

THE HOFFMAN PHILIP ABYSSINIAN ETHNOLOGICAL COLLECTION.

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INTRODUCTION.

The objects comprising this collection were gathered in Abyssinia in the year 1909 by the Honorable Hoffman Philip, minister and consul-general of the United States at Addis Abeba, the capital of Emperor Menelek. Material from Abyssinia is exceedingly rare, and the collection of Mr. Philip, probably the first that has been brought to this country, is interesting on account of the survivals which it exhibits from the ancient culture of northern Africa, the neighboring Asiatic continent, and eastern Europe.

J. Theodore Bent notes that the fly-flaps carried by the priests are of identical shape with those depicted on Egyptian frescoes, and observes:

Everything in Abyssinia connected with religion would seem to have its prototype in the ancient world; the sistrum, the fly-flap, the crutch, and many other things have doubtless been brought originally from the valley of the Nile, and, with the peculiar conservatism of primitive races, have been preserved even to our day.¹

The portion of Abyssinia inhabited by the ruling class, who have inherited the remains of the early civilization, is an elevated plateau terribly gashed by erosive agencies which render it almost inaccessible, and the country, though lying between the great trade routes of the world, the Nile and the Red Sea, has remained isolated. It has also been unaffected by great movements of peoples since the prehistoric wave of Himyarites from Arabia Felix became entangled in the vast recesses of the plateau.

Abyssinia received its first culture from southern Arabia (Arabia Felix, Yemen) when in the prehistoric period the Himyarites crossed the narrow strait of Bab-el Mandeb and secured a permanent location on the plateau. About the third and second centuries B. C. the Ptolemies sent expeditions to survey the Arabian and African sea-

¹J. Theodore Bent, *The Sacred City of the Ethiopians*, London, 1893, p. 65.

boards and to found trading stations on the coast of Ethiopia, and at that period Koloe and Ava, the cities of the Himyarites, were flourishing, later to be succeeded by the great Axumite empire whose city, Axum, shows Himyaritic culture developed under Græco-Roman influences.¹

CATALOGUE.

BASKETRY.

Embroidered hat.—Of palm midrib coiled, the whole surface, interior and exterior, laid over with green, yellow, red, white, and black floss silk. The work is called basket stitch and is one of the most ancient methods of couching. The hat is of European shape, and was made and embroidered by the Abyssinian women in the northern province of Waag.

Diameter, 14 inches; height, 4 inches.

Pl. 12, fig. 1, Cat. No. 261884, U.S.N.M.

Coiled basket.—Formed of small coils of straw held together with a loosely twined splint. The sewing is of purple, green, and yellow dyed straw over one and three coils alternately and interwoven with yellow straw, producing pleasing textile patterns. The interweave is an advance on the coil work of the Hopi Indians of Arizona, whose basketry alone of all the tribes is like that of northern Africa, but simpler in execution than the Abyssinian. The specimen has a lid like an embossed shield, a capacious body resting on a foot. The salient edges are bound in red morocco leather, and the lid has a loop in the apex for convenience in lifting.

This specimen was presented to Mr. Philip by Dedjaz Abatta, a high Abyssinian military official. These baskets are used as receptacles for crushed corn and millet, of which thick moist cakes of Abyssinian bread are made.

Diameter, 20 inches; height, 16 inches.

Pl. 12, fig. 2, Cat. No. 261880, U.S.N.M.

METAL WORK.

Embossed shield.—Of buffalo hide, formed, when damp, into a high boss, the edge raised and turned over with a neat finish. The exterior surface has near the edge a band of geometric pattern in low relief and is decorated with repoussé silver having crescentic and triangular openings, and these plates are applied with round-headed tacks. A cap, engraved on its upper surface, is set at the apex, and bosses hide the places where the handle passes through the structure of the shield. The interior is lined with red morocco leather bearing fine geometric design, and the lining is secured under the overturned edge of the shield. The handle is large, covered with fine leather, and looped

¹ See Keane's review of Ethiopian history in Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel, Africa, vol. 1, London, 1895, pp. 445-446.

over it is a strap secured at the ends with a packet knot. Two leather loops are secured to opposite edges of the shield on a line with the handle. This superb shield is used by the Abyssinian cavalry.

Diameter, $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Pl. 13, Cat. No. 261883, U.S.N.M.

