

# የምኒልክ MENELIK'S መጽሔት Journal

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ETHIOPIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

120th Anniversary - First Mail Sent through the Ethiopian Posts



Earliest recorded use of an Ethiopian Postal Card in Ethiopia.  
**One of two "identical" cards sent by Alfred Ilg to friends in Zurich.**  
Faint Entotto postmark, dated on the back on September 24, 1896.  
Sister card is shown on Page 6.

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Dealers	Full Page \$50	Half Page \$35	Quarter Page \$20
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News

I apologize for the late delivery of this issue caused by business and personal travel in March. However, I think you will find it an interesting issue in which Luciano Maria and I present new findings made through the Ethiopia Cover List project. This issue, celebrating the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first mail sent through the Ethiopian Post on January 29, 1895 in Harar, looks at the Ethiopian Postal Cards and their use in 1895-1909.

EPS Meeting at London 2015 EUROPHILEX

As many of you know the European stamp exhibit of 2015 will be held in London on May 13-16. It will be at the Business Design Center in Islington (a part of London easily reached by underground (subway)). Juha Kauppinen will be exhibiting his "Forwarding of Mail from and in Ethiopia 1840s -1933" in frames 3041-3048. His collection has improved significantly since he last exhibited in London, so well worth the visit to see his collection.

Juha will arrive in London on May 14 in the afternoon and will be at the Business Center all day Friday and Saturday on May 15-16. He is organizing a meeting and dinner for EPS members. He suggests that members meet at his frames on Saturday, May 16 at 11.00 AM. By that time, the judges will have issued the awards. If you have some other time you wish to meet him please do not hesitate to contact Juha.

He is organizing a dinner Saturday evening at 7.00 PM in Addis Restaurant near King's Cross Underground station. The address is 40-42 Caledonian Road. If interested in participating, please let Juha know by May 10. He needs to confirm the reservation at that time. It will be a fund evening.

**Please contact Juha Kauppinen directly by email at:**

[abba.teemu@saunalhti.fi](mailto:abba.teemu@saunalhti.fi)

**Menelik's Journal Awarded Vermeil**

Menelik's Journal was awarded a Vermeil at the Chicago Philatelic Society's stamp show last year. MJ has won several Vermeils over the years and has been close to a gold. One of the obstacles to winning a gold seems to be the limited number of members contributing articles and the stapled format of MJ—things that are difficult to change with a paying worldwide membership just north of 100.

C.G. International Philatelic Promotion Award 2014

Ethiopian Philatelic Society placed 27th in Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner's inaugural "C.G. International Philatelic Promotion Award 2014." The winner was U.S. Philatelic Classic Society at 86.25 points versus 64.33 points for EPS. Last and in 49th position was Philatelistenklub Seelow with 30.25 points. Considering the size of our Society, I believe Menelik's Journal and EPS placed very well!

With every good wish, [Ulf J. Lindahl](#)

P.S. Any and all contributions to the next issue are more than welcome. Please see our special request for scans in the Postal Card article.

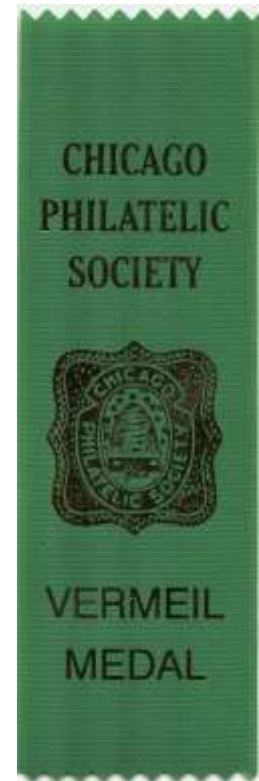


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**Mail from Ethiopia's pre-U.P.U. Period**

Part I - The Postal Cards

By Ulf J. Lindahl and Luciano Maria

Introduction

January 29, 2015 marked the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first mail sent through the Ethiopian Posts. To commemorate this historic event, we will present new discoveries that we have made through the unique window that the Ethiopia Cover List provides on Ethiopia's early postal history. This is Part I of several articles that will appear in coming issues. In this article we will give an overview followed by a detailed presentation on the use of the postal cards.

The Ethiopia Cover List

The aim of the Ethiopia Cover List project is to record as many as possible of the covers and cards that have survived from Ethiopia's pre-U.P.U. period and the four months up through February 1909 when the use of the November 1, 1908 U.P.U. Piastre issue ceased.

Luciano Maria initiated the Ethiopia Cover List project in 1999 when he coordinated with Roberto Sciaky as to what information to collect for the data base. Copies and scans of covers and cards were collected from the important pre-U.P.U. collections assembled over the past several decades by Pablo Bianchi, John Boksenbom, Nachum Kaplan, Eric Payne, Roberto Sciaky, Luciano Maria, Ulf J. Lindahl, Juha Kauppinen, Jürgen Zahn and Helge Skau. Scans were also obtained from collections made by other members of the Ethiopian Collectors Club in the U.K. (ECC) and the Ethiopian Philatelic Society in the U.S. (EPS). The literature and auction catalogues were also searched for descriptions and photos of covers and cards.

The list included approximately 750 items in 2002 when Robert Sciaky published it in one of his books. By 2010, it had grown to 1,000 and had become a very important data base and historical record of the mail from and to Ethiopia in the early years of the Ethiopian Posts.

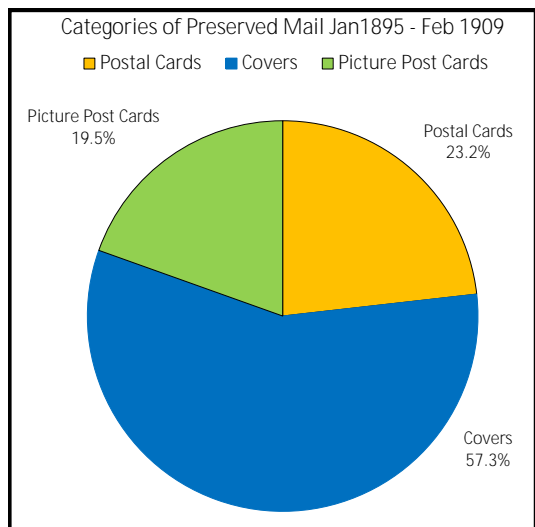
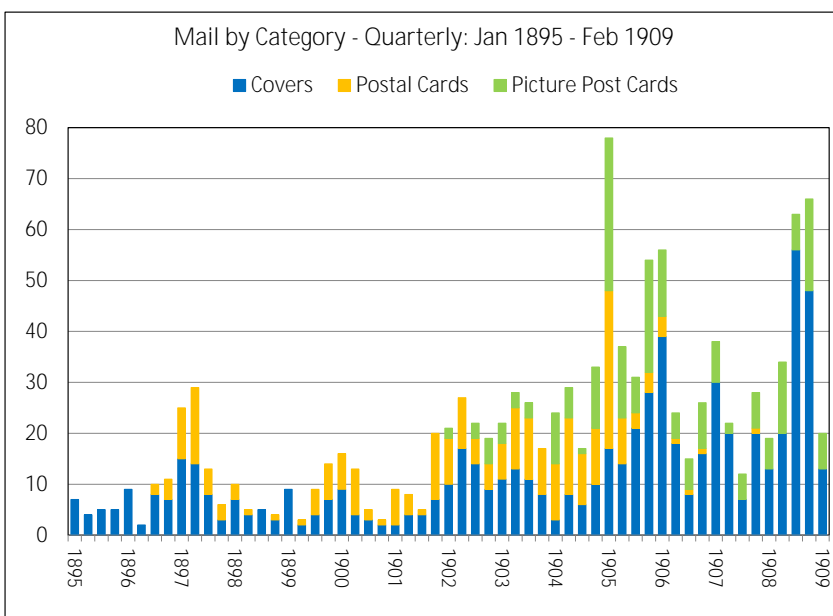
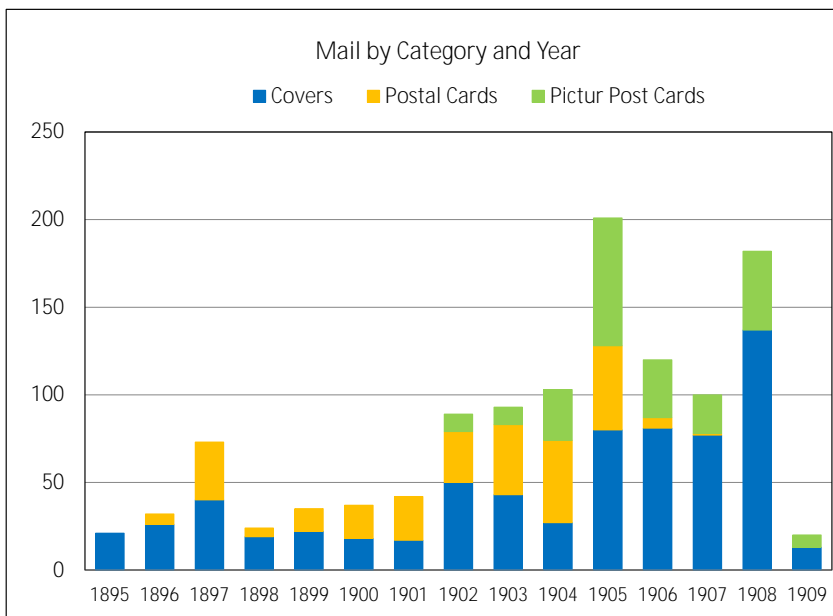
The Ethiopia Cover List in March 2015

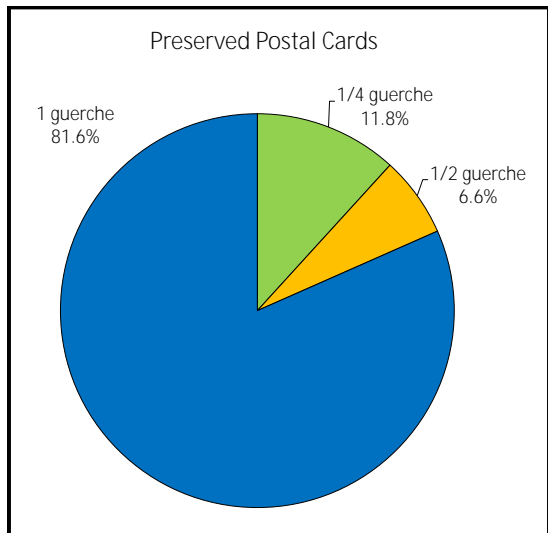
The Ethiopia Cover List had grown to 1,187 outgoing and 67 incoming items as of March 2015. Included in the 1,187 items are 11 that were forwarded from Ethiopia via Eritrea and were not handled by the Ethiopian Posts. Excluding them, the Ethiopia Cover List has 1,176 + 67 = 1,243 items recorded that will be analyzed in this series of articles.

Although the surviving records of mail from Addis Ababa show that the volume of incoming mail in 1901-1904 was about 45% larger than the volume of outgoing mail, the number of preserved incoming covers and cards represents only 5.4% of all of the recorded items from January 1895 through February 1909. Incoming mail is therefore rare.

