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In memoriam Amsalu Aklilu (1929–2013)

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Bibliographical abbreviations used in this volume

- AE* *Annales d'Éthiopie*, Paris 1955ff.
- ÄthFor* Äthiopistische Forschungen, 1–35, ed. by E. HAMMERSCHMIDT, 36–40, ed. by S. UHLIG, Stuttgart: Franz Steiner (1–34), 1977–1992; Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz (35–40), 1994–1995.
- AethFor* Aethiopistische Forschungen, 41–73, ed. by S. UHLIG, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1998–2011; 74–75, ed. by A. BAUSI and S. UHLIG, *ibid.*, 2011f.; 76ff. ed. by A. BAUSI, *ibid.*, 2012ff.
- AION* *Annali dell'Università degli studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"*, Napoli: Università di Napoli "L'Orientale" (former Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli), 1929ff.
- BSOAS* *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, London 1917ff.
- CSCO* *Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium*, 1903ff.
- EAE* S. UHLIG (ed.), *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*, I: A–C, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2003; II: D–Ha, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2005; III: He–N, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2007; (in cooperation with A. BAUSI), IV: O–X, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2010; A. BAUSI (ed. in cooperation with S. UHLIG), V: Y–Z, *Supplementa, Addenda et Corrigenda, Maps, Index*, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2014.
- EFAH* Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Orient-Abteilung, Epigraphische Forschungen auf der Arabischen Halbinsel, herausgegeben im Auftrag des Instituts von NORBERT NEBES.
- EMML* Ethiopian Manuscript Microfilm Library, Addis Ababa.
- IJAHS* *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, Boston, MA – New York 1968ff.
- JAH* *The Journal of African History*, Cambridge 1960ff.
- JES* *Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, Addis Ababa 1963ff.
- JSS* *Journal of Semitic Studies*, Manchester 1956ff.
- NEASt* *Northeast African Studies*, East Lansing, MI 1979ff.
- OrChr* *Oriens Christianus*, Leipzig – Roma – Wiesbaden 1901ff.
- OrChrP* *Orientalia Christiana Periodica*, Roma 1935ff.
- PICES 15* S. UHLIG – M. BULAKH – D. NOSNITSIN – T. RAVE (eds.) 2005, *Proceedings of the XVth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Hamburg July 20–25, 2003* = *AethFor* 65, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
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- PO* *Patrologia Orientalis*, 1903ff.
- RIÉ* É. BERNAND – A. J. DREWES – R. SCHNEIDER 1991, *Recueil des inscriptions de l'Éthiopie des périodes pré-axoumite et axoumite*, I: *Les documents*, II: *Les planches*, Paris: [Académie des inscriptions et belle-lettres] Diffusion de Boccard.
- RSE* *Rassegna di Studi Etiopici*, Roma 1941–1981, Roma – Napoli 1983ff.
- SAe* *Scriptores Aethiopici*.
- ZDMG* *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, Leipzig – Wiesbaden – Stuttgart 1847ff.

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Obituary Notice

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In memoriam Amsalu Aklilu (1929–2013)

GETIE GELAYE, Universität Hamburg

On December 19, 2013 Dr. Amsalu Aklilu passed away at the age of 84 in Addis Abäba. Amsalu was a distinguished lexicographer of Amharic, who published bilingual and monolingual dictionaries, several books and numerous scholarly articles. Ethiopian pupils and students of Amharic language and literature will always remember Amsalu's *English–Amharic Dictionary* which he published in collaboration with G.P. Mosback in 1981.