Ecclesiastical crown or miter.—Of silver *percé à jour* and engraved, consisting of a brow band, central band, and apex plate secured to 8 vertical curving strips leaving 8 spaces from each of which project slantingly curved prongs of engraved silver. From the apex rises a tubular structure, from the capping plate of which 10 little bells are suspended by chains. From the lower rim of the miter juts a small oval plate fringed with bells and chains, resembling the vizor of a cap. The designs on the silver are similar to those on the shield and consist of a series of self-involving loops, apparently from some cord or serpent motif.

These crowns, which are of very ancient design, are worn by the high priests on state occasions, and are very rare and difficult to obtain. The specimen described was originally in use in the church of St. George, Addis Abeba, Abyssinia.

Height, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Pl. 14, Cat. No. 261843, U.S.N.M.

The necklaces in the Philip collection illustrate very clearly a phase in the origin of such ornaments from the amulet, nearly all the specimens being made up of a series of charm boxes.

Necklace.—Consisting of small button-like beads of fine silver gilt filigree, 6 in number, strung on a coarse cotton string. Old Tigre or Godjam work.

Diameter of beads, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch.

Pl. 15, fig. 1, Cat. No. 261867, U.S.N.M.

Necklace.—Consisting of 8 silver filigree boxes like Asiatic amulet boxes, strung on a strip of cloth. The filigree work is simple rickrack and occurs on only one side of the boxes, which are provided with two loops for stringing.

Pl. 15, fig. 2, Cat. No. 261868, U.S.N.M.

Necklace.—Consisting of 4 boxes of silver filigree, spaced with 8 cylindrical beads. All of the boxes have fringes of conical tinklers suspended by chains and two of the boxes have sliding drawers. The filigree work is in simple patterns.

Pl. 15, fig. 3. Cat. No. 261871, U.S.N.M.

Necklace.—Consisting of 5 silver filigree boxes of crescentic, rectangular, and conical outline. The design is very good, and the work crude, but effective.

Pl. 15, fig. 4. Cat. No. 261869, U.S.N.M.

Necklace.—Consisting of 25 tubular beads terminating in a filigree charm box having tinklers and a drawer. These necklaces are worn by Abyssinian women and are usually from the northern provinces of Tigre or Godjam, most of the silverwork emanating from Abyssinia. The specimens are old, few being made to-day.

Pl. 16, fig. 1. Cat. No. 261872, U.S.N.M.

Necklace.—Consisting of groups of two or more silver beads alternating with tubular beads strung on fiber cord; the terminal cylinder is encrusted with small pearl-like ornaments.

Pl. 16, fig. 2. Cat. No. 261870, U.S.N.M.

Cross.—Of cast bronze, finished with a file. The form is that of the Greek cross, the triangular wings terminating in arrow-shaped projections. The surface is decorated with punch marks outlining the edges. This specimen, like the others, has a square, perforated base, from which projects an arrow-shaped spur. The specimen appears to be very old.

Length, 6 inches; width, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Pl. 17, fig. 1. Cat. No. 261858, U.S.N.M.

Cross.—Bronze, base perforated for suspension, stem rounded, cross plain Greek form, the faces ornamented with circles inclosing dots.

Length, 7 inches; width, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Pl. 17, fig. 2. Cat. No. 261857, U.S.N.M.

Cross.—Of pewter, cast; and finished by scraping. The form is a floreated Greek cross with the tree rising from a flat rectangular base terminating below with a cross. The surface decorations are circles and dots and bands of herring-bone pattern.

Length, $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Pl. 17, fig. 3. Cat. No. 261860, U.S.N.M.

Cross.—Cast brass finished with the file and by scraping. The design, which appears to be the intertwined serpent motive, is based on the Greek cross, forming an elaborate and pleasing ornament. The work is pierced and engraved. The stem is terminated with a square frame, from the lower side of which extends an arrowhead.

Length, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; width, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

Pl. 17, fig. 4. Cat. No. 261859, U.S.N.M.

Woman's bracelets.—Consisting of a band upon which is applied a strip of silver filigree in simple pattern. These bracelets open with hinge and pin, as in No. 261849, but are of older workmanship.

Diameter, 2 inches; width, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Pl. 18, fig. 1. Cat. No. 261848, U.S.N.M.

Woman's bracelets.—A curved band of massive silver hinged and secured by pin and loops. The exterior is heavily worked with a chisel and punch in simple patterns. These are old specimens and display crude workmanship.