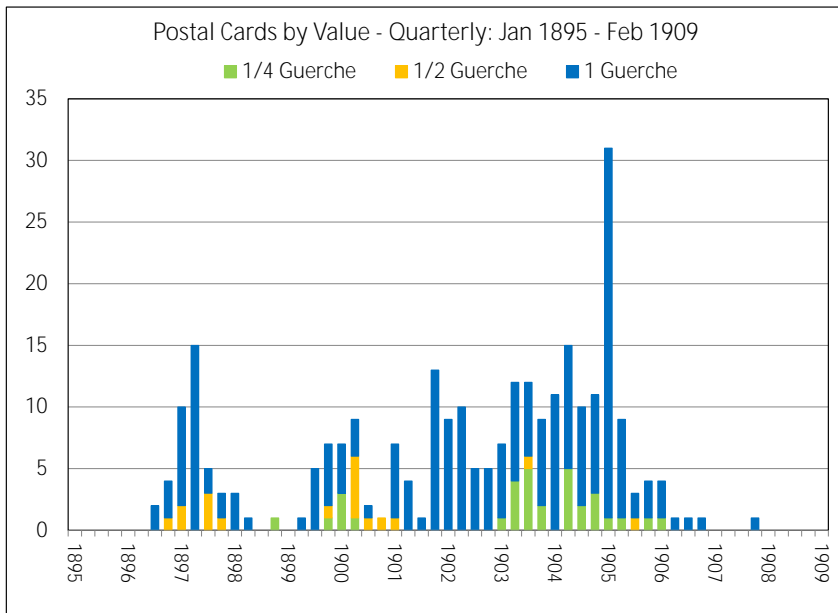
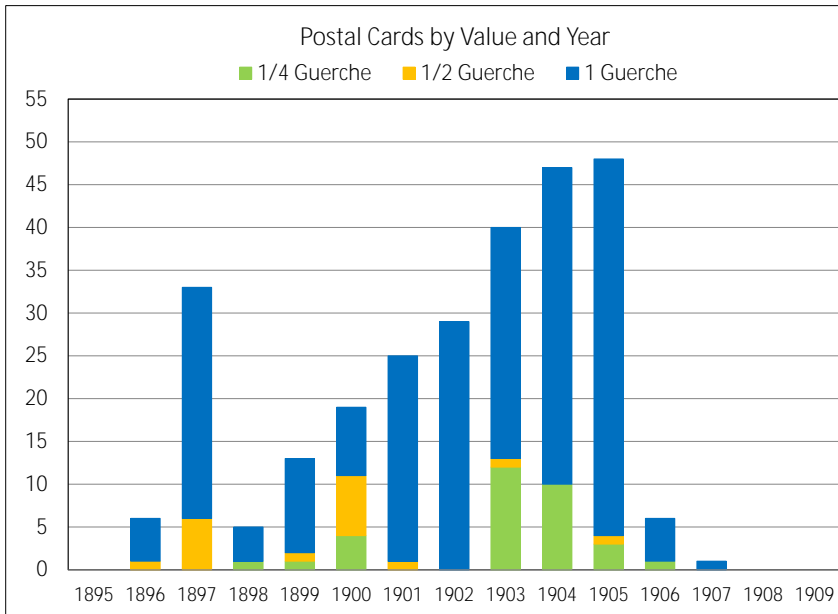
The 1,176 items of outgoing mail includes 53 items of internal mail between Addis Ababa, Harar and Dire Daoua, or 4.3% of the total and 4.5% when the incoming items are

Graphs 1-3: Categories of Preserved Mail from Ethiopia January 1895—February 1909





Graphs 4-7: Recorded Postal Cards from Ethiopia January 1895—February 1909



excluded. Preserved internal mail is therefore also rare, especially from the first ten years after 1895.

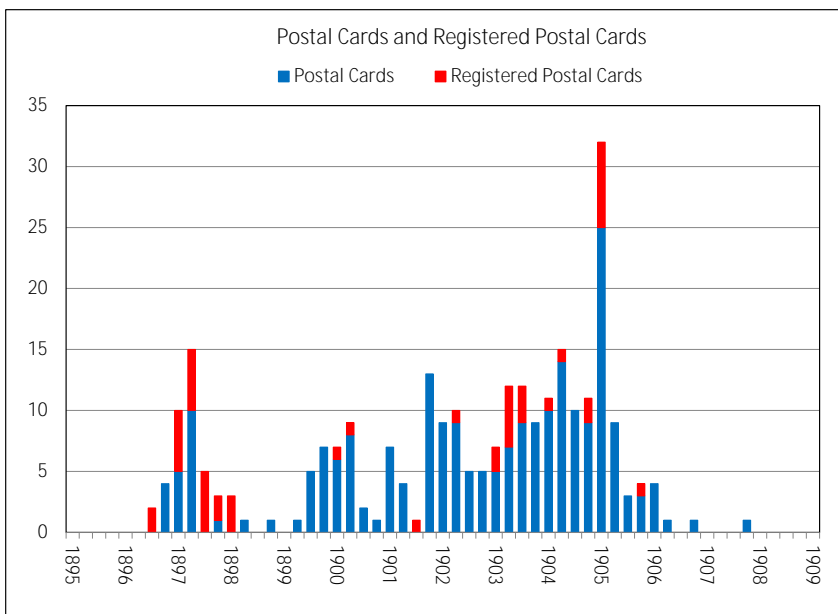
The Ethiopia Cover List will never include all surviving covers and cards since some exist in archives with no connections to philatelic interests. Other items are in collections that are not focused on Ethiopia and will therefore not come to our attention easily. However, since the list includes all items that have been accumulated in the major collections that were formed in the past seventy years, and the migration of auctions onto the internet has facilitated finding individual items consigned for sale, we believe that the Ethiopia Cover List now includes approximately 80% of all preserved items from January 1895 through February 1909.

Adding to the Ethiopia Cover List

The list will expand gradually as unrecorded items come to our attention from the total number of surviving items that may be around 1,500. In the past four years, we added 200 items, an increase of 20%, including several from Eric Sundberg's collection, which was auctioned in 2012. It was the last major known collection formed before the 1970s that had been outside our access through the ECC and EPS.

Interestingly, many of the covers that Tristant illustrated in his Postal History that he published in 1977 and Huguette Gagnon translated into English, have not appeared in the open market; our scans of these items remain black and white. It is possible that there are still one or two significant collections of pre-U.P.U. Ethiopia material that have escaped our knowledge.

It is our intent to save the Ethiopia Cover List, the scans of the covers and the cards, along with our analysis on a CD or memory stick and make it available to members of the EPS at a nominal cost.



If you have not sent us scans or photo copies of items in your collection from 1895-1909, please send them as soon as possible so that they can be included.

In the past, we frequently received scans of only the address side or the side with the stamps, particularly of the postal cards and picture post cards. We would like to receive scans of both sides to make the Ethiopia Cover List as complete as possible. Please scan in color at a resolution of 300 dpi.

If you own one of the illustrated items that is shown in poor quality, or in black and white, we



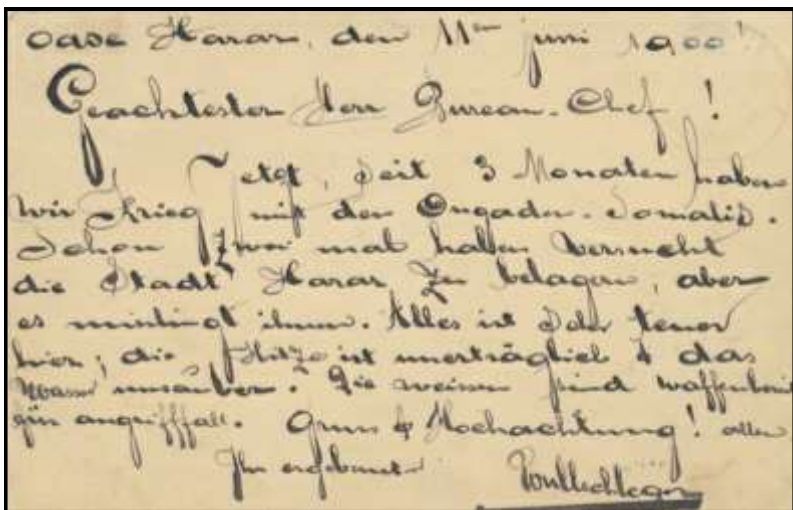
Figure 1 (top, right): September 24, 1896  
The earliest recorded postal card. It was sent registered and cancelled with a very faint ENTOTTO Type I postmark. It was written by Alfred Illg to Prof. Keller in Switzerland. It is one of two “identical” cards Illg sent that day. See front cover.

Figure 2 (middle): November 24, 1896  
The earliest recorded use of the 1/2 guerche card. It was sent from Addis Ababa (handwritten date as shown above) to the Vice Governor in Djibouti. It transited Harar on December 5.

Figure 3 (bottom): November 12, 1899  
The earliest recorded use of the 1/4 guerche card in Addis Ababa additionally franked with a 1 g. stamp. Addressed by Fanny Illg on November 12, 1899 it was postmarked in Entotto on November 14. It transited in Harar on November 21 at the Ethiopian post office and on November 25 at the French post office. It is also franked with a 10c Djibouti stamp that was cancelled on December 1 and the card was postmarked on December 3 by the ship that took the card to Europe. Arrival in St. Gallen, Switzerland.



Figure 4: June 8, 1900.  
 ¼ guerdie postal card forwarded from Harar via the “British Way” (Zaila to Aden). It is a very scarce card written by G. Wüllschleger, the first Swiss postmaster at the Ethiopian post office in Harar. The text on the back shows his signature. He committed suicide in December 1900.



through the Ethiopian Posts, they are not included in our analysis.

Mail from 1895 through February 1909 originated in Harar and Addis Ababa and, as of 1903, in Dire Daoua even though a post office did not open in Dire Daoua until November 1906.

There are also a few surviving items that were written in other locations but they passed through those post offices.

The total volume of outgoing mail is unknown; we will never know the exact percentage of covers and cards that has survived. However, using the list and surviving statistics we will try to estimate the total volume of outgoing mail in 1895 through February 1909 in a future article. As an initial indication, we believe that less than 3% of the mail has survived.

There are three categories of mail; covers, postal cards and, as of 1902, picture post cards. Graph 1 illustrates the relative proportions of the items that have been recorded: 57.3% are covers, 23.2% are Ethiopian postal cards, and 19.5% are picture post cards.

The category of covers includes a few items such as non-Ethiopian postal cards and a telegram cover. In this article will discuss the postal cards.

would very much appreciate receiving a better scan and in color. Please send them to Ulf or Luciano. Our emails are on the inside cover of this issue of Menelik's Journal.

A Brief Summary

The Ethiopia Cover List includes 11 covers and cards that were sent through the Eritrean Posts in 1895, and, as of 1908, from Dessie and Macalle. Since these 11 items did not pass

The Postal Cards

The Ethiopian postal cards were printed in 1896 in Paris. A total of 20,650 of the green ¼ guerdie cards were printed on June 15, followed by 20,125 blue 1 guerdie cards on June 16, and then 20,500 red ½ guerdie cards on June 17.

There is no record of how many cards were sent to Ethiopia in 1896 or if there were any additional supplies, which seems unlikely based on the number of surviving cards.

The earliest recorded use was on September 24, 1896 in Addis Ababa (Figure 1).

A large portion of the cards was retained in Paris by the famous stamp dealer, Arthur Maury, who sold them to collectors and also used them for his firm's correspondence as late as in 1939 (Figure 27, page 16).

Many cards were also sold pre-cancelled in Harar, Addis Ababa and Djibouti. Pre-cancelled cards mailed in Djibouti are not included in the



Figure 5: January 7, 1897  
 ½ guerdie card sent by an Italian Prisoner of War in Addis Ababa where it was cancelled with the Maltese Cross. The card was taxed at Djibouti with a T in triangle. The postage due was paid in Italy with 50 centesimi.



Figure 6: June 6, 1903  
A late use of the 1 g. card without a handstamped overprint. It was sent to Germany franked with a bisected 40c Djibouti stamp and was taxed at Djibouti by a T in triangle mark since the Somali Coast postal authorities never authorized the bisecting of the 40 cent stamp of Djibouti.



Figure 7: August 14, 1897  
Registered 1/2 g. card additionally franked with a 1/2 g. stamp and sent by Fanny Ilg, Alfred Ilg's wife, to Switzerland.

Ethiopia Cover List since they did not originate in Ethiopia. As discussed in a separate article by Luciano Maria (page 17), several postal cards addressed to Bolling, another stamp dealer in Paris, appear as if they were mailed in Harar, but they were not. They have been excluded from the Ethiopia Cover List.

There is also a number of other postal cards that were not mailed in Ethiopia. Typically, these cards have a date in the pre-cancelled postmark that precedes the date of the Djibouti postmark by several weeks, months or even years. Many of these cards also have date lines on the text side that prove that they were written in Djibouti or elsewhere. However, when a card like that appears in an auction catalogue, the text side is frequently not shown.

#### Preserved Postal Cards

Of the 1,187 outgoing items recorded in the Ethiopia Cover List as of March 2015, 271 are Ethiopian postal cards or 22.8% of the total. However, the cards were not introduced until

Figure 8: February 19, 1902  
The date is present in the postmarks cancelling the Emperor's profile in the card and in the text on the back. This 1 g. card is handstamped "Ethiopia" and was forwarded from Addis Ababa on February 27, 1902, eight days after it was delivered to the post office.

Figure 9: March 7, 1902  
1 g. postal card handstamped "Ethiopia" (double overprint). The French franking is formed by two halves of a 10c bisected Djibouti stamp. Several cards with bisected 10c stamps have been recorded, all of them were sent by J.A. Michel. One card has "Ethiopia" added on the back below his signature.





Figure 10: April 18, 1902  
Registered 1 g. card overprinted BOSTA with mixed franking Djibouti (2 x 5c) and Obock (25c Warriors) written and signed on the back by Henri Mühle, Director of the Ethiopian Posts. He died in Addis Ababa in July 1903 of small pox.



