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Vignette:

Gold coin of King Aphilas, early third century CE, as drawn by A. Luegmeyer after the coin in Rennau collection. Weight 2.48 grams, diameter 17 mm.

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The journal focuses on philology, linguistics, archaeology, history, cultural anthropology, religion, philosophy, literature, and manuscript studies with a regional emphasis on Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa, and related areas. The editors welcome contributions on relevant academic topics as well as on recent research in the respective field. Each issue of AETHIOPICA contains reviews of books which form a substantial section of the journal.

AETHIOPICA is published mainly in English. Articles in French, German, and Italian are also accepted for publication. An English summary for all articles in any language is provided.

A series of Supplements of monographic or occasional character is also published.

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## Editorial

The present issue of AETHIOPICA is the twenty-fifth since the journal's founding in 1998. It is also the thirteenth issue I have worked on as editor-in-chief, one more than that of founder Siegbert Uhlig. The present time, however, does not lend itself to celebrations of any sort. The global political crisis and the situation in the Horn of Africa are having a deep impact on the scholarly community, which appears divided and radicalized on opposite or increasingly diverging positions as never before. The growing influence of diaspora communities is at times marked by waves of resurgent nationalism. The challenge posed by main-stream policy in countries of established scholarly traditions gives less and less space to small fields—as is the case of Ethiopian and Eritrean studies. The consequent lack of resources triggers the fragmentation of the scholarly scene. New balances based on mutual legitimation and acknowledgement of a common scholarly method are not obvious. The consequence of this complex situation, which reflects global changes, is that scholarly and academic freedom can be put at risk. Of all priorities envisaged in the mission of AETHIOPICA, preservation of academic freedom along with scholarly quality has been, is, and will remain the top priority of the journal.

I regret that in the past, and still now, the lack of available qualified authors has prevented AETHIOPICA from duly commemorating distinct colleagues and researchers recently passed away who were more than deserving of an obituary. I would like to remember at least some of them here, by name, as a very modest tribute to their work and memory: Johannes Launhardt (1929–2019), Mesfin Wolde Mariam (1930–2020), Steffen Wenig (1934–2022), Girma Fisseha (1941–2020).

To end on a positive note, three colleagues active in Ethiopian and Eritrean studies have received important awards this year, and we would like to mention them here: Samantha Kelly (Professor of Medieval History at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, also on our International Editorial Board), has won the Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2020, and the African Studies Review Prize for the Best Africa-focused Anthology or Edited Collection 2021, for her *A Companion to Medieval Ethiopia and Eritrea* (Leiden–Boston, MA: Brill, 2020); Verena Krebs (Junior-Professorin für Mittelalterliche Kulturräume at Ruhr-Universität Bochum) has received the Dan David Prize for her *Medieval Ethiopian Kingship, Craft, and Diplomacy with Latin Europe* (New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021); and Massimo Zaccaria (Professore Associato in Storia e Istituzioni dell'Africa at Università degli Studi di Pavia) has received the Giorgio Maria Sangiorgi award of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei 'per la Storia ed Etnologia dell'Africa'. To all of them—the warmest congratulations from AETHIOPICA!

Marx states on page 11, he is not indicated as the author of this chapter, so his precise role remains unclear. There are some typographical issues with this section of the volume on which there is no need to dwell, and the transliterations are at times inconsistent.

In sum, this book has the merit of systematically bringing together related images from the Arabic Gospels and the Gospel book of Märtulä Maryam. In spite of a good level of enthusiasm and effort by the author, I am not convinced that this volume can be considered a scholarly publication, since it does not advance the field of Ethiopian art history, but it can be seen as a useful tool for analysing and viewing the Ethiopian adaptations of Tempesta's woodcuts side by side. For example, while writing the review for this book, I could not help noticing that Ethiopian artists must have drawn from the Arabic-only version of the Arabic *Evangelium* since they included scenes that were not inserted in the unfinished Latin-Arabic version. When pursued, such comparative research should ideally shed light on the approaches and working methods of Ethiopian illuminators, but also on the wishes and preferences of their patrons.

Jacopo Gnisci, UCL, University of London

JOSEF TROPPEL and REBECCA HASSELBACH-ANDEE, *Classical Ethiopic: A Grammar of Ge'ez, Including Sample Texts and a Glossary*, tr. Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee, Languages of the Ancient Near East, 10 (University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2021). 440 pp. Price: \$69.95, €109.00. ISBN: 978-1-575-06841-1.

When I started teaching in 2002 Gə'əz, Josef Tropper's *Altäthiopisch* has been my standard modern grammar despite only being in Latin script.<sup>1</sup> This new English translation with the addition of the Ethiopic script throughout has been revised and expanded by Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee (associate professor of Comparative Semitics at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago) and as a result has become far more useful. The translation closely follows the original text in both outline and content with the exception of a few changes made reflecting the translator's opinion. Where necessary, the content has been updated to reflect current views on Ethiopian and Semitic grammars. In some cases, the system used was adjusted to reflect linguistic concepts and terminology more commonly found in anglophone literature. The Introduction has been ex-

<sup>1</sup> Josef Tropper, *Altäthiopisch: Grammatik des Ge'ez mit Übungstexten und Glossar*, Elementa Linguarum Orientis, 2 (Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2002).

panded to provide more historical background to the language than existed in the original edition, thus the changes somewhat alter the content compared to the original German version.

Designed to help language learners acquire competency with the script at the outset, *Classical Ethiopic* provides a comprehensive treatment of Gə'əz grammar, with detailed chapters on the language's writing system, phonology, morphology, morphosyntax, and syntax. Numerous example sentences from several Ethiopic biblical books illustrate the grammatical concepts discussed. Each example is presented in Ethiopic script, transliteration, and English translation. An updated Bibliography takes into account the developments that have occurred in the study of Gə'əz in the two decades since Tropper's original publication. The grammar is followed by an Appendix presenting a reader of sample texts in Gə'əz with a transliteration after each text and not parallel. A Gə'əz–English Glossary concludes this grammar. It has been ordered according to the Latin alphabet with the words in Ethiopic script after the transliterated ones.

Both appropriate for the classroom and independent study, for students and scholars, *Classical Ethiopic* is the best grammar of Gə'əz and is sure to become the standard reference in English for the study of the language.

Maija Priess, Hamburg

DERIB ADO, ALMAZ WASSE GELAGAY, and JANNE BONDI JOHANNESSEN, eds, *Grammatical and Sociolinguistic Aspects of Ethiopian Languages*, Impact, Studies in Language, Culture and Society, 48 (Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2021). viii, 415 pp. Price: €99.00, \$149.00. ISBN: 978-9-027-20833-0 (HB), 978-9-027-26024-6 (e-book).

The book *Grammatical and Sociolinguistic Aspects of Ethiopian Languages* is a collection of papers presented at two conferences—the 46th Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics, Long Beach, California (1–3 June 2018) and the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Mäqälä, Ethiopia (1–5 October 2018).<sup>1</sup> The research has been carried out in the framework of the project Linguistic Capacity Building—Tools for the inclusive development of Ethiopia (LCB), run jointly by the Universitetet i Oslo, Addis Ababa University, Hawassa University, Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet, and Center for Multilingualism in Society across the Lifespan (MultiLing) from 2014 to 2020 and funded by the Norwegian Agency for Develop-

<sup>1</sup> The electronic version of this book is Open Access (<https://benjamins.com/catalog/impact.48>).