

Database: Western Tigray in 96 historical and ten ethno-linguistic maps (1607-2009)

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Version 1

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Summary

There is a wide array of historical maps and records which jointly reveal that the territorial organisation of northern Ethiopia has tremendously changed over the last four centuries.

Historical maps representing the Western Zone of the Tigray Region (Fig. 1) have been retrieved from specialised online repositories. Only maps prepared in the same period (co-eval maps) were used; all maps are formally kept in well-established repositories. Each map was screened for representation of internal borders, indicating territorial control. Out of 96 maps, spanning the period 1607-1967, 87 were precise enough to be analysed, of which 58 display territorial control. Descriptive statistics on the dataset as a whole are presented.

Starting from the early 18th C., internal boundaries are clearly shown, with 32 maps (between 1683 and 1935) displaying a boundary that is located well south of the Tekeze River, or even south of Simien (Fig. 2). Welkait is explicitly included within a larger Tigray confederation (periods 1707-1789; 1841-1886; and 1939-1941) (Fig. 3); it is briefly mapped as part of Amhara in 1891-1894 and part of Gondar from 1944-1990. At other periods it appears independent or part of a larger Mezaga (“dark earth”) region. The Amhara/Gondar – Tigray border is mapped on the Tekeze River at short intervals in 1844-1847 and 1891-1894 and then more permanently between 1944 and 1990. The meta-analysis of the historical maps shows that for the larger part of the last 300 years or more, Western Tigray has been under Tigray jurisdiction, with a border running along or across the Simien massif (Fig. 5). However, at times of upheaval, the territory has been briefly reorganized under either the Amhara polities or was autonomous.

These maps demonstrate that the argument that Welkait was *always* a part of Begemdir, or else Amhara, is not based on evidence, apart from a territorial reorganisation in the mid-twentieth century. In contrast, contemporary Tigray is a valid territory, whose legitimacy stems from modern federalism's faculty to create a region away from concepts of the Ethiopian empire-state. In 1991-4, when the boundaries of the Tigray Region were established as part of federal Ethiopia, local self-determination was way more important than historical maps. Remarkably, except for one, all 20th C. ethno-linguistic maps of the Ethiopian state sustain the current extent of the Tigray region.

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In other words: the Amhara nationalist narrative that there was continuous ancestral ownership of Western Tigray is not confirmed by a meta-analysis of the historical map database. We conclude with the suggestion to especially consider the recent and subrecent actual world, including language maps.