Figure 11: January 30, 1903  
The only recorded surviving ¼ guerche card hand-stamped BOSTA. It was sent by Dr. Goffin to widow Goffin, likely his mother, in Belgium. Dr. Goffin is on the list of the forty persons, reported by Tristant (p. 211 of Gagnon's translation), who used the postal service in Addis Ababa in 1901.



September 1896 and they had been sold out by the end of 1905 although a few cards are known used in 1906. The cards represent 37% of the recorded preserved mail from that shorter period. (1896-1905).

Graphs 1-3 illustrate the different percentages of the three categories of mail; covers, postal cards, and picture post cards; in total, by year, and quarterly for the full period 1895-Feb.1909.

Ivan Adler, likely using miss-information from J.A. Michel, wrote in his Ethiopia Hand Book that 3,000 cards of each value had been printed. However, the September 1, 1903 inventory of stamps and postal cards at Addis Ababa's post office, published by Tristant, proves that is wrong. It listed 3,219 cards at 1 guerche and 719 cards at ¼ guerche remaining in stock. There were no ½ guerche cards left in stock.

The different proportions of surviving cards suggest that equal quantities of the three cards were likely not sent to Ethiopia. The 32 preserved ¼ g. cards represent 11.8% of all cards preserved, the 18 preserved ½ g. cards 6.6%, and the 221 preserved 1 g. cards 81.5% of the total. Graphs 4-6 illustrate the different proportions and their distribution on an annual and quarterly basis.

Registered Postal Cards

Some of the cards were sent registered. Of the recorded cards, 46 were registered or 17.0% of the 271 preserved cards. Table 1 on page 12 presents the numbers and 16 types of postal cards that have been preserved from each year and the number of preserved registered cards, as also shown in Graph 7.

We were surprised to find that all registered postal cards but one (21 of 22) between 1896 and 1900 were sent by Alfred and Fanny Ilg. As of 1901, they began to send non-registered postal cards: eight in 1901. As of 1901, we also find some registered postal cards that Michel sent: seven in 1901-1905 out of a total of 22 registered postal cards forwarded from Ethiopia. Perhaps we can conclude that Alfred Ilg felt that his Ethiopian Posts had become reliable in 1901.

Figure 12: May 22, 1903  
¼ g. postal card handstamped MELIKT. This registered card to Berlin, with a colorful franking, was sent by J.A. Michel. His signature is in the text on the card's back.

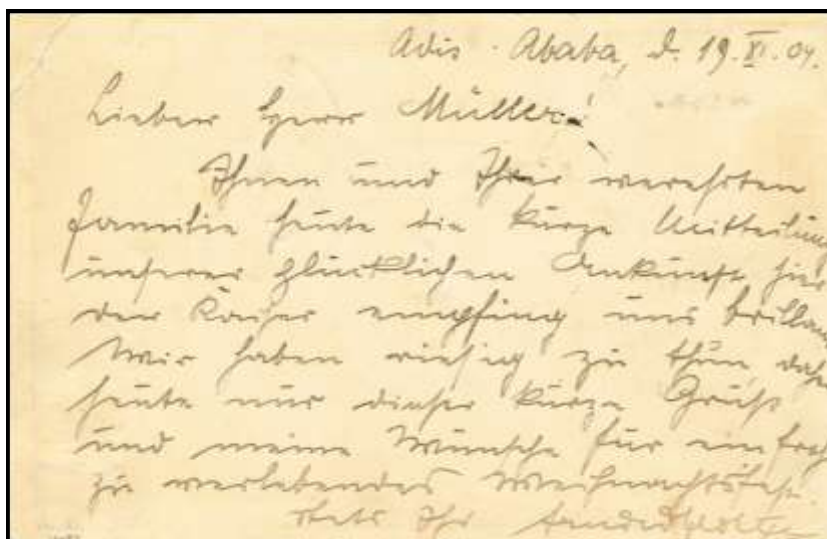




Figure 13: July 20, 1903  
 ½ g. postal card handstamped *MELIKT*.  
 This is the only recorded ½ g. card with this overprint. It is additionally franked with a ¼ g. stamp handstamped *MELIKT*.



Figure 14: November 19, 1904  
 Dated in manuscript in Addis Ababa this 1 g. card, overprinted *MELIKT* and sent via the "British Way" to Berlin, is additionally franked with a one Anna Indian stamp overprinted BRITISH SOMALILAND. No Ethiopian postmarks but transit marks from Somaliland and Aden in December and a German arrival mark. The card was written by Arnold Holtz.



The earliest recorded use of the ½ g. card in Addis Ababa is on November 24, 1896 to Djibouti (Figure 2) and in Harar on April 10, 1900.

Surprisingly, the earliest recorded use of the ¼ g. card in Addis Ababa is on November 14, 1899 (Figure 3) and in Harar on October 28, 1898 to Djibouti. That is more than two years after the cards were delivered to Ethiopia.

Intended for local use, the 1/4 cards were likely sold mostly to collectors, mint or pre-cancelled. It was only later that they began to be used for mail addressed abroad with additional franking. The ¼ g. cards used in the mails are preserved from mostly 1903 and 1904 when they had been overprinted with *Melikt* (23 1/4 g. *Melikt* cards out of 32 1/4 *guerche* cards).

The use of the ½ g. card seems to have ended in the first quarter of 1901 when they had likely sold out (see Graph 6 on page 5).

An inventory on June 12, 1901, made in Addis Ababa, recorded that Harar's Ethiopian post office had 915 postal cards at 1 g. in stock (all without overprints since the *Ethiopie* overprint had not yet been issued). Thus, there were no longer any ½ and ¼ g. cards left in Harar. That also suggests that smaller quantities of the ¼ and ½ g. cards were sent to Ethiopia compare to the 1 g. cards.

Only two ½ g. cards have been recorded after 1901; one in 1903 and one in 1905. The card from July 1903 has the *Melikt* overprint (Figure 13, above). It is the only ½ g. card recorded with a *Melikt* overprint! It must be one of very few that were overprinted since the Addis Ababa inventory of September 1903 did not include any ½ g. cards.

The card from 1905 was sent by Fanny Ilg. She had likely not bought it at the post office in 1905 but had found it in her private stock of cards that she had obtained at an earlier time.

Earliest Recorded Use

The earliest recorded use of the 1 *guerche* card is in Addis Ababa on September 24, 1896; two cards sent by Alfred Ilg to his friend, Prof. Dr. Keller and Herr Sultzer, in Zurich (Figure 1 and Front Cover). The earliest recorded use of the 1 g. card in Harar is on December 9, 1896; a card sent to Paris.

Cards Overprinted *Ethiopie*

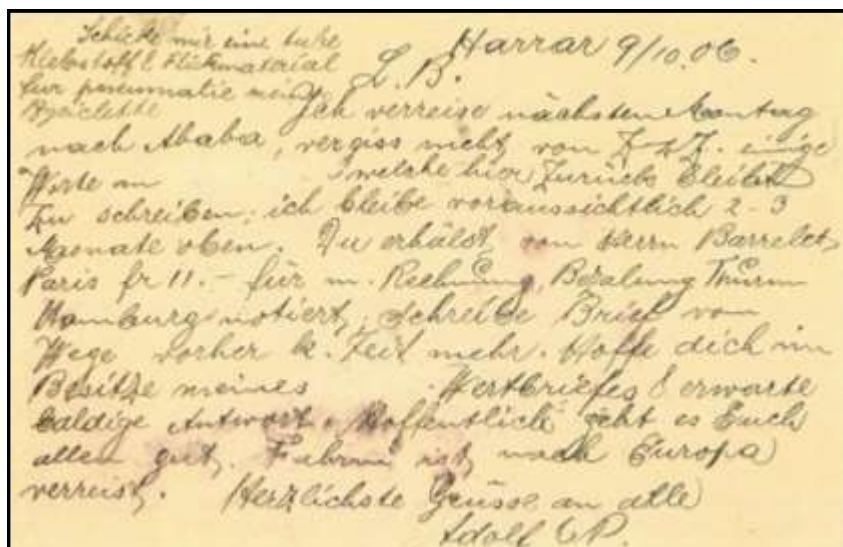
A portion of the 1 *guerche* postal cards were overprinted *Ethiopie* in 1901 (Figures 8 & 9). The ¼ and ½ g. cards are known mint with the overprint, but they do not seem to have been issued or used in the mails.



Figure 15: May 4, 1905  
**Date handwritten in the text. "10" on 1 guerche** pre-cancelled postal card forwarded from Aouara Malka. The card and the added 10c Numerals stamp were overprinted with "Aouara Malka" in violet to avoid theft. Aouara Malka was a plantation on the route between Harar and Addis Ababa. The card was cancelled in transit at Harar on May 14, 1905. Very few cards have been recorded that originated in Aouara Malka (see Figure 23).



Figure 16: October 9, 1906 (Friday)  
**"20" on 1 guerche postal card sent by J.A. Michel** to his brother Fritz announcing his departure to Addis Ababa on the coming Monday to work in **Addis Ababa's post office. Until that moment** Michel was the Director of the Ethiopian Posts, which was expropriated by Emperor Menelik and made into the Imperial Ethiopian Posts.



The earliest recorded use of an *Ethiopia* card is August 24, 1901 in Addis Ababa. That is one month after the *Ethiopia* overprinted stamps had been issued on July 18. Table 1 on page 12 lists the numbers of preserved postal cards with different overprints that were issued in the years that followed into 1905. Note that some of them are very rare.

*Ethiopia* overprint. A total of 29 1 g. cards with *Ethiopia* has been recorded as preserved, five from Harar (see Table 1).

Cards Overprinted *Bosta*

The *Bosta* overprinted stamps were issued in Addis Ababa on April 1, 1902 and a few days later in Harar when Michel

TABLE 1: Preserved Postal Cards by Type

	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	TOTAL	In %	Card Value
1/4g			1	1	4			1		1			8	3.0%	
1/4g Bosta								1					1	0.4%	
1/4g Melekt								10	10	2	1		23	8.5%	11.8%
1/2g	1	6		1	7	1				1			17	6.3%	
1/2g Melekt								1					1	0.4%	6.6%
1g	5	27	4	11	8	11		1	3	2	1		73	26.9%	
1g Ethiopie						13	14	2					29	10.7%	
1g Bosta							15	12	1	2			30	11.1%	
1g Melekt								12	32	10			54	19.9%	
10 on 1g										7			7	2.6%	
20 on 1g										15	2	1	18	6.6%	
10 on 1g Melekt										1			1	0.4%	
05 on 1g											2		2	0.7%	
5c/m on 1g										4			4	1.5%	
5c/m on 1g Bosta										1			1	0.4%	
5c/m on 1g Melekt										2			2	0.7%	81.5%
<b>Total Postal Cards</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Registered Postal Cards	2	17	3	0	2	1	1	10	4	6	0	0	46		
Registered in %	33.3%	51.5%	60.0%	0.0%	10.5%	4.0%	3.4%	25.0%	8.7%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	17.0%		



Figure 17: March 12, 1905  
 “10” on 1 g. card forwarded from the French post office in Harar to Zanzibar – a scarce destination. An almost identical card exists by the same sender addressed to Kismayu.



Figure 18: February 16, 1905  
 “10” on 1 g. card handstamped MELIKT. It is the only recorded postal card of that type. The black and white illustration has been scanned from plate 55b in Tristant's book. It would be desirable to receive a color scan by the present owner of this card.

arrived there to begin his job as Postmaster. The earliest recorded use of a *Bosta* stamp in Harar is on April 6, 1902 on a cover Michel sent just after he had arrived from Addis Ababa with a supply of *Bosta* stamps and postal cards. An unknown quantity of the 1 g. cards was overprinted with *Bosta* in violet (Figure 10).

The first recorded use in Addis Ababa is on April 16, 1902 and in Harar on May 7, 1902. There is only one recorded use of a ¼ g. card with *Bosta*. It was sent on January 30, 1903 by Mr. Goffin, to Belgium, franked with a 5c Djibouti stamp (Figure 11). That suggests that a limited number of ¼ g. cards received the *Bosta* overprint.

Michel noted in the Harar sales book that he had received postal cards worth 14 thalers and 1 guerche on September 7, 1902. Tristant believed that it was an assortment of 200 1 g. cards and 25 ¼ g. cards, or 175 at 1 g. and 125 at ¼ g. with *Bosta*. Since there is only one



Figure 19: April 1, 1906  
 “05” on 1 g. postal card forwarded from the French post office in Harar to Milano, Italy.



Figure 20: May 17, 1905  
 “5 c/m” on 1 g. pre-cancelled at Harar postal card forwarded from Addis Ababa. This card has the additional franking of a stamp at ¼ g. hand-stamped BOSTA and a stamp at ½ g. handstamped MELIKT to complete the 1 g. postal rate.



