



Faculty of Humanities



Ethiopian Islam through its Manuscript Legacy: some examples from the Jimma Region

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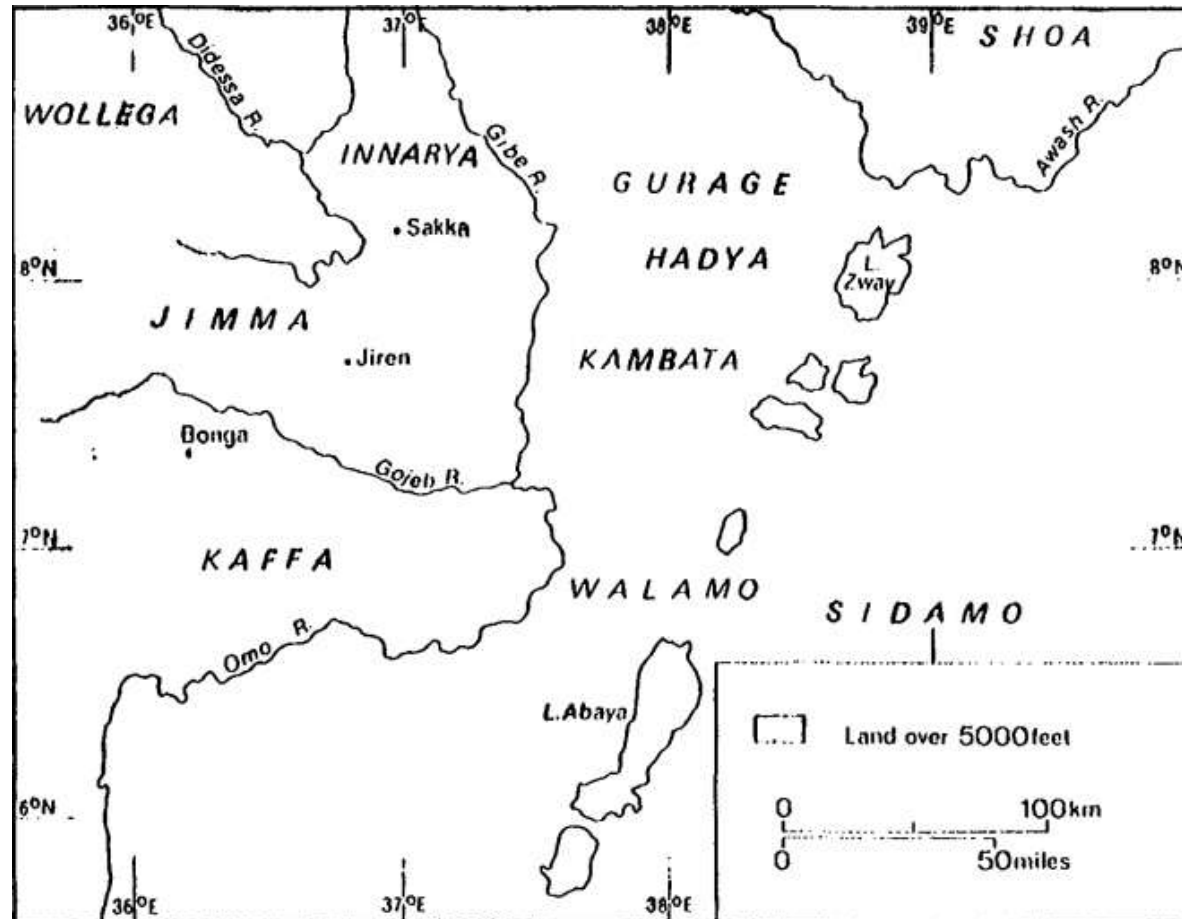
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Ethiopian Islam through its Manuscript Legacy



Oromo Kingdoms. Cambridge History of Africa IV 84.

Ethiopian Islam through its Manuscript Legacy

Sites studied during the mission

Wolkite zone:

Zabi Molla

Seddeqa

Jimma – Agaro zone:

Warukko

Tije

Suuse



King Abba Jifar II
(d. 1932).



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Elements defining collections' keepers attitudes towards manuscripts:

- Care for privacy or secrecy of their texts
- Isolation from other Islamic groups or centers in the region
- Underestimation of the manuscripts as a cultural and material resource

Incipit of of the Dalā'il al-Ḥayrāt, IES 2638, f. 6r.



