

Statement About the Emoluments of a Supervisor of the Erection of a  
Hospice (funduq), Made Before Maimonides and His Court

Budapest, David Kaufman Coll. XXI

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(The document proves again that the main concern of the poorer sections of the non-Muslim population was how to get the money for the payment of their tax. "The noble-born elder" probably was a person who had become destitute owing to some misfortune. Although such space was left on the page for signatures, none appear on it, perhaps because the inexact wording did not satisfy Maimonides, who therefore refused to sign it.)

We, the undersigned, declare that we agree to pay one dinar and two-thirds of a dinar for the jizya (poll-tax) of al-Sheikh al-Najib ("the noble-born elder") M. Abraham b. Yahya from the revenue of the buildings donated for the poor.

This sum is due to him for building supervision for the duration of a year and is an equivalent of one-half of a dirham, which he used to receive for each day when building operations were going on. This one-half of a dirham was deducted from the daily payment of two dirhams, earned by the Wakil (superintendent). "The noble-born elder" has renounced this one-half of a dirham, and not taken it, since the erection of the hospice by the elder Abu <sup>o</sup>Imrān, "the choice Kohen."

There is no harm in this procedure, but only a great advantage, as it removes hardship from the above mentioned with regard to the payment



of his tax, while his presence at the building and his keeping of the accounts are useful for the proper progress of work and its good completion. And Peace!

This decision was agreed upon in the court of our Master Moses, the great master... (eulogies), in the presence of the judges and the elders present.