Figure 21: March 19, 1905  
 Registered “5 c/m” on 1 g. handstamped BOSTA postal card with an additional franking of “20” on a 1 g. stamp from Addis Ababa to Vienna. Only recorded card of this type.

mailed in Addis Ababa in 1902. However, since picture post cards began to appear in the mails in 1902, that total includes some of those cards. A total of 30 one-guerche cards with *Bosta* used in the mails has been recorded.

**Cards Overprinted *Melikt***

The *Melikt* overprinted stamps were issued on April 15, 1903. An unknown quantity of the ¼ and 1 g. cards were overprinted with *Melikt* (Figures 12 & 14). Michel recorded in the Harar sales book that he received 100 1 g. cards and 100 ¼ g. cards on March 26, 1903 and 100 1 g. cards and 100 ¼ g. cards on September 17 and another 100 1 g. cards on November 19, 1903. Presumably, all of them had the *Melikt* overprint.

The earliest recorded use of the 1 g. card is on June 25, 1903 in Addis Ababa and on May 22, 1903 in Harar.

The earliest recorded use of the ¼ g. card is on June 25, 1903 in Addis Ababa and on April 18, 1903 in Harar, only three days after the *Melikt* overprint had been issued. Henri Mühle recorded that 241 cards were mailed in Addis Ababa in 1903 including picture post cards. Totals of 54 1 g. cards and 23 ¼ g. cards with *Melikt* has been recorded.

As mentioned, only one 1/2 guerche postal card with the *Melikt* overprint has been recorded used in the mails (Figure 13).

**Cards Overprinted “10” or “20”**

In January 1905, the “Numerals” were issued in Harar with the overprint applied by Michel on stamps received from Addis Ababa. On this occasion, unknown quantities of the 1 g. postal card were overprinted “10” and “20” in pink (Figures 15 & 16). However, Harar’s sales book

preserved ¼ g. *Bosta* card used in the mails, the first composition seems to be the most likely one.

We do not know how many cards were sold in Harar and Addis Ababa, but Mühle noted that 209 postal cards were

[Tristant, page 295] (kept by Michel and not entirely reliable), indicates that 500 cards had been reduced to ½ guerche. That suggests they were overprinted with “10.” The cards were supplied to Addis Ababa, where the earliest recorded use of

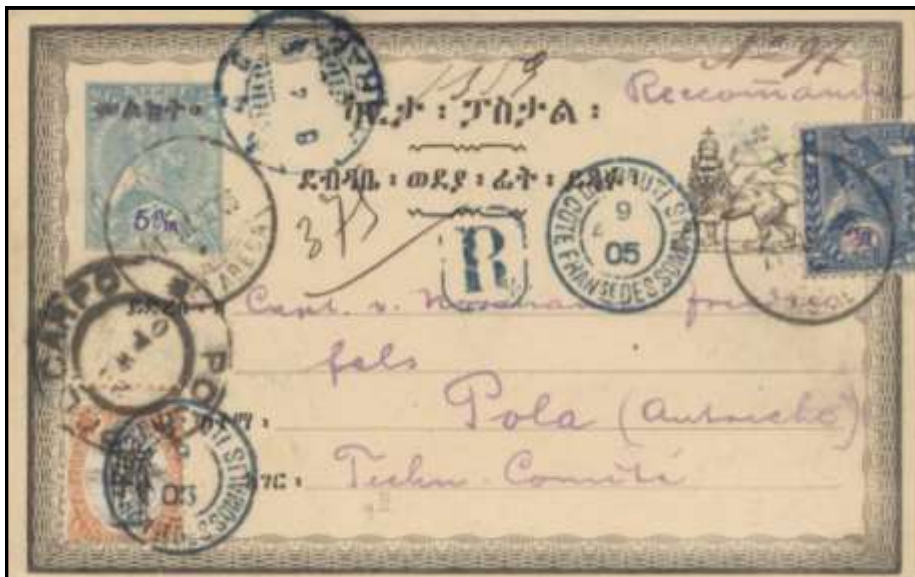


Figure 22: March 21, 1905 Registered "5 c/m" on 1 g. handstamped MELIKT postal card with an additional franking of "20" on a 1 g. stamp. It is one of two recorded cards of this type.

**Cards with "05" or "5 c/m"**

A few 1 guerche cards have survive overprinted with "05" (2 cards) and with "5 c/m" (4 cards) and with "5 c/m" with *Bosta* (1 card) and "5 c/m" with *Melikt* (2 cards) (Figures 19-22).

The Harar sales book noted that 1,000 cards were reduced to ¼ g. Tristant wrote: "This is most likely surcharges... 05 or 5 c/m..." However, only nine of these cards used in the mails have been preserved. It suggests that a large portion of them was likely sold to collectors.

The earliest recorded use of "5 c/m" on a card is in Addis Ababa in March 14, 1905. Then follows a "5 c/m" with *Bosta* on March 19 (Figure 21) and two "5 c/m" with *Melikt* on March 21, 1905, all used in Addis Ababa (Figure 22). They were sent by the same sender via registered mail to Pola with Addis Ababa registration numbers 96 and 97.

Next is a "5 c/m" card pre-cancelled in Harar on March 25, 1905 franked with a ¼ and a ½ g. unoverprinted stamps. The card was mailed in Addis Ababa on May 17. It transited Harar on May 25. Another "5 c/m" card pre-cancelled in Harar on March 20, 1905 was sent from Aouara Malka on July 5 and transited Harar (Figure 23). It is franked with two uncanceled "10" stamps and a 10c Djibouti stamp and sent to Bern, Switzerland, where it received an arrival mark.

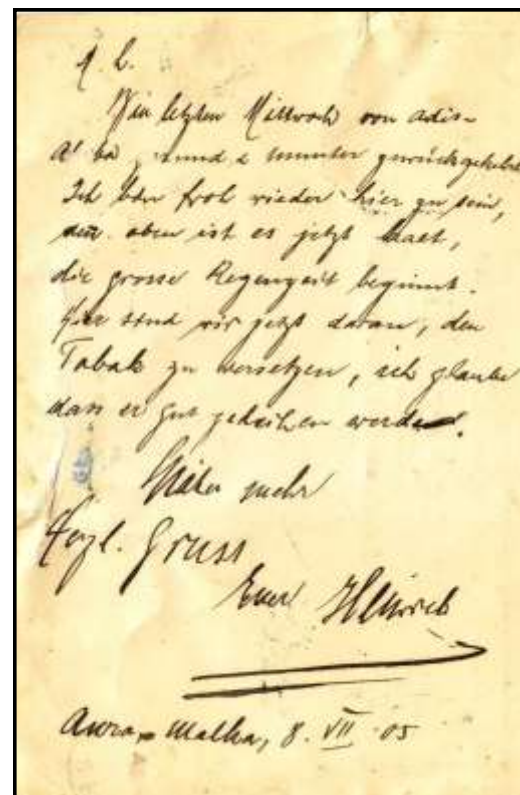
the "10" on the 1 g. card is May 24, 1905 and of "20" on the 1 guerche card is March 11, 1905.

The earliest use of "10" in Harar is February 16, 1905 and of "20" on February 9, 1905. Seven cards with "10" and 18 cards with "20" have been recorded.

In January 1, 1905 (or possibly a bit earlier according to Sciaky), the Ethiopian postal rates were modified so that 2 guerches were equal to 20 French centimes. Twenty centimes became the Ethiopian franking rate for a single weight letter for abroad with an additional 25 centimes of French Colony franking needed for the international portion.

The "10" overprint on the 1 g. card, therefore, in effect, made it into a ½ g. card for internal use. However, all of the recorded cards with "10" were sent abroad or to Djibouti.

Figure 23: July 8, 1905 1 g. card overprinted "5 c/m" pre-cancelled in Harar on March 20 but sent from Aouara Malka on July 8 and additionally franked with a pair of 1/2 g. stamps overprinted "10" that escaped cancellation but with Harar transit mark in July. A scarce card that originated outside Harar and Addis Ababa.



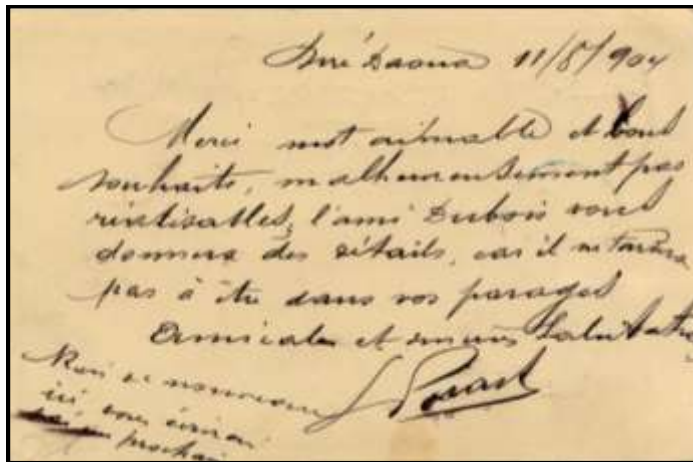


Figure 24: August 11, 1904; 1 g. MELIKT card pre-cancelled in Harar in April 1903 but sent from Dire Daoua (handwritten date) and likely handed to someone working with the railway to be mailed in Djibouti and bypassing the Ethiopian Posts.

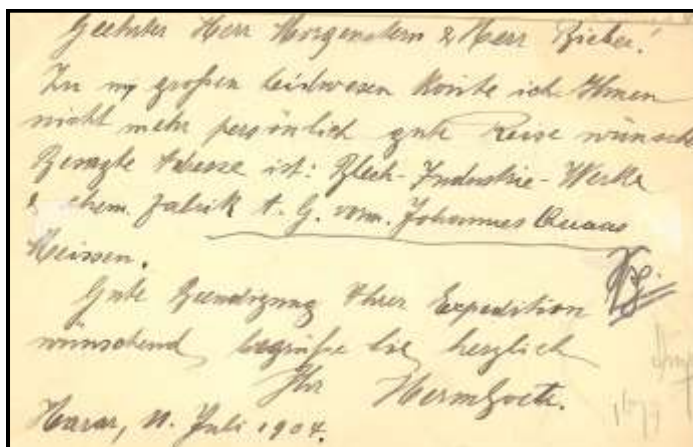


Figure 25: July 11, 1904 (handwritten); 1 g. MELIKT card sent from Harar to Dire Daoua—the only recorded postal card used internally.

There are only two cards overprinted “05.” The first is from Harar postmarked January 17, 1906 sent by Michel and the second is postmarked with Harar Postes Françaises on April 1, 1906 with transit in Djibouti on April 5 (Figure 19). It was franked with a 10c Djibouti stamp and addressed to Milano.

The last recorded use of a postcard is in 1907, a 1 g. card with “20” sent on November 18 from Addis Ababa to Algeria.

### Late Use and Levant Postal Cards

Although the Ethiopian postal cards were not valid after 1909, some examples are known franked with stamps of the 1909 issue and used in the mails after 1909 (Figure 28 and also see page 22).

Uniquely, an essay of the postal card was used registered in Harar franked with 10c of the Numerals and additionally

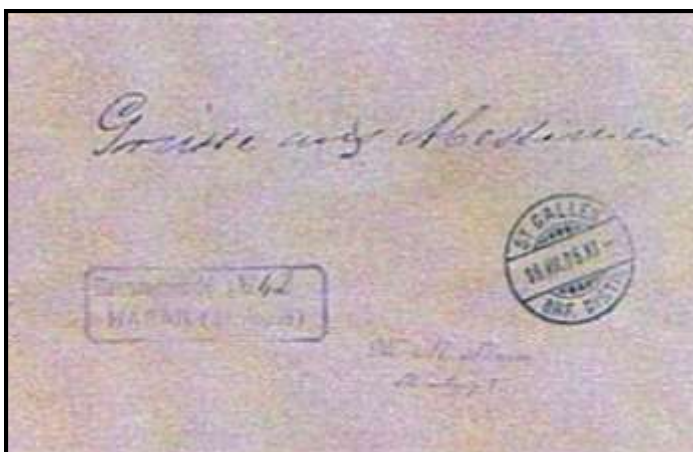


Figure 26: July 1, 1906; Postal card essay sent with registered mail from Harar. It is the only recorded essay used in the mails.

