

bols for the different stages of the alchemical work. She also discussed the influence of Ḥālid ibn Yazīd and Ibn Umayl on this text. Finally, she showed how the design of the symbolism in *Kitāb al-Aqālīm al-sab‘a* by al-Sīmāwī is partly different from the original ‘Mirror of Wonders’.

The workshop showed that we have serious gaps in research on the alchemical heritage in the Islamic period: many manuscripts are not available, a comparative research on the alchemical terminology is necessary, and the discussion on alchemy as a practical art and alchemical knowledge in its social contexts needs to be furthered. It offered the opportunity to discuss key questions, not only between the specialists of alchemical heritage in the Islamic period, but also with representatives of the study of European alchemy. In particular, the publication of bilingual text editions in the *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry* series (edited by Jennifer M. Rampling and Lawrence M. Principe) was encouraged.

An earlier version of this report has been published as ‘Tagungsbericht: Gotha Manuscript Workshop: Alchemy in the Islamicate World, 28.09.2018 – 29.09.2018 Gotha’, in *H-Soz-Kult*, 24.11.2018, <[www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-7962](http://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-7962)>.

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## **Twentieth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies Regional and Global Ethiopia – Interconnections and Identities Mekelle, 1–5 October 2018**

### **(1) Past, Present and Future of Editing Ethiopian Texts**

From 1 to 5 October 2018 Mekelle University hosted the twentieth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies (ICES20), bearing the title ‘Regional and Global Ethiopia – Interconnections and Identities’. The Conference was organized by the ICES20 Organizing Committee with kind support by the International Organizing Committee, the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Frobenius Institute, Goethe Institute, French Centre of Ethiopian Studies, German Embassy, French Embassy, and other stakeholders. The host, Mekelle University, is an important academic institution in Ethiopia, which was ranked second among forty universities in Ethiopia in the academic year of 2017/2018. The announced programme of ICES20 contained over 700 papers grouped in 83 panels. Despite some unavoidable changes, the conference represented the range and variety of research topics related to Ethiopia, Eritrea, and the Horn of Africa, among which manuscript studies and philology were well represented. The relevant sessions included, among others, the panel ‘Past, Present

and Future of Editing Ethiopian Texts' organized by Alessandro Bausi (Universität Hamburg), on 3 October 2018, which is in the focus of this report.

Ten papers were presented during this panel. After a short introduction, Alessandro Bausi presented on 'Editing Ethiopian Texts: the Case of the More Ancient Layer', in which he posed the question of a required re-examination of methods and assumptions in the light of the evidence of more ancient text witnesses. His paper was followed by the presentation by Maija Priess (Universität Hamburg) on 'Criteria for a Critical Edition of Ethiopic Amos'. This presentation considers the study of toponomastics of Ethiopic Amos with the aim to select the most relevant manuscripts for text reconstruction out of thirty seven manuscripts which were selected by the team of the project 'Textual History of the Old Testament'. Next presentation, by Nafisa Valieva (Universität Hamburg) was dedicated to the editing of the *Gadla Lālibalā* (Life of Lālibalā), a hagiographic composition which is considered to be the main source of the legendary life and deeds of the medieval Ethiopian king.

The second session of the panel was opened by the presentation by Mer-sha Alehegne (Addis Ababa University), 'Towards a Comprehensive Study of the Indigenous Text-Critical Methods of Ethiopia: a Focus on Recently Printed Gə'əz New Testament'. He presented two introductory texts to the recently published New Testament, which deliver information regarding indigenous methods and attitudes of text editing. The next presentation, by Stefan Weninger (Philipps-University of Marburg), was dedicated to the relevance of new editions of Gə'əz texts for facilitating future studies in grammar and lexicography. Antonella Brita (Universität Hamburg) subsequently proposed a methodological reflection on the edition of texts transmitted as part of large hagiographic collections in multiple-text manuscripts. The main focus was the edition of the texts of the *Gadla samā 'tāt* (Lives of martyrs).

The next session was opened by the presentation by Daria Elagina (Universität Hamburg) on her work towards the new edition of the Chronicle of John of Nikiu. The following presentation by Solomon Gebreyes Beyene (Universität Hamburg) was dedicated to the preparation of a critical edition of a royal court available in a manuscript containing the Homily of St Michael, originating from the monastery of Tārā Gadām. This document provides information on the hierarchical structure of titles and ranks of various office holders. In the next presentation, Jonas Karlsson (University of Hamburg) discussed the problems of producing a scholarly edition of the *Dəgg"ā*, the main antiphony of the Ethiopic Orthodox Church. Finally, the paper by Getatchew Haile (Saint John's University) dedicated to the history of the monastery Dimā Giyorgis in Goḡḡām was read in absentia by Michael Gervens (University of Toronto).

The panel programme can be accessed at <<https://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/en/ethiostudies/about/conferences/ices2018-panels/ices2018-texts>>.

