



Universität Hamburg

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Ethio-SPaRe:

Cultural Heritage of Christian Ethiopia: Salvation, Preservation and Research (Hamburg)

TraCES:

From Translation to Creation: Changes in Ethiopic Style and Lexicon
from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages (Hamburg)

IslHornAfr:

Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach (Copenhagen)

International Conference

Manuscripts and texts, languages and contexts The transmission of knowledge in the Horn of Africa

Hamburg, 17-19 July 2014

Conference Programme



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Manuscripts and texts, languages and contexts

The transmission of knowledge in the Horn of Africa

The conference *Manuscripts and texts, languages and contexts* is jointly organized by three EU-funded projects in Ethiopian Studies. For the project *Ethio-SPaRe: Cultural Heritage of Christian Ethiopia* (ERC Starting Grant, Hamburg, 2009-2014), dealing with recording and cataloguing manuscripts preserved in ecclesiastic libraries primarily in the North Ethiopian Highlands, this is the major closing conference. For the projects *TraCES: From Translation to Creation: Changes in Ethiopic Style and Lexicon from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages* (ERC Advanced Grant, Hamburg, 2014-2019), dealing mainly with Ge'ez written heritage and *IslHornAfr: Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach* (ERC Advanced Grant, Florence - Copenhagen, 2013-2018), dealing with the Islamic manuscript tradition of Ethiopia and the Horn, this is a launching event.

The conference is organized into four thematic panels: Palaeography and Codicology (Chair: D. Nosnitsin); Ge'ez Philology and Language (Chair: A. Bausi); History and Historical Geography (Chair: D. Nosnitsin); Islamic Tradition: Arabic and Ajami Manuscripts (Chair: A. Gori).

The papers in the *Palaeography and Codicology* section are expected to centre on the analysis of the physical aspects of Ethiopian manuscripts. Such issues as layout, decoration, writing styles, but also the reconstruction of provenance, scriptoria or historical libraries are of primary interest. Case studies on manuscript preservation and/or material analysis methods are also welcome.

The panel on the *Philology and Language* would like to address in the first place the earliest strata of Ge'ez literature. Papers dealing with the reconstruction and the history of texts - also in the sense of the borrowings and/or transfer of literary motifs - shall be in the centre of academic discussion. Besides discussing little known textual problems, the organizers would invite, on this occasion, to revisit the issues of such complex and multi-layered texts as the Kebra Nagast or the Miracles of Mary. An additional issue shall be the developments in the style and lexicon of the Ge'ez language as it may be reflected in the texts from different periods.

The *History and Historical Geography* panel welcomes contributions centring on the use of manuscripts for reconstructing Ethiopian cultural landscape of the past. Not only the major works but also, and even more so, the many additional texts or notes can assist in establishing the relationships that once existed between persons, places or regions. These may have been occasional or systematic. Revealing these historical links is the purpose of the discussion.

The final panel, *Islamic Tradition*, deals with the manuscripts written or used by the Muslims of Ethiopia. These may be in Arabic or in other languages (written in Arabic script). The actual texts transmitted in these manuscripts, their themes and distribution, are of primary interest. Codicological or historical issues shall also be considered.

Thursday, 17 July, Edmund Siemers Allee 1 Ost, Room 221

9:00-9:15 Opening words from the Organisers

Session 1. Codicology

9:15-10:00 Some preliminary conclusions of the Ethio-SPARE project (Denis Nosnitsin, Hamburg)

Address of a representative of the Tigray Culture and Tourism Agency
Address of a representative of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

10:00-10:45 Emergence and decline of manuscript collections in North Ethiopia: problems of study (Denis Nosnitsin, Hamburg)

Coffee break

11:15-12:00 The Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles: unknown witnesses of the collection from East Təgray (Vitagrazia Pisani, Hamburg)

12:00-12:45 Towards an understanding of early Ethiopian scribal tendencies (Ted Erho, Munich)