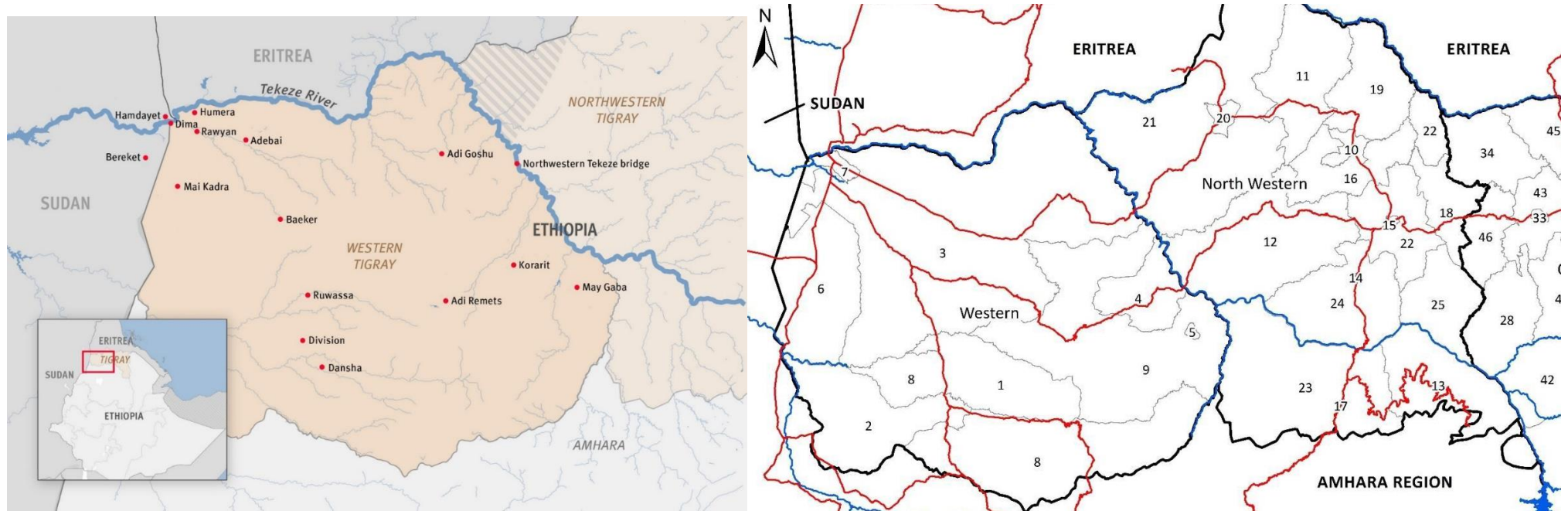


Fig. 1. Location of Western Tigray: at left with major towns (© Human Rights Watch & Amnesty International, 2022 (1)); at right woredas (districts): 1 Awrora, 2 Dansha town, 3 Kafta Humera, 4 Korarit, 5 May Gaba, 6 May Kadra, 7 Setit Humera, 8 Tsegede, 9 Welkait. The districts 23 Tselemti and 13 Dima as well as 17 May Tsebri town in Northwestern Tigray are also claimed by Amhara nationalists. (Source: Central Statistical Agency & Bureau of Finance, Economic Development (2020) Ethiopia Administrative Boundary Common Operational Database. Downloaded from <https://data.humdata.org/dataset> (2)).

Introduction

This database focuses on historical maps of Western Tigray (Fig. 1), which is not only notable for the multiple war crimes committed there during the ongoing Tigray War (1), but is also a contested area in Ethiopia between the Tigray and Amhara regions.

The Ethiopian constitution stipulates that the ethno-linguistic demography of a region, rather than the historical control of a group on that territory, determines the regional organisation. As a result, districts in Western Tigray were incorporated into the Tigray region in 1991-4, because a large majority of Tigrayans lived there at the time of inclusion. However, many Amhara

nationalists have claimed historical possession of these lands. Although this "historical ownership" argument is irrelevant to the current federal setup, Amhara irredentist claims should be scrutinized more closely. After all, Amhara irredentism has been a driving force in the Tigray war. Removing this most productive zone from Tigray appears also to be part of a strategy to impoverish and subjugate Tigray (3). Again, Ethiopian regime supporters proudly stated on July 2021: "Let them go! The defeated *Great Tigray* had to abandon the fertile regions it had stolen from the Amharas in the 1990s, and had to retreat to its arid *heimat*. (...) Tigray has no more modern agriculture and industry, the infrastructure is destroyed (...) The map of Greater Tigray was twice as large as the current poor Tigray" (4). Amhara irredentism (sensu 5) indeed had been one of the drivers of the war against Tigray.

In an interesting webinar on 13 April 2022 at the *Wissenschaftlicher Arbeitskreis Horn von Afrika*, Prof. Wolbert Smidt (6) showed for the first time extracts of a map that contradicts the Gondarine narrative of the history of Western Tigray. A detailed search brought about several maps of the mid-19th Century, in which Western Tigray is clearly mapped as part of the then Tigray confederation. Two representative maps are:

Weiland, C.F., 1841. Das nordoestliche Africa oder Aegypten, Nubien, Habesch, Kordofan und Dar-Fur, 1:5 000 000. Weimar: Verlage des geograph. Instituts [in German]. A scan of this map may be accessed and downloaded from the David Rumsey Center at Stanford University (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~280071~90053341:Northeastern-Africa-or-Egypt,-Eritr>).

Handtke, F.H., 1849. Nordöstliches Afrika, Ca. 1:5 600 000. In: Sohr, K., Supplement-Band zum Hand-Atlas der neueren Erdbeschreibung, 85. Flemming, Glogau/Głogów and Leipzig [in German]. Scans of this map may be downloaded from repositories at Estonia's national library (<https://www.digar.ee/arhiiv/nlib-digar:429790>) and at David Rumsey (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~33543~1171029:Composite--NO-Afrika->).

Historical maps of the Horn provide a lot of information about toponyms, regional names, and the territorial extent of groups, as well as local ideas of boundaries and routes, political claims overlapping, and ethnic conflicts and interactions. They were not only the work of visiting cartographers and scholars; they were the outcome of intensive local assistance and contacts with seasoned local partners who were experts in territorial knowledge and sociopolitical practices (6). Besides, such maps allow pointing sometimes at different co-eval perceptions of territorial control. This relates not only to the position of internal boundaries but also to the extent of some territories that were very remote at that time, such as Mezaga.

