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## Conference report

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

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### 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)