Amsalu was born on September 2, 1929 in the town of Däse, Wällo. He first went to church school and later attended the Holy Trinity Elementary and Secondary School in Addis Abäba. He studied Theology and Semitic Languages at Cairo University and obtained his Bachelor of Divinity and Bachelor of Arts in 1957. Amsalu obtained his Ph.D. in Semitic Philology in 1962 from the University of Tübingen, Germany. His Dissertation was entitled: *Etymologischer Beitrag zu A. Dillmanns Lexicon linguae aethiopiae*. Amsalu participated at several International Conferences of Ethiopian Studies and contributed important scholarly papers on the various aspects of Amharic, semantics, sociolinguistics, Arabic loanwords in Amharic, science and technology terminologies in Amharic, on the standardization of Amharic orthography, Amharic dialects, language policy and planning and the development of Amharic during the reign of Emperor Tewodros II.

Amsalu taught at the Department of Ethiopian Languages and Literature, Haile Selassie I University (later Addis Ababa University) from 1963–1993 in both graduate and undergraduate programs and served Addis Ababa University as a senior Professor for nearly 40 years. Twice he was Head of the Department of Ethiopian Languages and Literature, Dean of the Institute of Language Studies and the first Director of Addis Ababa University Press in 1994. Amsalu was also a member of the Academy of Ethiopian Languages, and served as General Secretary of the Advisory

Board, which was a major Science and Technology Terminology Translation Project, funded by the UNESCO in the 1980s. Between 1970 and 1975 he was a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Ethiopian Studies*.

After retiring from Addis Ababa University, Amsalu worked as a *Lektor* for Amharic and Gəʿəz at the Department of African and Ethiopian Studies at Hamburg University from 1997 to 2002. Amsalu's many years of research was a compilation of his unpublished work: *Deutsch–Amharisch Wörterbuch* (German–Amharic Dictionary), a tedious but engaging project that he started in the early 1990s in collaboration with Siegbert Uhlig and almost completed in 2002/03. Sadly he passed away without seeing the publication of this important work. After returning back to Ethiopia in August 2002, Amsalu Aklilu made further contributions by teaching Gəʿəz and supervising graduate students' M.A. theses at the Philology Program and at the Department of Ethiopian Languages and Literature of Addis Ababa University. He was a very cooperative scholar who collaborated with distinguished scholars of Ethiopian Studies such as Wolf Leslau, Sven Rubenson, Merid Wolde Aregay and Siegbert Uhlig, among others.

In 1985/86, Amsalu published his *Amharic–English Dictionary*. In 1986, he published *Yä-Amarəñña Fäliṭočč* together with Daññaččāw Wäru. Amsalu wrote a manual on how to write good Amharic composition entitled *Təru yä-Amarəñña dərsät əndet yallä nəw?*, and also translated famous international short stories into Amharic: *Bä'aläm yätawwäqu ačäččər tarikočč*. In recent years, Amsalu Aklilu published three books: *Yä-Gəʿəz məmmariya məšəf – Gəʿəz Textbook* in 2010, and *Yä-Amarəñña mokše hoheyat tənqəqo yälämäšaf čəggər-əmma məftəhe*, a pocket size book Amharic speller in 2009, both published by Shama Books in Addis Abāba. Amsalu's final lexicon is *Amharic–Arabic Dictionary* in collaboration with Munir Abrar and published 2007 in Addis Abāba. Amsalu Aklilu's unpublished monograph entitled *Aččər yä-Itiopya sənəšəhuf tarik* still serves as a major textbook for students and lecturers of language and literature at Addis Ababa University and other universities.

Amsalu was a talented linguist well versed in several languages: Amharic, Gəʿəz, Arabic, English, German, Italian and a good understanding of French.

Amsalu was a generous host, who valued Ethiopian communal and social life a lot. His house was always open to his guests, his friends, his students and his European colleagues. He was buried on 22 December, 2013 at the Däbrä Sahəl St. Michael Church in Yäkka, Addis Abāba. Amsalu Aklilu is survived by his wife, *wäyzäro* Kelemework Asfaw (Qälämawärq Asfaw) and five children: Bedemariam Aklilu (Bä'ədämaryam, Aklilu), Aby Akalewold (°Abiy Akaläwäld), Essetemariam (ፎsätemaryam) and Melatework (Mälätewärq).

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Books

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