A digital facsimile of Walters Ms. W.784, Ethiopian prayer book

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Shelf mark | Walters Art Museum Ms. W.784  
---|---
Descriptive Title | Ethiopian prayer book  
Text title | Theology of the Trinity (Zena Nāgāromu)  
Vernacular: | ትና፡ ራይጎም፡  
Author | As-written name: Täklä Maryam  
Abstract | This twentieth-century Ethiopian prayerbook is dedicated to the Holy Trinity and its miracles, and contains readings for each day of the week. The text might have been composed by Täklä Maryam, whose name appears on fol. 13r. The author felt that the Trinity was not worshipped and celebrated as it should be, not even as much as the martyrs, the angels, and the desert fathers. The manuscript itself was owned by Gābrä Mika’el (fols. 21v, 52v, and passim). It still retains its double leather satchel, complete with the remains of a carrying strap, which suggests that it may have been taken on pilgrimages. Small bits of colored thread have been attached to the corners of the first folios of the readings, an unusual solution to helping the reader navigate the text. Written in Gǝ’ǝz, Ethiopia's liturgical language, the manuscript appears to have been originally undecorated, with knot work added to the upper margins of the first two readings at a later date.  
Date | Mid 20th century CE  
Origin | Ethiopia  
Form | Book  
Genre | Devotional  
Language | The primary language in this manuscript is Geez.  
Support material | Parchment  
Extent | Foliation: iv+80  
The last two folios of the manuscript are blank, and have not been foliated, but are integral to the structure of the manuscript; two sets of pencil foliation: one that includes the blank pages, in parenthesis in upper right corners; one that
begins foliation on first page of text, below other foliation (used here)

**Collation**

Formula: iv, 1(10), 2(10), 3(10), 4(10), 5(10), 6(10), 7(10), 8(10)

Comments: Quires begin on fols. 1(1), 11(2), 21(3), 31(4), 41(5), 51(6), 61(7), and 71(8)

**Dimensions**

9.9 cm wide by 13.1 cm high

**Written surface**

7.0 cm wide by 8.8 cm high

**Layout**

Columns: 1

Ruled lines: 13-15

**Contents**

*fols. 1r - 78r:*

*Title:* Theology of the Trinity (Zëna Nägëromu)

*Text note:* Text is the Story of the Trinity, a devotional work divided into the introduction, seven parts for the seven days of the week, and a concluding prayer; in some manuscripts it is called the Sword of the Trinity, እይፋሊፋ (Sayfa Sollase).

*Decoration note:* Undecorated except for possibly added headpiece with interlace design, fol. 1r, and knot with wings in upper margin, fol. 6r; headings in red ink; text in black

*fols. 1r - 5v:*

*Title:* Introduction

*Incipit:* እንገሮም፡ ምእ ይ ጭካ፡ ከና፡ ፋስር፡ ዜና፡ ከገሮም፤ ይ ጭካ፡ ይ ምእ ያፋው፡ ያፋው፡ ከና፡ ከገሮም፡ ከና፡ ከገሮም፡ ከና፡ ከገሮም፡ ከና፡ ከገሮም፡

*Decoration note:* Added headpiece, fol. 1r

*fols. 6r - 14v:*

*Title:* Reading for Monday (zä-Śänuy)

*Incipit:* እንገሮም፡ ምእ ይ ጭካ፡ ከና፡ ከገሮም፡ ከና፡ ከገሮም፡ ያፋው፡ ያፋው፡ ከና፡ ከገሮም፡ ያፋው፡ ያፋው፡ ከና፡ ከገሮም፡ ያፋው፡ ያፋው፡ ከና፡ ከገሮም፡
Contents: Included in the reading for Monday: fols. 8r-9v: A salutation (sālam) hymn to the Trinity; fols. 13r-14v: A miracle of the Trinity: the heavenly reward a person who brings an offering in the name of the Trinity would be rewarded;

Text note: Ten lines from the beginning of the reading for Monday were edited and translated by Débora Lifchitz (bibliography)

