

### *Second International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*

THE Second International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, under the patronage of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Ethiopia, was held in the University of Manchester from 8 to 11 July 1963. Over seventy participants from Ethiopia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Israel, Italy, Poland, and the U.S.A. attended the conference, which was organized by Professor Edward Ullendorff and Professor C. F. Beckingham of the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie I sent the following message to the delegates:

'May Our greeting reach the learned people at the Conference of Ethiopian Studies at Manchester.

'Ethiopia has from the earliest times given her assistance and goodwill to Ethiopians, who have studied her language, history and culture. And now We are not forgetting this old standing tradition. It is Our hope that your discussions and studies concerning Ethiopia will have good results. We convey to you Our intention to contribute any possible assistance to your endeavours.

'Since an Institute has been opened at Our University it will give Us great pleasure if your next conference is held at Addis Ababa under the auspices of the University. In making this invitation We hope that you already know about the Haile Sellassie I Award which was recently announced.'

The Conference was opened by the Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University in the presence of the Lord Mayor, the Imperial Ethiopian Ambassador, and a number of other distinguished guests. The opening lecture was given by Sir Charles Mathew on 'The Development of Ethiopian Law'.

Papers given at the Conference included the following:

- 'Book- and Manuscript-Collections in Ethiopia', by Mr. Stephen Wright (Addis Ababa University Library).
- 'Arabic, South Arabian, and Gə'əz', by Professor A. F. L. Beeston (Oxford University).
- '*Kalilah wa-Dimnah* and *Barlaam and Josaphat* in the Ethiopic MS. Or. 534 of the British Museum', by His Excellency Dr. Enrico Cerulli (Accademia dei Lincei, Rome).
- 'The Gāda System: A Field Study of Borana Social Structure', by Ato Asmarom Legesse (Addis Ababa University).
- 'La nuova terminologia giuridica etiopica secondo i nuovi codici', by His Excellency Professor M. M. Moreno (Rome).
- 'Amharic, Syriac and Gə'əz', by Professor H. J. Polotsky (Jerusalem University).
- 'Les étapes de la peinture éthiopienne révélées par les manuscrits illustrés et les églises peintes', by l'Abbé J. Leroy.
- 'The Linguistic Principles of the Ethiopian Argots', by Professor W. Leslau (University of California, Los Angeles).
- 'Matériaux pour l'étude de l'ancien amharique', by Professor S. Strelcyn (Warsaw University).
- 'Statistical Research on the Phonetic Structure and Derivative Stems of the Amharic Verb', by Madame J. Mantel-Niećko (Warsaw University).

Short communications on a wide range of topics were also presented by various participants.

On the last afternoon of the Conference (10 July) Honorary Doctorates were conferred by the University on Professor Marcel Cohen, His Excellency Dr. Enrico Cerulli, and Professor H. J. Polotsky. The ceremony was followed by a Reception at Manchester Town Hall.

The Conference passed a resolution accepting with gratitude the invitations by His

Imperial Majesty and the President of the Haile Sellassie University to hold the next Conference at Addis Ababa, probably in the spring of 1966. There was unanimous agreement as to the necessity of preserving in their entirety the published works of the present intellectual and literary revival of the ancient heritage of Ethiopia and the importance of practical steps being taken by the appropriate Ethiopian authorities for that purpose. The Conference also recognized the need for a census or register of all Ethiopian medieval churches together with the manuscripts and works of art they might contain.

The papers and proceedings of the Conference are to be published early in 1964 in a double issue of the *Journal of Semitic Studies*, edited by Professor Beckingham and Professor Ullendorff.

### *International Institute of Differing Civilisations: Study Session in Palermo*

THE International Institute of Differing Civilisations (Incidi) held its 33rd study session in Palermo from 23 to 27 September, under the patronage of Professor Antonio Segni, President of the Italian Republic. The subject chosen for discussion was 'The Constitutions and Administrative Institutions of the New States' and the session was attended by 160 participants from all parts of Europe, Africa, Asia, and the U.S.A. His Excellency Professor G. Ambrosini, President of the Constitutional Court in Rome and President of Incidi, was in the chair. General reports on the political aspects of the subject had been prepared by the Centre of Political Studies of Lovanium University; the juridical aspect by Professor F. Luchaire, Director of the Institut des Études d'Outremer, Paris; the social aspect by Mr. Guy Hunter of the Institute of Race Relations, London; and the economic aspect by Mr. C. N. Vakil of Bombay, former Director of the Unesco Research Centre for Southern Asia. Over thirty regional reports were also circulated. The papers, proceedings and discussions are to be published in a forthcoming issue of *Civilisations*. The theme chosen for the 1965 session is 'The political, social and economic aspects of urban agglomerations in developing countries'.

### *Inter-State Relations in Africa: Seminar at Freiburg im Breisgau*

THE Arbeitsstelle für kulturwissenschaftliche Forschung, Freiburg, and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies of the University of London held a joint seminar on 'Inter-State Relations in Africa' at the Studienhaus, Wiesneck, near Freiburg, from 21 to 26 October 1963.

Among the subjects on which papers were presented to the seminar were:

- 'Pan-Africanism 1957-63' (Dennis Austin, London).
- 'The Part Played by the Independent African States in the Congo Crisis' (Catherine Hoskyns, London).
- 'Contemporary African Groupings: Ideas and Methods of Integrating Independent African States' (Ronald Nagel, Freiburg).
- 'The Relevance of Educational Differences and of Common Efforts for Educational Development to the Problem of Wider Union' (Hans N. Weiler, Freiburg).
- 'Closer Union in East Africa' (Edward A. Brett, London).
- 'Rwanda and Burundi: A Case Study of the Impact of Internal Social and Political Problems on the External Relations of African States' (Theodor Hanf, Freiburg).
- 'The "Union Africaine et Malgache"' (Keith Panter-Brick, London).
- 'France, the European Economic Community and Africa, 1945-1963' (Franz Ansprenger, Berlin).
- 'Pan-Africanism: Some Economic Considerations' (Michael McWilliam, London).

Professors Kenneth E. Robinson (London) and Dieter Oberndörfer (Freiburg) acted as chairmen of the discussion. It is hoped to publish the papers, revised in the light of the discussion in the seminar.