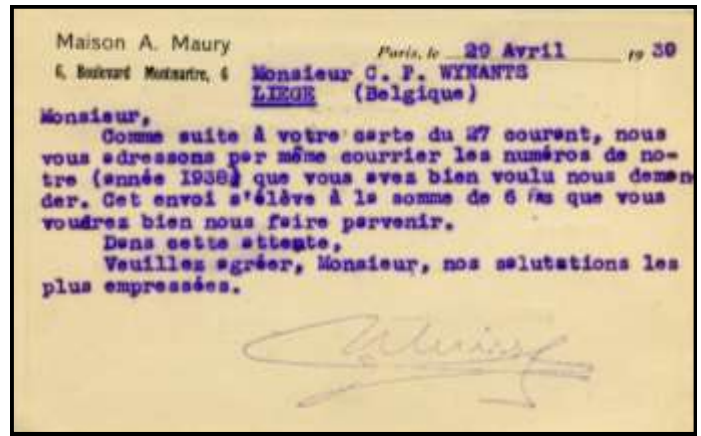


Figure 27: April 29, 1939; 1/4 g. postal card with “Maison A. Maury” printed on the back and used by his company in 1939 in France.



Figure 28: 1 g. postal card used in the 1930s in Addis Ababa.

franked with 25 centimes in Djibouti stamps on July 1, 1906 (Figure 26).

Falling in the category of postal cards, but not included in the total for Ethiopian postal cards, are two 10 centimes Levant postal cards that had likely been supplied to Dire Daoua’s post office; both were mailed in Dire Daoua; one in June and the other in September 1907 (Figure 29). Two very rare items.

### Historical Importance

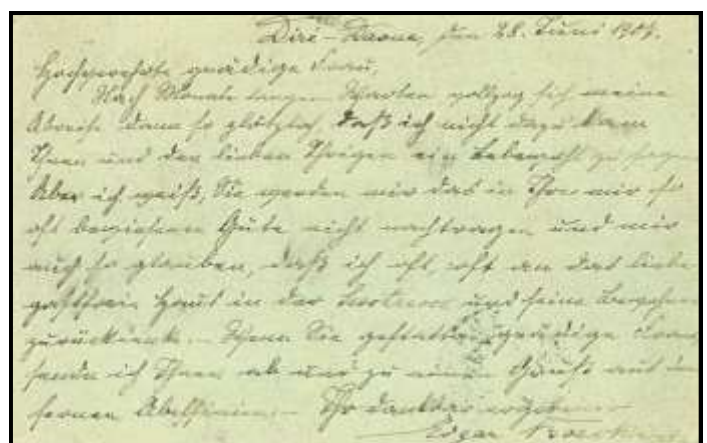
The postal cards are valuable not only as items in a collection but also for the messages that have been preserved.

The message is frequently only a greeting, but many of the cards have lengthy texts.

Many of the cards that J.A. Michel wrote have provided information important to our understanding of Ethiopia’s postal history. For example, it is from one of his cards we learn when Mühle died of small pox. Another card reveals that it was Michel who prepared and sent the many covers with complete set with different overprints to Thurm in Frankfurt (Figure 16). We also learned that Michel had a camera that he used to take photos in and around Harar in 1904. He used these photos for his first set of picture post cards that went on sale in Harar in 1905. He also had a bicycle and a gramophone while he lived in Harar.

We also learned from one of the cards (Figure 16) that Michel moved to Addis Ababa in October 1906 when Menelik expropriated the Ethiopian Posts when Alfred Ilg and his family left Ethiopia for good. The card with that information resulted in research by Ulf Lindahl that demonstrated that the Ethiopian Posts had not closed in July 1907, as previously believed, and that Michel continued to manage the Posts into 1908 in Addis Ababa where he made the *Dagmawi* overprint in 1907, previously thought to have been made by Michel in Harar.

Figure 29: June 29, 1907  
10c Levant postal card used in Dire Daoua to Zurich where it was readdressed to Kreuzlingen—one of only two recorded Levant cards used in Ethiopia.





Ethiopian Postal Cards Forwarded Outside Ethiopia or Not Postally Travelled  
By Luciano Maria

Tristant informed us in his book about early Ethiopian postal history that postal cards “received a warm welcome from the population residing in Ethiopia, and also from temporary visitors... It is important to note that the postal cards were also in demand by collectors, and sold pre-cancelled to their intention [with] Type II date-stamp (Figure 1), the earliest dates of that kind are, to our knowledge, those of 18 2 97 for Harar on a 1 guerche card and 24 5 97 for Entotto on a ½ guerche card, which [does] not exclude possible existence of earlier dates.”



Figure 1: 1 guerche postal card pre-cancelled at HARAR on 5-1-97, a very early date.

Tristant continued: “Such pre-cancelled cards were sold in [the] philatelic business, and especially in Djibouti where ship passengers on stop, were sometimes sending some with Djibouti postmark on local stamps, which was not in accordance with the Ethiopian postmark, this gap [in dates], which should not exceed more than about ten days for courier coming from Harar, allows [us] to recognize the pre-cancelled cards purchased in Djibouti. For example, a 1 guerche card cancelled HARAR on 4.7.97 has been sent from Djibouti on 24.8.97, therefore with a gap of 51 days; sometimes gaps are even greater.”

That is a very easy method to verify if a card may have originated outside Ethiopia. However, a pre-cancelled postal card may also have been forwarded from an Ethiopian post office. So, a collector has to very carefully examine a card before deciding if it should be considered an Ethiopian postal history item or not that originated inside Ethiopia.

There are additional elements to consider; first of all the message text. Collectors who bought and forwarded cards at Djibouti (or Zaila in Somaliland) were not fakers. Often in the text on the back we find the real place and date of departure. Of course, if the place handwritten in the text is Djibouti the problem is solved (Figure 2).

When we see an Ethiopian place or there is no place and date of departure the examination of more elements is needed. By studying the written message we can find elements that

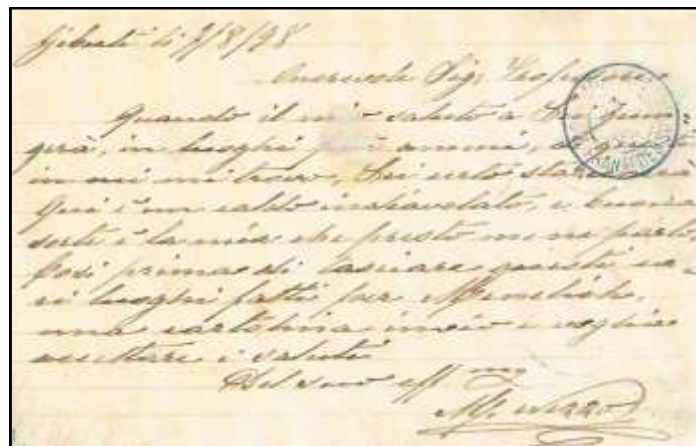


Figure 2: ¼ g. postal card pre-cancelled 22-6-98. The other postmarks are not clean and may induce to mistake. **Fortunately the text on the back reads “Gibouti, li 7-8-98.”**

determine the origin of a postal card (Figure 3).

We know that in the pre-U.P.U. period, the Ethiopian franking was not valid outside Ethiopia for mail addressed abroad: the lack of a franking valid for an international destination, if the postal card was not taxed, means that it did not travel or it travelled enclosed in an envelope (Figure 4).

The franking valid for international destinations was formed by French Colony stamps when mail was forwarded through Djibouti: French Somali Coast stamps (Djibouti and Obock), at first, and later French Levant and Port-Said in late 1906 and in 1907.

More rarely, some mail was forwarded through the “British Way” via Zaila and Aden franked with Indian stamps initially, via Berbera, Zaila and Aden, and franked with British Somaliland stamps after Berbera became a Sub Post Office of Aden in 1903.

We have to pay great attention to postal cards that seem to have been forwarded from Harar during the year 1900 (digit in the HR3 postmark is “19”) through Djibouti as all mail reported, except one item from Harar in that period was forwarded through the “British Way.” I was able to find only one postal card forwarded through Djibouti while I found several pre-cancelled postal cards that originated in Djibouti.

We know of very little mail forwarded through the “Italian Way,” via Asmara, franked with stamps of the Eritrean colony.

Sometimes, in some auction catalogues, I found Ethiopian

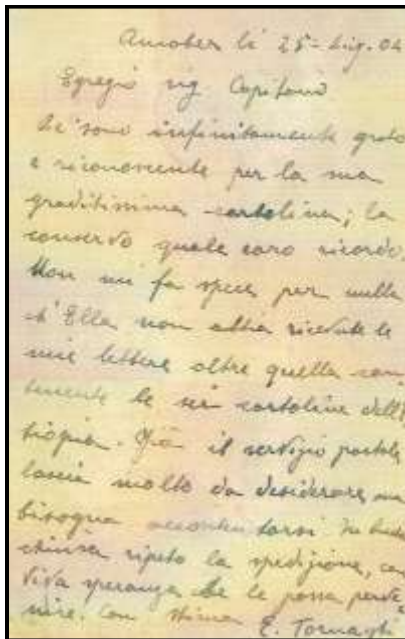


Figure 3: 1 g. postal card handstamped "BOSTA" and pre-cancelled 11-VIII-1902 forwarded from Ankober (near Addis Ababa) on 25 July 1904 inside an envelope as can be read in the Italian message on the back.

postal cards franked with stamps of other countries: they originated outside Ethiopia (Figure 5).

At the beginning of 20th century in Europe the philatelic business was developed and some stamp dealers were interested in receiving the Ethiopian postal cards in the status of travelled ones. We are aware of one lot of postal cards addressed to "Monsieur Bolling," a stamp dealer in Paris. The cards are marked by progressive numbers from 1 to 40, and apparently forwarded from Harar's Ethiopian post office and

cancelled by an HR3 postmark. Some of them have a French Somali Coast franking cancelled by a faint HR4 postmark (the French post office in Harar), whose date is not legible (Figure 6).

Other cards have Djibouti stamps cancelled in Djibouti with a date that does not match with the HR3 postmark's date (Figure 7). In the same condition, a registered card exists, also

Figure 4: 1 g. postal card pre-cancelled on 3-6-97 in Harar. It was taxed at Djibouti due to the lack of international franking. From text on the back: "...pleased to have this card which is in Abyssinia where I am not arrived yet..." Then the sender writes about "Gibuti."

Figure 5: "10" on 1 g. postal card franked with a 5 millimes Egyptian stamp cancelled at Cairo from where it was forwarded.



Figure 6: 1 g. card cancelled at Harar with HR3 dated March 23 1903 addressed to Bolling. The date of the HR4 postmark is not legible. At upper right corner, the progressive number 34.

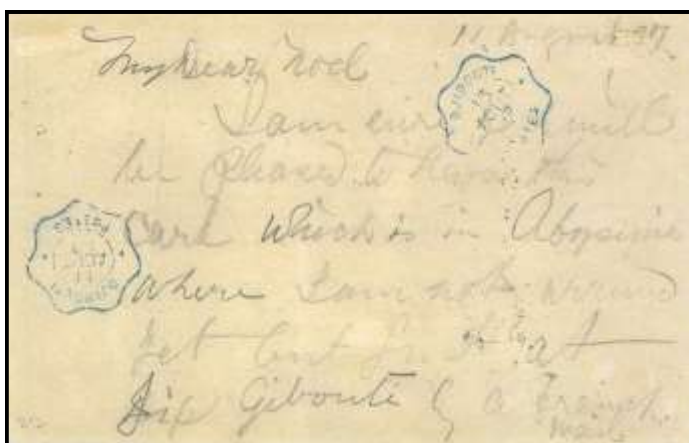




Figure 7 : 1 g. card cancelled at Harar with HR3 dated March 19, 1903, as in Figure 6, and addressed to Bolling. The 10c Somali Coast was cancelled in Djibouti on March 30, 1903, 11 days later, while the usual gap in 1903 (after the railway reached Dire Daoua ) was from one to four days.



concluded that they were cancelled C.T.O. and forwarded from Djibouti enclosed in an envelope to avoid theft or damage during the travel so that they could later be sold by Bolling to collectors as travelled cards. These postal cards are not included in the Ethiopia Cover List.

However, it is possible that cards exist addressed to Bolling that did originate in Harar or Dire Daoua. We are aware of one such postal card that recently came to our attention (Figure 9). It requires more study since another card exists sent by the same sender who also used a pre-cancelled postal card (Figure 24, on page 15 in the preceding article). This card was pre-cancelled in Harar with HR3 on March 4, 1903. However, the message on the back is dated by hand in Dire Daoua on August 11, 1904. The card is addressed to another person (not Bolling) and it has a proper message. The card was handed to someone on the railway in Dire Daoua and was brought to Djibouti where it was mailed, as was the custom with mail originating in Dire Daoua in 1903 to November 1906 when a post office was finally opened in Dire Daoua. The 10c Djibouti stamp was cancelled on August 13 in Djibouti and the card arrived in Porrentruy on August 24; clearly a card that originated in Ethiopia and that did travel.

Figure 9: 1/4 g pre-cancelled card to Bolling date by hand on January 1, 1904 in Harar. It may have originated in Harar.

