



Ethio-SPaRe: Cultural Heritage of Christian Ethiopia: Salvation, Preservation and Research

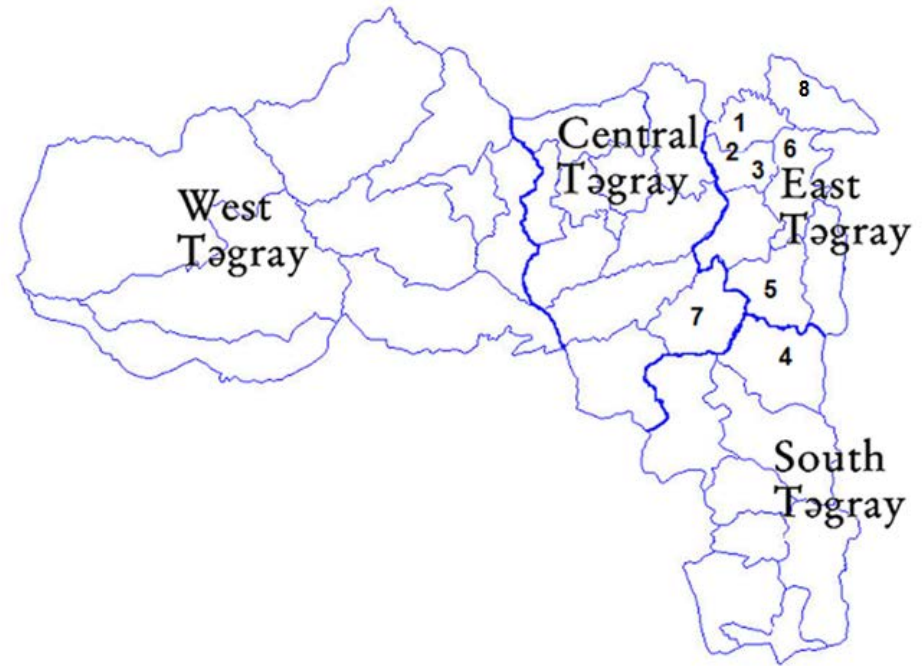


“Manuscripts and texts, languages and contexts:  
The transmission of knowledge in the Horn of Africa”  
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## ***Emergence and Decline of Manuscript Collections in East Tegray: Problems of Study***

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## Areas of the project Ethio-SPaRe Activity 2010-2014



## Ethiopian and Tigray National Regional State.

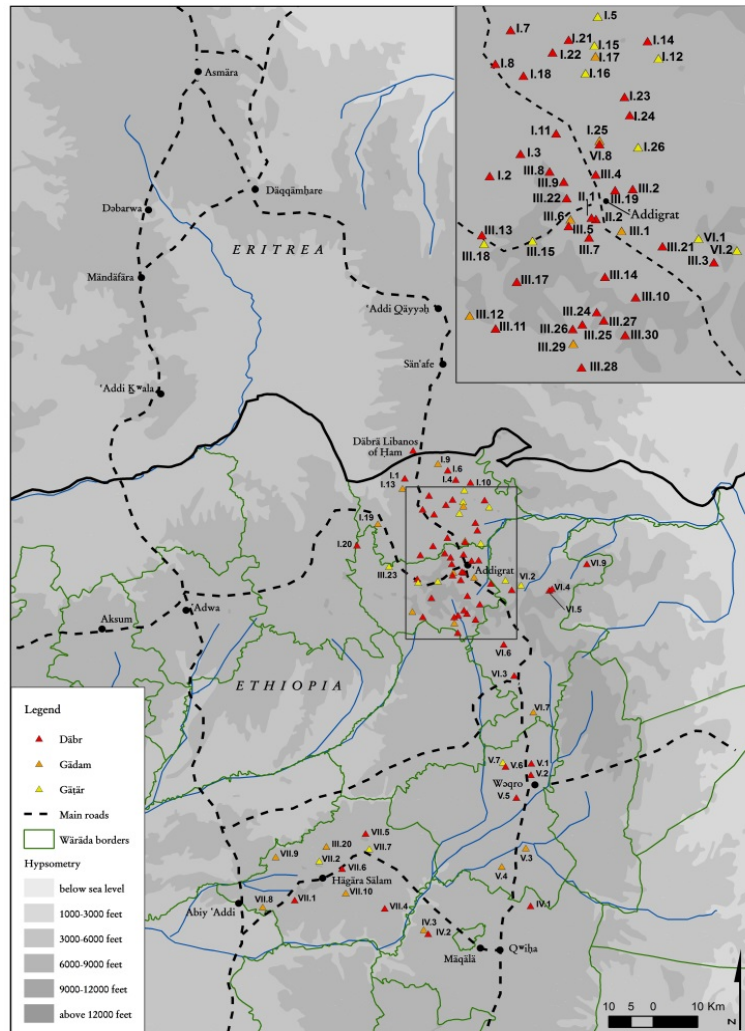
The main districts of the Ethio-SPaRe project activity: 1. Gulo Mäkäda; 2.

