



## Aethiopica 14 (2011)

International Journal of Ethiopian and  
Eritrean Studies

---

DAVID SHINN, George Washington University, Washington, DC

Personalia

*In memoriam Paul B. Henze (1924–2011)*

Aethiopica 14 (2011), 226–228

ISSN: 1430–1938

---

Edited in the Asien-Afrika-Institut  
Hiob Ludolf Zentrum für Äthiopistik  
der Universität Hamburg  
Abteilung für Afrikanistik und Äthiopistik

by Alessandro Bausi

in cooperation with

Bairu Tafla, Ulrich Braukämper, Ludwig Gerhardt,  
Hilke Meyer-Bahlburg and Siegbert Uhlig

Michael A. Knibb

### Works by Edward Ullendorff cited

- 1956 "Hebraic-Jewish Elements in Abyssinian (Monophysite) Christianity", *JSS* 1, pp. 216–56.
- 1960 "An Aramaic Vorlage of the Ethiopic Text of Enoch?", in: *Atti del convegno internazionale di studi etiopici* = Anno CCCLVII, Problemi Attuali di Scienza e di Cultura, Quaderno 48, Roma: Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, pp. 259–67.
- 1962–63 "The Queen of Sheba", *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* 45, pp. 486–504.
- 1968 *Ethiopia and the Bible* = The Schweich Lectures of the British Academy 1967, London: Oxford University Press for the British Academy.
- 1977 *Is Biblical Hebrew a Language? Studies in Semitic Languages and Civilizations*, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.
- 1980 "Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek: the Versions Underlying Ethiopic Translations of Bible and Intertestamental Literature", in: G. RENDSBURG – R. ADLER – M. ARFA – N.H. WINTER (eds.), *The Bible World. Essays in Honor of Cyrus H. Gordon*, New York: Ktav Publishing House – Institute of Hebrew Culture and Education of New York University.
- 1987 "Hebrew Elements in the Ethiopic Old Testament", *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam* 9, pp. 42–50.
- 1988 *The Two Zions. Reminiscences of Jerusalem and Ethiopia*, Oxford – New York: Oxford University Press.

### Other works cited

- APPLEYARD, D.L. 2010, "Edward Ullendorff", *Aethiopica* 13 (2010), pp. 201–04.
- KNIBB, M.A., in consultation with E. ULLENDORFF 1978, *The Ethiopic Book of Enoch: A New Edition in the light of the Aramaic Dead Sea Fragments*, I–II., Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- RODINSON, M. 1972, "Review of Edward Ullendorff, *Ethiopia and the Bible*", *JSS* 17, pp. 166–170.
- STRELCYN, S. 1974, *Catalogue of Ethiopic Manuscripts in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.

## In memoriam Paul B. Henze (1924–2011)

DAVID SHINN, George Washington University, Washington, DC

Paul Henze devoted much of his professional life to the study of Ethiopia. Born on 29 August 1924 in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, he earned his B.A. degree in 1948 from St. Olaf College and his M.A. from Harvard University in 1950, specializing in history and languages. He served for two years in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II and then joined Radio Free Europe in Munich. Henze made his first trip to the Horn of Africa in 1962, visiting Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan. In 1968, he returned to Sudan, Somalia

and Ethiopia. He had a long career with the Central Intelligence Agency, including an assignment from 1969 to 1972 as chief of station in Addis Abāba. Henze documented his travels in Ethiopia during this time in his first book titled *Ethiopian Journeys: Travels in Ethiopia 1969–72*<sup>1</sup>. The book covers his travels through Wällo, Təgray, Eritrea, Arsi, Harär, Bale and Goğgam. He published an updated version of the book 25 years later.

After completing his assignment in Ethiopia, Henze held a similar position in Ankara, Turkey. Henze became in 1977 a senior staff member in the National Security Council under Zbigniew Brzezinski during the Carter administration. He specialized on developments in the Horn of Africa and made three official visits to the region during this assignment. President Carter sent Henze to Ethiopia in 1977 to talk to Mängəstu Ḥaylä Maryam and warn him against establishing a Stalinist regime. He returned in 1978 to try to lay the basis for a constructive relationship between the United States and Ethiopia. The effort failed miserably. Many of his memos during this period have been declassified and are available on data bases that contain declassified U.S. Government documents. Henze recounts this period of service in *The Horn of Africa: From War to Peace*<sup>2</sup>.

