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Personalia

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Academic News

Alessandro Bausi: new Professor of Ethiopian Studies at Hamburg University

Alessandro Bausi (until now Associate Professor at the Università di Napoli “L’Orientale”) has accepted the call for W3 Professur (Full Professorship) for Äthiopistik (Ethiopian Studies) at Hamburg University. Thus on 1 September 2009 the vacancy that has lasted for over five years and has had negative effects in particular in the academic teaching area will be over. As for research activities, they have been provisionally carried out by the retired Professor on a voluntary basis.

Bausi (born 1963) studied Latin and Greek philology, general and Semitic linguistics and Ethiopic languages at the University of Florence. He was awarded doctorate degree at the Istituto Universitario Orientale of Naples in 1992 for his dissertation “Il Senodos etiopico: edizione critica e traduzione dei testi pseudoapostolici inediti”. In 1994 he became “Ricercatore” (Assistant Professor) at the same University and in 2002 followed the call to Associate Professor. His teaching experience has stretched for over 15 years; he has published six monographs/text editions, edited three volumes, and authored over 50 articles published in various journals and collections as well as 19 reviews and review articles. His research interests lie mainly in philology, including digital philology, text criticism and manuscript studies.

Concerning research the new Professor at Hamburg University is expected to primarily engage himself in editing the *ENCYCLOPAEDIA AETHIOPICA* and the *AETHIOPICA* journal, supervising the long-term federal cataloguing project *Katalogisierung der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland*, with the focus on Ethiopic, Christian Arabic and Coptic manuscripts, as well as steering the freshly launched network “*Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies*”.

The editor and the editorial team of the *AETHIOPICA* journal congratulate Alessandro Bausi and wish him success in all his endeavours.

Denis Nossitsin receives a grant of the European Research Council

Denis Nossitsin (researcher at the Research Unit Ethiopian Studies, Hamburg University) has been among this year’s awardees of the ERC Starting Independent Researcher’s Grant. The award of € 1,740,000 will allow Denis Nossitsin to establish a research group to work on the project entitled

“ETHIO-SPARE: Cultural heritage of Christian Ethiopia: Salvation, Preservation and Research”. The team’s primary aim will be to secure important pieces of historical written evidence, documenting, creating digital copies and detailed descriptions for manuscripts preserved in ecclesiastic libraries across Ethiopia. High-standard manuscript catalogues will be produced, as well as text studies of different types.

**In memoriam Abraham Johannes Drewes
(18 July 1927–19 October 2007)¹**

HARRY STROOMER, Leiden University

Bram Drewes was born on July 18th, 1927 in Batavia and spent his first ten years there. About his childhood in Indonesia he has not told me much, however he shared more stories with me about his university education and academic development which I would characterise as both impressive and adventurous.

Bram took his finals at the Leiden Municipal Grammar School in 1945, immediately after the end of the Second World War. He enrolled at Leiden University as a student of Indonesian languages and literatures which at the time entailed the study of Arabic and Sanskrit. In 1948 he obtained his Bachelor’s degree, but the prevailing political circumstances meant that pursuing the study of his first choice was not expedient. Having already been trained in Arabic, Bram switched to the study of Semitic languages. He obtained his Bachelor’s degree in 1949 with Arabic as his primary and Hebrew as his secondary subject. In the same year he became acquainted with Jacques Ryckmans who had come to Leiden as a Belgian exchange student in order to improve his Arabic. They became close friends and it was through this friendship that Bram was brought into contact with Leuven’s speciality at the time: the epigraphy, or study of inscriptions, of pre-Islamic North and South Arabia. These subjects were not taught in Leiden but Bram was eager to pursue them. He applied for a scholarship to enable him to study in Leuven, and so became a student of the famous professor Gonzague Ryckmans, Jacques Ryckmans’ uncle, during the second semester of 1950 and the first semester of 1951. In Leuven the foundation was laid for Bram’s extensive knowledge of Ancient South Arabian, a group of languages comprising Sabaeen, Qataba-

¹ I thank Carolien van Zoest and David Waines for the help in translating the Dutch version of this text and Robert Kerr for his help in the compilation of the Bibliography.