

Preserving the African Archive: Field Research on Early Manuscripts and Monasteries in Northern Ethiopia

Dr. Denis Nosnitsin

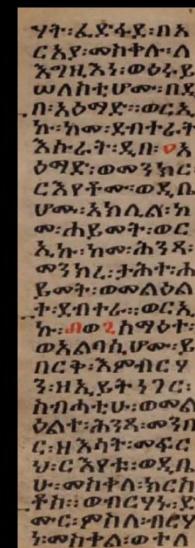
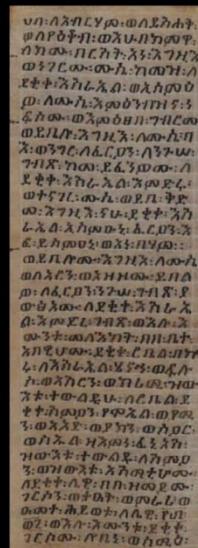
Ethio-Spare, Hamburg University



Ethio-Spare

Cultural Heritage of Christian Ethiopia: Salvation, Preservation, Research

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Hamburg University



Main academic objectives

- ➡ Field research: collection, history, oral tradition
 - ➡ Search to identify the sites of historical manuscript collections
 - ➡ Archival research in situ
 - ➡ Digitization
- ➡ Recording of the local cultural context: ascertaining the locations, capturing landscape and general architectural features, identifying local scribes and manuscript makers
- ➡ Recording of the local historical context: interviews, questioning the local people,



