

## Background Information on the Journal

### *Technical and other standards*

A transliteration standard for the Ge'ez [Gǝ'ǝz] script has been developed, which is easy to use also for those who do not have special signs and rare diacritica in their computers (see the table in the beginning of the Journal). The chosen system is close to the usual, but yet non-standardized writing patterns of Ethiopian or Eritrean names or words in Latin letters. But different from the often inconsistent daily way of writing names in English (often changing the spelling of the same words or names within one text, while in the original writing system it has a fixed orthography), the chosen system remains linguistically exact, and thus corresponds better to the highly evolved orthography of the Ge'ez [Gǝ'ǝz] script. The chosen system closely follows the example already set by Rubenson's eminent collection of original documents, the *Acta Aethiopica*, but avoids special signs not easily available in modern standard fonts. However, we do not aim at an over-standardisation, as each authors belong to their own tradition. For example the style used at the *Institute of Ethiopian Studies* (IES) and by the *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*, preferred especially by philologists, is a well-established system, which may also be followed.

Also in the case of bibliographies and referencing we decided to leave some freedom to the authors, as long as the chosen standard remains exact and consistent. The careful reader will notice that – depending on the discipline of the author – the bibliographies show differences especially in the formats of names. This constitutes, in fact, one of the biggest technical challenges: Some disciplines, especially those close to the natural sciences, have established the rule that first names will be abbreviated, which has the effect that in some cases the name of address of Ethiopian names (i.e., the first name) is erroneously shortened, and the father's name used as reference, which makes the author often un-identifiable. This constitutes quite a challenge for making bibliographies consistent – at the end some differences remain. In any case, we generally demand standardized bibliographies at the end of each article.

Articles can be submitted online, and articles published in previous issues are accessible in the internet. This will assure that articles published in this Journal can be read more widely also by those who do not have access to hardcopies.