

Hiob Ludolf Zentrum für Äthiopistik



Ethiopian scribes and re-creation of ancient documents: Ṭanṭawədəm's land charter revisited

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1 March 2023

From Aksum to Lalibäla: The myth of the dark age of Eritrean and Ethiopian history (7th-13th cent.). A multidisciplinary approach

The Charter of Tantawadam



MS 'Urā Qirqos, UM- $035/C_3$ -IV-83, $120 \times 95 \times 10$ mm, 11 folia in 2 quires

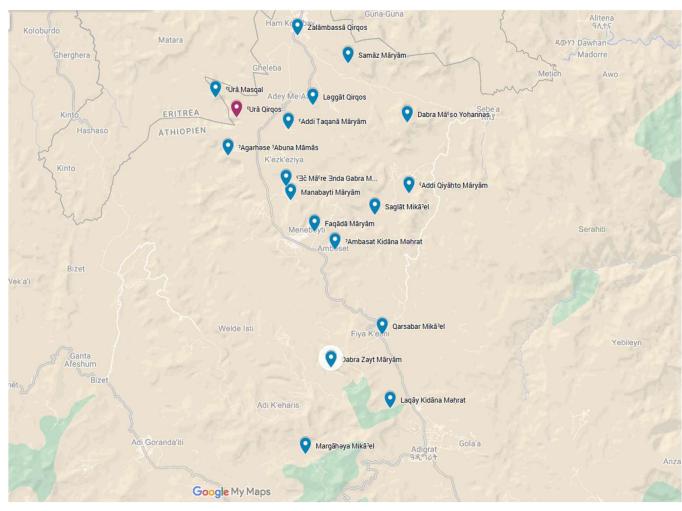




Research questions:

- 1) Who was the scribe of "The Charter" in MS UM-035?
- 2) What was the affiliation of the scribe?
- 3) When was the scribe active?
- 4) When exactly was MS UM-035 produced?

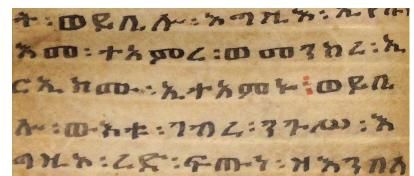
The material of the study



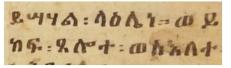
ecclesiastic libraries; 223 manuscripts taken into account; ca. 30 manuscripts closely studied.

The local 18th-century "broad style" of Gulo Makadā

- vertical or slightly slanted downstrokes
- horizontal tops
- well spaced script
- mostly rounded shapes

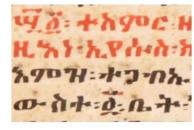


- broad shapes of ω , \wedge , ω , ψ , τ ; ω and ψ "squeezed"
- some vowel markers exaggerated
- n has a flat top + 777 hm: mnn:
- Λ has the right leg leant upon the left leg



- the numeral $\underline{\delta}$ is closed the other way around





Scribe Zawalda Māryām 1 (around 1716-45):

0334:H217:

at least 12 witnesses

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MS Laqāy Kidāna Məḥrat, MKL-016, Vita of Kiros and other texts, fols. 97v

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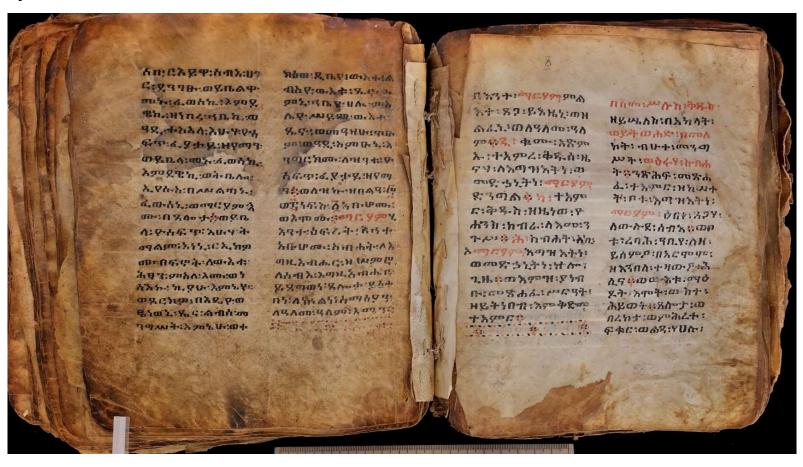
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MS Samāz Māryām, SMM-003, Lectionary, fol. 72 r

MS Mədra Ruba Śəllāse, MR-022, Four Gospels, fol. 36va



MS 'Urā Qirqos UM-042: varieties of the local "broad style"?