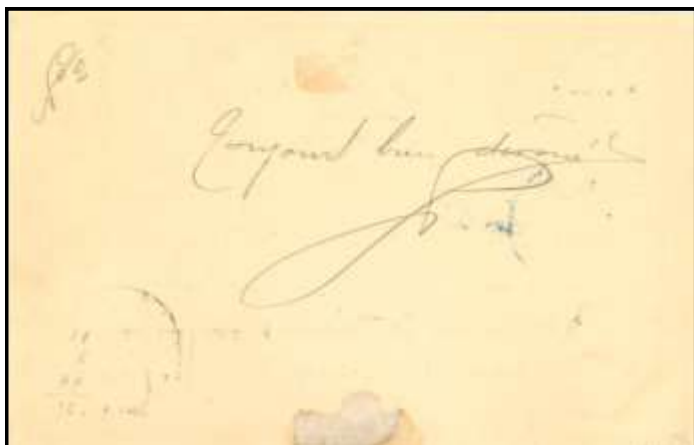


Figure 8: Registered 1 g. card handstamped "MELIKT" with a stamp at 1/2 g. handstamped "BOSTA" cancelled by HR3 postmark dated March 18, 1903. The card is franked with two French Somali Coast stamps at 5c. and one Obock stamp at 25c both cancelled with Djibouti postmarks dated April 30, 1903, 12 days later—a gap that is too large. Stamps and postal cards handstamped "MELIKT" were issued on April 15, 1903 and the use of the just issued postal cards in combination with the old "BOSTA" stamp had to be quickly sent to Djibouti's dealers to be sold to the public as an interesting curiosity. On the back, the progressive N. 2. There are no transit or arrival postmark.



to Bolling, with a progressive N. 2 on the back (Figure 8). None of these cards have transit or arrival postmarks.

In consulting with Ulf Lindahl and Floyd Heiser, we have

Two Covers Censored in 1918

By Serge Magallon

Cover 1

The first cover is to a very rare destination. It is a normal first weight cover addressed to a French military person of the Armée d'Orient (Army of the Orient) at Salonique in Greece.

The franking is correct using the November 1908 rate, so 2 guerches with the Menelik blue of the definitive series of 1909 with normal surcharge "Zauditu" in black of the second coronation issue. The stamp is cancelled September 22, 1918 with the DIRE DAOUA (French bilingual of 1911) using violet ink (Payne DD4A). On the front of the cover is another mark: "F" in blue. Perhaps it is a censor mark?

On the back of the cover is a transit mark, "PORT SAID EGYPTE," dated October 5, 1918 and an arrival mark, "TRESOR ET GUERRE 517," dated November 16, 1918, a few days after the end of the First World War.

The French internet site of Stephane Bone provides information about "TRESOR ET GUERRE" at: <http://cartesfm1418.pagesperso-orange.fr/>

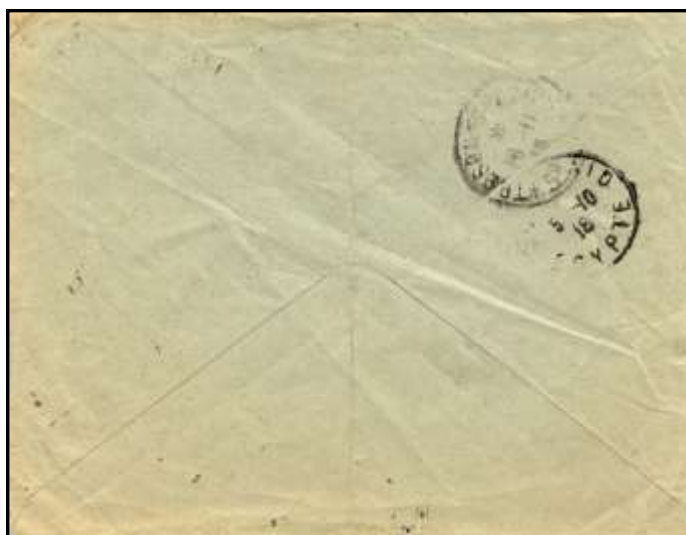
These cancels were created for the military courier. For the military courier the travel was from the sender to one referent railway post office station; then to the boundary's office (the office between civil and military) that served as a sorting office for the military sectors. Each cancel with its number corresponds to one division.

For the French military of the Army of the Orient the numbers are 501 to 517.

This cover was forwarded from Dire Daoua to Djibouti with the railway; by French ship to Port-Said. In Port-Said it was transferred to a ship with Greece destination to the Boundary's Office at Salonique, and finally to the 517 office.

This cover tells one part of a possible history of the First World War. The Ottoman Empire entered the war on the side of the Empire of Austria and Germany. The Bosphoros and the Dardanelles settlements are close and the Russian Empire does not receive any ships or any provisioning.

The landing of the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) and French troops in 1915 was heavy blooded at



Cover 1: September 22, 1918 to Salonique.

Gallipoli. And the troops retreated and left. The Austrian troops invaded Serbia and the Serbian Army retreated to Greece. De facto, another front on Greece has opened. Now the French troops arrived. At the end the Army of the Orient

Cover 2: June 21, 1918 to Intra, Italy.



under the French general, Franchet d'Esperey, is created. These armies with more than one million soldiers included 8 French Divisions, 8 English Divisions, 3 Serbian, 1 Italian, and 3 army corps of the Greece Army, 1 Russian Brigade, 1 Portuguese and Montenegro Albania troops.

After the war, General Franchet d'Esperey was appointed French Marshal, and the Marshal represented France at the Coronation of Haile Selassie I on November 2, 1930 in Addis Ababa.

Cover 2

The second cover is a commercial registered cover to Italy. It is franked with the normal 4 guerches of 1909 surcharged "Zauditu" in blue for a normal first weight registered cover. It is cancelled 21 VI 1918 with the Addis Abbeba cancel (Payne AA4B). Its route was Addis Ababa to Djibouti and to Cairo on July 7, 1918 and Intra on July 29.

The cover was censored at Novara, Italy. Three cancels are present: first a circular postal cancel in red ink "NOVARA CENSURA RACOMMANDATE" dated July 29?; the second one is a red ink semi-rectangular "CENSURA MILITARE NOVARA 1" and the third one is a rectangular black "REPARTO NOVARA VERIFICATO PER LA CENSURA (2)." The cover was open and close with two bands.

On the back of the cover is a very interesting commercial cancel.

Interesting Covers 1909-1917  
By Luciano Maria

I found the article by David Link in MJ Vol. 30/4, October -December 2014 very interesting, and I enjoyed very much some of the scarce covers from that post-1909 period.

At the end of that article, the Editor asked members to send scans of any interesting covers from that period. I searched my collection and choose some items that, I think, have not been published previously in MJ.

The only interesting feature of the cover from Dire Daoua to Paris is the mixed franking (Figure 1). Covers with mixed franking are scarce.

The second item is a tag for diplomatic pouch mail having the part with the holes cut off (Figure 2). The tag has a mixed franking formed by 1 and 4 guerches from the 1909 definitives issue and a block of six of the 16 guerches from the U.P.U.



Figure 1: January 22, 1911. A mixed franking cover from Dire Daoua to Paris franked with stamps from the U.P.U. November 1, 1908 Piastre issue and the 1909 definitive.

Figure 2: September 1912: Diplomatic Pouch Mail with mixed franking of 101 guerches, the largest recorded franking for an Ethiopia postal history item known to Luciano Maria.

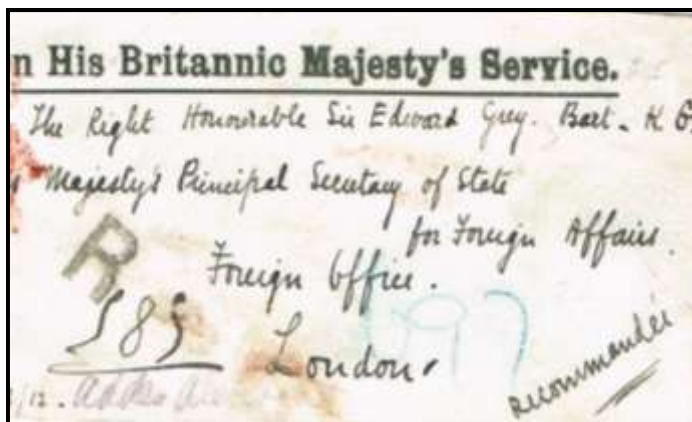




Figure 3: February 8, 1913. Philatelic franking with 8 g. of 1909 definitives on 1 g. 1896 postal card no longer valid for postage.

Piastre issue, for a total franking of 101 guerches! Of course, that is not a philatelic franking and the sender (the British Legation) was obliged to use the block at 16 guerches from the U.P.U. issue as a block of six 16 g. from the 1909 issue would have been too large for the tag. If the hypothesis is confirmed that the postal rate was 1/4 g. for each 50 gr., the 101 guerches of that franking paid would be: 2 guerches for registration and 99 guerches for (4 x 99 x 50 gr. = 19.800 gr) for a bag of 19 Kilos and 800 gr. weight.

It is the highest franking I know for a commercial Ethiopian postal history item.

The use of the high value 1909 definitives stamps (8 and 16 guerches) on commercial covers is quite scarce in the whole Ethiopian postal history: when a high franking was needed, it was generally composed of several low and medium value stamps. Typically, we find the high value stamps used only for philatelic franking.

In my collection, I have only two philatelic items franked with the high 1909 values. I illustrate one here since it may be of interest to specialists of the 1909 issue (Figure 3). The 8 guerches franks a 1 guerche 1896 postal card that was sent registered in February 1913 from Addis Ababa many years after the postal cards were invalid for use in the mails.

The card is also franked with a 1/4 g. stamp from the 1909 issue. It is addressed to Wolfersdorf in Bohemia, Austria.

Figure 4 shows a visit card cover franked at 1/2 g., the postal rate for a visit card to abroad.



Figure : December 20, 1913. Envelope for a visit card.

Figure 5 shows a heavy weight cover from Dire Daoua to Mr. Lemierre, a stamp dealer in France, franked with a couple of stamps at 4 guerches. The heavy weight (up to 100 gr.) caused the tear of the cover that had to be repaired by the French Posts to prevent loss of the contents. The cover is addressed by Mr. Sery, who cooperated with Dire Daoua's Postmaster, Joseph Guillet, to market the Dire Daoua Provisionals in 1911.

Figure 6 is an "IMPRIMERIE ST. LAZARE" cover from Dire Daoua to Djibouti franked at 1 guerche, the postal rate for internal mail and to Djibouti. The departure postmark of Dire Daoua and the arrival postmark of Djibouti on the back are both dated 30.IX.1912.

Figure 7 shows a wrapper from Addis Ababa to Naples, Italy, franked at 1/2 guerche, the postal rate for printed matter to abroad.



Figure 5: April 18, 1911: Registered cover franked with a pair of 4 g. 1909 definitive. French postal seals added to prevent loss.



Figure 6: September 30, 1912 cover to Djibouti from Dire Daoua.

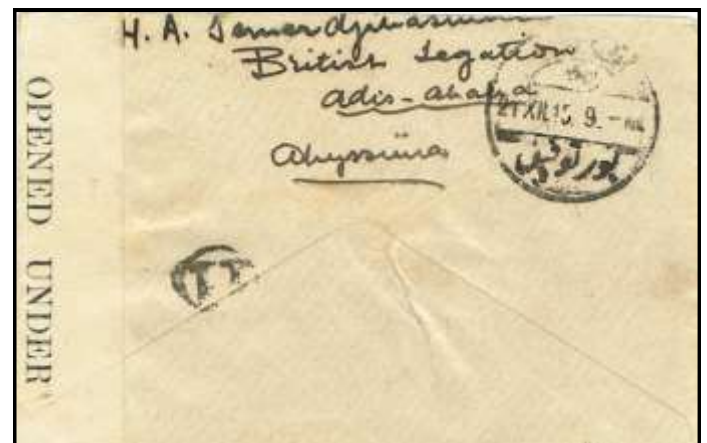


Figure 7: November 1, 1918(?) Wrapper with Printed Matter 1/2 g. postal rate addressed to Naples, Italy.

Figure 8: December 1915 British Legation in Addis Ababa cover to Valetta, Malta censored under Martial Law.

Figure 8 is a censored cover from Addis Ababa to Valletta, Malta, which is a very unusual destination for mail from Ethiopia. As the censor tape shows, the cover was opened at a time of Martial Law.

The cover was sent from the British Legation in Addis Ababa.