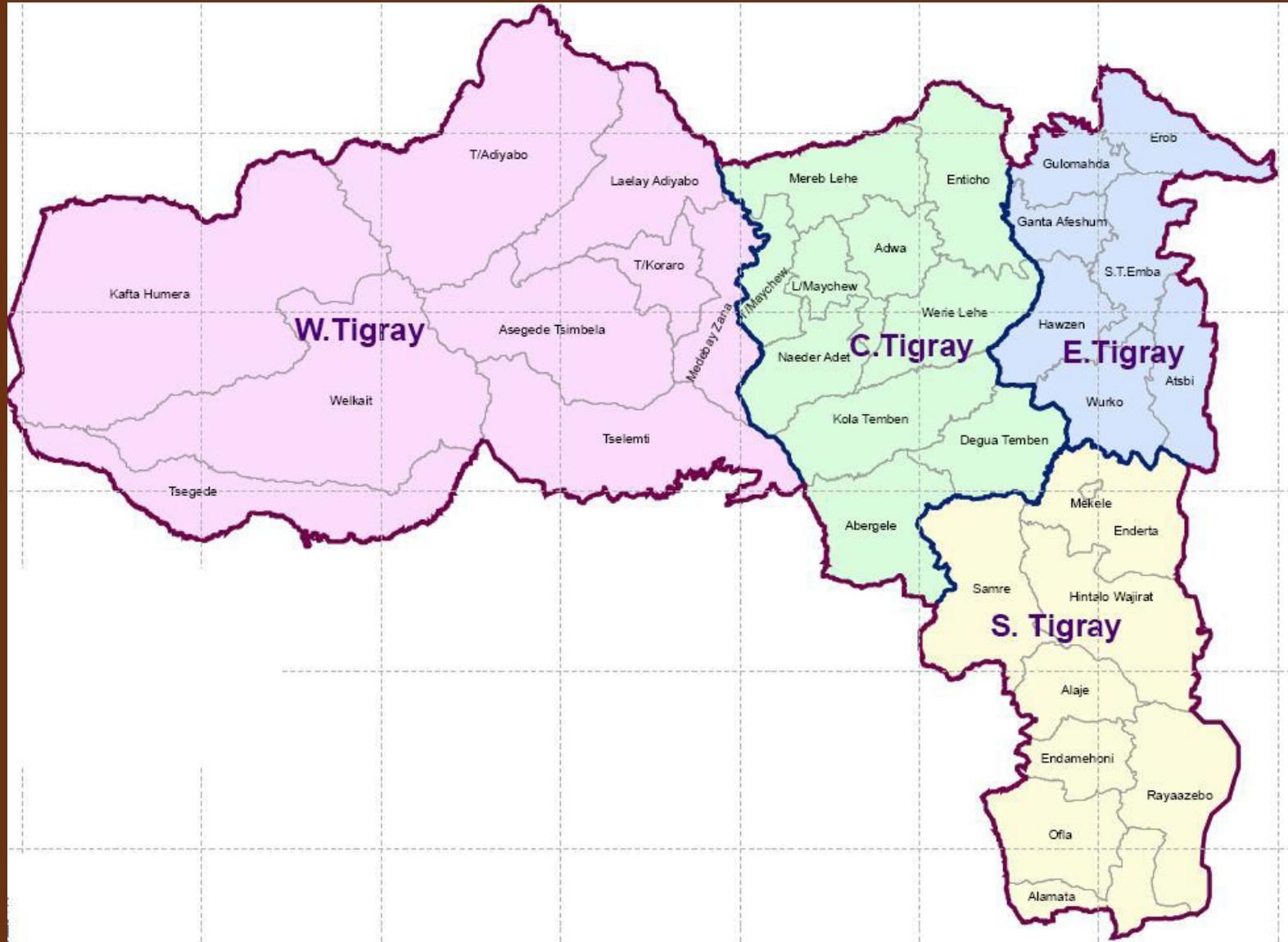
Main academic objectives

- ➡ Salvation and preservation of cultural heritage
 - ➡ Inventarization, creation of shelf lists
 - ➡ Creation of digital copies
 - ➡ Protection and restoration of the manuscript heritage

