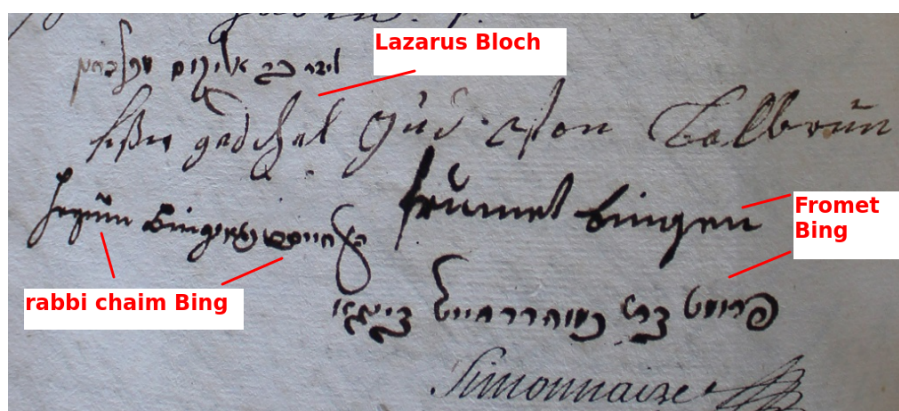


A Further Look at Madel, the Mother of Fromet Bing (2025)

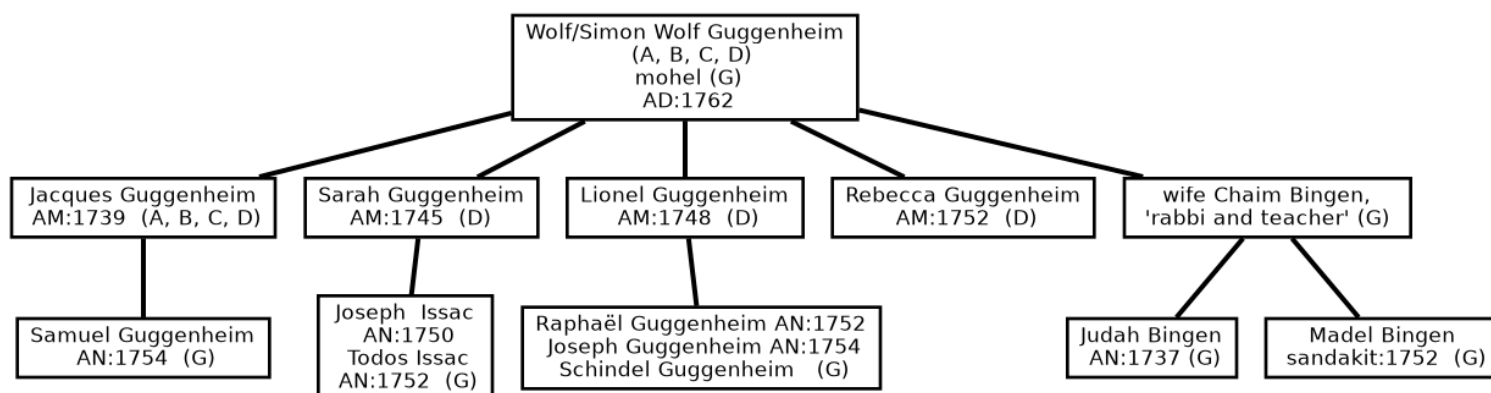
I recall that the precise question of interest here is whether the Madel mentioned on the 1765 AM of Fromet Bing [p.108] is in fact a daughter of [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim.

In 2024 after receiving the Roos article from Monsieur Claude-Alexis Gras, I wrote "Another Look at Madel". In the text I gave reasons why I remained sceptical about the answer being in the affirmative. Among other reasons, I pointed out that in the 1765 AM, as it appears in [Fraenckel, 178a], the title "rabbi" is not attributed to Chaim Bing.