Notes on a Postcard from Hans Jannasch  
By Jeroen Bos

Introduction

I am a private researcher, currently working on a paper on Jannasch and Götz. During my research I stumbled, by chance, on an article by Ulf J. Lindahl describing a postcard sent from Adami Tullu to Switzerland in 1910 (Figures 1 and 2). The card was written by Hans Jannasch. We know this because I was able to match his handwriting with a dedication in a book authored by Jannasch (Figure 2).

Little is known about Hans Jannasch, even though he played an important part in the founding of Adami Tullu, so when Ulf Lindahl extended the invitation to write a short paper for Menelik's Journal on Hans Jannasch, I was very pleased with the opportunity.

The Early Years

Hans Jannasch was born around 1877, son of Robert Jannasch. Robert Jannasch was a known geographer and economist. He was one of the members of the German trade expedition of 1886 (Jannasch, 1887) to Northern Africa and was kidnapped to be sold into slavery by a local tribe. Luckily he escaped and lived to tell.

Young Hans, his home in Berlin, was frequented by adventurers and explorers who came to visit his father Robert Jannasch. In his book 'Unter Buren, Briten und Bantus' (1931) Hans Jannasch later retells an anecdote where the famous explorer Stanley visited them and young Hans remarked, sitting on Stanley's lap, that when Stanley wanted to order a coach, that this man, who crossed all of Africa, ordered a coach in Berlin because he was afraid to get lost.

The Boer War

It is most probably from his father and the many visitors and their stories that Hans inherited and developed his adventurous nature. Around his 20th birthday, he set off to Australia. The year is not exactly known, though I have in my possession a copy of an entry in the New South Wales Police Gazette from 1897 with a message from the German consul in Adelaide inquiring into the whereabouts of Hans, indicating that to their latest information he was intending to work his way back to Adelaide. As a stowaway, he boarded a ship for South Africa, where he joined the Boers during the second Boer War (1899-1902) as a war volunteer. We get to know him as a young man seeking an adventurous life (Figure 3).

At the end of the Boer War, Hans Jannasch poses as a Swiss national to escape arrest by the British and boards a vessel with a single way passage back home (Jannasch, 1931). According to Hans Jannasch being Swiss is not entirely a lie: he has relatives from his mother's side that are Swiss. This is most probably the link with the postcard. The postcard is addressed to Amy Kaufmann-Gerber at the Klybeckerstrasse 69 in Bale, Switzerland. The address is an address in Basel and



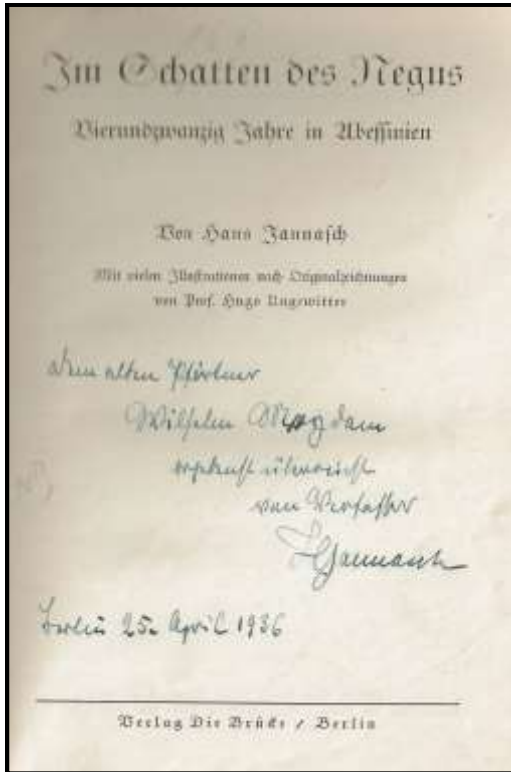
Figures 1 & 2: May 22, 1901, Adami Tullu (south of Addis Ababa on the way to Lake Langano), front and back of postcard written by Hans Jannasch postmarked in Addis Ababa on June 4, 1910 addressed to Switzerland. A rare item originating outside the three major towns.

The text is difficult to read and has been translated by Bernhard Lindahl as most probably reading:

**“Adami Tullu, 22.V.10 Meine liebe Tante Amy!**  
Ich habe dir wirklich wohl lange nicht mehr geschrieben, u. bitte dich noch diesmal mit dieser etwas aussergewöhnlichen Ansichtspostkarte vorlieb zu nehmen. Im übrigen wirst Du ja durch die liebe Lilli auf dem Laufenden über mein Thun und Treiben erhalten worden sein. Die Sendung von Strübin (?) habe ich dankend erhalten. Mit besten Grüssen und Küssen Dein **getreuer (?) Neffe H Jannasch.”**

**“My Dear Aunt Amy,**  
I have not written to you for really quite a long time, and ask you even this time to be content with this somewhat unusual picture postcard. Besides you will have received through dear Lilli the current news of my doing and acting. The consignment or Strübin (?) I have thankfully received. With best greetings and kisses, Your faithful nephew **H Jannasch.”**





To Abyssinia

Hans Jannasch had a strong desire to return to Africa. Back home in Germany he met Hermann Götz, a 23 old German from Schwäbisch Gmünd, a small town located in Southern Germany. Götz, like Jannasch, dreamt of going to Africa ever since he was a young boy, wanting to go there and stay. Late December 1901 or early 1902 they left for Abyssinia with boxes full of Mauser guns and ammunition (Mayer-Tasch, 1959), which they later sold on the way to chiefs of the local tribes, whose territories they crossed on their way through Abyssinia. They left by train for Genoa and there boarded a vessel of the Nord Deutsche Lloyd to the port of Djibouti on the Red Sea, the gateway to Abyssinia (Mayer-Tasch, 1973).

From there they travelled by foot and caravan to Harar, a Muslim city in the North of Abyssinia. They stayed in Harar for almost a year before continuing to Addis Ababa.

Figure 3: Title page of Jannasch (1931) with dedication by the author most probably stating “dem alten Pförtner Wilhelm ergebenst überreicht vom Verfasser H Jannasch, Berlin, 25 April 1936”, Collection Jeroen Bos.

Figure 4 (above): Hans Jannasch during the Boer War, from Jannasch 1931.

still exists today. Klybeck is a neighbourhood of Basel, Bale just another, probably French name, for Basel. Since he calls her his aunt, we can assume that is an aunt from his mother’s side whom I have unfortunately not yet been able to identify and whose name might have been Jannasch-Gerber.

Figure 6: Photo of the Jannasch and Götz house at Adami Tullu during the Italian invasion, 1936.

Original in collection of Jeroen Bos, the author. The ruin of the farm can still be seen to this day as one drives past Adami Tullu.



Jannasch wrote that in 1903 he went to hunt for big game near the borders of Kenia and Uganda (1928A). He wrote many tales on big game hunting, thus adding to his adventurous image. He also mentions (1928A) owning a piece of land near Harar and visiting Europe in this period. While in Harar, Ras Makonnen, the governor of Harar and the father of Ras Tafari (future Haile Selassie), gives him a lion as a present indicating his good relationship with the Ras.

It is quite possible that the two adventurous young men went to Harar because they were inspired by the stories of the French poet Rimbaud, who had lived in Harar a decade earlier making a living as a trader in coffee and arms.

When Jannasch and Götz arrived in Addis Ababa they offered their services to local notables as carpenters, masons and technicians. Jannasch, undoubtedly using his experience from the Boer War, was employed by Emperor Menelik as a military instructor. Jannasch was however dismissed since he did not get on with one of the advisors (Alfred Ilg) of Menelik (Tafla, 1973).

### Adami Tullu

In 1905, Jannasch and Götz lobbied with Menelik for a concession for an ostrich farm at Adami Tullu, some 170 kilometres southeast of Addis Ababa. Ostrich feathers were in fashion then in ladies hats and fans. Menelik not only granted them the concession, but also gave them some ostriches as a gift (Figure 6). Jannasch claimed that the granted concession was a token of appreciation from Emperor Menelik for his military work (Jannasch, 1931).

Some sources (Tafla, 1973) state that Götz had already got the concession for the ostrich farm and that Jannasch joined him later.

We know the date of the start of the concession quite precise since Felix Rosen, a member of the German diplomatic special mission that visited Emperor Menelik in early 1905, mentions them in his book on the mission (Rosen, 1907) and states that Jannasch and Götz postponed their leave for Adami Tullu to meet with the mission and that they left together.

Jannasch and Götz built a house on a hill near lake Zway, not far from the Bulbula river. The hill was then known as Suksui Hill. Later they planted euphorbia (cacti) to serve as a fence. It is from these cacti that Adami Tullu got its name. It is Galla for 'cactus hill.' They modelled the house after a German castle. Later travellers mention the structure resembling a German medieval castle (Harinxma) (Figure 5).

It is not clear what the role of Jannasch was in all of this, Götz is usually mentioned when Adami Tullu is mentioned. Jannasch spent a total of 24 years in Abyssinia. This means that he left around 1926. This fits his first publication in Scherl's Magazine (Jannasch, 1927). Therefore, they must have been in business together for about 21 years.

We also know the postcard that was sent from Adami Tullu in 1910 indicating some sort of continuity in his business with Götz. Zahn (1951) mentions them both living in the house on top of the hill. Jannasch is not mentioned by all of the travellers that visited them in this period, so perhaps he was away quite often, perhaps travelling and hunting. This would fit, because I have a hard time seeing Jannasch farming all the time. This could be the reason for Götz's dominant presence in the literature.

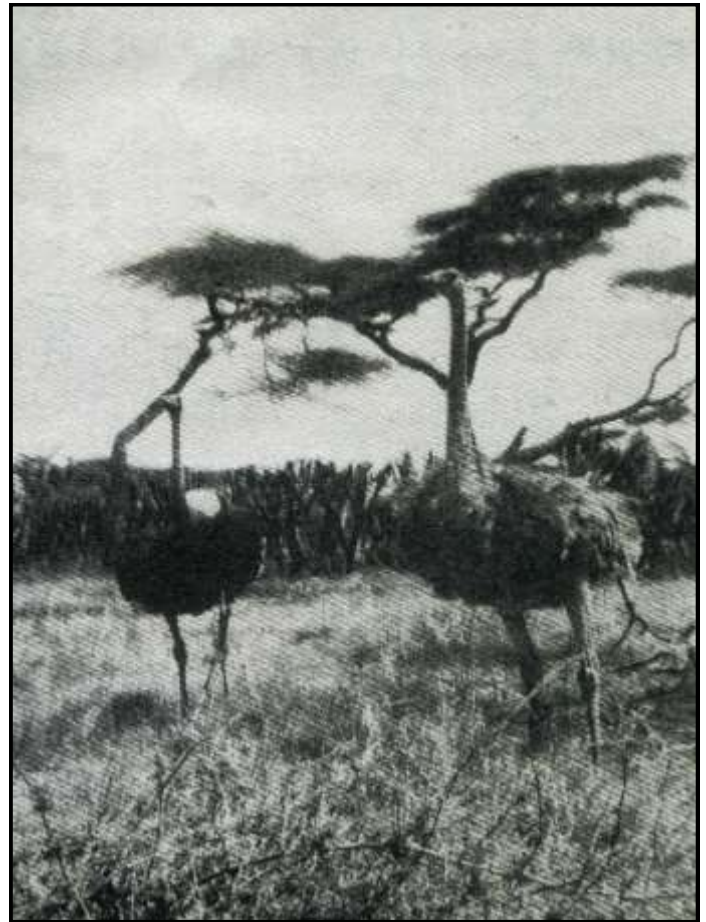


Figure 6: Ostriches at Adami Tullu, from Lublinski 1929.

Jannasch and Götz lived in the middle of Galla country. The Galla are a nomadic people living off cattle ranging. Galla is sometimes used as a name for the Oromo people, but it has also been used for other tribes like the Afar and the Dinka. The exact meaning of the word Galla is unknown, but it was generally used to name the nomadic tribesmen inhabiting the Lake Zway area.

### Trouble in Paradise

After World War I, the demand for ostrich feathers was in decline and Jannasch and Götz changed to cattle raising. This got them into conflict with the local Galla people. Being nomads they were used to roaming their cattle freely, but Götz and Jannasch would not allow any cattle on their land without their permission. If this did happen, they would detain the cattle until a fine had been paid. Zahn (1951) also mentions them confining cattle herders. Svensson (1930) even mentions people got killed. The situation escalated and complaints were made in Addis Ababa, which resulted in a trial. The Abyssinian government found Jannasch and Götz guilty and they were sentenced to be extradited. To the verdict they added that prior to extradition they had to be detained at the German Legation in Addis Ababa for a number of years; Jannasch for five years and Götz for three years.