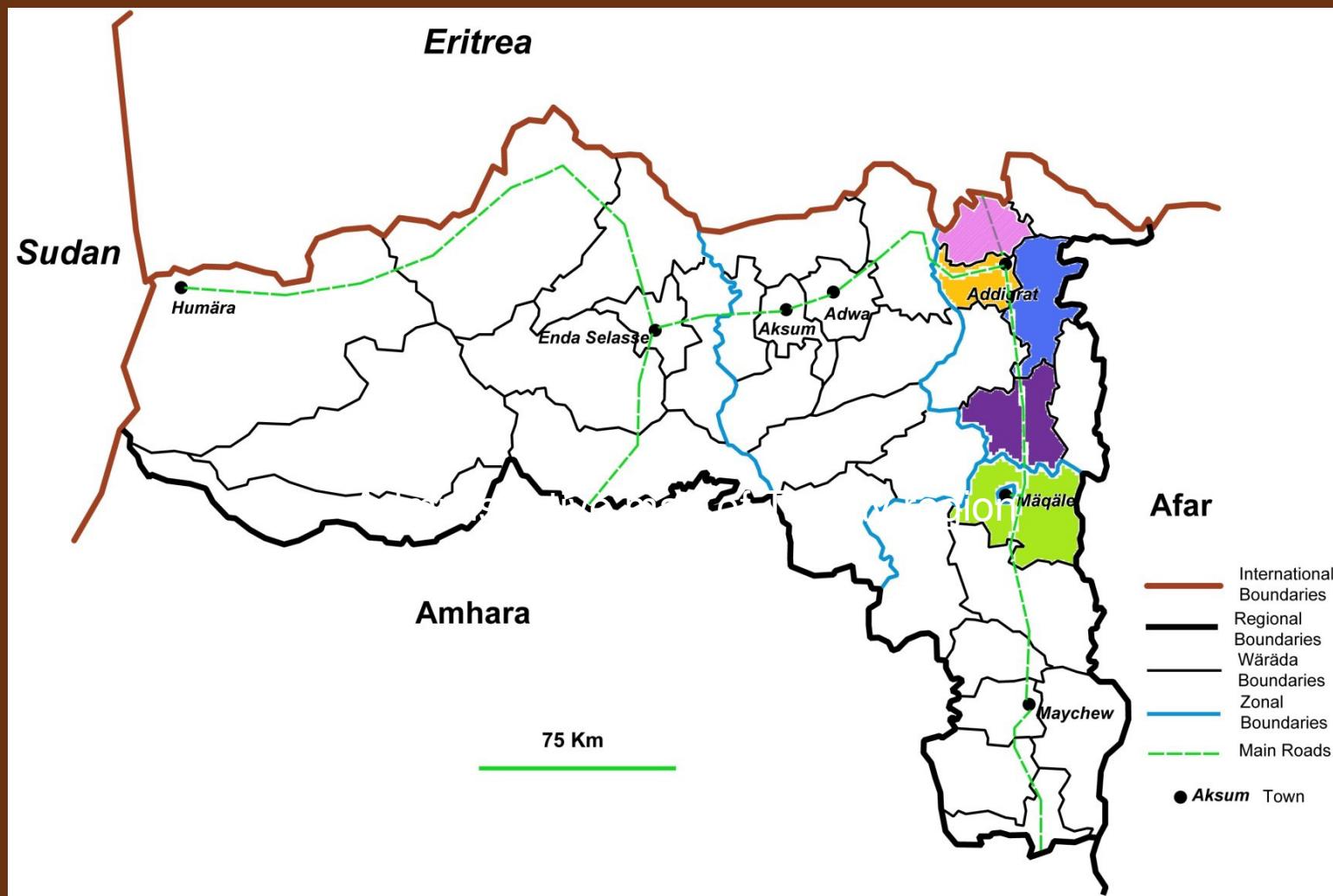
- ➡ Research into the cultural heritage
 - ➡ Database development
 - ➡ Manuscript cataloguing according to the modern standards
 - ➡ Research in codicology and palaeography
 - ➡ Historico-philological research



