

## Opening Remark

Starting from 1997 the archaeologist Steffen Wenig of Humboldt-Universität Berlin and some of his colleagues were pushing forward the idea that on the occasion of the anniversary of the famous German Aksum Expedition (*Deutsche Aksum-Expedition*), led by Enno Littmann in 1906, one should organize an academic conference and an exhibition. The State Museum of Ethnography (*Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde*) of Munich welcomed this idea with enthusiasm and organized the conference already in 2002, together with him.

That conference saw the participation of over one hundred academics from four continents and 80 paper presentations covering the fields of Archaeology, History, Religion and Church, and more specifically Enno Littmann and the expedition, and contributions on the state of the art of Ethiopian Studies, and the coming of four ambassadors on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition. This conference proved to be such a success that a continuation seemed highly desirable.

Thus it was a great achievement that the Second International Enno Littmann Conference could in fact take place in 2006 in Aksum and it is highly welcome that now the papers presented on the conference are published as a book. I congratulate the organizers of the conference and the editors of the book and express my gratitude. This has paved the way that the International Enno Littmann Conference will indeed be continued successfully also in the future.

Walter Raunig  
State Museum of Ethnography, Munich