

# AETHIOPICA

International Journal  
of Ethiopian and Eritrean Studies

Edited in the Asien-Afrika-Institut  
Hiob Ludolf Zentrum für Äthiopistik  
der Universität Hamburg  
Abteilung für Afrikanistik und Äthiopistik

by Alessandro Bausi  
in cooperation with  
Bairu Tafla, Ulrich Braukämper, Ludwig Gerhardt,  
Hilke Meyer-Bahlburg and Siegbert Uhlig

15 (2012)

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

**Aethiopia. International Journal of Ethiopian and Eritrean Studies** welcomes contributions on all aspects of linguistics, philology, history, archaeology, palaeography, religion(s), traditional art and culture as well as ethnology (anthropology) related to the Horn of Africa.

Vignette:

Gold coin of King Aphilas, early 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., as drawn by A. Luegmeyer after the coin in Rennau collection. Weight 2.48 grams, diameter 17 mm.

Articles, reviews, conference reports, notes and all correspondence concerning editorial matters should be sent to: **Aethiopia**, Hiob Ludolf Centre for Ethiopian Studies, Alsterterrasse 1, 20354 Hamburg, Germany; phone: +49 (0)40 42838-7730; Fax: +49 (0)40 42838-3330; E-Mail: [aethiopia@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:aethiopia@uni-hamburg.de).

Contributors are requested to submit their contributions in digital and paper form. Additional information can be found at <http://www.rrz.uni-hamburg.de/AETHIOPICA>.

Only unpublished contributions are accepted for publication. The decision will be made by the editorial management in consultation with the board members and peer-reviewers.

All views represented in the papers are those of the authors.

Authors will receive the print-ready pdf-file of their contribution.

Subscription orders can be placed with booksellers and agencies or directly with Harrassowitz Verlag, 65174 Wiesbaden, Germany; Fax: +49 611 530999; E-Mail: [verlag@harrassowitz.de](mailto:verlag@harrassowitz.de).

#### Editorial Team

Angela Müller  
Thomas Rave

#### Editorial Board

David Appleyard, London  
Rodolfo Fattovich, Napoli  
Marilyn E. Heldman, Silver Spring  
Olga Kapeliuk, Jerusalem

Richard Pankhurst, Addis Ababa/London  
Alain Rouaud, Paris  
Shiferaw Bekele, Addis Ababa  
Rainer Voigt, Berlin

Publication of this journal was supported by a grant of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

© Otto Harrassowitz GmbH & Co. KG, Wiesbaden 2012

This journal, including all of its parts, is protected by copyright.

Any use beyond the limits of copyright law without the permission of the publisher is forbidden and subject to penalty. This applies particularly to reproductions, translations, microfilms and storage and processing in electronic systems.

Printing and binding by Memminger MedienCentrum Druckerei und Verlags-AG.

Printed on permanent/durable paper.

Printed in Germany

[www.harrassowitz-verlag.de](http://www.harrassowitz-verlag.de)

ISSN 1430-1938

## Table of Contents

Editorial .....	5
Bibliographical abbreviations used in this volume .....	6
<b>Articles</b>	
WALTER W. MÜLLER, <i>Äthiopische Inschriftenfragmente aus der himjarischen Hauptstadt Zafār</i> .....	7
TEDROS ABRAHA, <i>The Gəʿəz Version of Philo of Carpasia's Commentary on Canticle of Canticles 1:2–14a: Introductory Notes</i> .....	22
ALIN SUCIU, <i>A British Library Fragment from a Homily on the Lament of Mary and the So-Called Gospel of Gamaliel</i> .....	53
VÍCTOR M. FERNÁNDEZ – ANDREU MARTÍNEZ D'ALÒS-MONER – JORGE DE TORRES – CARLOS CAÑETE, <i>Archaeology of the Jesuit Missions in the Lake Tana Region: Review of the Work in Progress</i> .....	72
STÉPHANE ANCEL, <i>Discourse against Catholic Doctrine in Tagray (Ethiopia): A Nineteenth Century Text</i> .....	92
ABONEH ASHAGRIE, <i>Children's Theatre in Ethiopia</i> .....	105
HERMANN AMBORN, <i>Ecocultural Control of Natural Energy Resources in Southern Ethiopia</i> .....	118
MARIA BULAKH, <i>Word Order in Epigraphic Gəʿəz</i> .....	136
ANDREAS WETTER, <i>Rhetoric Means of a Didactic Amharic Poem from Wärrä Babbo</i> .....	176
GROVER HUDSON, <i>Ethnic Group and Mother Tongue in the Ethiopian Censuses of 1994 and 2007</i> .....	204
RAINER VOIGT, <i>Bibliographie zur äthiosemitischen und kuschitischen Sprachwissenschaft XV: 2010</i> .....	219
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
BASIL LOURIE, <i>Kéntros, another Term of Mesopotamian Origin in the Ethiopian Astronomy</i> .....	225
BERNHARD TÖNNIES, <i>Verlust und Wiederauffindung äthiopischer Handschriften aus der Sammlung Rüppell</i> .....	228
<b>Personalia</b>	
<i>Sven Rubenson has turned ninety</i> (BAIRU TAFLA) .....	233
<i>In memoriam Alessandro de Maigret (1943–2011)</i> (ALESSIO AGOSTINI) ...	237
<i>In memoriam Arthur Kinloch Irvine (1935–2011)</i> (DAVID L. APPLEYARD) ..	241
<i>In memoriam Səbhat Gäbrä-Əgzī abəḥer (1936–2012)</i> (REIDULF K. MOLVAER) .....	245

