



International Conference
École Française de Rome
Pontificio Istituto Orientale
23-26 May 2023, Rome

ETHIOPIANS ABROAD in the Middle Ages

Program



Established by the European Commission

Tuesday 23 May

PONTIFICIO ISTITUTO ORIENTALE
Piazza Santa Maria Maggiore, 7

15h-15h45: Visit of the Pontifical Oriental Institute

15h45-16h15: Coffee break

16h15-16h45: Welcoming address by Fr. David NAZAR (Rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute) and Fr. Rafał ZARZECZNY (Professor at the Pontifical Oriental Institute)

16h45-17h45: Keynote by Alessandro BAUSI

Lost (and Found) in Egypt and the East: The contribution to Ethiopian Studies of Johann Michael Wansleben

19h: Reception offered by the École française de Rome at the Palazzo Farnese

Address: *Piazza Farnese*

Wednesday 24 May

ÉCOLE FRANCAISE DE ROME
Piazza Farnese

9h: Welcome at the École Française de Rome

9h20: Welcoming address by Vivien PRIGENT (Directeur des Études pour le Moyen Âge, École Française de Rome)

9h30-10h: Introduction by Julien LOISEAU (Aix-Marseille Université – ERC HornEast) and Martina AMBU (LabEx Hastec - EPHE LEM)

SESSION 1: SLAVES AND FREED MEN AND WOMEN (10H-12H20)

Chair: Alessandro GORI

10h-10h40: Sobhi BOUDERBALA (Université de Tunis – ERC HornEast)
At the service of Muḥammad: Ethiopian slaves and clients in Mecca and Medina during the first decades of Islam

10h40-11h20: Giuseppe CECERE (Università di Bologna – Alma Mater Studiorum)
Ethiopian slaves and Muslim mystics in the Medieval Arab World: case studies and general issues

11h20-11h40: *Coffee break*

11h40-12h20: Craig PERRY (Emory University)
Objects of Desire and Subjects of Knowledge: Enslaved and Freed Ethiopian Women in Fifteenth-Century Arabia

12h30-13h30: *Lunch*

13h30-14h15: Introduction to the exhibition *Islam in Enderta. Two Years of Archaeological Survey and Excavations in Eastern Tigray, Ethiopia.*

SESSION 2: CULTURAL BROKERS (14H20-18H)

Chair: Anaïs WION

14h20-15h: Alessandro GORI (Institut for Tværkulturelle og Regionale Studier – Københavns Universitet)

An Ethiopian presence in the devotional geography of the Near East: the maqāms of Bilāl b. Rabāḥ

15h-15h40: Sophia DEGE-MÜLLER (Universität Hamburg – Hiob Ludolf Center for Ethiopian Studies)

The Mäqdāmā Wängel – tracing its Arabic Vorlage and translation history

15h40-16h20: Zaroui POGOSSIAN (Università degli Studi di Firenze)

Saint Ewostatewos and Armenia in the Context of Armenian-Ethiopian Interactions

16h20-16h40: *Coffee break*

16h40-17h20: Deresse AYENACHEW (I Tatti – The Harvard University Centre for Italian Renaissance Studies)

The Stephanites abroad: the case of Abunä Ezra the wise

17h20-18h: Mathilde ALAIN (Centre for the Study of the Renaissance at the University of Warwick – Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, Université de Tours)

Este frade andara em Itália e sabia algum tanto de latim: Ethiopians abroad and Francisco Álvares' travel account

Thursday 25 May

SESSION 3: JERUSALEM (9H-11H00)

Chair: Gianfrancesco LUSINI

9h-9h40: Olivia ADANKPO-LABADIE (Université Grenoble Alpes)

*Inventing Ethiopian Pilgrimage to Jerusalem:
a study of Ethiopic Medieval Narratives and Archives (13th-16th centuries)*

9h40-10h20: Alice CROQ (ANR ChrIs-cross) et Camille ROUXPETEL
(Université de Nantes)

