

Conference Reports

The code of ethics has five chapters and many sub-articles. The first chapter consists of introductory paragraphs, which describe a code of ethics as an essential component of every profession and declare that this would be the guideline from which rules, regulation and values of the profession emanate. The present code of ethics is intended to be an instrument in keeping archaeological and paleontological research in tune with professional and ethical standards as well assist relevant authorities to monitor researches in the field of archaeology. The second chapter discusses the responsibility of archaeologists and paleontologists while conducting research in Ethiopia. The third chapter consists of articles describing research ethics in the profession. The fourth describes ethics regarding the conduct among fellow members of the Association and finally the fifth discusses ethics a professional should have in relation with the local people in whose locality the research is conducted.

A number of comments and feedbacks were forwarded by members of the Association. The majority of suggestions revolved around the improvement of the wordings of different sub-articles so that they can be more meaningful and more inclusive. There was also a comment on the boundary of the mandate of the code of ethics: in chapter IV, sub-article III states that the members of the Association should “avoid defaming of colleagues”. It was remarked that this article goes beyond the bounds of ethical issues into the legal sphere, thus should be modified. Another important question, which was raised focused on the reason why the code of ethics would apply only to professionals who are members of the association, but not to those who are outside, such as especially antiquity officers working both at federal and regional cultural bureaus. It was explained that the reason for the code of ethics applying only to professionals who are members, was that it was the Association’s strategic plan to develop a code of ethics for its members. It would not apply to antiquity officers working in government institutions, as the sole mandate to establish such a code that was that of the *Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage* (ARCCH), since this concerns its employees.

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International workshop “Histoire et Archives de Djibouti et de sa région” (History and Archives of Djibouti and its Region), 26-27 April 2011, Université de Djibouti

An international workshop called “Histoire et Archives de Djibouti et de sa région” took place at the University of Djibouti from 26 to 27 April 2011. Researchers from universities of the region (Ethiopia, Yemen and Djibouti) and of the French Centre of Ethiopian Studies in Addis Ababa (CFEE) were

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discussing three major subjects: The archives of the chemin de fer éthio-djiboutien (CFE), the sources for the history of Djibouti and challenges for a regional historiography.

During the first day the focus of most presented papers was on the history of Djibouti and the region, especially on oral sources whose documentation becomes increasingly urgent. In fact, orality plays an important role for the history of the region, and has the potential to add significant information to what we know from written sources, especially on the history predating the early 20th century, written documents from that period being rare. Its documentation is especially urgent because the witnesses and actors of recent history, who are dispersed over the large region of the Horn of Africa, disappear without leaving written memoirs, and without having told their memories to researchers. This priority has been repeatedly underlined during the whole day in presentations by researchers from the CFEE, especially the ones by Thomas Osmond on the city of Harar, Aramis Houmed Soulé on the history of the Afar of the Horn of Africa, but also the presentation by Nazar al-Hadithi of Sana'a University. In his paper, Aramis Houmed brought the attention towards the difficulties encountered when working on the Afar, a people divided into three states since colonization, and today politically marginalized. Taking his personal experience as an example, he showed that these difficulties are primarily due to the susceptibilities of the leading élites of the nation states of the Horn of Africa towards any project wishing to study the past of these people. Simon Imbert-Vier, in his turn, presented his historical research on boundaries. Representatives of the "Archivistes sans frontières" presented their methodology of work, referring especially to the example of the archives of the Compagnie du chemin de fer (the railway company). Simon Imbert-Vier followed with a presentation on the history of these archives, while Shiferaw Bekele, from the Department of History of Addis Ababa University, added an overview on the history of archives of Ethiopia until present times. Atkilt Assefa, director of the National Archives and Library of Ethiopia (NALE), then discussed the problems of acquiring archival collections. Colette Dubois presented her works on the railway company's educational centre, and especially the collection of interviews she had carried out.

The second day of the workshop was primarily dedicated to the situation of sources on Djiboutian history and scholarly works on the country. Adawa Hassan Ali Ganta spoke about the absence of an archival policy in Djibouti and the lack of knowledge on archival collections which may exist. He also mentioned the problems of conservation and cataloguing. Lukian Prijac of the Université de Bretagne-Sud presented his project of a guide to the sources on the history of Ethiopia and Djibouti in the libraries and archives of France. This project aims at making accessible references to sources which are not published yet and kept for example in municipal as well as departemental archives, and even at the Cour des comptes. Later in the day, Houmed-Gaba Maki presented a method of production of ink and then presented manuscripts

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collected from mosques and now kept by him. Colette Dubois made a plaidoyer in favour of new researches on the economic and social history of Djibouti using the archival collections of, for example, those of the Chamber of Commerce of Djibouti, or of the Banque Indo-Suez, the former Banque d'Indochine. Marian Nur Goni of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris (EHESS) presented her ongoing research for a PhD thesis on collections of photographs concerning Djibouti and the use of digital technology (especially focusing on the possibilities offered by Photoshop and other software).

The second focus of the second day were different aspects of the history of Djibouti and the region. In this sense, Wolbert Smidt of Mekelle University (Ethiopia), who was able to come for one day, discussed the attempt of annexation of Awsa by Egypt in 1875, which he could document in detail through a critical study of the archives of the Ministère français des Affaires étrangères, of the Foreign Office and in the archives of Berne, among others. He showed the ideologisation of this episode by different international political actors of that time. Amina Said Chiré presented research on the construction of Balbala in the outskirts of Djibouti-city in 1966 after the establishment of barrages and mine fields by the French which were supposed to stop immigration especially from neighboring Somalia into the capital of their Territory. Finally, Sadik Safwani of the University of Taiz in Yemen presented his work on private archives of families of Yemenite origin in Djibouti whose exploitation allows new perspectives on the regional politics of the Western powers in the 20th century.

Moderators of these presentations were Éloi Ficquet, director of the CFEE in Addis Ababa, and Jean-François Breton, adjunct director of the Institut français Arthur Rimbaud in Djibouti. Both have put much energy into the organisation of the workshop, together with Adawa Hassan, the director of the Research Centre of the Université de Djibouti. The proceedings of the workshop, the first ones to be produced at the young Université de Djibouti, will be published soon.

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