Diameter, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; width, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Pl. 18, fig. 2. Cat. No. 261850, U.S.N.M.

Woman's bracelets.—Silver filigree, one section opening on hinges to admit the wrist. The bracelets are good specimens of modern filigree work.

Diameter, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; width, 1 inch.

Pl. 18, fig. 3. Cat. No. 261849, U.S.N.M.

Scabbard mounting.—Curved terminal metal sheath of a sword scabbard. The design is a combination of stamping with a punch and work with an engraving tool. The field is divided up into panels by bands of textile motive; most of the panels bear the St. Andrews cross while two have a lion and Greek cross. The Abyssinian sword was scimitar shape, the scabbard of leather covered with velvet, the grip of rhinoceros horn. North Abyssinia.

Length, 12 inches.

Pl. 19, fig. 1. Cat. No. 261882, U.S.N.M.

Scabbard mounting.—Consisting of the tip of a sword scabbard in silver gilt filigree. Made by forming the metal base for the two sides, piercing it with the design, soldering the two parts together and covering the line with twisted wire. The designs are outlined with wire soldered on, the ends terminating in small bosses simulating pearls, which are masses of silver, like small shot, soldered on. The work is crude, but strong. The designs, which are very pleasing, are unlike on the two sides.

Length, 14 inches.

Pl. 19, fig. 2. Cat. No. 261881, U.S.N.M.

Case for tweezers.—Of hammered silver ornamented with chasing and decorated with small bangles which produce an agreeable tinkling sound. In form the specimen is like that of an amphora. The tweezers are used for picking out thorns and when not in use are thrust into the opening at the neck of the case. It is suspended by two silver chains. The case is said to be of very old Abyssinian silverwork.

Length, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; diameter, 1 inch.

Pl. 19, fig. 3. Cat. No. 261879, U.S.N.M.

Ornamental bands.—Of silver gilt filigree. These resemble the bands on sword scabbards and the work is like that of No. 261881. They are said to be ornaments for a priest's staff or crutch.

Length, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Pl. 19, fig. 4. Cat. No. 261856, U.S.N.M.

Food strainer.—Of beaten silver worked into saucer form and perforated by punching. The specimen is said to have been the property of the former King of Godjam and is of northern Abyssinian manufacture.

Diameter, $4\frac{1}{16}$ inches; height, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Pl. 20, fig. 1. Cat. No. 261866, U.S.N.M.

Bell.—Of silver, cast and highly polished. The bell is of excellent shape and tone and is reputed to have belonged to the former King of Godjam. The handle is of red morocco leather.

Diameter, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height, 2 inches.

Pl. 20, fig. 2. Cat. No. 261865, U.S.N.M.

UTENSILS OF WOOD AND HORN.

Drinking cup.—Turned from a single piece of rhinoceros horn. In this respect it differs from ordinary specimens, which have inserted bottoms. Such cups are usually presented to subjects who have met with his favor by the Emperor of Abyssinia.

Diameter, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; height, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Pl. 20, fig. 3. Cat. No. 261844, U.S.N.M.

Wooden cup.—Turned from hard yellow wood, polished; decorated with turning grooves which have been colored red and black and bands between the grooves relieved by small depressions. The foot has three perforations corresponding to similar perforations in the cover, designed for passage of the cords securing the parts together as well as forming a handle for carrying. Mr. Philip states that:

It is used for preserving the national Abyssinian hairdressing and perfume, which is oil derived from rancid butter.

Diameter, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height, 5 inches.

Pl. 20, fig. 4. Cat. No. 261873, U.S.N.M.

PICTORIAL ART.

Triptych.—Folding triptych of wood covered with paper, the leaves closing into the frame on leather hinges like a Byzantine eikon. The central larger picture represents the Virgin and Child seated on a terraced throne, guarded at the upper right and left corners by the archangels Gabriel and Michael with drawn swords. On the upper left hand leaf is represented St. George mounted on a white horse slaying a dragon. On the opposite side stands Tekla Haimanout, patron saint of Abyssinia, a one-legged, winged man of patriarchal aspect. The lower figures represent groups, apparently of suppliants. The colorings are most vivid and crude, the backgrounds of yellow and the figures in purple, yellow, red, and green. The style of art is Byzantine.