Ethiopia

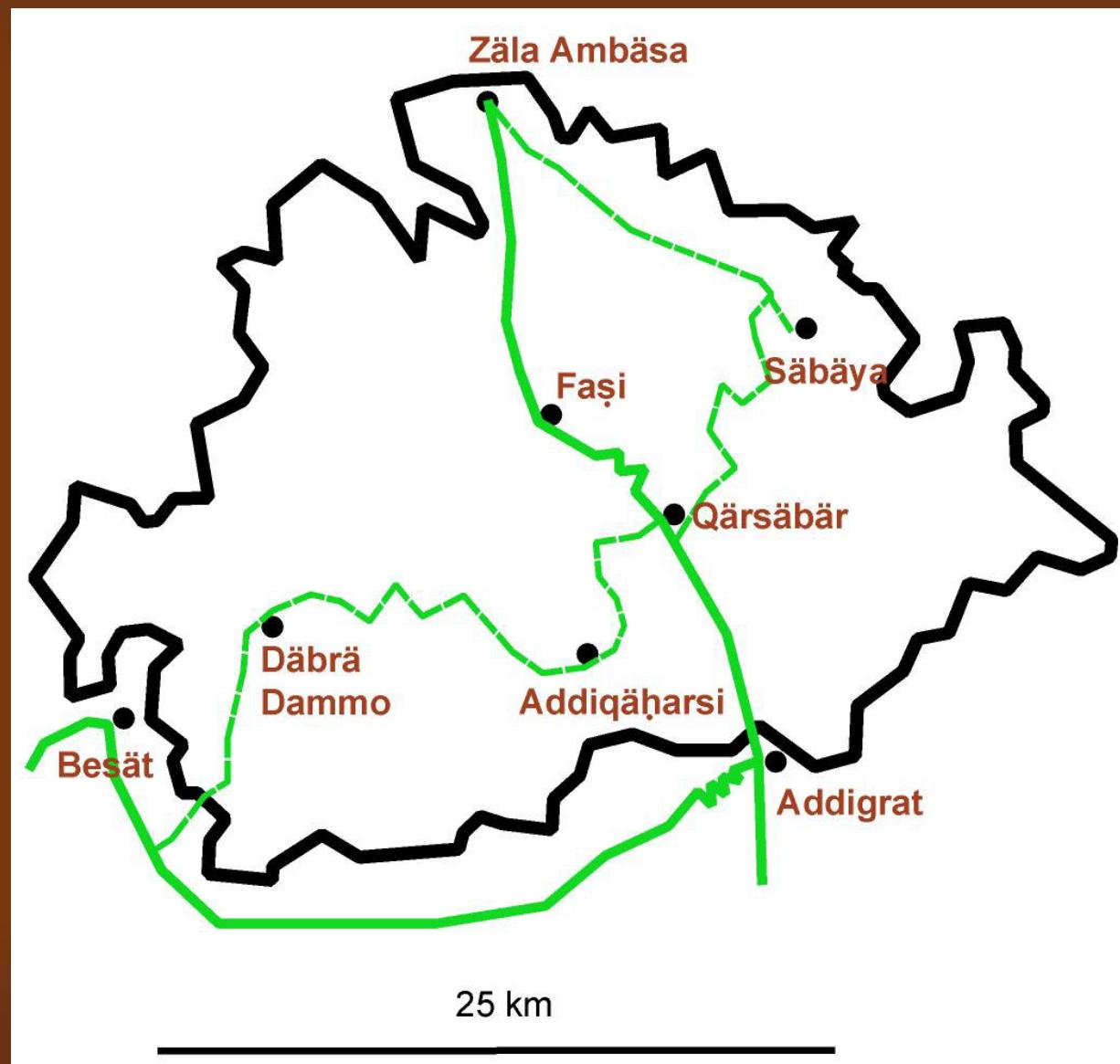


Administrative map of Tigray region



Area of field missions in 2010-11:
 Gulo Mäkäda, Ganta Afäšum, Saṣi Ṣaṣda ደምባ, Wuqro, ደንዳርታ