Decoration note: Added winged knot, fol. 6r

fols. 15r - 24v:

Title: Reading for Tuesday (zä-Śalus)
Incipit: 1. : ከስመ፡ አብ፡ . . . ከአትብ፡ ባየትም፡ ያለበት፡ ከስልስ፡ ባቅዱስ፡ ከአትብ፡ ጋዜአፋ፡ ያለመለኮተ፡ ያስሉስ፡ ባቅዱስ፡ ከአትብ፡ ተማኅፀን፡ ባቀበት፡ ያለበት፡ ከስልስ፡ ባቅዱስ፡ ከአትብ፡ ጋዜአፋ፡ ያለመለኮተ፡ ያስሉስ፡ ባቅዱስ፡ ከአትብ፡ ጋዜአፋ፡ ያለመለኮተ፡ ያስሉስ፡ ባቅዱስ፡ ከአትብ፡ ጋዜአፋ፡ ያለመለኮተ፡ ያስሉስ፡ ባቅዱስ፡ ከአትብ፡ ጋዜአፋ፡ ያለመለኮተ፡ ያስሉስ፡ ባቅዱስ፡ ከአትብ፡ ጋዜአፋ፡ ያለመለኮተ፡ ያስሉስ፡ ባቅዱስ፡ ከአትብ፡ ጋዜአፋ፡ ያለመለኮተ፡ ያስሉስ፡ ባቅዱስ:

Contents: Included in the reading for Tuesday: fols. 24r-v: A miracle of the Trinity: how a man of Palestine made beer (mǝzr) for a commemorative feast (täzkar) for the Trinity and how he expelled many demons from the beer (mǝzr) and showed them to the people

fols. 25r - 32r:

Title: Reading for Wednesday (zä-Räbu’)
Incipit: ከስመ፡ አብ፡ . . . ከአትብ፡ ባየትም፡ ያለበት፡ ከስልስ፡ ባቅዱስ፡ ከአትብ፡ ጋዜአፋ፡ ያለመለኮተ፡ ያስሉስ፡ ባቅዱስ፡ ከአትብ፡ ጋዜአፋ፡ ያለመለኮተ፡ ያስሉስ፡ ባቅዱስ:

Contents: Included in the reading for Wednesday: fols. 31r-32r: A miracle of the Trinity: how a governor of Palestine ordered his army to make a commemorative feast (täzkar) for the Trinity, if they wished to live in his country

fols. 32v - 41v:

Title: Reading for Thursday (zä-Ḥamus)
Contents: Included in the reading for Thursday: fols. 40v-41v: A miracle of the Trinity: how those who celebrate the feast of the Trinity are taken to the seat of glory and crowned

fols. 42r - 52v:
Title: Reading for Friday (zä-'Arb)
Incipit: ኧንዕ ከት ከ ከ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጇ ጉ
Decoration

fol. 1r:
Title: Knotwork headpiece
Form: Headpiece
Text: Theology of the Trinity: Introduction
Comment: This is a later addition.

fol. 6r:
Title: Winged knot
Form: Marginal decoration
Text: Theology of the Trinity: Reading for Monday
Comment: This is a later addition.

Binding

The binding is original.
Bound between two plain wooden boards, open spine; housed in a mahdar double leather case with strap

Provenance

Gäbrä Mika’el, mid twentieth century, ownership inscriptions on fols. 21v, 52v, and passim
Gabra Mika’el Wubnah, possibly different from above and third owner, inscription on fol. 71v

Acquisition

Museum purchase, 1976

Bibliography

Lifchitz, Débora. Textes éthiopiens magico-religieux, Université de Paris. Travaux et memoires de l'Institut
d'Ethnologie, no. 38 (1940), pp. 216-217. See this for Reading for Monday.

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لا يمكنني قراءة النص الأثيوبي من الصورة.


The text in the image appears to be in the Amharic script. However, the content is not clearly visible due to the quality of the image. If you have a clearer image or more context, please provide it, and I would be happy to assist further.
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