Length, $20\frac{1}{4}$ inches; width, 15 inches.

Pl. 21. Cat. No. 261847, U.S.N.M.

Religious painting.—Executed in thick guache on coarse muslin. The colors are primitive red, blue, green, and yellow, the drawing and treatment archaic, suggesting Egyptian and Byzantine influences.

The subject is the coronation of Mary; to the right the Father grasping the world, to the left the Son carrying the cross, each

grasping and placing the crown, above which the Spirit in form of a dove rests, and back of which is represented the sun's rays. Below, two figures holding rosaries prostrate themselves and at the sides are Abyssinian worshippers, whose faces might have been drawn on an ancient Egyptian papyrus or mummy case.

The representation of the Father as an old man and the Son as a young man has the same naive element as is shown in Velasquez's painting of the same subject in the Madrid gallery.

The painting is singularly rich in color and decorative quality. The modeling is in sanguine, the outlines in very dark, rather heavy lines, the treatment of the neck and hands is formal like Assyrian, the result of ignorance of anatomy. The halo is circular and is molded like a picture frame and it appears to be solid, as it obscures one arm of the cross. The textiles are decorated with sporadic patterns; the lining of the Virgin's robe and the borders are in set patterns in squares which cover the surface. The worshippers are clad in lined fabrics like the Mandingan cloths. The crown is turban shape set with red and blue stones and terminated with a floreated Greek cross.

Length, 49 inches; width, 42 inches.

Pl. 22. Cat. No. 261846, U.S.N.M.

Painted scroll.—Representing on the right the Biblical story of the rich man and Lazarus, and on the left the stages in the life of a holy man. The groundwork represents a cross and in the circular field at the top of the cross are the three evangelists depicted in the cabalistic design called "The Seal of Solomon" within a circle. The painting is in crude colors and the execution is somewhat better than usual.

Length, 20 inches; width, 15 inches.

Pl. 23. Cat. No. 261886, U.S.N.M.

Painting.—In guache on thick paper, crudely drawn and painted in strong blues and reds on a chrome yellow ground. The subject is Menelek and his queen receiving the benediction and protection of heavenly beings, two of whom hold red umbrellas over the heads of the royal pair. In the upper left hand corner is St. George on a white horse.

Length, 22 inches; width, 21 inches.

Pl. 24. Cat. No. 261885, U.S.N.M.

Scroll painting.—The medium employed is oil upon muslin sized with lime. The background, as is usual with Abyssinian paintings, is in brilliant yellow. The picture is arranged in three horizontal bands and represents the Abyssinian and Italian troops at the battle of Adowa (1896). On the upper left hand side are represented Menelek on a white palfrey surrounded by his bodyguard. Below him are Queen Taitu, the priests and Abyssinian troops, and opposite them the Italian army. The Abyssinians are represented full face and the Italians are drawn in profile. The painting, though crude,

shows considerable skill in representing action and forms an interesting study of the costumes of the Abyssinian dignitaries and the army.

Length, 57 inches; width, 35 inches.

Pl. 25. Cat. No. 261845, U.S.N.M.

Picture on brass.—Somewhat irregular sheet of brass upon which is a representation of Tekla Haimanout, a saint who wears a curious headdress with crossed wings, has wings on his shoulders and but one leg. The outlines have been cut with a chisel and the figures thrown into the slight relief by hammering.

Length, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width, 4 inches.

Pl. 26, fig. 1. Cat. No. 261861, U.S.N.M.

Picture on brass.—Representing a saint with a long beard and guarded by two lions. Upon his shoulder is a large bird like a raven, which appears to be pecking out his eye. The background is filled in with small crosses. The work has been done with a chisel-edge punch.

Length, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Pl. 26, fig. 2. Cat. No. 261862, U.S.N.M.

Picture on brass.—Representation of the Virgin and Child with the celestial guardians Michael and Gabriel. The work is extremely crude and has been accomplished with a chisel and figured punch. These brass plates bring to mind the Russian eikons. The work is said to be ancient.

Length, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; width, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Pl. 26, fig. 3. Cat. No. 261863, U.S.N.M.

WRITING.

Theological treatise on parchment in Amharic script.—The writing is in black and red ink and well executed. The inside of the cover and fly leaves are painted, the pictures being of the Virgin and Child, St. George and the Dragon and other saints. The backs are of wood covered with cotton cloth, to which is attached a band for withdrawing the book from the double leather case in which it is carried by priests and others.