1765.06.07: Signatures Chaim Bing, Fromet Bing and Lazarus Block

Thanks to Monsieur Claude-Alexis Gras this latter objection can now be dismissed. He has photographed the four pages of the original AM and discovered that Chaim Bing, the husband of Madel, was indeed a rabbi. As the image shows Fromet Bing signed -- presumably that is her writing -- in Latin letters, "Frümet Bingen". Underneath we find her signature in Hebrew in which she identifies her father as a rabbi (see the transcriptions and explanations, as well as other texts and documents in "New Material") The following graph shows the known children of [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim and his grandchildren (as indicated in the Ginsburger article [G]).



Descendants of Wolf Guggenheim

There still remains the enormous difference between the dowry received by Fromet Bing and those received by her purported siblings. Since I am a believer in not trying to hide one's incorrect statements I have left "Another Look at Madel" as is, aside from some typos and minor corrections. Instead I have decided to write this text, "A Further Look at Madel".

The following chronological table summarizes events that may help to elucidate matters; see the above mentioned texts and documents for details.

- i. ca.1700: AM Treitel Weyl and [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim; based on the AN of Jacques Guggenheim.
- ii. 1710: AN Jacques Guggenheim.
- iii. 1737: Wolf Guggenheim circumcised a grandson named Judah, the son of a **Chaim Bingen** who is referred to as a rabbi and teacher. *The unnamed mother was therefore a daughter of Wolf Guggenheim.*
- iv. 1739: AM Jacques Guggenheim, aged twenty-nine.
- v. 1741: A **Chaim Bing** of Obernai assisted the bride at a marriage [Fraenckel, 1741, below]. There is no mention of his being a rabbi, nor is there a mention at all of a rabbi. The dowry was 320 florins and the ketouba 600 florins.
- vi. 1745: AM Sarah Guggenheim.
- vii. 1748: AM Lion Guggenheim.
- viii. 1750: Wolf Guggenheim circumcised a grandson named Joseph, the son of his daughter Sarah.
- ix. 1751: Two marriages were performed by Rabbi **Israel Bing** of Obernai and another rabbi. I note that these marriages [Fraenckel, 165a. 165b] involved extremely wealthy families.
- x. 1752a: AM of Rebecca Guggenheim; an enormous dowry and ketuba. This took place less than two months after the marriages in 1751. Fraenckel does not mention the name of a rabbi.
- xi. 1752b: Wolf Guggenheim circumcised his grandson Raphael, the son of his son Löb Guggenheim. His granddaughter **Fromet, the daughter of Chaim**, was the sandakit.
- xii. 1752c: Wolf Guggenheim circumcised a grandson named Todos, the son of his daughter Sarah.
- xiii. 1753: AD Samuel Sanwil Weill. His widow Esther Phillips writes a letter [Document C] in favour of Jacques Guggenheim as the replacement of her husband as the Chief Rabbi of Haute-Alsace.

- xiv. 1754: Wolf Guggenheim circumcised a grandson named Samuel, the son of his son Jacques Guggenheim.
- xv. 1762: AD [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim.
- xvi. 1765: AM **Fromet Bing, daughter of Rabbi Chaim Bing and Madel.**
- xvii. 1779: AM Reichel Bing. The marriage took place in Obernai.
- xviii. 1784: AM Genedel Bing.
- xix. 1786: AM Sarle Bing [Genedel and Reichel married in Westhoffen to brothers from Westhoffen.]
- xx. 1790: Raphael Guggenheim the son of Löb Guggenheim, (see 1752b above) married in Obernai [Fraenckel, 255n]. This event took place in Obernai and the dowry and the ketouba were both very large. [The Revolution had started at this point in time, but the sumptuous marriages of the rich Jews of Alsace continued.]

Due to the precious contributions of Monsieur Gras I have once again looked at what I had written and also reopened with pleasure my copies of Fraenckel and Leeson.

We can now take as certain that an unnamed daughter of [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim married a Rabbi Chaim Bing and that they had a daughter named Fromet.

