

## Preface

This work comes to press just about a year and a half year after the appearance of the first two-part volume of the catalogue of the Ethiopic Manuscripts Imaging Project. But preparations on this volume have been underway for nearly four years now. And this volume, like all the rest in the series, has resulted from the combined efforts of a team of scholars, each playing a different role.

First author for this volume is Dr. Veronika Six. I was familiar, from a distance, with Dr. Six's work on manuscripts from Lake Tana and on manuscripts within Germany,<sup>1</sup> but it was Professor Getatchew Haile who first recommended that I contact her about working with us on this volume. He introduced the two of us in July of 2007 at the Sixteenth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies in Trondheim, Norway, where we spoke together about the possibility of her cataloguing the scrolls of Ethiopian spiritual healing, and, happily, she agreed to do the work. We began by setting up her workstation with sets of digital images (pdf files) of the magic scrolls and with the software for the word processing of the Ethiopic text. We gratefully acknowledge the help of Thomas Rave in this task. Dr. Six has worked for well over two years to finalize this part of the catalogue, providing entries for an impressive 150 manuscripts, EMIP magic scrolls 135 through 284. The user of this volume will find both her analyses and her indices thorough and helpful.

---

<sup>1</sup> Ernst Hammerschmidt and Veronika Six, *Äthiopische Handschriften vom Tanasee, Teil 1: Reisebericht und Beschreibung der Handschriften in dem Kloster des heiligen Gabriel auf der Insel Kebran*, VOHD 20.1, 1973; *Teil 2: Die Handschriften von Dabra Maryam und von Rema*, VOHD 20.2, 1977; *Teil 3: Nebst einem Nachtrag zum Katalog der äthiopischen Handschriften deutscher Bibliotheken und Museen*, VOHD 20.3, 1999. Weisbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag; Ernst Hammerschmidt and Veronika Six, *Äthiopische Handschriften, Teil 1: Die Handschriften der Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz*, VOHD, 20.4, (Weisbaden: Harrassowitz, 1983); *Teil 2: Die Handschriften der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek*, VOHD 20.5 (Weisbaden: Harrassowitz, 1989), Veronika Six, *Äthiopische Handschriften, Teil 3: Handschriften deutscher Bibliotheken und Museen und aus Privatbesitz*, VOHD 20:6 (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1994).

*Kesis* Melaku Terefe is listed as second author and has worked on the codices—EMIP Codices 106 through 200—for this part volume. *Kesis* Melaku joined EMIP in the summer of 2008 with an intensive workshop with Jeremy R. Brown, Professor Getatchew and me in Collegeville at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML). From that time forward, he and I have worked several times a week via Skype to refine entries for each of the codices catalogued here. As an active priest in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, *Kesis* Melaku’s knowledge of the tradition is profound and organic. Along with Professor Getatchew, he brings an encyclopedic knowledge of Ethiopian literature (both Gə‘əz and Amharic) to the project. During this same timeframe, he and I have worked together on the plates volumes in the series as well as on catalogues for several other important collections, including those at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies (IES) and Makane Yesus Seminary (MYS) in Addis Ababa. He has been through every folio of every manuscript described here and personally entered all of the incipits and explicits.

Professor Getatchew Haile, though listed as fourth author, remains the senior scholar and inspiration behind the Ethiopic Manuscript Imaging Project. Three years ago he worked with me through each of the codices in this volume, identifying the basic content and establishing the date of each. This enabled us to create what were essentially handlist entries for each codex. It was on the foundation of these handlist entries that *Kesis* Melaku and I built the final entries, always along the lines of the type of entries that Professor Getatchew had trained us to develop. Professor Getatchew has offered his services to the project in ways beyond just cataloguing. In the summer of 2009, for instance, Jeremy Brown and I spent a week with him in a master’s class in Ethiopic paleography, and later in the summer, he offered Jeremy counsel when he returned to HMML in order to study scribal correction practices in the very old manuscripts of the Davies and EMLL collections. And just about every time we have been to Collegeville, Getatchew and his wife, Misrak, have blessed our team of workers with a lovely dinner and conversations late into the evening at their lakeside home in Avon.

Jeremy Brown, a graduate of the MATS program at George Fox University, has worked with EMIP for four years now. Jeremy has recently started a second masters’ program at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia, Canada. Like his predecessor, Roger Rundell, before him, Jeremy has mastered every aspect of the processes of digitization and physical description of Ethiopic manuscripts. In addition, Jeremy has added notes to the catalogue entries about the scribal practices in evidence in the codices and has done much of the index preparation for this volume. In the

summer of 2008 he travelled with me first to Nairobi, Kenya, where we set up a “catch and release” digitization project among the dealers in the Massai markets. Later he came to Addis where Wayne Torborg, director of digital collections at HMML, and I worked with *Ato* Demeke Berhane, head of manuscripts at the IES, to conduct a workshop on manuscript digitization. During that time, Jeremy and I digitized about 165 manuscripts at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies and Jeremy assisted *Ato* Kaleab Demeke to learn manuscript digitization. *Ato* Kaleab continues to work with us in Ethiopia as a fine photographer for the project.

Erik C. Young, another graduate from George Fox, worked for well over a year with EMIP in manuscript digitization, quire mapping, digital foliation and physical descriptions of the manuscripts. He also helped to organize and fine tune the four digitization stations we developed for the project. He has moved with his family to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to further his studies in Oriental Orthodoxy at Saint Paul University.

