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Review

ፍጹም ፡ ወልደ ፡ ማርያም (FESSUM WÄLDÄ MARYAM), ያልተዘመረላችው ፡
“ትልቅ ፡ ነበርን ፡ ትልቅም ፡ እንሆናለን” ፤ ቅጽ ፩/፪

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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.
- PICES 16* H. ASPEN – BIRHANU TEFERRA – SHIFERAW BEKELE – S. EGE (eds.) 2010, *Research in Ethiopian Studies: Selected papers of the 16th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Trondheim July 2007* = *AethFor* 72, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
- 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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ፍጹም ፡ ወልደ ፡ ማርያም (FƏSSUM WÄLDÄ MARYAM), **ያልተዘመረላቸው ፡ “ትልቅ ፡ ነበርን ፡ ትልቅም ፡ እንሆናለን”** ፤ ቅጽ ፩ ፤ አዲስ አበባ ፣ ፋር ኢስት ትሬዲንግ ኃላፊዮች ማህበር ፤ 2005 ዓ.ም. ፤ 273 ገጽ ፤ ዋጋ ፡ 45.00 ብር ። (*Yaltäzämmärällacčäw*: “*tälläq näbbärn tälläqəmm ənhonallän*”, ‘Those who have not been publicized enough: we were great and we will become great’), Volume 1, Addis Abäba: Far-East Trading S.C. Printing Press, 2012, 273 pp. Price: Bərr 45.

ያልተዘመረላቸው ፡ “ትልቅ ፡ ነበርን ፡ ትልቅም ፡ እንሆናለን” ፤ ቅጽ ፪ ፤ አዲስ አበባ ፣ ፋር ኢስት ትሬዲንግ ኃላፊዮች ማህበር ፤ 2005 ዓ.ም. ፤ 242 ገጽ ፤ ዋጋ ፡ 50.00 ብር ። (*Yaltäzämmärällacčäw*: “*tälläq näbbärn tälläqəmm ənhonallän*”, ‘Those who have not been publicized enough: we were great and we will become great’), Volume 2, Addis Abäba: Far-East Trading S.C. Printing Press, 2012, 242 pp. Price: Bərr 50.

The two volumes of *Yaltäzämmärällacčäw* contain 41 (volume I: 21, and volume II: 20) biographies of Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia who have contributed to the country in different ways. Among them are scholars, writers, patriots, painters, musicians, journalists, actors and poets. Both works have the following structure:

Acknowledgements (I, p. 4; II, p. 5), preface (I, pp. 8–11; II, pp. 6–8), introduction (I, pp. 12–14; II, pp. 9–10), entries (I, pp. 15–254; II, pp. 11–222), list of sources (I, pp. 255–263; II, pp. 223–232), and index of personal names and names of places (I, pp. 264–272; II, pp. 233–241).

Each volume covers the same period of approximately 200 years: volume I comprises the time beginning with the witty and Church scholar *aläqa* Gäbrä Hännä (beginning of the 19th century) up to the contemporary and still active female painter-poet Käbbädäčč Täklä-Ab. Volume II begins with *aläqa* Käflä-Giyorgis (b. 1824/25) and ends with the contemporary historian Richard Pankhurst. Entries in the volumes include scholars (e.g. *qängeta* Yoftahe Nəguse), heroes (e.g. *ras-amoraw* Wəbnäh Täsämma), writers (e.g. Abbe Gubännä), painters (e.g. Agännähu Engəda), musicians (e.g. Bäšah Täklä-Maryam), patriots (e.g. Säwarägäd Gädle), journalists (e.g. Mängəstu Gädamu and Pawlos Nöñño), poets (e.g. Firmayä Alämu), actors (e.g. Sälamawit Gäbrä-Šəllasse) and all-round personalities (e.g. *fitawrari* Habtä-Giyorgis Dinägde).

Due to the choice of the author, the time span of the contribution is limited to modern Ethiopia and has helped him discuss the topics adequately. What is interesting about the work is that none of the individuals included in the volumes have a royal lineage. The personalities have been successful because they were hard workers and were committed to their undertakings and not because they came from a privileged group or class of society. The

story of *fitawrari* Habtä-Giyorgis Dinägde explains this point best. He worked his way up the political ladder and assumed the portfolio of Minister of War in 1907, when Emperor Mənilək II introduced the ministerial system for the first time in Ethiopian history. Initially he had joined the court of Mənilək II as a horse man, after he was captured in one of the Emperor's expansion campaigns to the Gurage region.

Fəṣṣum did not mention the criteria of the selection of the entries. However, women, religious¹ denominations and theological schools are represented in the works. Unlike the usual habit of neglecting the role of women in the society, he has incorporated the accounts of seven women in the fields of poetry, journalism, art, writing and patriotism. He has included *däggazmač* Umär Sämatär from Islam, *aläqa* Tayyä from the protestant church, Afäwärq Gäbräyäsus from the Catholic Church, *abun* Peṭros from the *Täwahaḍo* School of Theology and *aläqa* Kidanä-Wäld Käfle from the *Ṣägga* School.