Fols. 37v-37r, hands of Məḥḍənta Māryām vs Zawalda Māryām 2 (unit I), second half of the 18th century (?)

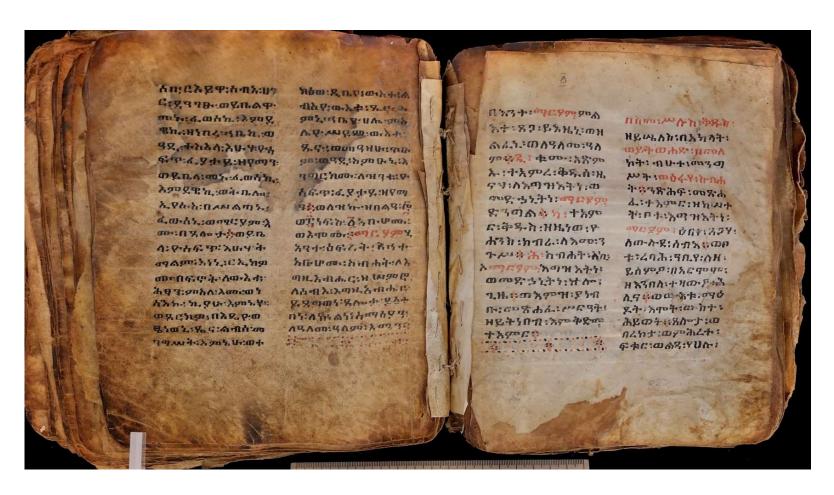


MS UM-035, The Charter of Tantawadam





MS 'Urā Qirqos UM-042, unit I



Fols. 37v-37r, hands of Məḫḍənta Māryām vs Zawalda Māryām 2 (unit I), second half of the 18th century (?)



MS 'Urā Qirqos UM-042, unit II: a clue to the identity of the scribe of the Charter



Fols. 125v-126r, end of unit I, beginning of unit 2.

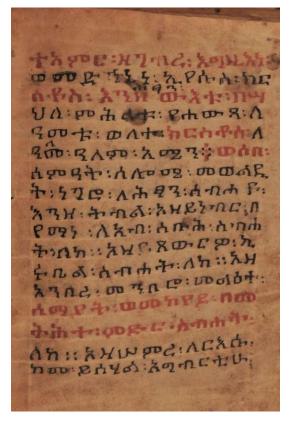
Hands of Zawalda Māryām 2 (left),

and Walda Tənśā[?]e, (right).



MS 'Urā Qirqos UM-042 (unit II): a clue to the identity of the scribe of the Charter



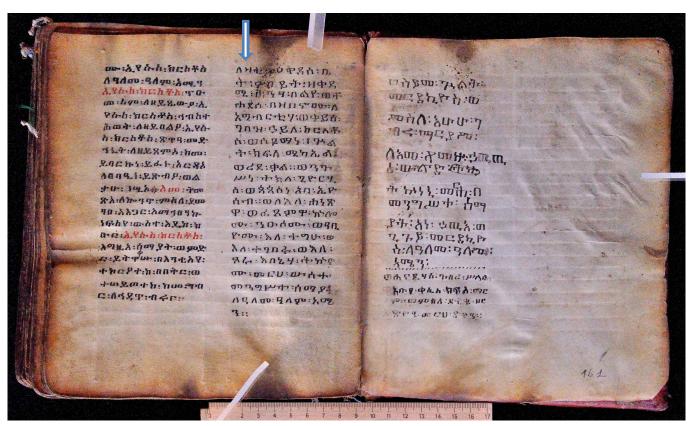


MS UM-035, fols. 1v-2r

MS UM-042, fol. 126r (unit II)



MS Manabayti Māryām, MSM-001, Miracles of Jesus, 18th century



Fols. 160v-161r, explicit, additional notes



The writer of the Charter: Walda Tənśā'e of Manabayti Māryām?



MS UM-035, fol. 1r



MS UM-042, fol. 126r (unit II)

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MS Manabayti Māryām, MSM-001, Miracles of Jesus, fol. 106v, a note referring to 1779-1800

Walda Tənśā²e: a summary

- Wrote "The Charter of Ṭanṭawədəm", UM-35
- Active in the second half of the 18th/early 19th century
- (at least 1779-1800)
- Senior local ecclesiastic or church scholar, "half-professional" scribe
- Affiliated to the church of Manabayti Dabra Şəyon Māryām
- Associated with the senior priest Kəfla Māryām of 'Urā Qirqos'
- "The Charter of Ṭanṭawədəm" in UM-35 written at ^cUrā Qirqos or Manabayti Māryām

Many thanks!

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