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## Editorial

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## Editorial

This issue of AETHIOPICA is dedicated to Thomas Rave, who was a member of the editorial team for many years. Thomas was an integral part of the editorial engine of the journal and he contributed to its continuity and growth since its inception in 1998. The success and high standard of AETHIOPICA as well as of other major enterprises in Hamburg, from the *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica* to the series *Aethiopistische Forschungen*, owe much to Thomas and his work. Besides work, Thomas played an important part in the constructive atmosphere of the Hiob Ludolf Centre for Ethiopian Studies and he will be sorely missed. He corresponded with hundreds of authors from all over the world, thus becoming a familiar acquaintance of so many scholars in Ethiopian studies. In 2016 he began a two-year leave, taking on a full-time job. Thomas has opted to continue in this new and rewarding venture. While thanking him warmly and sincerely for his great care and competence, his patience, and his human qualities, I also wish him, on behalf of the whole editorial board, every success and satisfaction in his new job.

Over the last few years, the loss of scholars in Ethiopian studies has had a direct bearing on Ethiopian studies in Hamburg and on AETHIOPICA in particular. With the loss of the eminent archaeologist Rodolfo Fattovich, AETHIOPICA also loses a member of its international editorial board, a position Fattovich occupied since the foundation of AETHIOPICA. Also, that eminent scholar in Islamic and Ethiopian studies, Emeri van Donzel, though not a formal member of any committee in Hamburg, was a tacit presence who left his mark on major in-depth projects and influenced strategic directions on research behind the scenes, with his advice and unparalleled experience. Both will be sorely missed.

This Editorial was already closed and almost in print, when we were informed that Ulrich Braukämper, member of the editorial board of AETHIOPICA since 2006, passed away on 26 October 2018. Ulrich Braukämper will be duly commemorated in the next issue. The editorial board, the editorial team, and the director of the journal would like to extend to his family their most sincere condolences for the irreparable loss. AETHIOPICA will miss his precious contribution and scrupulous feedbacks that he punctually delivered, with great dedication and generosity, until the last weeks of his life.