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BAIRU TAFLA

Conference report

January 11–17, 2000, at Asmāra (Eritrea): Against All Odds:
African Languages and Literatures into the 21st Century —
An International Conference and Festival

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Conferences and Exhibitions

- MICHAEL GERVERS: *The Portuguese import of luxury textiles to Ethiopia (16th and 17th centuries)*
MERID WOLDE AREGAY: *Portuguese contribution to ethiopian architecture (16th and 17th centuries)*
ABDUSSAMAD AHMAD: *The Palaces of Gondar Town (Ethiopia) (1632–1769)*
RICHARD PANKHURST: *Danqaz — Portuguese and Portuguese-Indian architectural connections*
FASIL GIORGHIS: *Portuguese and eastern influences and local innovation in gondarine architecture*
IAN CAMPBELL: *Portuguese influence on the architecture of the lake Tāna region*
LA VERLE BERRY: *Ethiopian and Portuguese monumental stone architecture in Lake Tāna basin*

Stanisław Chojnacki

November 27–28, 1999, at Munich (Germany): The human image in the changes of basic rights

The two-day symposium under the theme *Das Menschenbild im Wandel der Grundrechte* [= “The human image in the changes of basic rights”] was organized by colleagues in the Institut für Rechtsphilosophie und Rechtsinformatik of Ludwig-Maximilian-University in honour of Prof. Dr. h.c. Heinrich Scholler who had turned 70 in August. Participants were colleagues and students of his university as well as scholars of law, history, politics and anthropology from various universities in Germany, Greece, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Taiwan and the United States — in most of which the honorand had worked at one time or another. Around 20 papers were presented on this occasion, a quarter of which were directly related to Ethiopian studies. The contributions will be published in a monograph bearing the same title as the symposium.

Bairu Tafla

January 11–17, 2000, at Asmāra (Eritrea): Against All Odds: African Languages and Literatures into the 21st Century — An International Conference and Festival

The conference, which attracted about 700 participants from all continents, was officially opened with the speeches of a member of the organizing committee, the President of the State of Eritrea, members of the presiding chairs (Ama Ata Aidoo, Mbulelo Mzamane, Nawal El Saadawi, Ngugi wa Thiong’o) as well as distin-

Conferences and Exhibitions

guished Eritrean authors and intellectual community elders. More than 150 papers were presented, about half of which were related to Eritrean and Ethiopian studies, some of which were presented in the plenary sessions together with assigned respondents. The greater part of the conference took place in the newly-built Intercontinental Hotel halls equipped with on-site translation facilities where Arabic, English, French and Təgrəñña were used. Three parallel sessions were accommodated for throughout the week — except for Sunday when a special session was held under a sycamore tree in Sägänäyti, about 70 km south of Asmara — each with a distinct theme related to the state of African literatures and languages, language politics, gender issues, music, art, exile literature, linguistics, book production, book publishing, the state of school instructions and text books, etc. All presentations were open for question and discussion, though the dearth of time often interrupted lively exchanges of opinions and information. The sessions, which ran from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with brief intermittent breaks, were supplemented in the evenings by receptions, banquets, poetry readings and cultural shows including a film and folk dance. A resolution was passed at the end of the conference making a number of recommendations to promote African languages and literatures. A secretariat was also established whose seat would initially be located in Asmara. The next conference is expected to be held in another African country in about two years.

Bairu Tafla

15.–17. 10. 1999 in München (Deutschland): Fünfte Tagung des Orbis Aethiopicus

Die jährliche Tagung des Orbis Aethiopicus stand dieses Mal unter dem Thema *3000 Jahre Spurensuche: Religionen, Kunst und Tradition*.

Exhibition in Ude (The Netherlands) from December 11, 1999 – March 12, 2000

Kopten en Ethiopiërs. Tweeduizend jaar mystiek en christendom langs de Nijl

Ein Katalog, der die Themen der Ausstellung, so z.B. die Heilige Familie, das Wohnen in der Wüste, das äthiopische Mönchtum und die Koptische und die Äthiopische Kirche in den Niederlanden erläutert, erweist sich als guter Führer.

(Nach Angaben von Annegret Marx)