The entries in the first volume were originally prepared to be narrated weekly on FM Addis 97.1 radio station in Addis Abäba. The program was broadcasted for three consecutive years and reached millions of listeners. Based on the recommendation of his audience, the author reorganized the notes and published them in book form in 2012 (p. 13). The work lacks proper citation, possibly because the author's initial purpose was to air it on the radio and not to publish it. At the end of each entry the author provides a list of books consulted during the writing process, but he does not specify which individual data has been taken from which source. I agree with the blurb's statement that the volume is more a compilation of sources than a research work. On the other hand, from the very beginning volume II was written for the purpose of publication. It is well researched and avoided the shortcomings of the preceding one.

It is questionable whether the main title **ያልተዘመረላችው** (*Yaltäzämmärällacčäw*, 'Those who have not been publicized enough') fits to the book. Some of the individuals included in the volumes are well known and a lot has been written about them. For example, on the poet-painter Gäbrä Krästos Dästa², books, newspaper-articles and B.A. theses have been written not only by Ethiopians, but also by foreigners.

¹ Märša Allähäññ has written a biographical collection of only Ethiopian Orthodox Church Bishops: **መርሻ አለኸኝ (ዲያቆን)** (MÄRŠA ALLÄHÄÑÑ [diyaqon]), **ዜና ጳጳሳት ኢትዮጵያውያን "ዜና ሕይወቶች ወሪራቶች ለብፁዓን ወቅዱሳን አበው ኢትዮጵያውያን"** (*Zena papasat Ityopyawəyan* "Zena ḥəywätomu wä-äräftomu lä-bədu'an wä-qəddusan abäw Ityopyawəyan", 'The account of Ethiopian bishops: the story of their life and death of graceful ones and saints of Ethiopian fathers'), Addis Abäba, 2004.

² BĪRHANÄ MÄSQÄL DÄĞÄNE, **የሰዓሊ ፡ ገብረ ፡ ክርስቶስ ፡ ደስታ ፡ የሀይወት ፡ ታሪክ ፡ እና ፡ አንዳንድ ፡ ግጥሞች** (*Yä-Sä'ali Gäbrä Krästos Dästa yä-ḥəywät tarik əmma andand gəṭmoč*, 'Biography and some Poems of the Painter Gäbrä Krästos Dästa'), B.A. thesis, Addis

Reviews

As a general remark, Fəşsum's work is very useful for a general readership and provides fairly good information on the subjects, highlighting various aspects of their lives.

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LUTZ EDZARD (ed.), *Semitic and Afroasiatic: Challenges and Opportunities* = Porta Linguarum Orientalium. Neue Serie 24, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2012. 414 pp. Price: € 56.–. ISBN: 9-783447-06695-2.

The profile of this book is not immediately apparent from the title. It presents in concise and overview form extremely dense grammatical sketches of languages from the whole spectrum of Afroasiatic, namely Egyptian, Berber, Cushitic, Chadic, and though shortly also Omotic (*sub iudicio*, but cautiously included), along with sample texts for each language with linguistic annotation and interlinear translation. The Semitic is excluded and no sketch of any Semitic language is given (only a few basic features are presented in the introduction and *passim* in each chapter, sometimes in the footnotes, mainly from a contrastive point of view). This is due to the fact that the target reader are the Semitists themselves, who are invited to look at their own data from a wider and new perspective, by getting acquainted with the essentials of linguistic structures from the whole range of Afroasiatic. There is no prejudicial statement or hypothesis, however, on the nature of Afroasiatic as such, its classification and internal affinities or its history and development, and even much diverging hypotheses are presented as neutrally as possible.

The book includes an "Introduction: Semitic and Afroasiatic" (pp. 23–58) by the editor, Lutz Edzard; and then chapters on "Egyptian" (Earlier and Later Egyptian; pp. 59–130) by Ruth Kramer; "Berber" (pp. 131–198) by Mohamed Elmedlaoui; "Cushitic" (Overview, Beja, Bilin, Oromo, Somali, Sidaama, Iraqw, pp. 199–295), by David Appleyard, with "Sidaama" (pp. 262–277) by Kjell Magne Yri; "Chadic" (Overview, Kulere, Mubi, Mushere, Tangale, pp. 296–368) by Herrmann Jungraithmayr; "Omotic" (pp. 369–384) by Rolf Theil with a "Sketch Grammar of an Omotic Language: Koorete" (pp. 385–398) by Binyam Sisay Mendisu. Every grammatical sketch is accompanied by a short section on the lexicon. The bibliography follows each chapter. After the table of contents (pp. 5–13) there is a list of tables (pp. 14–17) and of abbreviations (pp. 18–20), mostly consisting of the abbreviations for internal annotation that are oriented to the "Leipzig glossing rules". An index of subjects (pp. 399–410) and of authors (pp. 411–414) complete the volume.

Ababa University, 1982 A.M. [1990 A.D.]; ELISABETH W. GIYORGIS et. al. (eds.), *Gebre Kristos Desta: The Painter-Poet*, Addis Ababa: Institute of Ethiopian Studies, 2006.