ᶑAddigrat; 3. Ganta ᶑAfäšum; 4. ᶑ፻ndärta;

5. Kələttä ?Awla<sup>o</sup>lo; 6. Sa<sup>s</sup>si Şa<sup>s</sup>da ?Əmba; 7. Däg<sup>s</sup>a Tämbe;

## 8. ?Irob

## Areas of the project Ethio-SPaRe Activity 2010-2014



## East Təgray

## Ganta ṽAfäšum: 41

(the city of <sup>c</sup>Addigrat: 3)

Gulo Mäkäda: 30

## Kelättä ?Awla?lo: 9

Saʻsi Şaʻda ʔEmba: 10

Endärta: 4

?Irob: 1

## South Təgray

Däg<sup>a</sup> Täm̃ben: 10

## Insignificant

collections: ca. 10 sites

Total 113 manuscript

collections studied



## Size of collections

Size of the “historical core” of collections	Number of collections
15 or less codices	56
16-40 codices	38
more than 40 codices	9

- Overestimation of the collections by their owners
- Lack of registers or inventory
- Poor physical accessibility of collections
- Impossibility to get complete information on a collection

## Age of collections

Number of manuscripts out of total 770	Age of manuscripts (ad quem estimation)
24 (ca. 3%)	Prior to 1500
30 (ca. 4%)	1500-1600
44 (ca. 6%)	1600-1700
178 (ca. 23%)	1700-1800
494	Post 1800

- In many cases, the foundation antedates the oldest books/ fragments preserved in the collection
- Significant number of old fragments

## Old fragments re-use in recent manuscripts



?Enda Maryam Qorrar. EMQ-048. Leaves of a 15th-cent. Four Gospels book re-utilized as fly-leaves in the, Miracles of Mary, 19th century



## Old fragments re-use in recent manuscripts



Däbri Giyorgis. DQG-008.  
Leaves of an ancient  
manuscript re-utilized as  
guards for repair in the 18th-  
cent. manuscript



Fäqada Maryam. FBM-001.  
Manuscript from a 15th-cent. Manuscript re-used in the 18th-cent.  
Miracles of Mary.

# Composition of the manuscript collection (works/collections in 770 manuscripts)

Bible, NT	Bible, OT	Liturgy	Church rituals	Hagiography	Pious literature	Theology	Monastic literature	Canon law	Historiography
Four Gospels: 66	Psalter (Psalms of David etc.): 56	Missal: 72	Book of the Funeral Ritual: 37	Acts of saints: 106	Miracles of Mary: 44	Faith of the Fathers: 18	Various texts: 12	Order of Spiritual Medicine: 4	Various texts: 5
Epistles and others: 9	Octateuch: 4	Lectionary: 29	Book of the Baptismal Ritual: 20	Synaxarion: 41	Miracles of Jesus: 42	Five Pillars of Mystery: 8		Justice of Kings: 3	
Gospel of John: 5		Book of the Rite of the Holy Week: 26	Book of the Marriage Ritual: 10	Hagiographic miscellanea: 26	Homiliary for the feasts of St. Michael: 28	Books of commentaries: 5		Others: 4	
		Chant books: 17	Prayer of Incense: 17	Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles: 9	Collections of prayers and hymns: 9				
				Acts of the Martyrs: 3					



## Case study: ʾAraʾro Täklä Haymanot

- A site with two churches in Gulo Mäkäda, district Hayälom
- Presented first in C. Lepage – J. Mercier, *Art éthiopien. Les églises historiques du Tigray. Ethiopian Art. The Ancient Churches of Tigray*, Paris 2005, pp. 205-207.
- Medieval basilica-type church, today half-destroyed.
- Murals datable to the 17<sup>th</sup> cent.
- Historical core of the collection: 9 older books (+ some 10 recent books)

## The site of ʾAraʾro (Gulo Mäkäda)



a) The new and old (in the foreground)  
church of Täklä Haymanot, above

b) Murals in the old church of Täklä  
Haymanot (17th or 18th century?)

c) ʾAraʾro Mikael church below (19th  
century?)