In late December, 2008, Jeremy and Erik went with me to Addis where we joined *Ato* Kaleab and, over the course of the next twenty-two days, digitized nearly 1,100—or about one fifth—of the manuscripts in the IES department of manuscripts and archives. This accomplishment is all the more remarkable given the frequent interruptions to power—sometimes ten to twenty a day—which we experienced in Addis during this time. Major funding for this project was provided by HMML and it was as a direct result of the success of this pilot project that *Ato* Demeke and I formulated a proposal in February of 2009 to the British Library Endangered Archives Programme to digitize the rest of the IES collection. By May we learned that the British Library was willing—with a couple of modest modifications—to approve the grant. In order to work out the details of the modification of the grant, I travelled back to Addis in July and met with the officials of the IES, including the President of the University, Professor Andreas Eshete. After this I went back to the HMML and held similar conversations with Father Columba, executive director of the HMML and Mr. Torborg about the technical aspects of the digitization and posting of some of the images from the IES collection on HMML’s website, *Vivarium*. With these modifications the grant was revised and accepted by the British Library. The execution of that digitization plan began in January of 2010.

All of these developments in Ethiopia were taking place at the same time that EMIP continued its work digitizing and cataloguing manuscripts in North America. Once again, EMIP and scholars of Ethiopian studies are indebted to the owners of the manuscripts, who have so generously shared their manuscripts with the project.

Gerald Weiner of Chicago, Illinois, was first introduced to me by Eliza Bennett, a business woman in Denver, Colorado, and owner of Africa Direct. Mr. Weiner made another fifty-one codices and 114 magic scrolls available for this volume beyond the nineteen codices and ninety-two magic scrolls already included in volume one. His codices are numbered as EMIP 111–120, 135–171, and 180–184; and his magic scrolls are numbered as EMIP MagSc 93–102, 167–242, and 252–279.

Mohammad Alwan of Belmont, Massachusetts, was introduced to me by Mr. Weiner. Mr. Alwan made available twenty-eight codices, numbered as EMIP 106–110, 121–134, and 172–179 and twenty-two magic scrolls, numbered as EMIP MagSc 145–166. As far as we know, most of these manuscripts have changed hands since being digitized in 2007.

Blake and Claire Marwick of Williams, Oregon made another fifteen codices and five magic scrolls available for this volume beyond the twenty-three codices and thirty-two magic scrolls already included in volume one. Their codices are numbered as EMIP 186–200, and their magic scrolls are numbered as EMIP MagSc 280–284.

Daniel Holcomb of Portland, Oregon made available one codex to this catalogue. It is numbered as EMIP 185.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable developments from the work of EMIP relates to Mr. Weiner's collection of Ethiopic manuscripts. After years of work, Mr. Weiner has accumulated the largest collection of Ethiopic manuscripts in private hands and the second largest collection of any in North America. In late summer of 2009 Mr. Weiner contacted me and indicated that he had made the decision to keep his collection together for posterity and donate it to a research library where it could be available for scholarship. We contacted three potential locations for the collection. In late September of 2009, officials from UCLA hosted Mr. Weiner for a day of presentations aimed at demonstrating their readiness to receive and steward the Weiner collection. The presentations were led by Kevin Mulroy, Associate university librarian for academic services, Genie Guerard, head of special collections in the Young Research Library, and Stephen Davison, head of UCLA's digital library program, and supported by a host of other library personnel and faculty members. Dr. Wendy Belcher, currently of Princeton and formerly of UCLA, also assisted with the process. By the end of the day Mr. Weiner made the decision to donate his collection to UCLA and a plan was formulated to begin the transfer of materials by late 2010. This development will bring to UCLA the distinction of having the largest collection of Ethiopic materials in the New World and surpassing the collections at Princeton, Howard University School of Divinity, the Library of Congress, and Duke University Library.

Mr. Weiner has become an extraordinary supporter of Ethiopian Studies and the preservation of Ethiopia's cultural heritage. Among other things, his gifts have made it possible not only to catalog of his own material but also that of the many other owners who have allowed us to digitize and study their manuscripts.

It is to be expected that most users will enter this book through the back cover and not the front. Toward this end, they will find fully six indices at the back of the catalogue to serve their needs. There are, of course, pros and cons about multiple indices and some of us would rather have seen one integrated index. It was I who, in the end, made the decision to maintain the multiple indices. In this case, we have the precedent of the first volume which similarly divides the indices. In addition, the logistical challenges of having to retag everything argued against the change. We can only hope that the user will acquaint themselves with our conventions and find useful the work that we have done to group related topics—though this is precisely the weakness of such a schema, namely, that in a limited number of cases the user will need to consult more than one index in order to find everything related to their interest.

Once again, this volume of the catalogue of the Ethiopic Manuscript Imaging Project is accompanied by a volume of plates focusing on Ethiopian scribal practice and called *Ethiopian Scribal Practice, 2*. Prepared by myself and *Kesis* Melaku, its purpose is not just to provide a few folios for paleographical analysis. Instead, it offers a visual documentation of a full array of scribal practice, codicology and illumination as well as a host of in-depth studies on details of genre, special notes in the manuscripts, and about the means by which manuscripts are handled and moved by dealers and entrepreneurs from Ethiopia to North America.

Steve Delamarter  
March 2011