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Editorial

The current issue of *Aethiopica* is dedicated to the memory of the great scholar of our field LANFRANCO RICCI who passed away on 15 December 2007 at the age of 91 years.

On this occasion it has been decided to deal with primarily historical topics, stretching from Aksum-Sabaic relationships to the relatively recent events of the first half of the 20th century.

Lanfranco Ricci was a prominent representative of the second generation of scholars of Ethiopian Studies, who, building upon the research tradition of Guidi, Conti Rossini, Moreno and Cerulli, notably increased the renown of Ethiopian studies within Oriental studies.

His scholarly achievements are remarkable. The editing of the *Rassegna di studi etiopici* alone, which Lanfranco Ricci guided voluntarily and without substantial support from other colleagues for nearly 40 years commands our highest respect. (It remains to be desired that this important periodical will soon resume strength under new guidance.)

The obituary by Yacob Beyene, with a bibliography by Alessandro Bausi (pp. 217–22), even though they assiduously trace Ricci's life stages, can hardly provide a complete picture. Anyone, who experienced Ricci in personal conversation or at a conference, could not but be impressed by this fascinating personality and his grand air. This lonely warrior with rough edges, with his sound basis in Ethiopian languages and literature, provided an unsurpassable contribution into studies of Ethiopian history. His research reflects fundamental principles of the best Italian philological tradition, exemplifying the European tradition in humanities which bases its methods on primary sources analysis. For this merit alone Ethiopians will bear tribute to Lanfranco Ricci.

Finally a short editorial remark: As the next volume of *Aethiopica* (12, 2009) is already filled at the moment of publication of volume 11, and we cannot afford to increase the number of pages without increasing the price we have decided to interrupt the Recent Publications service. We would also like to ask the reviewers to be concise and respect the length guidelines.

From the next issue onwards the conference reports will only appear on the journal Internet page (<http://www1.uni-hamburg.de/AETHIOPICA/>). As before the homepage will also offer the article summaries as well as the Personalia and Dissertation abstracts.

Siegbert Uhlig