

*“The Horn of Africa and Neighboring Countries”*

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As a graduate student in History I have long realized that I may someday land a job far from civilization as I have hitherto known it, in a land where good libraries are scarce and significant collections in my fields are weak or non-existent. Therefore, over the years I have devoted much of my graduate student stipends and large portions of my research grants to building a personal book and journals collection that—even in the absence of a decently-funded library—will permit my continued engagement with an active research agenda, as well as accommodate and facilitate a broad range of possible teaching assignments, no matter where I end up or what I am assigned to instruct.

In this venture I have heavily patronized Powell’s Books of Chicago, McBlain Books of Connecticut, smaller used book stores all over the world, and discounted book displays at conferences. In recent years Internet searches have proven to be a fabulous source for difficult-to-find monographs.

The jewel of my collection is several hundred volumes focusing on the Horn of Africa and neighboring countries. Written in Amharic, Arabic, English, French, Italian and Swahili, these volumes cover or relate to history, anthropology, law, sociology, political science, religious studies, economics and local humor.

My Horn collection includes near-complete runs of several specialized journals (*Annales d’Éthiopie*, *Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, *Northeast African Studies*, *Journal of Ethiopian Law*); locally-published pamphlets and magazines; specially significant publications like the 1932 *National Geographic Magazine* covering Haile Sellassie’s coronation as emperor; and rare video footage from the 1920s onwards, including the Emperor’s 1963 appearance on NBC’s “Meet the Press” and his 1966 official visit to Jamaica.

Focusing on the books, I have amassed a significant collection of the available secondary and tertiary texts. I have also purchased as many original and reprinted primary source materials as possible. My international and departmental conference proceedings volumes span a thirty-year period. Owing to the nature of my research, I have acquired some excellent specialized texts on the law and legal topics in the Horn. Furthermore, because I work in and with myriad languages, I have collected grammars, phrase books and dictionaries for numerous major and minor Horn languages.

Particularly important for my dissertation and future research is my section of Amharic language primary sources on Emperor Haile Sellassie and modern Ethiopian history. These include first-edition hard-covers (one with the dust jacket) of the Emperor’s two-volume autobiography, and first edition copies of all seven volumes of his collected public speeches. Relevant here is also Mahtämä Sellassé Wäldä Mäsqäl’s *Zekrä Nägär*, a 1000 page compilation, out of print since the 1960s, of crucially important primary sources on Ethiopia’s ruling court from the 1890s to the 1950s.

Since I built this collection for purposes of research and teaching, I have made arrangements that, if something happens to me, my entire history and African Studies library is to be donated to the History Department Library at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, where it may continue to be employed as intended.