

Editorial

As the first of his formal acts, the present editor of AETHIOPICA intends to express his most sincere gratitude to his predecessor Prof. Dr. Dr. Siegbert Uhlig, who founded the journal in 1998 and directed it up to vol. 12 (2009) with admirable effort and determination – just one among the many successful scientific projects of his – for having established a forum of scientific discussion and scholarly contributions which has come to play a growing and central role in the international development of Ethiopian and Eritrean Studies in the last twelve years. The present editor and the editorial team of the journal – now based at the newly established “Hiob Ludolf Centre for Ethiopian Studies” of Hamburg University – are sure that their thankfulness hereby expressed will widely match the expectation of a vast number of colleagues and scholars.

This current issue of the journal is dedicated to Prof. Dr. Edward Ullendorff for the accomplishment of his ninetieth birthday on 26 January 2010, a dedicacy for which the editor feels extremely honoured. It is particularly appropriate to consider and resume now, at a crucial turning point in Ethiopian and Eritrean Studies, the scholarly lesson witnessed by Ullendorff – one of the few professors ever appointed to a Chair in Ethiopian Studies – along 70 years of tireless scientific work, during which he has impeccably approached Ethiopian Studies within the wider scope of Semitic and Oriental Studies.

It is then a pleasure and a duty to express the AETHIOPICA team’s thanks and gratitude to Dr. Maija Priess, who has diligently and passionately accomplished the task of co-ordinating the editorial work between the contributors and editorial and scientific team now for ten years.

A series of obituaries of scholars and colleagues is included as usual in the journal. In this issue, if not already available, a bibliography of their works is also tentatively provided, as a tangible sign of appreciation for the work and a way of remembering them for what they contributed. Time and planning constraints have prevented the inclusion of Prof. Stanisław Chojnacki’s obituary, which is reserved for the next number. As for the past issues, conference reports have been made available online at: <http://www1.uni-hamburg.de/AETHIOPICA/>.

As a first attempt towards a higher technical standard and further related applications, an important change has also taken place with the present issue, i.e. the application of the Unicode encoding standard. Contributors are warmly invited to conform.

The dressing of a systematic international bibliography basing on a wide co-operation network remains at the moment the most substantial *desideratum* for the future and AETHIOPICA will work for its realization. Colleagues and scholars are warmly invited to send news on publications and contributions.

Alessandro Bausi