Keane says that the liturgical language of the Abyssinian church is Gheez, a pure Himyaritic idiom, the most archaic member of the Semitic family, not excepting the Assyrian of the cuneiform writings. It is the vernacular of the kingdom of Tigre, but it also enters largely into the constitution of the Amharic (Amharna) current in the rest of Abyssinia proper, at least among the governing classes.¹

Case: Length, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width, 4 inches.

Page of book: Length $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width, 3 inches.

Pl. 27. Cat. No. 261864, U.S.N.M.

¹ Stanford's Compendium, Africa, vol. 1, p. 448, 1895.

COSTUME.

Mantle.—Of tanned goatskin, slashed on the sleeve and skirt and ornamented on the outside with leather appliqué. It is made of a single skin folded on itself, the sleeve-like appendage and a portion of the fringe being sewn to the upper and lower edges respectively. Suspended from one edge of the mantle is a small bamboo bottle, apparently for holding oil. This garment is worn by the Arusi Galla people living in the mountain districts of Abyssinia.

Length, $41\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Pl. 28, fig. 1. Cat. No. 261877, U.S.N.M.

Lion's mane headdress.—Strip of skin from lion's mane bound in red and green silk and edged with a band of copper gilt chain such as is used on European helmets and military headdress. The ends of the silk binding hang down at the rear of the headband. This headdress is worn by high officers of the Abyssinian army.

Length, 18 inches.

Pl. 28, fig. 2. Cat. No. 261875, U.S.N.M.

ORNAMENTS.

Necklet.—Consisting of a rod of brass looped at the ends and covered with a fine winding of brass wire, which has worn smooth. Southwestern Abyssinia.

Diameter, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Pl. 29, fig. 1. Cat. No. 261852, U.S.N.M.

Armlets.—Sections cut from elephant tusk polished and beautifully stained by long use. These armlets were worn by south Abyssinian elephant hunters.

Diameter, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches to $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

Pl. 29, figs. 2, 3, and 5. Cat. No. 261874, U.S.N.M.

Anklet.—Of hammered brass beaten into a concave and strengthened with a middle rib, which is a feature of so much African metal work. The exterior is decorated with chiseled designs of simple pattern, but very effective. Worn by the Shangalla (Shankilla) negroes of the western slopes of the Abyssinian plateau.

Diameter, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; width, 1 inch.

Pl. 29, fig. 4. Cat. No. 261851, U.S.N.M.

Earring.—Consisting of a circlet of ivory to which is attached by perforation in the ivory a locking circlet of brass rod wound with brass wire. Worn by the elephant-hunters of the southwestern Abyssinian province. Since this object weighs 8 ounces, it no doubt stretches the lobe of the ear greatly.

Diameter of ivory, $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

Pl. 29, fig. 6. Cat. No. 261853, U.S.N.M.

RELIGION.

Mask.—Formed of clay mixed with fiber. The front represents a human face of not unpleasing appearance and having both lip and chin whiskers of black goat hair. The back of the mask bears in relief a strange animal figure (lizard?) whose body forms a handle by which the mask is suspended from a leather strap. This mask, as stated by the collector, was said to have been worshiped by the Gallas of Abyssinia. "The Gallas are not of a Semitic origin, as are the Abyssinians proper, nor are they Christians. They worship trees in many parts of the country and they also reverence various objects to which they make sacrifices. The specimen was the only one seen in Abyssinia, and its proper use and authenticity can not be vouched for."—(Information given by Mr. Philip.)

Length, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width, 5 inches.

Pl. 30, fig. 1. Cat. No. 261887, U.S.N.M.

UTENSILS.

Spoon.—Cut from cow's horn; the bowl slightly shallow and spatulate. The end of the handle is ornamented with roundels. "Eating utensils of any kind, with the exception of the knife, are very rare among all inhabitants of Abyssinia and are practically unknown to the great mass of the population. Raw meat is the most favored article of food among the Abyssinians." The specimen is from the Gallas.—(Information given by Mr. Philip.)

Length, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Pl. 30, fig. 2. Cat. No. 261854, U.S.N.M.

Headrest.—Carved from a single piece of yellow wood. The decoration consists of scores cut into the surface, forming simple pattern. Previous to cutting the pattern the wood was blackened. On top and bottom the pillow is painted dark brown. Used by south Abyssinian natives.