Ethiopians in Jerusalem Patriarchates archives (14th-15th centuries)

10h20-11h: Simon DORSO (ERC HornEast – Aix-Marseille Université)

*From Saḥart and Damūt to the Ḥaram al-Sharīf in Jerusalem: hypothetical trajectories
of Rashīd and Mubāraka, two Ethiopian slaves in the second half of the 14th century*

11h-11h20: *Coffee break*

SESSION 4: NETWORKS I - MATERIALITY (11H20-12H40)

Chair: Sophia DEGE-MÜLLER

11h20-12h: Awet TEKLEHIMANOT ARAYA (Centre for Islamic
Archaeology, Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies – University of Exeter
& Curator of Hajar-Africa)

*The Abyssinian/Ethiopian presence in Medieval Eastern Arabia (7th-16th c. AD).
Reflections from archaeological investigations in Bahrain and the Arabian Gulf*

12h-12h40: Timothy INSOLL (Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies –
University of Exeter)

Ethiopians in India? An Archaeological Perspective from Islamic Eastern Ethiopia

13h-14h: *Lunch*

SESSION 5: NETWORKS II - MONASTERIES AND TARIQAS (14H-17H)

Chair: Vivien PRIGENT

14h-14h40: Mikael MUEHLBAUER (American Research Center in Egypt)

*Ethiopians at Egyptian Monasteries and Egyptian forms
in Ethiopian Monasteries circa 1100*

14h40-15h20: Zacharie MOCHTARI DE PIERREPONT (FNRS –
Université de Liège)

*Ethiopia, Western Arabia, and the Red Sea mystical environment: assessing the spread
of Sufism within Ethiopian scholarly networks (7th-9th/13th-15th c.)*

15h20-16h: Martina AMBU (LabEx Hastec – EPHE LEM) & Samantha
KELLY (Rutgers University)

*Ethiopians from Jerusalem, Cairo, and Rome: circulations and exchanges
(15th-16th centuries)*

16h-16h20: *Coffee break*

16h20-17h: Bertrand HIRSCH (Université Paris 1 – Panthéon Sorbonne)

Ethiopian Monks and Dominicans in the Sixteenth century

SESSION 6: NETWORKS III - EMBASSIES (17H-18H20)

Chair: Timothy INSOLL

17h-17h40: Verena KREBS (Ruhr-Universität Bochum – Historisches
Institut)

All the King's Men: Italians as Solomonic Ethiopian ambassadors in the 15th century

17h40-18h20: Anaïs WION (CNRS – Institut des Mondes Africains, Paris)

The cost of sending Ethiopian emissaries abroad: a case study (early 16th century)

Friday 26 May

SESSION 7: ETHIOPIAN CAIRO (9H-12H15)

Chair: Giuseppe CECERE

9h-9h40: Perrine PILETTE (CNRS – Orient & Méditerranée, Paris)

The many Lives of Matthew I the Poor (1378-1409), from Egypt to Ethiopia

9h40-10h20: Magdi GUIRGUIS (Kafr el-Sheikh University – IFAO)

The Coptic traditions of writing to Ethiopian kings and bishops, 13th – 18th centuries

10h20-11h: Iskandar BCHEIRY (Atla)

*Ethiopians in Egypt and Jerusalem during the 15th and early 16th centuries:
an examination of four unpublished letters written by the
Coptic Patriarch John XIII (1484-1524)*

11h-11h20: *Coffee break*

11h20-12h: Julien LOISEAU (Aix-Marseille Université – ERC HornEast)

*Is there any Ethiopian connection? People from the Horn of Africa
in late 14th-century Cairo*

12h-12h15: General Conclusions

12h30-14h: *Lunch*

15h30: Proposed visit of the *Museo delle Civiltà* (Entrance fee 10 €)

Ill. : Fra Mauro *mappa mundi*
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