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Review

RAINER VOIGT, *Tigrinische Bibliographie*

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RAINER VOIGT, *Tigrinische Bibliographie*, Studien zum Horn von Afrika, 8 (Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2020). xix, 566 pp. Price: €89,80. ISBN: 978-3-89645-688-5.

The book under review is perhaps the most recent and richly compiled work of its kind. It is conveniently divided in two parts. The first part consists of international works on the Təgrəñña language, while the second part contains works mostly written by Eritrean and Təgrayan writers. A third part, whose significance is not clear, appears at the end of the book and shows only pictures of title pages from several books.

Quite a few works on Təgrəñña linguistics and literature have appeared in print by Eritrean and international writers in the last six decades. The compiler (a respectable Ethiopist) has used many of them when writing his book. He naturally relied upon his own collection as well as on those major collection centres within Germany, Eritrea, Italy, and Ethiopia. The provenance of the works is marked with respective abbreviations in the bibliography. He has admitted (in the introduction) that for one reason or another, titles of religious and/or political nature are excluded from his book. There is of course a possibility that researchers in those fields may, through this very exclusion, be disadvantaged.

The most difficult problem that the compiler faced in finalizing his work was systemizing the writing of Eritrean names and terms. Such a field of standardization has not yet been considered in Eritrea or Təgray. Actually, the problem appears mainly when one writes in a European language. The articles and books written in various European languages show a variety of transliteration systems. Even the word 'Təgrəñña' is transliterated differently in various publications depending on the country or institution in which the work was produced. The compiler of the work under consideration apparently decided to give priority to his own system of transliteration (cf. the introduction); in his alphabetically arranged entries, however, he includes the borrowed ones with different transliterations. He then includes an abbreviated title of the source. Thus, he decided to adapt the various transliteration systems originally used together in his alphabetical order. The resulting confusion is addressed with numerous cross references. In spite of the conspicuous problems, the book is an adequate work of reference.

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