Gulo Mäkäda wäräda

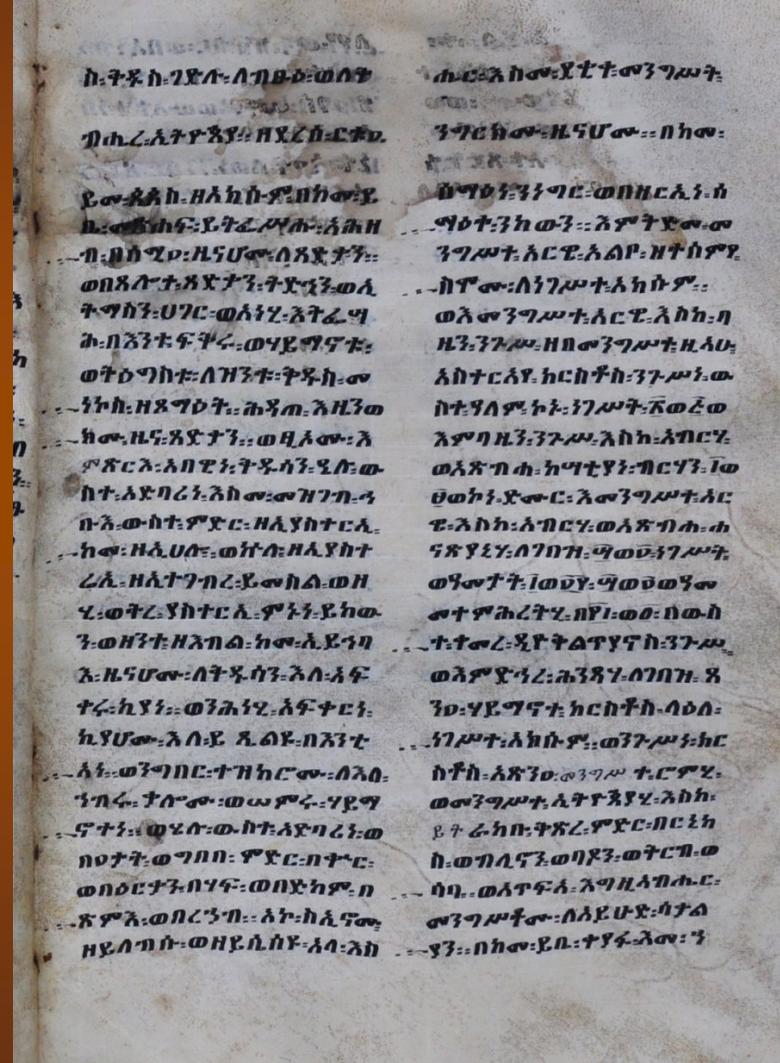
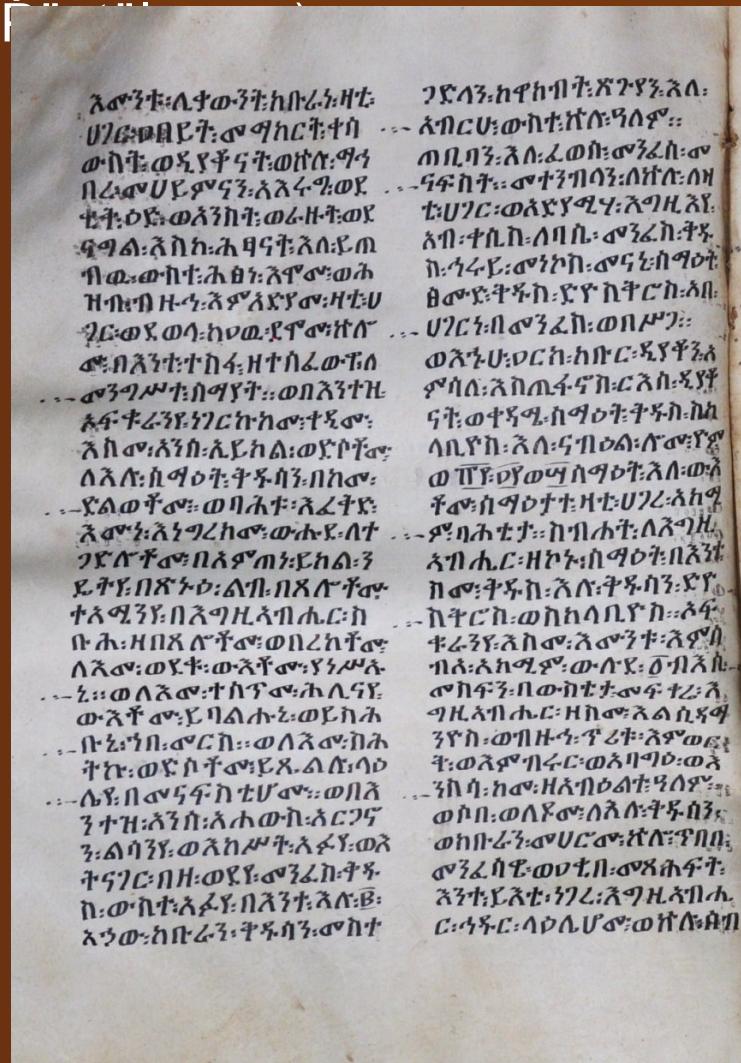


Ecclesiastic collections of Gulo Mäkäda

- 31 manuscript collections studied by Ethio-SPARE
- 628 manuscripts recorded, among them:
 - ca. 121 manuscripts containing hagiographic texts including collections (ca. 19%)
 - 65 manuscripts containing individual Acts of saints (ca. 10%)

