

Research in Ethiopian Studies

Selected papers of the 16th International Conference
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Preface

The present volume offers a cross section of research in Ethiopian Studies at the beginning of this millennium. The book contains a selection of papers presented at the 16th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies (ICES 16) which was organised in Trondheim, Norway, in July 2007. When planning the conference, the organisers decided to make two venues for publication of the papers available – one “open access” Proceedings¹ on the internet and one printed volume of a selection of papers. All contributors were invited to submit their papers for both venues. The papers which were submitted as candidates for the printed volume had to follow rather strict editorial instructions and even stricter limitations on size. Some authors found it more attractive to publish their papers in the internet Proceedings only, while others decided to compete for a space also in the present volume. Several of the contributions here are illustrated; to keep costs down we have reproduced them in black and white only, which obviously cannot do justice to them. To get a better impression of the illustrations, interested readers are referred to the internet Proceedings.

The forty six papers in this book: *Research in Ethiopian Studies* are in the major areas of research interest in Ethiopian studies which include the following

philology,
history – medieval and modern, art history
anthropology,
linguistics,
law,
international relations and politics,
elections and human rights,
literature,
development studies, gender,
urban studies,
children and childhood
music and fine arts
religion and beliefs.

The contributions which are published here have been selected on the basis of a long process involving a large number of people. All the articles included have been read by at least one, and often two, experts in the field, in addition to the editors. Comments from external reviewers and the editors have been communicated to the authors, and revised

¹ *Proceedings of the 16th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*, ed. by Svein Ege, Harald Aspen, Birhanu Teferra and Shiferaw Bekele, Trondheim 2009. The *Proceedings* and further information about ICES 16 are accessible from the conference web-site: <http://www.svt.ntnu.no/ices2007/> and as printed volumes in Ethiopian and Norwegian university libraries.

versions have been re-read by editors and reviewers. We take this opportunity to thank the reviewers, too many to be mentioned by name, for the important contributions they have rendered to this work. We also thank Mr. Bård Li, who has been instrumental in keeping track of the status of the papers.

The members of the editorial team have distributed the work load among themselves to the extent possible. For practical and technical reasons the first stages were coordinated from Trondheim. In November 2008 the editors and Bård Li met in Addis Ababa and went through all the papers and reviews and decided which papers were the candidates for publication. Since then, the work was coordinated from, and finalised in, Addis Ababa.

It is with great regret that we learned of the untimely death of one of the contributors to this volume, Professor Hussein Ahmed, who passed away while this book was being processed.

The publication of this volume would not have been possible without ICES 16 and its sponsors. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from the following donors: The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), The Research Council of Norway, and The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU; the Faculty of Social Sciences and Technology Management, Programme for Development Cooperation, Dr Axel Baudouin at the Department of Geography, and the Department of Social Anthropology), as well as the Ethiopian Airlines, the Municipality of Trondheim, Torstein Erbos Minnefond, Africa Network Norway, Christian Michelsen's Institute and the University of Tromsø.

Finally, we thank the publisher, Harrassowitz Verlag, for a smooth and productive cooperation. We are particularly indebted to the director, Dr. Barbara Krauss, the production manager, Mr. Reinhard Friedrich, and to the editor of the Aethiopistische Forschungen series, Professor Siegbert Uhlig.

Addis Ababa / Trondheim, October 2009

The Editors