Lesser Known Features of the Ethiopian Codex

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Session 7.02. „Restoration“

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Ethiopian bindings: two wooden boards, two pairs of sewing stations

TNY-003, 30 x 26.5 x 7

TNY-037, 15 x 9.7 x 4
Ethiopian sewing and board attachment

a-b) Disposition of the holes in the boards, anchoring of the thread
c) Ethiopian link-stitch sewing: one thread, two needles

After: J.A. Szirmai, *The Archaeology of Medieval Bookbinding*, Farham: Ashgate 1999, 46, fig. 4.1
a) Ethiopian sewing: chain of linked stitches

b) Board attachment: threads led through the sets of holes

b) Sewing threads knotted in the middle of the endleaf quire
Ethiopian bindings: two wooden boards covered by blind-tooled leather

QDGM-009: Commentaries of John Chrysostom on Pauline Epistles,
27.5 x 23 x 7.5, 144 fols.,
19th cent.
Ethiopian bindings: blind-tooled ornament on leather cover

18th - 19th-cent. books from the monastery Qäqäma Maryam (Dägˁa Tämben, Central Tēgray)
Structure of the Ethiopian endband


b) Endband sewing almost intact

c) Two colour slit-braid endband
Big textblocks

a) UM-027: Four Gospels,  
29 x 20 x 13, 263 fols., 35 quires,  
late 14th/early 15th cent.

b) QSM-017: Miracles of Mary,  
21 x 20 x 10, 265 fols., 33 quires,  
1721-35
Leather boards

MY-021: Missal,
22.5 x 14 x 3, 35 fols.,
18th/19th cent. (?)
Leather boards
MHG-009: Hymnary, 19 x 17 x 4, 128 fols., 18th cent.

MAKM-011: Collection of Prayers, 19 x 17 x 7, 190 fols., 18th cent.
Leather boards: concavity of the spine

MAKM-011
Overback

THMR-001, Acts of Täklä Haymanot, 20.2 x 19.2 x 7, 172 fols., 1682 A.D. Overback and its turn-ins on the inner face of the upper board.
Overback

HMM-001, Four Gospels,
32.7 x 29.5 x 7.5, 154 fols.,
1721-30 A.D.
Boards covered by reddish-brown tooled leather, and tooled overback.
Leaves of protective quires as pastedowns (fly-leaves)

**MY-004: Four Gospels,**
30 x 20.5 x 6, 144 fols.,
early 14th cent.

**UM-027: Four Gospels,**
29 x 20 x 13, 263 fols.,
late 14th/early 15th cent.
Leaves of protective quires as pastedowns (fly-leaves)

AMQ-004: Book of the Rite of the Passion Week, 44 x 32 x 11, 158 fols., 16th cent.
Protective quire (binion) before the upper board; traces of adhesive on the verso-side (a), remains of turn-ins on the recto-side (b)
Leaves of protective quires as pastedowns (end-leaves)

AMQ-004: Book of the Rite of the Passion Week,
44 x 32 x 11, 158 fols., 16th cent.
Protective quire (remains of a binion?)
before the lower board;
a) remains of turn-ins on the recto-side;
b) remains of adhesive on the verso side.
Parchment guards

a) b) c) d)
Parchment guards in ዓንዳ ጥባ ግርማ迦 ጥ TForm its bFormField

EMQ-004: The Book of Ḥawi,  
33 x 25.8 x 20.5, 438 fols., Late 16th cent. (?)