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**Personalia**

*In memoriam Sven Rubenson (1921–2013)*

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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; II: D–Ha; III: He–N; in cooperation with A. BAUSI, eds, IV: O–X (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2010); A. BAUSI in cooperation with S. UHLIG, eds, V: Y–Z, *Supplementa, Addenda et Corrigenda, Maps, Index* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2014).
- EMML* Ethiopian Manuscript Microfilm Library, Addis Ababa.
- JAH* *The Journal of African History*, Cambridge 1960ff.
- JES* *Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, Addis Ababa 1963ff.
- OrChr* *Oriens Christianus*, Leipzig–Roma–Wiesbaden 1901ff.
- PdP* *La Parola del Passato. Rivista di studi classici*, Napoli 1946ff.
- PICES 8* TADDESE BEYENE, ed., *Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, University of Addis Ababa (26–30 November) 1984*, I–II (Addis Ababa: Institute of Ethiopian Studies–Frankfurt am Main: Frobenius Institut, Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, 1988–1989).
- PICES 10* C. LEPAGE and É. DELAGE, eds, *Études éthiopiennes: Actes de la X<sup>e</sup> Conférence internationale des études éthiopiennes, Paris, 24–28 août 1988* (Paris: Société française pour les études éthiopiennes, 1994).
- PO* *Patrologia Orientalis*, 1903ff.
- RIÉ* É. BERNAND, A.J. DREWES, and R. SCHNEIDER, *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, 1991).
- RRALm* *Rendiconti della Reale Accademia dei Lincei, Classe di scienze morali, storiche e filologiche*, Roma, 1892ff.
- RSE* *Rassegna di Studi Etiopici*, Roma, 1941–1981, Roma–Napoli, 1983ff.
- SAe* *Scriptores Aethiopici*.

## Personalia

### Academic News

#### Getatchew Haile and David Appleyard awarded the British Academy 'Edward Ullendorff Medal'

The 'Edward Ullendorff Medal' of the British Academy 'for scholarly distinction and achievements in the field of Semitic Languages and Ethiopian Studies', established thanks to the generous support of Edward Ullendorff's widow, Dina, was awarded to Getatchew Haile and David Appleyard, in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

The medal awarded in 2013 to Getatchew Haile, Emeritus Regents' Professor of Medieval Studies and Emeritus Cataloguer of Oriental Manuscripts at Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, also a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy since 1987, 'recognises not only his personal eminence and unparalleled international reputation, but also the major contributions that have been made by Ethiopian scholars to the study of their own culture and heritage' (see [http://www.britac.ac.uk/prizes/Edward\\_Ullendorff\\_Medal\\_2013.cfm](http://www.britac.ac.uk/prizes/Edward_Ullendorff_Medal_2013.cfm)).

The medal was awarded in 2014 to David Appleyard, Emeritus Professor of the Languages of the Horn of Africa at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 'in recognition of his reputation in the field of Ethiopian Studies as well as his contribution to Semitic philology more widely' (see [http://www.britac.ac.uk/prizes/Edward\\_Ullendorff\\_Medal\\_2014.cfm](http://www.britac.ac.uk/prizes/Edward_Ullendorff_Medal_2014.cfm)).

#### In memoriam Sven Rubenson (1921–2013)\*

EZRA GEBREMEDHIN, Uppsala University

Professor Sven Rubenson passed away on October 27, 2013 at the age of 92. The closest among his surviving family are his children Birgitta, Kerstin, Inger, Samuel and Daniel with their respective families.

\* For a partial list of Sven Rubenson's publications see Bairu Tafla, 'Sven Rubenson has turned ninety', *Aethiopica*, 15 (2012), 233–237, here 235–237.