12:45-13:30 Text arrangement and scribal practices in Ethiopian Psalter manuscripts (Sophia Dege, Hamburg)

Lunch

Session 2. History I

15:00-15:45 Reconstructing and Mapping Aksum's Historical Toponymy: a Preliminary Attempt (Luisa Sernicola, Naples - Antonella Brita, Hamburg)

15:45-16:30 Where was the original place of the Atronsä Maryam Church? (Derese Ayenachew, Debre Berhan)

16:30-17:15 Emperor Zär'a Ya'əqob of Ethiopia to Augusta Helen, "Your deed followed you." (Getatchew Haile, Colledgeville)

Coffee break

17:45-18:30 Communications

Implications of a 19th Century Təgrəñña Manuscript for the Study of Local History and Culture (Fesseha Berhe, Mekelle)

Portraits of donors in Ethiopian manuscripts of late 19th and early 20th centuries (Michael Knüppel, Vellmar)

The Chronicle of Emperor Gälawdewos (1540-1559): a Source for the Research of Historical Geography of Medieval Ethiopia (Solomon Gebreyes, Hamburg)

18:30-19:00 Discussion

Friday, 18 July, Edmund Siemers Allee 1 Ost, Room 221

Session 3. History II

- 9:15-10:00 Historical Texts in Manuscripts from East Tigray: An Overview (Stéphane Ancel, Hamburg)
- 10:00-10:45 Mapping Medieval Ethiopia: The Province of Wajj, 13th to the 16th centuries (Shiferaw Bekele, Addis Ababa)

Coffee break

- 11:15-12:00 Ras Alula's Ge'ez Biography - Revisiting (Haggai Erlich, Tel Aviv)
- 12:00-12:45 A short Amharic manuscript of the 1840s found in the Vatican papers of Arnauld d'Abbadie (Eloi Ficquet, Paris)
- 12:45-13:30 Revisiting the 1911 Unpublished Diary of Heruy Walda-Sellase (Bahru Zezde, Addis Ababa)

Lunch

Session 4. History III

- 15:00-15:45 North Ethiopian Epistolography - Newly Discovered Letters of Tigrayan Nobles from Missionary Archives (Second Half of the 19th Century) (Wolbert Smidt, Mekelle)
- 15:45-16:30 The Historical Writings of Aläqa Täkläyesus Waqjira in Documenting the Literary, Cultural and Regional Landscape of Gojjam (Getie Gelaye, Hamburg)
- 16:30-17:15 Writing the ancient history of Goğğam: the screen of the 19th c. regional historiography (Margaux Herman, Dabra Marqos)

Coffee break

- 17:45-18:30 Communications

An ancient description of the inhabited world, with some anecdotes concerning different cities and sages: The case of a new manuscript (Rafal Zarzeczny, Rome)

The Composition of historical Documents in Təgray: the *Kəbrä Nägäšt*, *Mäşhäfä Aksum*, *Wängel zäwäraq* and *Tarikä Nägäšt* (Yohannes G/Selassie)

- 18:30-19:00 Discussion

Saturday, 19 July, Edmund Siemers Allee 1 Ost, Room 221

Session 5A. Ge'ez Philology I

- 9:00-9:15 The TRACES Project: methodology and goals (Alessandro Bausi, Andreas Ellwardt, Christina Vertan, Hamburg)
- 9:15-10:00 An old witness for the Ge'ez version of Ben Sira (Daniel Assefa, Addis Ababa)
- 10:00-10:45 The conundrum of the Ethiopic personal names in the Ethiopic Bible (Martin Heide, Marburg)
- Coffee break
- 11:15-12:00 The Textual Criticism of Ethiopic Obadiah: a Characterization of the Shared Variants Constituting the Five Families of Manuscripts (Garry Jost, Marylhurst University)
- 12:00-12:45 Challenges in the text-critical study of the Ethiopic Book of Enoch (Loren Stuckenbruck, Munich)
- 12:45-13:30 Cycles of Zion in the early Ethiopic texts (Amsalu Teferra, Addis Ababa)