## ጳጳሶ ጥጂላ ዘሃማኖት ማህፀን ሰነድ

Signature	Manuscripts	Datings
ATH-001	Four Gospels	1450 - 1550
ATH-002	Vita and Miracles of ጥጂላ ዘሃማኖት	1650 - 1750
ATH-009	Missal	1700 - 1800
ATH-005	Synaxarion (the second half of the year)	1700 - 1800
ATH-006	Prayer of Incense	1872 - 1876
ATH-004	Book of the Baptismal Ritual	1800 - 1900
ATH-007	Book of the Rite of the Holy Week	1800 - 1900
ATH-003	Homiliary for the feasts of St. Michael	1800 - 1900
ATH-008	Collection of miracles	1800 - 1850

- An object (cross) dating to the 15th century

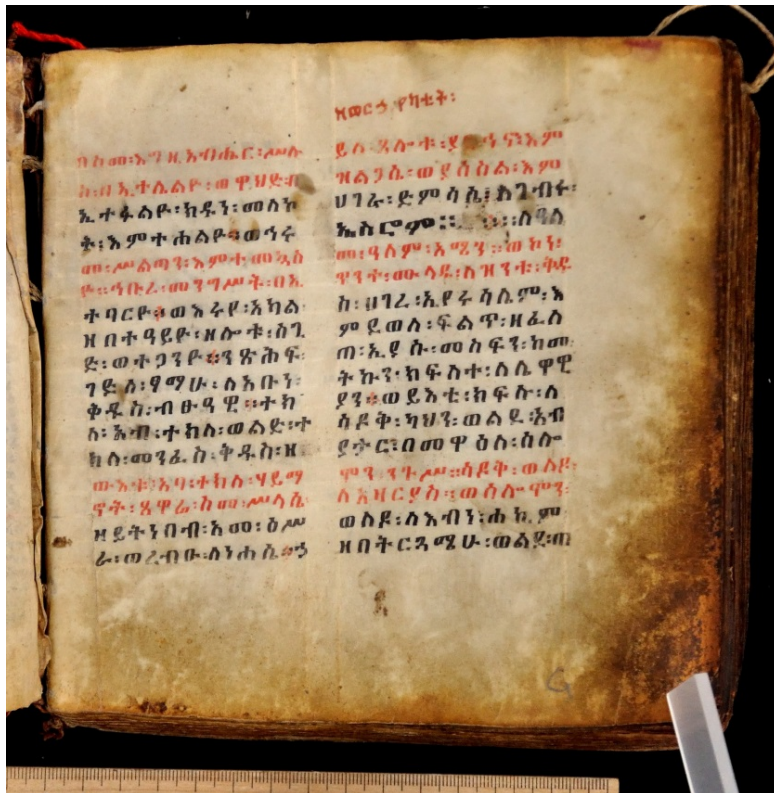


## ግጥሞ ጥጥር ስጦታ donation for foundation?



- ATH-001, Four Gospels, datable 1450-1550.
- Handwriting belongs to Zena Gäbräግel, a local scribe
- A second book of Zena Gäbräግel is found at ሳዊዳን ማርያም (6.5 km away from ግጥሞ)
- Donation by an unknown church founder

## ጳጳሮ ጥጂ ሃይማኖት: re-dedication and enrichment of the collection?



- ATH-002, Vita and Miracles of ጥጂ ሃይማኖት
- Datable to the 17th-18th century.
- Brought from a different area (Gondär)?
- Donated upon the new dedication of the church
- Decoration of the old church with murals made in a local style, sponsored by the same person?
- Possible link to the figure of *təgray mäkwännən* (ras Fares?)

## **ጳጳሮ ጥገላ ዘሃማኖት: expansion of the church premises and its collection**

- Acquisition of several books in the beginning of the 19th century:  
ATH-003, Homiliary for the feasts of St. Michael (1800-1900)  
ATH-007, Book of the Rite of the Holy Week (1750-1850)  
ATH-008, Miracles of Mary (1800-1850), local production, illuminated
- Leading role of gäbäz Rəጐጰጰ Haymanot attested though donation notes
- Foundation of a new church dedicated to St. Michael on the plain
- Revival of the church in the early 19th century, under däḡḡac Säbagadis (d. 1831)?



## ጳላሮ ጥቅሌ ዘመነማርያ: miniature in ATH-008, Miracles of Mary



Copied from the Miracles  
of Mary of Mäkaʿəlo  
Mäkanä Ləʿul, ca. 5 km  
away from ጳላሮ

ATH-008, fols. 23v-24r, two miniatures

## **ጳጳሮ ገረገሳ ሃይማኖት: expansion of the collection in the second half of the 19th and 20th centuries**

- Acquisition 3 more locally produced service books in the 19th century (under King Yoḥannēs IV?)
- No monks have ever resided at the church
- Local scribal tradition existed still in the 19th century
- Slow extension of the collection in the 20th century
- Presence of protective texts and scrolls



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***Thank you for your attention!***

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