On the other hand let us consider the various events listed above. The daughter of [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim, whose existence is implied in the statement of the 1737 circumcision, would probably have been born between twenty to thirty years earlier, placing her AN sometime between 1705 and 1730 (Jacques Guggenheim was born in 1710) with a probable AM between 1725 and 1735 (Jacques Guggenheim married in 1739). The earliest marriage in Obernai recorded in [Fraenckel] dates from 1722 and in the twenty-seven pages of marriages until the marriage of Fromet Bing in 1765 the only year in which no marriage is listed is 1724. Nowhere do we find a marriage between a Chaim Bing and a daughter of [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim. I note that three of the documents [159a, 1746, married thirty-eight years; 161d, 1747, married approximately thirty years; 168o, married seven years] involved marriages that had taken place many years earlier, something that would seem to indicate that the authorities were enforcing the royal edict to register marriages. When and where the marriage of Rabbi Chaim Bing and the daughter of [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim took place remain open questions. One possibility is that the marriage took place in Frankfurt where the ultra-rich Joseph Guggenheim was a money changer (see also 174g from 1762 involving a Moyse Juda Bing from Frankfurt).

The absence of a record marriage is of course an argument from the negative. More indicative in my opinion is the question of the great discrepancies in dowries. I have already discussed this matter in, "Another Look at Madel", but I want to add a few points. It may have been the case that Rabbi Chaim Bing was far from wealthy, but

it is difficult to believe that a daughter of [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim had not received -- as was the case for all of her siblings -- a truly sizeable dowry. Certainly the wife of Rabbi Chaim Bing would have received more than enough to give her daughter Fromet a dowry far greater than 500 florins plus 120 florins in belongings (see 172n, from 1760 where “l'épouse précise que c'est elle-même qui s'est constitué sa dot”). Furthermore if Genedel (AM 1784) and Sarle (AM 1786) had had a daughter of [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim as a mother, then they would have been first cousins of Raphael Guggenheim. Raphael married in 1790, again with a huge dowry, whereas his putative first cousins, who had married shortly before, had received relatively small amounts.

So we have a conundrum here. One possible solution is perhaps contained in an AM from 1741 [Fraenckel, 156a] when the fatherless bride, from the relatively distant town of Marmoutier, was assisted by a **Chaim Bing de Obernai**. Nothing is said about this Chaim Bing being a teacher and/or a rabbi. This lack of an honorific should be compared with what was said about a Chaim Bing *four years earlier* at the moment when the latter's son was circumcised, namely that he was a “teacher and rabbi”.

The dowry in the 1741 was only 320 florins, with a ketouba 600 florins. Further the bride is only identified by a personal name (Scheve) followed by the name of her deceased father. Thus we have here a marriage among “common” folk as compared to the marriages of the children of [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim.

156 Obernai

22.6.1741

Sussman Bloch

fil de **Ychay Bloch** fil de **Ellezer**

Grussenheim

avec **Scheve** fille de feu **Moyse**

Marmoutier

• assistée de **'Hayim Bing** de Obernai

Dot : 320 florins.

Ketouba : 600 florins.

Franekel, 156a

Was the 1741 Chaim Bing a rabbi or studying to be a rabbi? Was this the reason for his presence at the marriage of an orphan from a distant place and whom he might not even have known? Did he have a wife named Madel? Was he related to (or perhaps even the same person as) the Rabbi **Israel Bing** who officiated at two marriages in Obernai in 1751? Unfortunately I do not have the answer to these questions.

Thus I can not definitely resolve the “Madel” enigma one way or the other. However, based on the information that we do have, I would lean to asserting that the 1741 Chaim Bing was a different person from the 1737 Chaim Bing, with the wife of the former having the name “Madel” and the latter having as a wife a daughter, whose name we do not know, of [Simon] Wolf Guggenheim. Both had a daughter named “Fromet”.