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Persistent tradition Vs Interrupted tradition

Incipit of of the Dalā'il al-ḥayrāt, IES 2638, f. 6r.



Ethiopian Islam through its Manuscript Legacy

1. Evidence of the presence (or absence) of an active transmission of Islamic knowledge connected with the manuscripts and their owners (both teaching and ritual use)
2. Model of ownership (single-multiple inheritors, custody)
3. Position of the owners in local society
4. Evidence of knowledge of Arabic language
5. Genres of texts found in the collections

Incipit of of the Dalā'il al-Ḥayrāt, IES 2638, f. 6r.





Library of the *ḥaḍra* of Zabi Molla, Wolkite.

Minaret of the
mosque of Zabi
Molla, Wolkite.



Boards for the
study of the Quran
in the library of
Zabi Molla,
Wolkite.



Šayḥ Nāṣir in the
mosque of
Warukko



Interior of the
mosque of
Warukko



Manuscripts and
printed books
outside the
mosque of Tije



The house of the
descendants of
Shekota Tije.



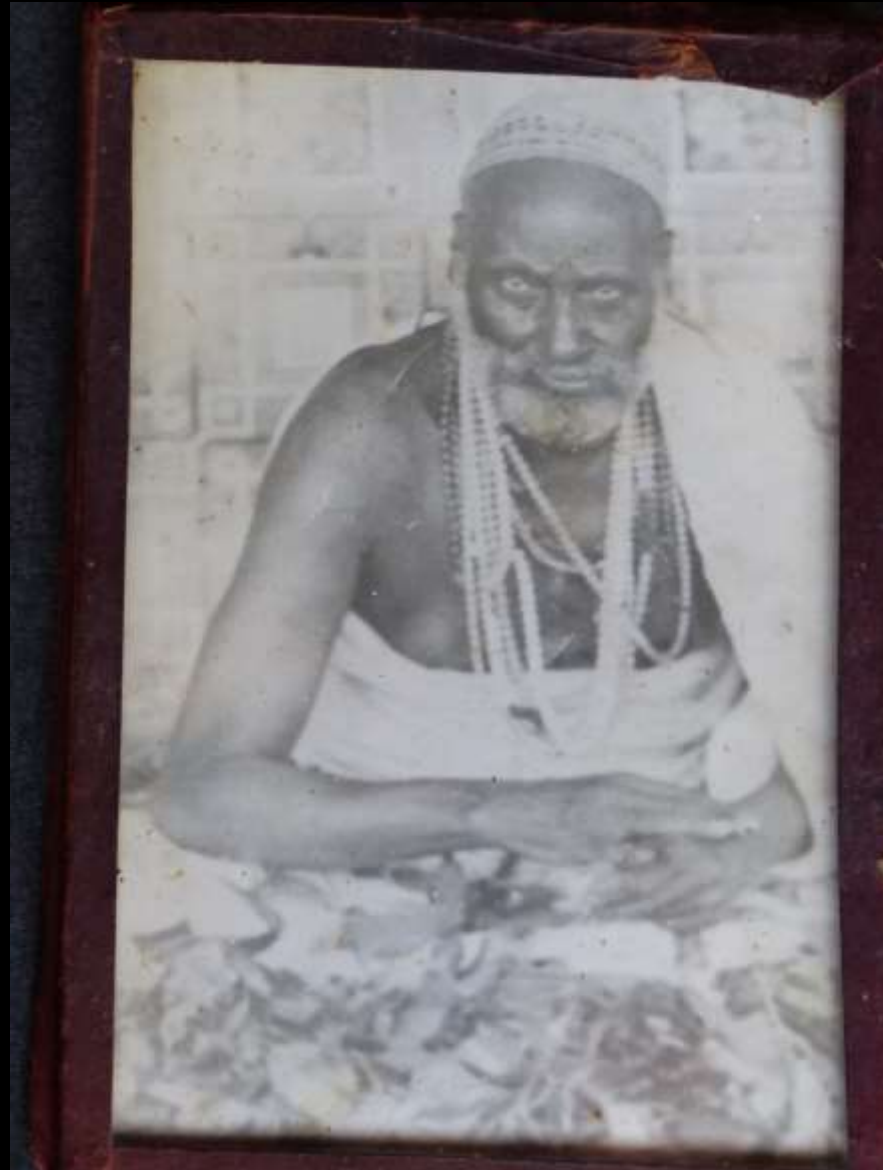
Sted og dato
Dias 14



Kemal Ibrahim
with a bag of
manuscripts in
Seddeqa.