Henze retired from government service at the end of the Carter administration in 1980 and became a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. He joined the RAND (“Research and Development”) Corporation in 1982 as a resident consultant. During this period, he authored numerous studies on Ethiopia and Central Asia, his other principal area of expertise. He visited Ethiopia seven more times during the *Därg* period. In spite of the poor state of relations between the United States and Ethiopia, the *Därg* facilitated his travels to all parts of the country. Henze subsequently wrote the first of two volumes that chronicled these travels and provided his reaction to what he saw and heard. The first volume is titled *Ethiopia in Mengistu’s Final Years: The Derg in Decline*<sup>3</sup>. The second volume documents his contacts after 1989 with the insurgent movements that eventually defeated Mängəstu’s armies and forced him to flee. It includes interviews with Mängəstu and many of his officials, Mäläs Zänawi and Isayyas Afäwärqi. The book is called *Ethiopia in Mengistu’s Final Years: Until the Last Bullet*<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> P.B. HENZE 1977, *Ethiopian Journeys: Travels in Ethiopia 1969–72*, London: Ernest Benn Ltd.

<sup>2</sup> ID. 1991, *The Horn of Africa: From War to Peace*, London: The Macmillan Press Ltd.

<sup>3</sup> ID. 2007, *Ethiopia in Mengistu’s Final Years: The Derg in Decline*, Addis Ababa: Shama Books.

<sup>4</sup> ID. 2007, *Ethiopia in Mengistu’s Final Years: Until the Last Bullet*, Addis Ababa: Shama Books.

Henze returned to Ethiopia almost annually after the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) took power in 1991. He had a good relationship with Prime Minister Mäläs Zänawi and usually met with him during his visits. During this period, he often travelled and collaborated with Stanisław Chojnacki, an expert on the art of Ethiopia and founder of the Museum of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at Addis Ababa University. While Henze's intellectual focus during the EPRDF period shifted more to the history of Ethiopian churches, he never gave up his interest in Ethiopian politics and history. He wrote a widely acclaimed *Layers of Time: A History of Ethiopia*<sup>5</sup> and a defense of Ethiopia's position on the conflict with Eritrea titled *Eritrea's War: Confrontation, International Response, Outcome, Prospects*.<sup>6</sup> While Paul Henze studied Ethiopian churches during his final decade of visits to Ethiopia, his wife of 59 years, Martie, who died in 2009, became an expert on ancient tapestries that had made their way to Ethiopia.

Over the years, Henze attended numerous conferences concerning the Horn of Africa, including many of the International Conferences of Ethiopian Studies where he often presented papers. An irrepressible traveller and an excellent photographer, his books often contained his own photographs. He hiked long distances on foot in the mountains of Ethiopia into his late seventies. He carefully stored his collection of books, monographs, pamphlets, clippings, and memorabilia and, especially, photographs at the home he and Martie built in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. Ironically, Henze is best known in the United States for a book he wrote titled *The Plot to Kill the Pope* (1983), an investigation into the 1981 attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II.

Henze died on 19 May 2011 in Culpeper, Virginia. He is survived by six children and nine grandchildren. Henze was a member of the Royal Central Asian Society, the Archaeological Institute of America and a life member of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies. He served for many years as an officer of the Friends of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies in Washington. Israeli Ethiopianist Haggai Erlich referred to Henze as "a scholar and a diplomat, a tireless reader, traveller and researcher" on the back cover of *Layers of Time*. Following Henze's death, American Ethiopianist, Don Levine, wrote that "I felt nourished by Paul's comprehensive understanding of Ethiopian realities – her history and religious culture as well as her current political and economic circumstances." British expert on Ethiopia, Christopher Clapham, commented that "Henze's familiarity with the country is encyclopedic, and over the years he must have travelled more widely in Ethiopia than any other foreigner."

<sup>5</sup> ID. 2000, *Layers of Time: A History of Ethiopia*, London: Hurst and Company.

<sup>6</sup> ID. 2001, *Eritrea's War: Confrontation, International Response, Outcome, Prospects*, Addis Ababa: Shama Books.