Table of Contents

<i>In memoriam Afäwärg Täkle (1932–2012)</i> (RICHARD PANKHURST – RITA PANKHURST) .....	247
<i>In memoriam Siegfried Pausewang (1937–2012)</i> (HARALD ASPEN – KJETIL TRONVOLL – RANDI RÖNNING BALSVIK – BERNT LINDTJØRN – TRYGVE BERG – LOVISE AALEN) .....	253
<b>Review article</b>	
BINYAM SISAY MENDISU, <i>Aspects of Koorete Verb Morphology</i> (MICHAEL SCHULZE) .....	256
ANDREAS WETTER, <i>Das Argobba. Eine deskriptive Grammatik der Varietät von Shonke und T'ollaba (Zentraläthiopien)</i> (MICHAEL SCHULZE) .....	263
<b>Reviews</b>	
MOHAMMED ALI AL-SALAMI, <i>Sabäische Inschriften aus dem Hawlän</i> (ALESSIO AGOSTINI) .....	271
WALTER RAUNIG – PRINZ ASFA-WOSSEN ASSERATE (Hrsg.), <i>Orbis Aethiopicus ውርስ ኢትዮጵያ Beiträge zur Geschichte, Religion und Kunst Äthiopiens, Band XIII</i> (ALESSANDRO BAUSI) .....	273
CHRISTINE CHAILLOT, <i>Vie et spiritualité des Eglises orthodoxes orientales des traditions, syriaque, arménienne, copte et éthiopienne</i> (STÉPHANE ANCEL) .....	278
HAGGAI ERLICH, <i>Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia: Islam, Christianity and Politics Entwined</i> (ALESSANDRO GORI) .....	280
KARL JOHAN LUNDSTRÖM – EZRA GEBREMEDHIN, <i>Kenisha: The Roots and Development of the Evangelical Church of Eritrea 1866–1935</i> (SOPHIA DEGE) .....	283
J. CALVITT CLARKE III, <i>Alliance of the Colored Peoples. Ethiopia &amp; Japan before World War II</i> (GERHARD KREBS) .....	287
RUDOLF AGSTNER (Hrsg.), <i>Arbeiten und Leben am Hof Haile Selassies I. Lore Trenkler: Erinnerungen 1960–1975</i> (HANNA RUBINKOWSKA) ...	290
IVO STRECKER, <i>Ethnographic Chiasmus. Essays on Culture, Conflict and Rhetoric</i> (ULRICH BRAUKÄMPER) .....	292
JOHN MARKAKIS, <i>Ethiopia. The last two frontiers</i> (ALEXANDER MECKELBURG) .....	294
NINA VON NOLTING, <i>Nation im Exil? Eritreer in Deutschland</i> (BAIRU TAFLA) .....	297
GERTRUD SCHNEIDER-BLUM (ed.), <i>máakut(i) t'awá shuultáa – proverbs finish the problems: Sayings of the Alaaba (Ethiopia)</i> (GRAZIANO SAVÀ) .....	299
VOLKER MATTHIES, <i>The Siege of Magdala. The British Empire against the Emperor of Ethiopia</i> .....	301
<b>Dissertation abstracts</b>	
SUSANNE EPPLE, <i>The Bashada of Southern Ethiopia: A Study of Age, Gender and Social Discourse</i> .....	302
ISABELLA ABBONIZIO, <i>Musica e colonialismo nell'Italia fascista (1922–1943)</i> .....	303

## Editorial

The present issue of AETHIOPICA is dedicated to Sven Rubenson, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday in 2011. Bairu Tafla duly celebrates Sven Rubenson as a man and scholar by including a memorandum and a detailed bibliography, unfortunately impossible to print in the previous issue for technical reasons.

As announced, a first set of previous AETHIOPICA issues have been digitally retrieved and made freely available online as of 2011 thanks to the financial support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the cooperation with Hamburg University Press. This was only possible thanks to the intensive work of the editorial team and therefore I would like to express the editorial board's gratitude to Angela Müller and Thomas Rave once more. As usual, current and all previous issues are available in printed form on sale from Harrassowitz Verlag at a very reasonable price. The editorial board would like to express the warmest appreciation to both publishers for the effective cooperation.

Englising of the present issue has been undertaken by Natalie Tines in cooperation with the editorial team. On this occasion, the editors would like to express their deepest appreciation to David L. Appleyard, who so generously and patiently undertook the same, often thankless and ungrateful, revision task, also carried out before him by Arthur K. Irvine. To the regretted latter, an obituary is dedicated in this issue by the same David L. Appleyard.

I remind the reader that as in the previous volume a list of "Bibliographical abbreviations" is introduced which is generally valid for every contribution in the current volume. As for the past issues, conference reports and announcements are made available online at: [journals.sub.uni-hamburg.de/aethiopia](http://journals.sub.uni-hamburg.de/aethiopia) or <http://www1.uni-hamburg.de/AETHIOPICA/>.

Alessandro Bausi