Ms. *Gädlä Säma^c tat*, ‘Acts of the Martyrs’, 14th cent., ^cUra Mäsqäl

14th-century (left) and 16th-century hands (right; incipit of the Acts of



Church of ኮርስቲያን ደንብ ቅድመ አዲܩሃርስ ሙካና ዘዴዎት ቅድመ መራቅልቶስ,
Gulo Mäkäda

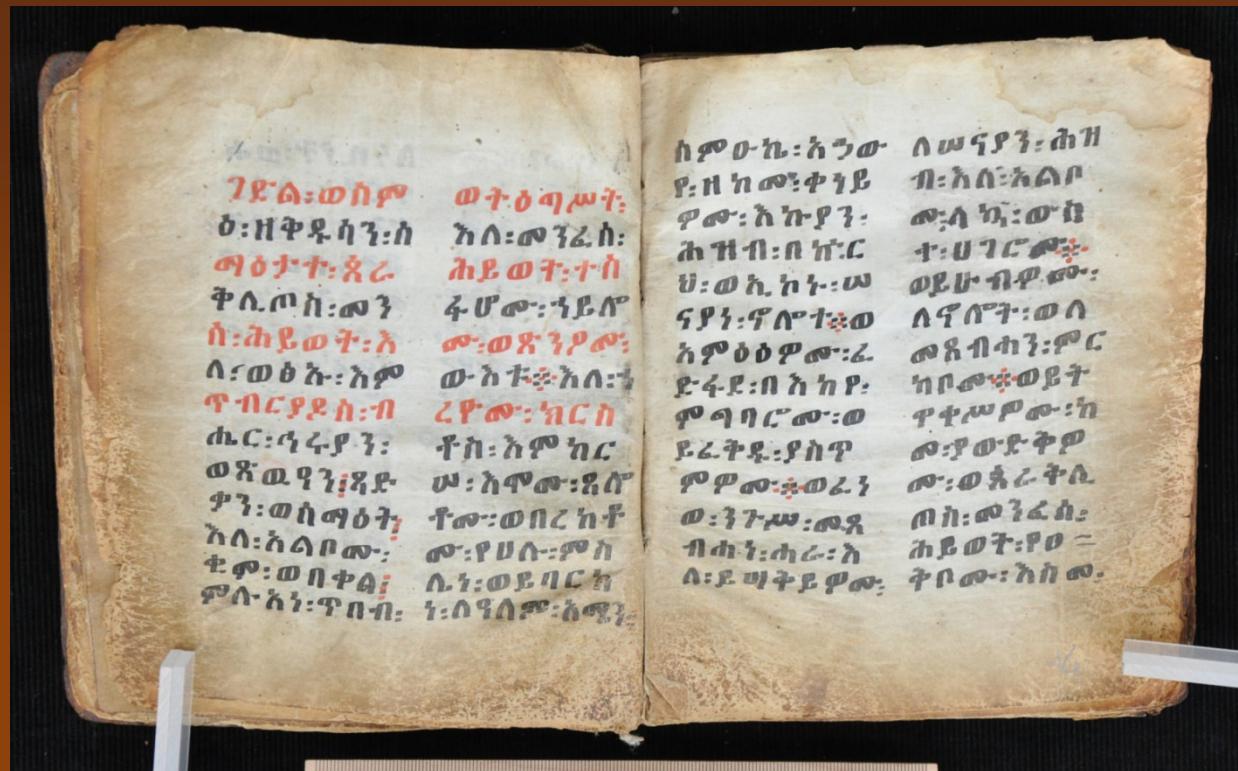


Ms. *Gädlä Säma^ctatä □araqlitos*, ‘Acts of the Martyrs of (Addiqäharsi) □araqlitos’, 1523 A.D., ‘Addiqäharsi Mäkanä Høywät □araqlitos



