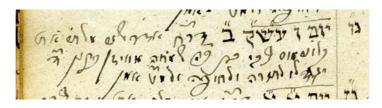
In the collection of Hebrew manuscripts belonging to the *Séminaire Israélite de France* (or *École Rabbinique de France*) in Paris, I have found in June 2006 a small volume under callnumber **ER 141** composed of :

- 1. A printed booklet under title אברית 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 וכרת 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 :

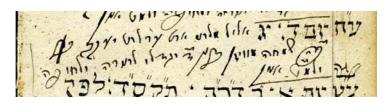


The 6<sup>th</sup> day, eve of the Holy Sabbath, 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Rosh-Chodesh Adar II [562]<sup>3</sup>, I have circumcised Kalonymos-Tsevi, son of His Honour the rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> At the act of circumcision N° 501, he doesn't write אשר, 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.

### 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 :

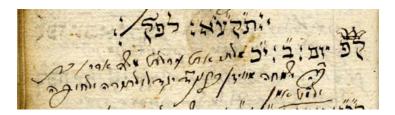
The 6<sup>th</sup> day, eve of the Holy Sabbath, 12 Mar'heshvan [568]<sup>6</sup>, I have circumcised the foreskin of Isaac-Dov, nicknamed *Seligmann-Ber*, son of His Honour the Rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

### 5 - Act of circumcision N° 180, folio 17r :



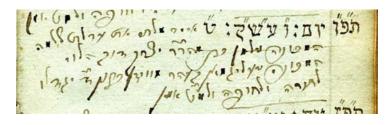
The 2<sup>nd</sup> day, Yom Kippur [571]<sup>7</sup>, I have circumcised the foreskin of Moses-Aryeh, son of His Honour the Rabbi Simcha, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

#### 6 - Act of circumcision N° 439, folio 37r :

ייתקצבי ותקצו: לפיל ייך צי תלט יותיה: כחיהלה האירוא ליחר פייך צי ירי נתיהיב מוד בנות שיארוא ליחר פייר בירי יוובר קעי היותיו ואר ביוחוב בולייוא תביו

The 5<sup>th</sup> day, 28<sup>th</sup> Tammuz [592]<sup>8</sup>, I have circumcised the foreskin of Simcha, son of our Master, the Rav Rabbi Isaac-Dov Segal, nicknamed *Seligmann-Behr*, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

#### 7 - Acte de circoncision N° 486, folio 40v :



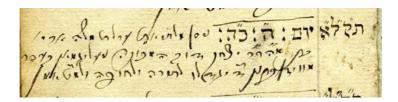
The 6<sup>th</sup> day, eve of the Holy Sabbath, 9<sup>th</sup> Iyyar [595]<sup>9</sup>, I have circumcised the foreskin of Solomon, nicknamed *Zalman*, son of our Master, the Rav Rabbi Isaac-Dov Ha-Levi, nicknamed *Seligmann-Behr*, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 1810. If so, he is born in Wiesenbronn, Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 1810. Brother of the previous.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 1832. Circumcision act of Simon-Simkha BAMBERGER, eldest son of the *Würzburger Rov*, born in Wiesenbronn, Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 1832. Cf. Carsten Wilke, op. cit., N° 0104, page 170.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1835. Brother of the previous ; circumcision act of Salomon-Zalman BAMBERGER, born in Wiesenbronn, Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1835. Cf. Carsten Wilke, op. cit., ibid., N° 0102, page 167.

### 8 - Act of circumcision N° 531, folio 42r :



The 5<sup>th</sup> day, 25<sup>th</sup> Nissan [598]<sup>10</sup>, I have circumcised the foreskin of Moses-Aryeh, son of our Master, the Rav Rabbi Isaac-Dov, nicknamed *Seligmann-Behr*, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

### 9 - Act of circumcision N° 558, folio 44r :

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day, 29<sup>th</sup> Tishri [600]<sup>11</sup>, I have circumcised the foreskin of Isaac, nicknamed *Zeckel*, son of our Master, the Rav Rabbi Isaac-Dov, nicknamed *Seligmann-Behr*, of Wiesenbronn. Let YHWH him grow for the Torah, the Chuppah and the good deeds, Amen.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> avril 1838. Brother of the previous ; circumcision act of Moses-*Loeb* BAMBERGER, born in Wiesenbronn, Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> avril 1838. Cf. Carsten Wilke, op. cit., ibid., N° 0101, page 167.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 1839. Brother of the previous ; circumcision act of Isaac-*Zeckel* BAMBERGER, born in Wiesenbronn, Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1839.