This was unacceptable to the German Legation, which, according to Zahn, asked it to mediate the case before Ras Tafari on account of the excellent relations that Zahn had with

Ras Tafari, the then de-facto ruler of Abyssinia and the later Emperor Haile Selassie I. According to Zahn, Götz had asked him to help at the expense of Jannasch. We should take into consideration that the statements of Walter Zahn are not without doubt since he had a troubled relationship with Götz. Whatever the reason, the outcome was that Jannasch was ordered to leave the country immediately and Götz was pardoned by Ras Tafari. Maybe this could be attributed to Jannasch's sentence being more severe and that in the eyes of Ras Tafari, he was the bigger perpetrator or perhaps the only one. Zahn then took the place of Jannasch at the business at Adami Tullu.

Back to Germany

After Jannasch returned to Germany, he published several books and articles on his adventures in Abyssinia (Jannasch 1927, 1928A, 1928B, 1929, 1931, 1953). He was still writing during the Second World War and a book was published in the early fifties. Unfortunately we do not know how he fared after he left Abyssinia other than that he wrote several articles and books on his adventures.

I hope to shed some more light on this in the years to come, when I intend to research Götz and Jannasch in more detail, an investigation which is ongoing.

The author would like to come into contact with anyone who has further information on Hermann Götz and Hans Jannasch. My contact points are: bosj@logisp.nl, Ballastputweg 13, 8162EN, EPE, The Netherlands

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A Postal Card to Madame Götz  
 By Ulf J. Lindahl

The one-guerche postal card illustrated below was sent from Entotto on November 14, 1899, some time before Herrmann Götz and Hans Jannasch left for Ethiopia in late 1901 or in early 1902.

I do not know who wrote the card or if Madame Friedrika Götz is a relative, but it seems likely that at some time prior contacts with Ethiopia encouraged Jannasch and Götz to try their luck in Abyssinia!



New Issues

The Ethiopian Postal Service Enterprise has released two new issues since the last issue of Menelik's Journal.

As usual, the Ethiopian Postal Service has published information pamphlets describing the new stamps, their printing details, and what the depictions are. To their credit, the last two pamphlets are multi-colored and of vastly superior quality compared to those published in the past several decades (at right).

Hopefully, this higher quality standard will be maintained for future issues.

Diamond Jubilee Celebration of University of Gondar  
December 2, 2014

This is a set of four stamps celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the opening if the University of Gondar, which was established in 1954 to provide higher education.

The details of the stamps are:

- Denominations: Birr 0.05, 0.45, 2.00 and 4.00
- Quantity: 100,000 sets
- Designer: Wegayehu Ayeta
- Printer: O.S.D. (Austria)

Ethiopian Air Lines  
December 25, 2014

The information pamphlet states that Ethiopian Airlines “is the fastest growing and most profitable airline in Africa” and that it “took delivery of the state of the art and game-changing Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft named Africa First in August 2012 becoming the first African airline and the first outside of Japan to own and operate this aircraft.”

The stamps were presented, as usual, in a glossy folder, but printed in four colors this time (see page 29). It acts as a nice advertisement for EAL (and the Dreamliner is great to fly!).

Three of the stamps are illustrated below and the fourth stamp as parts of a sheet on page 29.

The printing details are also shown on page 29.



The Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Gondar University stamps above.

The Ethiopian Air Lines stamps at right and on page 29.





The glossy folder with a set of Ethiopian Air Lienes stamps mounted inside in black mounting strips.

Details of the EAL stamps:

- Denominations: Birr 0.15, 0.35, 2.00 & 4.00
- Quantity: 100,000 sets
- Designer: Saba G/medhin
- Printer: Cartor (France)

Once again, the values on the stamps are so small that they are hardly visible. That is a design flaw that needs to be avoided in future issues.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 50 stamps (5 across and 10 down).

Interestingly, the stamps have selvages with Amharic and English text in an alternating patten on both sides of the sheet as well as at the top. This gives rise to several combinations of how the stamps can be collected with these selvages.

Note Cartor's printing date in the lower left corner of the sheet: August 1, 2014.

\* \* \*



An Errors on a Modern First Day Cover By Wondimu Alamayehu

The first error is a typographical error that occurs on the FDC of the “Onslaught Martyrs Memorial in the Millennium” issue that was released on August 26, 1908 as illustrated above. Note that the issue date on the FDC reads “26, Oug. 2008” instead of 26. Aug. 2008.”

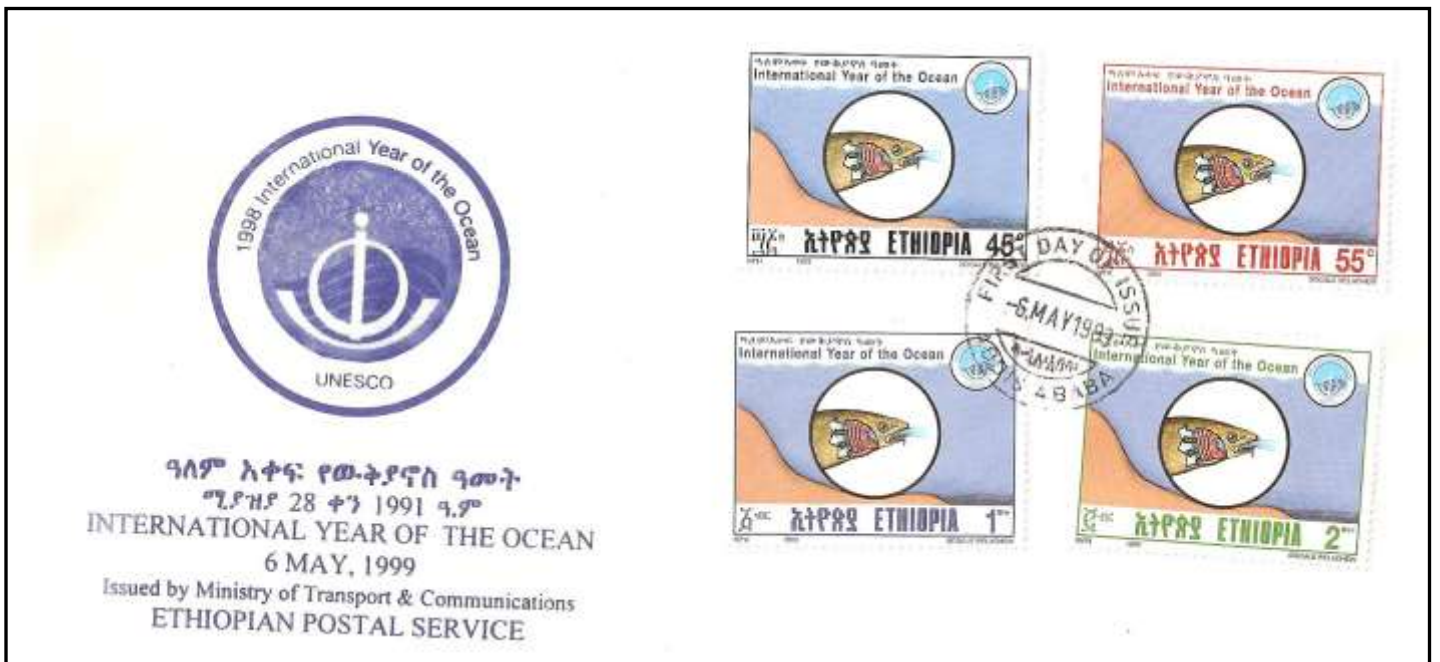
The “International Year of the Ocean” issued on May 6, 1999 has stamps and an FDC cover with the UNESCO emblem, which may seem odd. However, the “International

Year of the Ocean” was sponsored by UNESCO.

Note that the First Day postmarks are of two different types.

For the “Memorial” issue the cancel has First Day of Issue at the bottom of the circle, while the position is reversed in the postmark for the “Ocean” issue.

Additionally, the “Ocean” postmark has Ethiopia in the middle in Amharic, while the other postmark does not, it has an “F1” instead. It is one of the numbers used in several identical FDC postmarks used over the years.



20th Anniversary of the Haile Selassie I Foundation Issue  
By Bernhard Lindahl

The First Day of Issue was April 17, 1974, fifty days after the Imperial government, or at least Aklilou Habte Wold's Cabinet, had fallen in the February revolution.

Less than seventy-five days after the issue, on June 30, 1974, it was announced that the Administrator General of the Haile Selassie I Foundation, Abebe Kebede, had been detained in the very first wave when the next power-holders started to arrest prominent former officials.

Less than five months after the issue of the celebrating postage stamps, Haile Selassie I Foundation was in principle abolished on September 11. That is on Ethiopian calendar New Year's Day 1967 and on the day before that Haile Selassie I was deposed and made prisoner.

From the *Ethiopian Herald*, September 11:

"All social welfare institutions previously run by the Haile Selassie I Foundation, such as hospitals, clinics, orphanages, schools for the blind and homes for the aged, are henceforth government property and will be run by various government agencies.

The Foundation was established in 1952, and according to the Statement of the Armed Forces, its services in publicizing the Emperor by far outweighed the benefits it meant to give to needy persons.

Two years later the Foundation was named after the Emperor, and in 1959 it was granted a charter. Four years later, in 1963, the Foundation ceased operating by a board of directors and came under direct supervision of an administrator by an order of the now abolished Ministry of Pen.

Property of the Foundation is valued at:

- 1. Buildings, except land E\$ 20.3 million
- 2. Farm estates, certain buildings E\$ 11.5 million
- 3. Shares in 32 business establishments E\$ 9.3 million

The Foundation runs five hospitals and three clinics with a total of 1,100 beds --- The Armed Forces noted that the 400-bed St. Paul's Hospital in Addis Ababa was financed 90 percent by a foreign philanthropic organization [West German protestant churches?] on the understanding that it would help the poor in Ethiopia but has given more benefit to members of the royal family and prominent government officials. To this end, certain beds in the hospital had remained closed the year round reserved for distinguished patients while critically ill and needy patients were turned back for lack of accommodations."

The former manager, Abebe Kebede, was not shot in the mass execution on "Bloody Saturday" on November 23, as his case is pending.

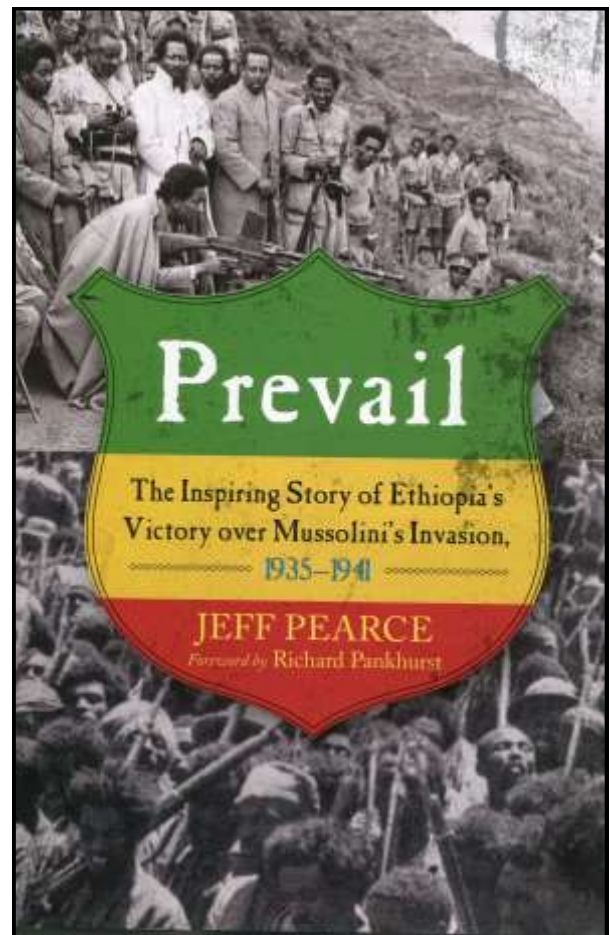
**Editor's Note:** Article written in 1975.



The Haile Selassie I Foundation issue. This was the last time that the Emperor appeared on Ethiopian stamps inside an oval as was common on stamps issued in the 1940s-1970s. The Emperor appeared one more time in the next issue in one stamp in the set depicting traditional Ethiopian ceremonial costumes.

New Book

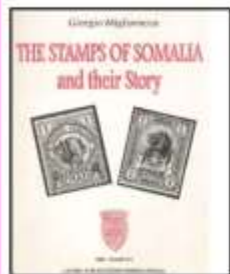
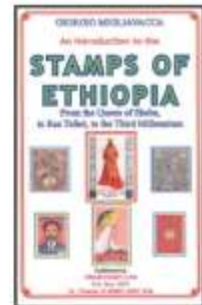
A new book, *Prevail*, by Jeff Pearce, documents the events leading up to the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 and related events in America and Europe that changed the course of history. The book is easy and well worth reading with much new information on the conflict.





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