Fols. 3v-4r

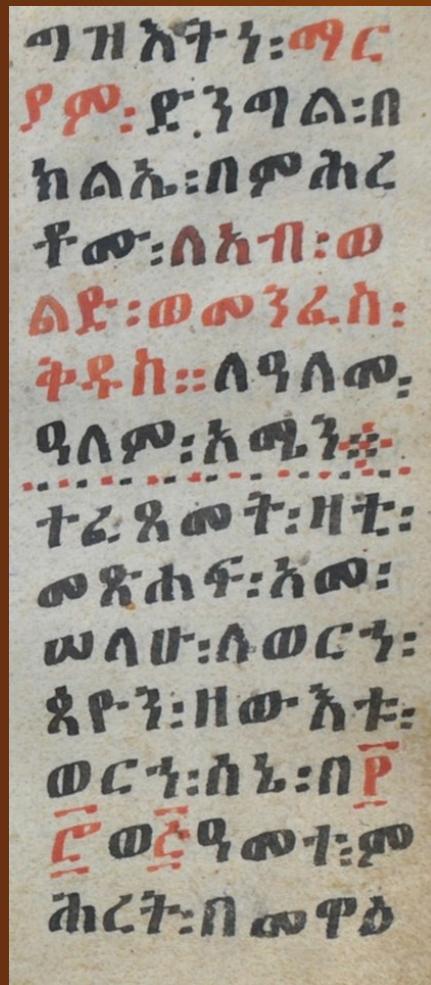
Ms. *Gädlä Säma^ctatä*
□araqlitos,
 ‘Acts of the Martyrs
 of □araqlitos’,
 1523 A.D.,
^cAddiqäharsi Mäkanä
 Høywät □araqlitos



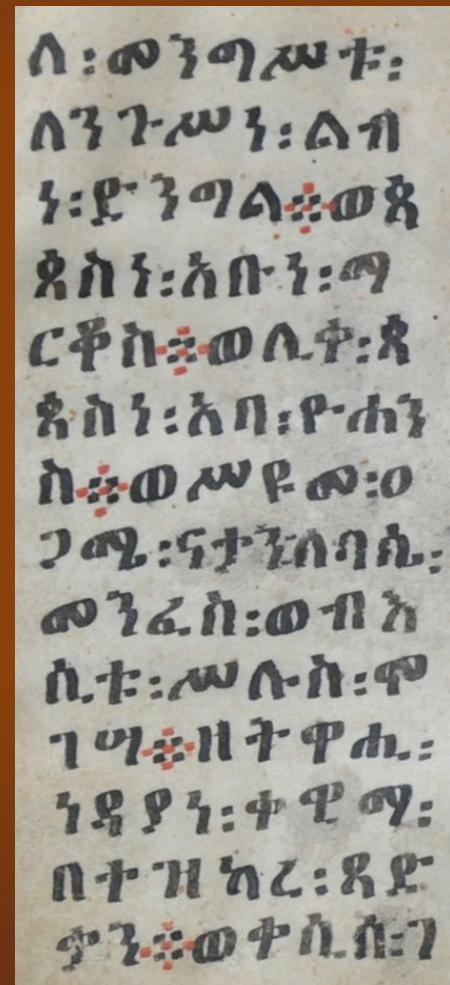
AP-046 fol. 3v-4r



Ms. *Gädlä Säma^ctatä □araqlitos*, ‘Acts of the Martyrs of (Addiqäharsi) □araqlitos’, 1523 A.D., Mäkanä Høywät □araqlitos, part of the colophon



ብርኩልና፡፭፻
የም፡ይኑዋል፡በ
ከልኩ፡በጥስት
ተመ፡በአገብ፡ወ
በቃ፡ወመንፈስ፡
ቍኩ፡ለዓለሙ፡
ባለሙ፡እማንያ
ተረጋዣት፡ዘዘ
መጽሐፍ፡እሙ፡
ውሉም፡ለወርነ
ቁጥን፡ዘወጥኩ፡
ወርነ፡ስኔ፡በ፳
አውድ፡ወጥ፡ሙ



ለ፡መንግሥት፡
በንገዣ፡ልብ
ካ፡ይኑዋል፡ወቅ
ቁስ፡እበት፡የ
ርቃስ፡ወረተ፡ኋ
ቁስ፡እበ፡የተኩ
ስቃወመኖር፡ወ
ጋዢ፡ኋተ፡ለባ
መንፈስ፡ወጥ፡ዘ
ስታ፡መለከ፡ወ
ገዢ፡ዘወጥ፡ሙ^፳
አውድ፡ወጥ፡ሙ

Date: 175 “year of mercy” = 1523 AD

King Lēbnä Dēngel (r. 1508-40)

Metropolitan Marqos (d. 1529-30)

