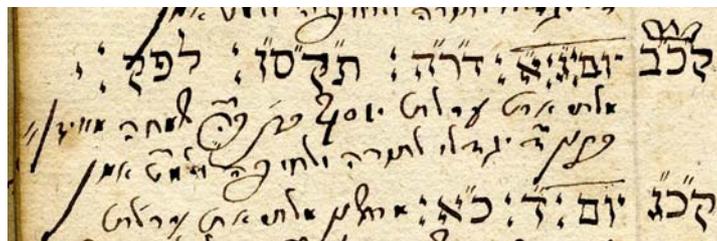
## BAMBERGER circumcisions

### 2 - Act of circumcision N° 78, folio 9v :



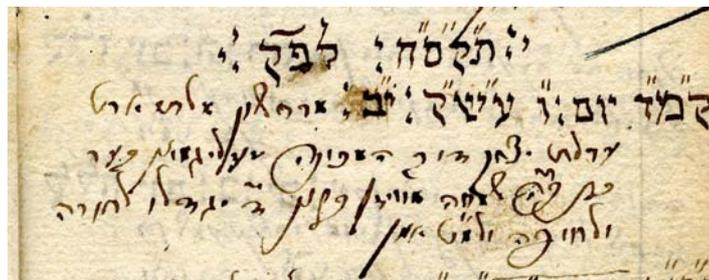
The 4<sup>th</sup> day, 13<sup>th</sup> Ellul [563]<sup>4</sup>, I have circumcised the foreskin of Jacob, son of His Honour the Rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

### 3 - Act of circumcision N° 122, folio 13r :



The 3<sup>rd</sup> day, 1<sup>st</sup> day of Rosh ha-Shana 566<sup>5</sup>, I have circumcised the foreskin of Joseph, son of His Honour the Rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

### 4 - Act of circumcision N° 144, folio 14v :



The 6<sup>th</sup> day, eve of the Holy Sabbath, 12 Mar'eshvan [568]<sup>6</sup>, I have circumcised the foreskin of Isaac-Dov, nicknamed *Seligmann-Ber*, son of His Honour the Rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

<sup>4</sup> Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 1803. If so, he is born in Wiesenbronn, Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> August 1803. Brother of the previous.

<sup>5</sup> Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 1805. If so, he is born in Wiesenbronn, Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 1805. Brother of the previous.

<sup>6</sup> Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 1807. Circumcision act of Seligmann-Bär BAMBERGER (the *Würzburger Rov*!), born in Wiesenbronn, Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 1807. Cf. Carsten Wilke, *Biographisches Handbuch der Rabbiner*, Teil 1, Band 1, K. G. Saur, München, 2004, N° 0103, page 167. Brother of the two previous.



