

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND PHILOLOGY**

**MANUSCRIPTS OF OROMO HISTORY RECOUNTED BY ŠAYḤ ABŪ-BAKER
‘OṬMĀN: TEXT EDITION, ANALYSIS AND ANNOTATED TRANSLATION**

**BY
NURADDIN AMAN**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Addis Ababa University in
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Doctor of Philosophy in Philology**

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ABSTRACT

Ethiopia has a rich corpus of different ancient manuscripts produced by foreign and native scholars of the country. Some of these important heritages of the country have not properly explored. Taking into consideration the discovery of the indigenous manuscript, this research presents two historical manuscripts i.e. *Kitāb Irsāl Aṣ-Ṣawārīḥ Ilā Samā' At-Tawārīḥ fi kašfi' an Tārīḥ Oromo*, “A book of sending the missiles to the sky of the exalted history in revealing the history of the Oromo”, and *Bayān Silsilat Nasab Al-Gāllā*, “Explaining the [Oromo] genealogy” produced by an Oromo Muslim intellectual from Hararghe named Šayḥ Abū-baker ‘Oṭmān or also known as Šayḥ Bakri Saphalo. Accordingly, the study first of all attempts to make a text edition, analysis and annotated translation of the manuscripts of the Oromo history authored by this Šayḥ. Secondly, the study deals in describing the literary production, codicology, text and contexts of the Oromo history manuscripts composed by Šayḥ Abūbaker from the philological viewpoint. Thirdly, by employing a textual analysis procedure this study attempts in identifying, enumerating and analyzing the episodes of particular messages and message characteristics that embedded in the texts from different perspectives. Additionally, the study explores the biographical and intellectual legacy of the author of the manuscripts under the study. To do so, the text is translated from the original Arabic language into English. Besides, to provide invaluable data both primary and secondary data are employed with deep analysis from various aspects. Finally, as a work of philology, a descriptive method was employed and the whole text was reproduced and described.

TRANSLITERATION

The following are ‘Arabic consonants with their equivalent transliterations

Alphabetical Orders	‘Arabic consonant Sound representation	Equivalent transliterations	Alphabetical Orders	‘Arabic consonant sound representation	Equivalent transliterations
1	ا	’	15	ض	Ḍ
2	ب	B	16	ط	Ṭ
3	ت	T	17	ظ	Ẓ
4	ث	Ṭ	18	ع	‘
5	ج	Ġ	19	غ	Ġ
6	ح	H	20	ف	F
7	خ	H	21	ق	Q
8	د	D	22	ك	K
9	ذ	Ḍ	23	ل	L
10	ر	R	24	م	M
11	ز	Z	25	ن	N
12	س	S	26	و	W
13	ش	Ṣ	27	ه	H
14	ص	Ṣ	28	ى	Y

The following are also ‘Arabic vowels (both short and long) with their equivalent transliterations

‘Arabic short vowel sound representation	Equivalent transliterations	‘Arabic long vowel sound representation	Equivalent transliterations
_____	a	_____ or ا	ā
_____	i	_____ or ي	ī
_____	u	_____ or و	ū

Latin *Qubē* based short and long vowel representation with their equivalent IPA transliterations

Afān Oromo short vowel	Equivalent IPA transliterations	Afān Oromo long vowel	Equivalent IPA transliterations
a	a	aa	ā
e	e	ee	ē
i	i	ii	ī
o	o	oo	ō
u	u	uu	ū

Latin *Qubē* based consonant representation with their equivalent IPA transliterations

Alphabetical orders	Afān Oromo consonant representation	equivalent IPA transliterations	Alphabetical orders	Afān Oromo consonant representation	Equivalent IPA transliterations
1	B	B	14	NY	ñ
2	C	č'	15	P	p
3	CH	Č	16	PH	P'
4	D	D	17	Q	k'
5	DH	d'	18	R	r
6	F	F	19	S	s
7	G	G	20	SH	š
8	H	H	21	T	t
9	J	J	22	V	v
10	K	K	23	W	w
11	L	L	24	X	ɬ
12	M	M	25	Y	y
13	N	N	26	Z	z

Afān Oromo Loan Sounds/'*Ajamī* Sounds

' <i>Ajamī</i> sounds	Equivalent IPA transliterations
چ	č'
چ	Č
د	d'
گ	G
گ	Ĝ
ن	Ñ
پ	P'

Glossary

‘Aḡemi: is literature typically written in Arabic script using local languages

‘Ālim(sl.)‘Ulemā (pl. Arabic word): traditional Muslim scholar

Abbā Dūlā: the minister of defense in Oromo tradition

Abbā Gadā: father of the Gadā in power

Abbā Mūda: the spiritual head of traditional Oromo religion (the anointing father)

Amīr (Arabic word): a traditional title applied for a Muslim leader

Ānā or Warra: extended families

Atetē: the goddess of fertility

Awāma (literally ordinary people): a term applied for traditional believers

Awliya (Arabic word): saint

Balāḡah (Arabic word): the art of rhetoric

Balbala (door): consists of minor lineage

Barakah: blessing

Birānna: parchment

Bokkū: wooden sceptre kept by the Abbā Gadā in power

Colophon: an inscription written at the end of a manuscript (or a section of treaties), in which the copyist records the date on which he completed the copy, his name and where he was working and other usual facts about its production.

Damina: chief of a clan

Darasa: student

Dibeta: ink

Fiqh (Arabic word): Islamic jurisprudence

Folio (literally a leaf of paper): the front of the folio is referred to as the recto and the back as the verso.

Gadā: age-based indigenous Oromo political leadership system

Galma: the sacred house of Abbā Mūda

Garād: a chief of a village

Gosa: the largest kinship units

Guddifachā: the Oromo traditional adoption practice applied for a single individual

Hadra: a complex where people are gathered to pray day and night

Halqa (Arabic word): traditional teaching-learning centre of Islam

Ijāzā (Arabic word): certificate

Ilma barč'uma: applied for an adopted clan or individual

Irbū: oath

Jogol: wall/fence

K'ādi: Sharia court judge

Karama: the miraculous gifts and grace

Khalwa (seclusion): designates the place in which the aspirant to inner purify withdraws with himself to devote to the worship of his lord

Luba: Gadā grades

Madrasah: school

Mana: (house) having lineage and minor lineage

Manāqib (Arabic word): the book of virtues and characters of saints

Manṭiq (Arabic word): Islamic philosophy

Manzūma: Islamic panegyrics

Marginalia (apostils): are marks made in the margins of a manuscript and it may be scribbles, comments and annotations.

Mawlid (literally birth): a celebration of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad

Moggāsa: the Oromo traditional adoption practice applied for a given clan or group

Mūda: pilgrimage

Muṣḥaf: the codex

Naḥw (Arabic word): Arabic grammar and syntax

Qubē: employed for Afān Oromo script originally adapted from Latin orthography

Sēra/Hēra: rule of law

Serf (Arabic word): morphology

Shalda (literally sharp knife): a powerful poem of Šayḥ Bakri composed by his indigenous Oromo orthography

Sharia: Islamic law

Tafsīr (Arabic word): commentary of the Qur'ān

Tawḥīd (Arabic word): Islamic theology

Wadāja: individual or group prayer

Qubē Walābū: an indigenous Oromo orthography devised in the early 1960s by Šayḥ Kemal Adem of Bale.

Wāqeffannā: Oromo traditional religion

Warra Qāllū: Oromo priests

Warra: (families) consist of minimal lineage, extended or joint family and nuclear family

Zakat (Arabic word): alms