



## Aethiopia 13 (2010)

International Journal of Ethiopian and  
Eritrean Studies

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Personalia

*In memoriam Alan S. Kaye (1944–2007)*

Aethiopia 13 (2010), 205–208

ISSN: 1430–1938

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Published by

Universität Hamburg

Asien Afrika Institut, Abteilung Afrikanistik und Äthiopistik

Hiob Ludolf Zentrum für Äthiopistik

armenische, georgische und äthiopische, bisher ca. 600 Bände. Diese bieten jeweils eine Edition des Originaltextes und eine Übersetzung.

Ohne die äthiopische Reihe wäre die philologische Forschung in der Äthiopistik undenkbar, sie gehört daher zur Grundausrüstung jeder Bibliothek unseres Faches.

Unter den Sektions-Herausgebern finden sich herausragende Fachvertreter wie beispielsweise Ignazio Guidi und Enrico Cerulli. Bis zu seinem Tode hat zuletzt Lanfranco Ricci die Verantwortung für die Ausgaben für unser Fach getragen.

Nun wurde Alessandro Bausi diese Verantwortung übertragen. Zu dieser ehrenvollen Aufgabe ist ihm zu gratulieren und zugleich zu wünschen, dass unter seiner Ägide die äthiopische Philologie einen neuen Aufschwung erfährt.

### **In memoriam Alan S. Kaye (1944–2007)**

MAURO TOSCO, Università degli Studi di Torino

On May 31, 2007, I lost a friend. And we all lost a great colleague. His name was Alan S. Kaye, and he was professor of linguistics at California State University in Fullerton (or Cal State Fullerton, or still CSUF, if you want). He was just 63.

I was expecting to meet him in Udine at the 13<sup>th</sup> Italian Meeting of Afroasiatic Linguistics, May 21–25. In the past few months he had written me a few times: he was planning to take the opportunity of attending Udine's Meeting to visit, once more, Italy, and had asked me about hotels and train schedules, all the way from the North to Rome and the South.

When I did not see him in Udine I inquired around and was told he was ill, seriously ill. Still, I could not foresee his sudden death.

Actually, Alan had been diagnosed with bone cancer already on May 1 in the United Arab Emirates, where he was on a two-year leave teaching and doing research at al-Ain University. His 28-year-old son, Jeremy traveled to the Emirates, where Kaye was already undergoing therapy, and brought him back home to Fullerton on May 22. While chemotherapy did help Alan a lot, it also left him open to infection, and he got pneumonia, which proved to be fatal.

I had been working a lot with Alan along the years: in 1992/93 we wrote together "Early East African Pidgin Arabic", which was published in the special volume of *Sprache und Geschichte in Afrika*, "Arabs and Arabic in the Lake Chad Region" edited by Jonathan Owens (Kaye – Tosco 1993).

Alan had painstakingly looked for and finally located in London (at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Library) one of the two copies in existence of E.V. Jenkins' booklet *An Arabic-English Vocabulary with Grammar & Phrases*, published in Kampala in 1908/09. Intermingled with much else, even Classical Arabic, Jenkins' book did actually contain many precious data on a basilectal Arabic pidgin, or jargon, spoken by the Southern Sudanese soldiers relocated in British East Africa.

This work also cemented our friendship, and we met and corresponded a lot in the following years. It was a few years later when Alan proposed that we write a short monography on pidgins and creoles, to be published by Lincom Europa in Munich. The book took much longer than expected. The final result, *Pidgin and Creole Languages: A Basic Introduction* (Kaye – Tosco 2001) was only 114 pages long, and certainly not the best book on pidgins and creoles you will find in your library. Far from it. Still, it tried to be as theory-neutral as possible, and, most importantly, was crucially based upon data from non-European-based (generally, Arabic-based) pidgins and creoles.

Writing the book led me to appreciate Alan's inimitable American English style in academic writing. Later, I gladly seized the opportunity to write an article (published much later, as Tosco 2007) in the first volume of *Morphologies of Asia and Africa*, which he edited.

Alan was interested in many aspects of linguistics, and published for academics and the laymen alike. He delivered lectures and conducted research worldwide. He also received many grants, including two Fulbright Scholar awards.

All in all, Alan published nearly 20 books, more than 100 articles and over 450 notes, squibs and reviews. He was till his death the proud editor of *California Linguistic* (but in the title it is *lin'gwistik*) *Notes*, published by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in Fullerton. Among many other academic commitments, Alan also served as editor for the online edition of *English Today*, which shows the latitude of his interest and his love for language and languages.

Most of all, Alan loved Arabic and the Arab world, and his real specialty was the peripheral dialects of Arabic. His field trips in Africa and the Middle East even won him the nickname of "the Indiana Jones of linguistics."

Kaye was born in Los Angeles on March 2, 1944, and studied Semitic linguistics at the University of California, Los Angeles, before earning his Ph.D. (1971) in linguistics from University of California, Berkeley. After serving for some time in Colorado, he went back to California.

Alan was an indefatigable traveller: much, I confess, to my envy, almost every time he wrote me, either a message or a postcard, he was in a different location: from South America to Sweden, from the Far East to the Arab

World. He loved Europe, and me and my family once had him at our home in Genoa for a few days. I remember he was scared by my driving on the narrow Genoese roads (probably, more like pathways for a Californian born and bred like Alan). And he was fascinated by discovering that your bank or insurance can be located in a 17<sup>th</sup>-century palace, and that you queue amidst stuccoes, paintings and statues. He was travelling alone, as usual. That time I took him to the train station, where he was to catch a train all the way to Palermo, Sicily (yes, it must be approximately 1,300 kms).

Alan is survived by his ex-wife and mother of his children, Susan Kaye, by his son, Jeremy, his daughter, Jennifer, and his sister, Carol Moshos.

And he is remembered by the many colleagues and many friends who, like me, had the pleasure to meet him, know him and like him. I won't forget you, Alan.

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### In memoriam Merid Wolde Aregay (1934/35–2008)

ALESSANDRO TRIULZI, Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”

Merid Wolde Aregay passed away on 31 December 2008, leaving a wife and three children (two sons and a daughter). It is hard to believe that Merid is no longer with us. For all those who for many years used to pace the long corridor in the second floor of the College of Social Sciences at Arat Kilo leading to the Department of History of the Addis Ababa University (AAU), the thought that ‘Prof. Merid’ would not be there waiting for you, a broad smile on his face, is hardly tolerable. For years, since the early 1970s, Merid has been there, a loyal, friendly, compassionate scholar, a witty yet self-effacing presence at the University of Addis Ababa, like in all other gatherings, both formal and informal, and important moments in the life of its History Department.

The Department was Merid’s second home. He would come every day, often including Saturday, to his office to receive students and friends, always ready to welcome a close friend or a foreign guest with the same openness and enthusiasm. No one could claim as much influence and critical enquiry, fairness and friendship, among the Department’s staff. No one could get as much respect and consent. Because Merid was not only a good scholar, but a just and open human being, whose intelligence matched his