

Opening Remark

World history is, by and large, the record of a series action of people to people movements. This has been the experience of Germany and Ethiopia since at least the seventeenth century. The study of human geography, ethnography, history, language and cultures by German scholars has always remained on the table as a strong indicator of their research activities in Ethiopia. If their findings tell us one major fact, it is that humanity is at the centre of everything and that its cultures are quite dynamic.

That the methodology of research applied by the first German researchers in the distant past has not yet faded away is a testament to the solid ground on which they based their work. What Hiob Ludolf accomplished in the seventeenth century remains fresh today, though things have changed with the march of time and with the dynamic evolution of diverse research activities that German scholars from different academic streams have continued to exercise in Ethiopia since then.

The focus for research may have expanded and the number of participants, both male and female, significantly increased but two important things remain. The first is that Ethiopia has always provided research-

ers, including the Germanophone, with a rich terrain for research. The second is that German scholars throughout the ages have always been attracted by Ethiopia's diverse cultural activities. Today relations between these two countries and their peoples continue to create fruitful interaction, the seeds of which were sown by the first German visitors, travelers, expatriates, medical practitioners, missionaries and researchers of various academic backgrounds from the days of Hiob Ludolf. We are proud of such varied relations and friendships, which have reached a high point in our own time and will continue without interruption like flowing water. Conducting research and pushing the frontiers of our ignorance about the details of Germany and Ethiopia's relations and the continuous interactions of their two peoples is highly commendable. Such exercises should continue again and again.

Long live Germany! Long live Ethiopia!

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