Sven was born in Färingtofta, southern Sweden on October 21, 1921. After a number of years in the United States, to which his family had moved in the summer of 1922, the Rubenson family returned to Sweden in late 1931 due to the Great Depression. In early 1947, after completing his Teacher's Training at the University of Lund, Sven and his wife Britta left for Ethiopia where they were to serve as missionaries of the Swedish Evangelical Mission (Evangeliska Fosterlands Stiftelsen) in Addis Abäba, °Adwa and later, in Däbrä Zäyt (Bishoftuu), where Sven became Director of the Ethiopian Evangelical College, a joint Lutheran educational project. Sven accepted the importance of missionary activities in Ethiopia, but was decidedly critical of what he felt were the negative aspects of western influence on Ethiopian culture and religious life. He had great respect for the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

From 1960 he was Senior Lecturer and Professor in Ethiopian History at Addis Ababa University. He was a highly industrious, thorough and tireless man of research, with wide international connections. Developments under the Marxist regime led him to leave the country in 1977. In Sweden, Sven became university lecturer in History at the University of Lund. After his retirement in 1986, Sven worked diligently on the editing and publication of a series of volumes on original Ethiopian documents from the nineteenth century. The series, which has the designation *Acta Aethiopica*, has already been published in three volumes. Volume 4, on which Sven was working almost to the time of his death, is being finalized for publication. Little wonder that Sven was sometimes addressed as *Abba Tarik* ('Father of History').

With the death of Sven, one of the great friends of Ethiopia has left this life. We remember him as a missionary, a teacher (*māmhər*), a Professor of Ethiopian History, and one of the founders of the Faculty of Ethiopian History at Addis Ababa University. The title of his doctoral thesis, a solid piece of work which was published in 1976, is *The Survival of Ethiopian Independence*. Sven's work on Emperor Tewodros, *King of Kings Tewodros of Ethiopia*, which came out in 1966, was to become a source of inspiration and pride for many a young Ethiopian.

Throughout his life Sven remained committed to the people and churches of Ethiopia. Ethiopia's flag had a given place in his home. He was full of energy and ideas. He was firmly committed to his basic convictions but spiced his arguments with humour and with a special kind of laughter which marked his presence.

Through his personality and his thorough knowledge of his subject, Sven made a lasting contribution to the education of generations of Ethiopians and scholars on the History of Ethiopia. The home of Britta and Sven was characterized by great hospitality and became a meeting place for many

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from near and far. Sven loved Ethiopia but was very cosmopolitan in his outreach and contacts. Those of us who knew him closely remember him with love and respect. His research will surely continue to bear fruit, not least among those engaged in the history of Ethiopia and related subjects.

*In memoriam Paul Trevor William Baxter  
(30 January 1925–1 March 2014)*

HECTOR BLACKHURST, University of Manchester

P.T.W. (Paul) Baxter, who has died aged 89, was an English social anthropologist who contributed greatly to our knowledge of the culture and social organisation of the Oromo peoples of Ethiopia and northern Kenya. Born in 1925 in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, Paul was the son of a primary school headmaster who also served as Mayor of Leamington. He was educated at Warwick School and from there won a scholarship to Cambridge. However, like many of his generation, Paul found his education interrupted by the Second World War. He joined the marine commandos and saw service in Holland and occupied Germany. In 1946 Paul took up his place at Cambridge and entered Downing College to study English under the renowned and revered academic and critic F.R. Leavis. A relaxation of the regulations in the immediate post-war years made it possible for a first degree to be awarded after two rather than three years study and Paul was awarded a first class honours degree in English in 1948. However, he continued his studies into a third year and spent his final session reading anthropology. The subject fascinated him but, like a number of his contemporaries, he found the then Cambridge Department wanting and moved to the Institute of Social Anthropology at Oxford, then under the leadership of E.E. Evans-Pritchard. He completed a B.Litt in 1951 and then began to turn his attention to further research and the question of fieldwork. His initial preference was to work in Somaliland but, according to Paul, was blocked by the then Governor who had little time for anthropologists meddling in 'native' affairs. The more enlightened attitude of Richard Turnbull, Governor of Kenya, meant that Paul was able to take up a Colonial Office post and begin research on the Boorana of the Northern Frontier District about whom at that time little was known. He left for Kenya in 1951 accompanied by his wife, Patricia, and their young son Timothy. After two years fieldwork the family returned to Oxford and Paul completed his thesis on the Boorana and was awarded a D.Phil. in 1954. Immediately afterwards Paul