Width, 7 inches; height, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Pl. 30, fig. 3. Cat. No. 261855, U.S.N.M.

ZOOTECHNY.

Lasso.—Of giraffe hide thong 1 inch wide, the throwing end consisting of two back and forward turns of the leather lashed just above the running loop. The inner member of these thongs slides like a slip noose through a slit cut in the end of the leather thong. The lasso appears to be for the capture of large and dangerous animals and is ingeniously designed to allow the quarry when caught by the foot or neck to pull and tear at the extra bands, each motion drawing the sliding noose tighter. Used by the Boranna, Abyssinian Gallo-Hamites, who inhabit the Boranna province adjoining British Somaliland (southeast Abyssinia).

Length, 22 feet.

Pl. 31. Cat. No. 261878, U.S.N.M.

Horse bell.—Worked from a strip or bar of iron, the method pursued being to beat out the metal into broad wings, leaving only a short portion of the bar at the middle in its original size. The two wings are then bent together until nearly in contact and curved over, forming a conical shell. Around the loop of the bell passes a heavily braided neck yoke of leather ornamented with spirals of iron wire wound around divided portions of the braiding. The clapper is a rod of iron fastened by a ring to the leather yoke. The bell is remarkably loud and sonorous. “It is made and used by Shangalla Abyssinians, and is important to some tribesmen in case of war and as an ordinary cattle bell to keep off wild animals.”—(Information given by Mr. Philip.) This form of bell is widespread in Africa.

“Shangalla (Shankilla) are negroes who live along all the western slopes of the Abyssinian plateau above the plains of Senaar.”¹

Diameter, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height, 5 inches.

Pl. 32. Cat. No. 261876, U.S.N.M.

COINAGE.

The coinage of Abyssinia is based on the Austrian thaler of Maria Theresa, a large number of which, bearing the date of 1780, having been sent out as trade money and passing current in Abyssinia, became the model for the issues of Menelek.

The coins collected by Mr. Philip consist of:

One Maria Theresa thaler, 1780; diameter, 40.5 mm. (Fig. 6.)

One Menelek thaler, silver. (Fig. 3.)

Obverse: Portrait head of Menelek, crowned. Inscription, “Menelek II, King of Ethiopia.”

Reverse: Crowned lion carrying cross standard with pennants. Inscription: “The Lion of Judah Conquered.” (Apocalypse. 5.) On the edge is an inscription of which the word “Habesh,” meaning Abyssinia or Ethiopia can be made out. Date, 1875. Diameter, 39.5 mm. The coin is 1 mm. less in diameter than the Maria Theresa thaler, but, being slightly thicker, weighs the same. The series appears to have been coined in England.

One-half Menelek thaler, silver. This coin is uniform with the thaler in design and inscription. Date, 1889. Diameter, 30.5 mm. Milled edge. (Fig. 1.)

One-fourth Menelek thaler, silver. Date, 1889. Diameter, 2.55 mm. Milled edge. (Fig. 4.)

One-twentieth Menelek thaler. Date, 1871. Diameter, 16.0 mm. Milled edge. (Fig. 5.)

One one-hundredth Menelek thaler, brass.

Obverse: Portrait head of Menelek with same inscription as on the thaler. Beneath the head, in very small letters, is “Lagrange.”

¹ Keane, *Stanford's Compendium, Africa*, Vol. 1, p. 484, 1895.

Reverse: Around border is the same inscription as on the thaler. On central disk, "Yaber Matowan," below which are mint marks consisting of a rose (?), the letter "A," and a torch. Date, 1889. Diameter, 25.0 mm. (Fig. 2.)

The inscriptions were translated by Dr. I. M. Casanowicz, of the U. S. National Museum.

Mr. Philip also collected a ring of Abyssinian gold (diameter, 25.0 mm., pl. 32, fig. 7) such as were used in Abyssinia and on the east coast of Africa and which are said to have been a form of money of the Fourth Egyptian Dynasty, but to the best of my knowledge no specimens have been found by investigators in the remains of the culture of ancient Egypt.

(Pls. 33, 34, Cat. No. 261889, U.S.N.M.)



Hough, Walter. 1911. "The Hoffman Philip Abyssinian ethnological collection." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 40(1819), 265–276.
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