‘Abd al-Fattāḥ
Muṣ‘īd al-Dīn al-
Ṣiddīqī



Farming activity
in Seddeqa.



Bags of
manuscripts
outside the
mosque of
Seddeqa.



Interior of the Great Mosque of Seddeqa.



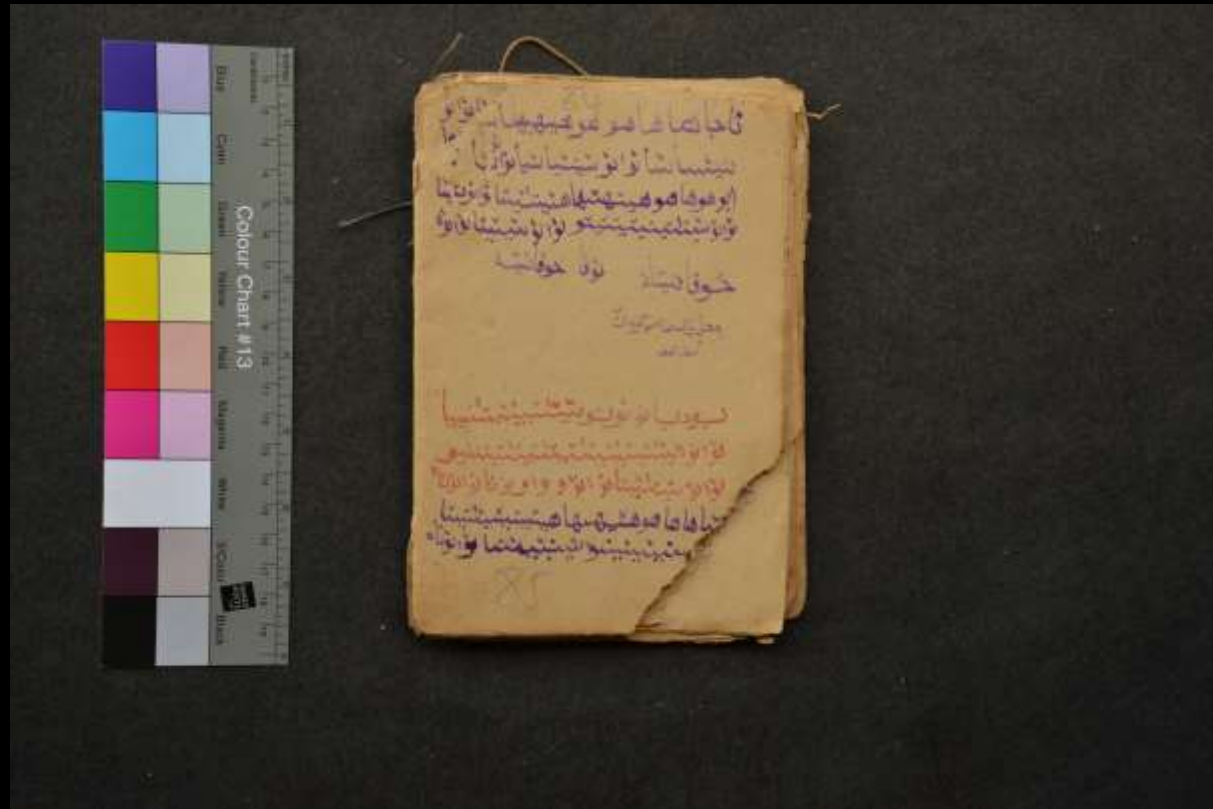
The guardian of Suuse manuscripts with some members of his family.



Quran reciters outside the Great Mosque of Seddeqa.



Text composed by ‘Abd al-Fattāḥ Muṣ‘īd al-Dīn al-Ṣiddīqī, constituted of a series of letters without an evident meaning.



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Genres of the texts found in Jimma area:

- Devotional texts (poems, litanies)
- Basic Arabic grammar
- Basic jurisprudence
- Advanced learners' books in Islamic law
- Local History
- Private correspondence



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Typological classification of the collections:

1. Museum - Library: Zabi Molla - Seddeqa
2. Texts in use: Warukko
3. Inherited books: Tije - Suuse