Archbishop Yohannès XIII of Alexandria
(1483/1555)

Governor of እግዢ (səyum እግዢ)
Natan, And his wife Šəllus Mogäša

Hagiography of the Righteous Ones"
 of ኃAddiqäharsi በaraqlitos:
 overview of the manuscript tradition

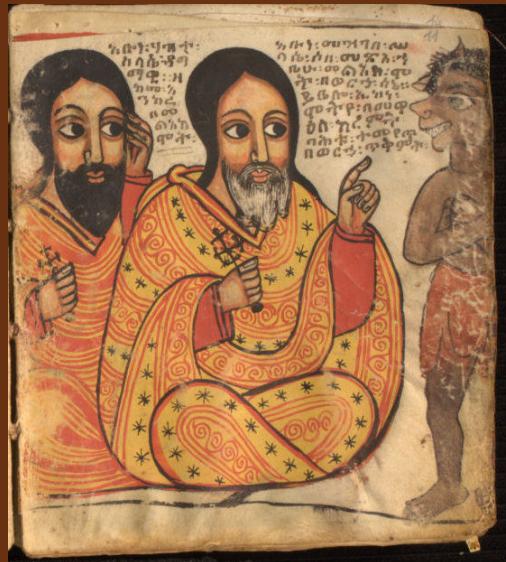
	AP-046 (88 fols.)	AP-045 (51 fols.)	AP-02 (32 fols.)	AP-019 (48 fols.)	AP-050 (59 fols.)	AP-034 (32 fols.)	AP-015, Synaxarion (186 fols.)
Dating of the manuscripts	1523	1737	1893	mid-20th cent.	2nd half 20th cent.	1996-97	1975-76
Acts	Long version, complete	Long version, incomplete	Long version, complete	Long version, complete	Long version, complete	Long version, complete	Short version (4 Säne)
Miracles	11	11	11	11	11	12	no
Mälkə ^f - Hymn	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no

?Abunä Mäzgäbä Sellaše, abbot of Gundä Gunde, succeeded
abbot ?abunä Samu?el
and died ca. 1703 after 53 years in office
(Mordini, “Il convento di Gunda Gunde”, pp. 56ff.)



?Abunä Mäzgäbä Sellaše,
?abunä Samu?el (Budge,
Legends of Our Lady Mary...,
from Ms. Lady Meux 4.).

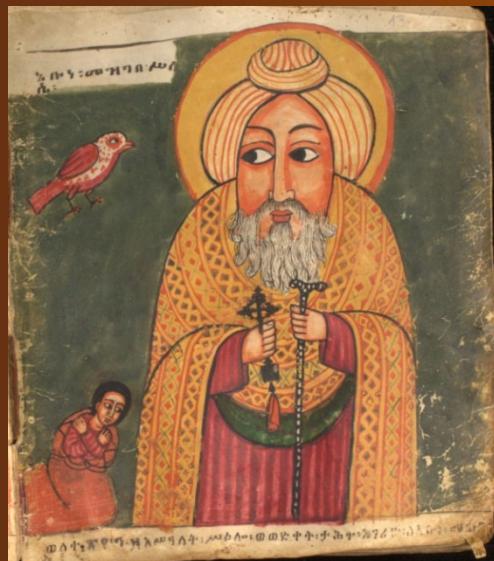
?Abunä Mäzgäbä Sellaše (right)
parting a river's current for his
disciples (Ms. GG-011, fol. 12v).



11r

Ms. Gundä Gunde 11, composite,
early 18th century (and later time?)

Vita of Mäzgäbä Šəllase, long version, fols. 15ra-59rb
Vita of Mäzgäbä Šəllase, short version, fols. 60ra-72ra
Mälkə^c -hymn for Mäzgäbä Šəllase, fols. 77ra-81rb:
Mälkə^c -hymn for Mäzgäbä Šəllase, fols. 81ra-81vb
Mälkə^c -hymn for Estifanos, Fol. 82ra-89ra
15 miniatures



13r



13v



14v

