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Personalia

Siegbert Uhlig awarded with the British Academy 'Edward Ullendorff
Medal'

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The 'Edward Ullendorff Medal' of the British Academy 'for scholarly distinction and achievements in the field of Semitic Languages and Ethiopian Studies', established thanks to the generous support of Edward Ullendorff's widow, Dina, was awarded to Siegbert Uhlig in 2015, in consideration of his significant contribution to the field, and to Ethiopian palaeography in particular (<http://www.britac.ac.uk/events/prizes-and-medals-ceremony-2015>).

In memoriam Ioan Myrddin Lewis (1930–2014)

THOMAS ZITELMANN, Berlin

Ioan M. Lewis, Professor emeritus for Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics (LSE), died on March 14, 2014. Throughout his academic life Lewis became regarded as the doyen of 'Somali Studies'. At the same time he is remembered as an uncompromising representative of classical structural-functionalist and comparative British social anthropology. For more than half of a century the life and work of Lewis was also connected with the political trials and tribulations of the Ethiopian-Somali neighbourhood. In fact, when 'Somali Studies' were in the year 1980 formally established as a special academic subfield, strongly supported by the former Somali president and dictator Siyad Barre (1969–1991), it was clear that this was a political-cultural act done in mimicry and competition with 'Ethiopian Studies'.¹ Lewis, the comparative anthropologist, could have called such mimicry 'the "demonstration effect" of the neighboring'.²

Born in 1930 to parents of a Welsh-Scottish background, Lewis grew up in London and Glasgow. In 1951 he obtained a Bsc. in chemistry from Glasgow University. However, Lewis decided to turn to social anthropology, with the help of a grant from Nuffield Foundation which was to support science students to join the humanities. Lewis was accepted at the Institute of Social

¹ Labahn 1980, 93.

² Lewis 1976, 346.