Lunch

Session 6A. Ge'ez Philology II

- 15:00-15:45 A 1609 Ge'ez letter by ras Se'elä Krestos: Insights into the language's status in early seventeenth century Ethiopia (Leonardo Cohen, Haifa- Andreu Martinez, Hamburg)
- 15:45-16:30 A new Grammar of Ge'ez: Challenges and Surprises (Stefan Weninger, Marburg)
- 16:30-17:15 The earlier textual Ethiopic heritage (Alessandro Bausi, Hamburg)
- Coffee break
- 17:45-18:30 Communications
- Beyond Tribal Names and Denominations in the Texts of *Mäffətəhe Səray* Manuscripts (Gidena Mesfin, Hamburg)
- Ge'ez grammar and vocabulary in the ancient manuscripts and in contemporary usage (Dawit Tessega, Nuernberg)
- 18:30-19:00 Discussion
- 19:00-19:30 Final general discussion

Saturday, 19 July, Edmund Siemers Allee 1 Ost, Room 222

Session 5B. Islamic Philology I

- 9:00-9:15 The IslHornAfr Project: methodology and goals (Alessandro Gori, Copenhagen)
9:15-10:00 Waqf certificates from Harar: a first assessment (Alessandro Gori, Copenhagen)
10:00-10:45 Saho Islamic poetry and other literary genres in Ajami script (Giorgio Banti, Naples - Moreno Vergari, Bolzano - Axmadsacad Maxammad Cumar)

Coffee break

- 11:15-12:00 Two Argobba ajām manuscripts from Wällo (Andreas Wetter, Berlin)
12:00-12:45 Introducing an Arabic manuscript of Šayḥ Muḥammad Šāfiʿ (d. 1806) (Endris Mohammed, Addis Ababa)
12:45-13:30 Šayḥ Abdellah Walenso (d.1369A.H /1949 A.D) and his Legacy in Transmission of Ḥadīth in Southeastern Ethiopia: Preliminary Remarks on Two Written Ijāza of Ḥadīth found in Arsi (Hasen Mohammed Kawo, Addis Ababa)

Lunch

Session 6B. Islamic Philology II

- 15:00-15:45 Ajami mss. from southern Somalia: sheekh Awees from Brava (Giorgio Banti, Naples)
15:45-16:30 Word-breaking in Ethiopian Arabic: Evidence for intimate Christian-Muslim contact (with an appendix on semantic change in Harari) (Orin Gensler, Addis Ababa)
16:30-17:15 Communications 1
Magic, Traditional Medicine and Theurgy in Arabo-Islamic Manuscripts of the Horn of Africa (Sara Fani, Florence/Copenhagen)
Some notes about the lists of saints in Harari Arabic manuscripts (Michele Petrone, Florence/Copenhagen)

Coffee break

- 17:45-18:30 Communications 2
Describing a Tigrigna 'Ajami Manuscript (Amira Ibrahim, Addis Ababa)
Bun Fatah, A Harari Supplication Related to Coffee Ceremony (Ahmed Zekaria, Addis Ababa)
Kashf Al-Ġuma: An Inspirational and Polemical Text by Shaykh Ṭalḥa Ja`far (c. 1853-1936): Thematic and Linguistic Analyses (Kemal Abdulwahab, Addis Ababa)
The "unique manuscript collection" of Seddeqa: Jimma Zone (southwestern Ethiopia) (Kemal Ibrahim, Addis Ababa)
18:30-19:00 Discussion
19:00-19:30 Final general discussion in Room 221

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Discussants:

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Gianfranco Fiaccadori, Ran HaCohen, Steven Kaplan,
Ewald Wagner, Rainer Voigt

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