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Personalia

In memoriam Taddäsä Bäyyänä (1936–2006)

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Personalia

In memoriam Taddäsä Bäyyänä (1936–2006)

Baye Yimam, Addis Abäba University

Taddäsä Bäyyänä was born in Addis Abäba in 1936 to his father *ato* Bäyyänä Gäbrä Hiwot and his mother *wäyzäro* Kasäč Şägga. He did his elementary school at Patriots School, and high school at Täfäri Mäk^wännən School, both in Addis Abäba. Then he joined the then Addis Ababa University College, where he studied English and graduated with a B.A. degree in 1960. He taught in a high school in Nathreth for a while and then left for the United States to continue his studies. He did a Master's degree in Linguistics at Georgetown University in 1964. The following year he met Mulummebet Alämu who would be his wife for over 41 years. He worked in the Ministry of Education for two years and then left for Georgetown in 1966 to do a higher degree. He completed his studies with a PhD dissertation on aspects of the verbal phonology of Amharic.

After his return home in 1972, Taddäsä served Addis Ababa University (formerly called Ḥaylä Şällase University) and his country at large in different capacities, among which are the following: Chair of the Literacy Materials Development Unit of the Campaign for Development Through Knowledge and Co-operation, a national campaign launched by the Military Government between 1976 to 1977 to promote literacy throughout the nation; founder and first Chair of the Faculty Graduate Commission of the Institute of Language Studies; Director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies; and Secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the International Organizing Committee of the International Conference of Ethiopian Studies. He was also member of a number of societies including: Associations of East African Languages; Association of Libraries of United Kingdom; and International Institute of Africa in United Kingdom.

In 1993, he fell victim of the summary dismissal of academics of Addis Ababa University by the government. He joined Unity University College, a private institution of higher learning in Addis Abäba, where he held a teaching position and a number of senior administrative posts. He also served as country director of a Canadian Non-Government Organization called Unitarian Service Committee.

Personalia

Taddäsä Bäyyänä has taught a number of courses at both graduate and undergraduate levels, advised hundreds of students on their research, published scholarly articles, organized national and international conferences, (co-)edited proceedings, and served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Ethiopian Studies* published by the Institute of Ethiopian Studies. Among the International conferences and symposia he organized are: the 11th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, the Centennial Anniversary of the Battle of Dogali, the First National Conference of Ethiopian Studies, etc.

Taddäsä Bäyyänä was hardworking, serious and meticulous in his work and had a great sense of love for his country. Most of the present members of the Department of Linguistics at Addis Ababa University are his students or “grand students”. He was Associate Professor of Linguistics at Addis Ababa University when he was forced to leave his position as Director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies in 1993.

He died suddenly on 30 September 2006 at the age of 70. He is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren. His body was laid to rest at Gännätä Iyyäsus church in the presence of family members, friends and colleagues on 3 October 2006.

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In memoriam Lanfranco Ricci (1916–2007)

YAQOB BEYENE, Università degli studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”

Nella tarda mattinata del 15 dicembre 2007 apprendevo che il prof. Lanfranco Ricci si era serenamente spento. Malgrado la sua veneranda età, la