Other text- and manuscript-oriented panels during the conference included, among others, ‘The Medieval Ethiopian Dynamics (12<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries): State, People, Space and Knowledge in Movement’ (with, among others, another paper dealing with King Lālibalā and his hagiography, presented by Marie-Laure Derat and Claire Bosc-Tiessé), ‘Ethiopia and the Ancient World: Reception and Transformation of Geographical Knowledge’ (with several papers on Ethiopian Greek heritage, including another paper by Alessandro Bausi, with Gianfranco Agosti, on late antique Greek Egyptian epic poetry, and on Greek ‘scientific’ literature translated into Ethiopic, by Klaus Geus and Carsten Hoffmann and Zeus Wellnhofer), ‘Gə‘əz Literature’ (with ten papers on various issues connected with works of Christian Ethiopian literature, original and translated, from the biblical Enoch, by Haileyesus Abebachew, to the national epic *Kəbra nagast*, by Michael Kleiner, from magic texts, by Gidena Mesfin, to the homilies, by Rafał Zarzeczny and Amsalu Tefera, to the Synaxarion, by Dorothea Reule, among others, as well as an overview of manuscripts recently acquired by the Bavarian State Library, by Veronika Six), ‘Ethiopian Christianity: Global Interconnections and Local Identities—From Late Antiquity to Early Modern Times’ (with a paper on the letter of Severos of Antioch in Ethiopic by Philip Forness), and ‘Philological Studies on Modern Ethiopian Texts’ (which included among others two papers, by Nuraddin Aman and by Muna Abubeker, on Islamic Ethiopian manuscripts in ‘*aḡāmī*’ script). The panel ‘Ethiopian Christian Art: Defining Styles, Defying Definitions’ featured two papers on manuscript illumination, by Meseret Oldjira and by Jacopo Gnisci, and a paper on the Ethiopian binding decoration, by Sean Winslow. A report on the panel on ‘Automatic Text Processing and Digital Humanities for Ethiopian Language and Culture’ is published separately.

The book of abstracts of ICES20 is accessible at <[http://www.ices20-mu.org/BookOfAbstract\\_contents.pdf](http://www.ices20-mu.org/BookOfAbstract_contents.pdf)>. For the full programme of the conference, visit <<http://www.ices20-mu.org/program.php>>. Selected papers are expected to be published in the proceedings of the conference.

*Daria Elagina*  
*Universität Hamburg*

## **(2) Automatic Text Processing and Digital Humanities for Ethiopian Language and Culture**

On 4 October 2018 a one-day panel on ‘Automatic Text Processing and Digital Humanities for Ethiopian languages and Culture’ was organized as part of the ICES20 held at Mekelle University. A first international event dedicated to the new digital method and its application to all Ethiopian languages (includ-

ing but not limited to Gə‘əz) and cultural heritage (including manuscripts), it was convened jointly by Cristina Vertan (Universität Hamburg) and Solomon Teferra Abate and Martha Yifiru Tachbelie (Addis Ababa University).

The papers were organized into two sessions, with the morning one dedicated to Digital Humanities and the afternoon one to Corpus and Computational Linguistics.

The first session (Digital Humanities) was opened by a talk of Daniel Yacob (Gə‘əz Frontier Foundation) who addressed the challenges and envisaged solutions for defining a common layout template for all Ethiopian languages using the Gə‘əz script. A proposal for joining forces in bringing the field of Ethiopian Languages and Culture into the digital era was formulated by Isabelle A. Zaugg (Columbia University). Anaïs Wion (CNRS, Paris) presented the work performed within the Ethiopian Manuscript Archives project, especially with regard to the TEI encoding of the digitized manuscripts. Pietro Liuzo (Universität Hamburg) gave an overview on the architecture and functionality of the *Beta maṣāḥəft* online portal (<<http://betamasasheft.eu/>>) gathering a large amount of metadata related to predominantly Christian manuscripts from Ethiopia and Eritrea. In a second talk, he introduced a new online application <<http://betamasasheft.eu/Dillmann/>>, which for the first time offers access and search functionality to a dictionary of Gə‘əz, based on an electronic version of Dillmann’s *Lexicon linguae Aethiopicae* (produced within the framework of the ERC project TraCES) and connected to a digital corpus of texts. Together with Solomon Gebreyes Beyene (Universität Hamburg), he then illustrated the opportunities offered by TEI-XML mark-up of texts on the example of place names annotated in an Ethiopic chronicle (and supplied with metadata on the *Beta maṣāḥəft* platform).

The last talk of the morning session and the first talk of the afternoon session were both located rather at the border between Digital Humanities and Computational Linguistics. In the morning, Cristina Vertan demonstrated the functionality of the GeTa tool (also developed for the TraCES project), an annotation software tailored for addressing the needs of detailed morphological analysis of texts in the Gə‘əz language. The afternoon session opened with another talk by Daniel Yacob, in which he illustrated how difficult work on historical languages can be, starting with the encoding and representations of characters not present in any scheme, such as the chant notation used in Ethiopic hymnaries.

The following contributions focused on current developments across all major modern Ethiopian languages. A selection of existing Ethiopian web corpora (Amharic, Tigrinya, Somali, and Oromo) was described in the presentation of Derib Ado (Addis Ababa University) and his colleagues from

Addis Ababa University, Jigjiga University, and the University of Oslo. Yaroslav Gutgarts (International Committee of the Red Cross, Ethiopia) spoke on standardization of written Tigrinya. A framework for linguistic annotation of the Somali language corpus (<<http://www.somalicorpus.com/>>) was described by Jama Musse Jama (Redsea Cultural Foundation, Hargeisa).

The panel provided a first overview of the state of the art in digital methods addressing Ethiopian cultural and linguistic space. Whilst corpus and computational linguistics seem to have become integral part of research programmes in Ethiopia, digital humanities (including digital preservation of the cultural heritage) are still limited to single projects in Europe and USA. Held in Ethiopia and attended by the audience from all over the country, the workshop was able to bring in discussion trends, challenges, and opportunities of this new interdisciplinary field.

A volume collecting among others revised versions of the workshop papers shall be published as a monographic *Supplement* to the journal *Aethiopica*. For the full programme and conference abstracts, visit <<https://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/en/ethiostudies/about/conferences/ices2018-panels/ices2018-dh/>>.

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