



Aethiopia 4 (2001)

International Journal of Ethiopian and
Eritrean Studies

DONALD CRUMMEY

Personalia

In memoriam William Alfred Shack (1923–2000)

Aethiopia 4 (2001), 200–201

ISSN: 1430–1938

Published by

Universität Hamburg

Asien Afrika Institut, Abteilung Afrikanistik und Äthiopistik

Hiob Ludolf Zentrum für Äthiopistik

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Bill Shack died on March 31, 2000. His death marks the passing of an important stage in the development of Ethiopian Studies.

Shack was well-known to Ethiopianists for his field-work based monograph, *The Gurage: A people of the Ensete Culture* (London: Oxford University Press, 1966), a pioneering work of Ethiopian anthropology. *The Gurage* was followed by two related studies: *Gods and Heroes: Oral Traditions of the Gurage of Ethiopia* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1974), which Shack co-edited and annotated with Habte-Mariam Marcos; and *The Central Ethiopians. Amhara, Tigrina and related Peoples* (London: International African Institute: 1974). The former appeared in a Clarendon series on African literature. The latter was a contribution to the International African Institute's ethnographic survey of Africa. While he retained his interest in Ethiopia (his son was named Hailu Araya), he broadened his horizons to co-edit two works of comparative anthropology: *Strangers in African Societies* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979), co-edited with Elliott Skinner; and *Politics in Leadership: A comparative perspective* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1979), co-edited with Percy S. Cohen. Finally, he taught at Addis Ababa University from 1962 to 1965, and contributed to its development by founding its Department of Sociology, a department which now has expanded to include anthropology and graduate as well as undergraduate degree programs.

Shack was born in Chicago, on April 19, 1923. He served in the US Coast Guard during World War II and received his first degree, a BA, in 1955 from the Art Institute of Chicago, an institution internationally known for the training of artists. He then pursued an MA in anthropology at the University of Chicago and received his Ph.D. degree from the London School of Economics in 1961. Following appointments at the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois, in 1970 he joined the faculty

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of the Department of Anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley, where he became a member of one of the strongest groups of Africanist anthropologists in North America.

Shack retired in 1991, receiving Berkeley's highest commendation, the Berkeley Citation. In addition to his scholarship, he had also served the university as chair of its Anthropology Department, as faculty assistant to the vice-chancellor on affirmative action, and from 1979 to 1985 as Dean of the Graduate Division. His commitment to academic service was also testified to by his chairing, for ten years (1987–1996), the International African Institute in London, having previously (1979–1984) acted as a Consultant Editor to the institute's journal *Africa*.

Shack was also honored by the French government and by his *alma mater*, the University of Chicago. The former named him a Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite; while the Alumni Association of the latter awarded him its Distinguished Service Award.

The International African Institute is re-issuing *The Gurage* in its series "Classics in African Anthropology." Also forthcoming is a monograph from the University of California Press, which reflects Shack's interests in the arts and music: *Harlem in Montmartre: a Paris Jazz Story between the Great Wars*.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy and his son Hailu.

In memoriam Tekle Tsadik Mekouria (1913–2000)

RITA PANKHURST

The Ethiopian historian, Tekle Tsadik Mekouria (Täklä Şadäq Mäk^wərya), was born in Asagərt, in the vicinity of Ankobär, Northern Şäwa, on the first day of 1906 A.Mis. (11 September 1913), and died in Addis Ababa on 23 July 2000, at the age of eighty-seven after a long illness. He was buried at the Church of Qäranyo Mädhane ʿAläm, his funeral oration being delivered by Däğğazmač Zäwde Gäbrä-Şəllase. Tekle Tsadik played a significant part in