The goal here is not to prove territorial claims based on specific maps, but rather to demonstrate that there is a wide array of historical maps and records which jointly reveal that territorial organisation has tremendously changed during the last centuries. In other words: the narrative of ancestral Amhara ownership of Western Tigray does not correspond to historical documents. Having made this point, this article will conclude with the suggestion to rather consider the recent and subrecent real conditions on the ground.

Methods

Historical maps have been retrieved from two specialised online repositories: The David Rumsey Historical Map Collection at Stanford (<https://www.davidrumsey.com>), and the Ethiomap repository (<https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr>), a project by the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris (France); Forschungszentrum Gotha der Universität Erfurt (Germany); Centre Français des Études Éthiopiennes (Ethiopia); and Mekelle University (Ethiopia). A few more maps were obtained from other online map collections (UBBasel, Switzerland; Atlas UGent, Belgium; British Library; Istituto Geografico Militare Italiano; Library

of Congress; Gallica Digital Library; African Studies Centre Leiden; University of Illinois; Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin; Berkeley University, The London Library; Smithsonian Library; U. Columbia).

Only co-eval maps were used, i.e. maps prepared in the same period as the displayed geography. All maps in the dataset are formally kept in well-established repositories (Table 1). No secondary sources, nor maps drawn in later periods were used. The language maps (at the end of the dataset) were mostly scanned by ourselves from the original works.

Table 1. Overview of historical maps in this database

	Number of maps	Poor accuracy	Good accuracy	Internal borders shown	Position of lettering suggests territorial control	Number of maps used in the analysis
17 th C.	10	7	3	2	1	3
18 th C.	8	1	7	7	0	7
19 th C.	58	1	57	25	10	35
20 th C.	20	0	20	11	2	13
Total	96	9	87	45	13	58

From each map, we extracted the area comprised between 35°40' and 42°20'E, 11°30' and 15°20'N. The historical maps were organised in chronological order. Each map was screened for representation (or absence) of borders, or possible positioning of lettering representing territorial control. Especially in the oldest maps, the projection is often distorted and distances not proportional. In such case, relative positions with respect to rivers and mountains were verified. Descriptive statistics on the dataset as a whole are presented. The meta-analysis of the maps is also summarised in a graphical way, using timelines.

Ten language maps (1903-2009) were retrieved from linguistic works as well as Ethiopian atlases. Maps representing only the extent of Semitic languages without precisions on the Amharic-Tigrinya interface, starting from Beke's map (7), are not incorporated in the database. The language maps were interpreted as a separate set, since the extent of a language does not necessarily fit with boundaries of political control. Particularly, we verified which were the languages of the communities in Western Tigray, as mapped by the different authors, who were often senior linguists.

Quantitative meta-analysis

Ninety-six maps were retrieved, spanning the period 1607-1967. Contrary to common belief, the name “Amhara” is used as a territorial unit throughout the map series, with the exception of the years 1950-1990.

Out of the 96 maps, 87 provide sufficient precision and detail to be analysed, but nine maps had very poor locational accuracy and were not used in the descriptive statistics (period 1607-1707).

On 45 maps, internal borders within “Abyssinia” are drawn. On the other hand, on another 42 maps, no boundary between Tigray and Amhara/Gondar/Begemder is established, but on 13 of these the position of lettering allows estimating the location of the border (Table 1). Hence, in total 58 maps could be examined for the location of internal borders.

On 32 maps, spanning the period 1683-1941, the boundary coincides with the crestline of the Simien mountains (20 maps, 34%), is established south of Simien (nine maps, 16%), or between Simien and Tekeze (three maps, 5%). Cartographers de L’Isle (1707), Bonne (1782) or Cassini (1798) mapped Tigray’s southern border close to Chelga (= Aykel) or Emfraz, two towns that are west and southeast of Gondar. Overall, on more than half of the analysed maps, large territories southwest of Tekeze River are mapped as part of Tigray (Fig. 2).

On 14 maps (24%), spanning the periods 1844-1847, 1891-1894 and 1952-1990, the boundary between Tigray, and Amhara/Begemder closely follows Tekeze River.

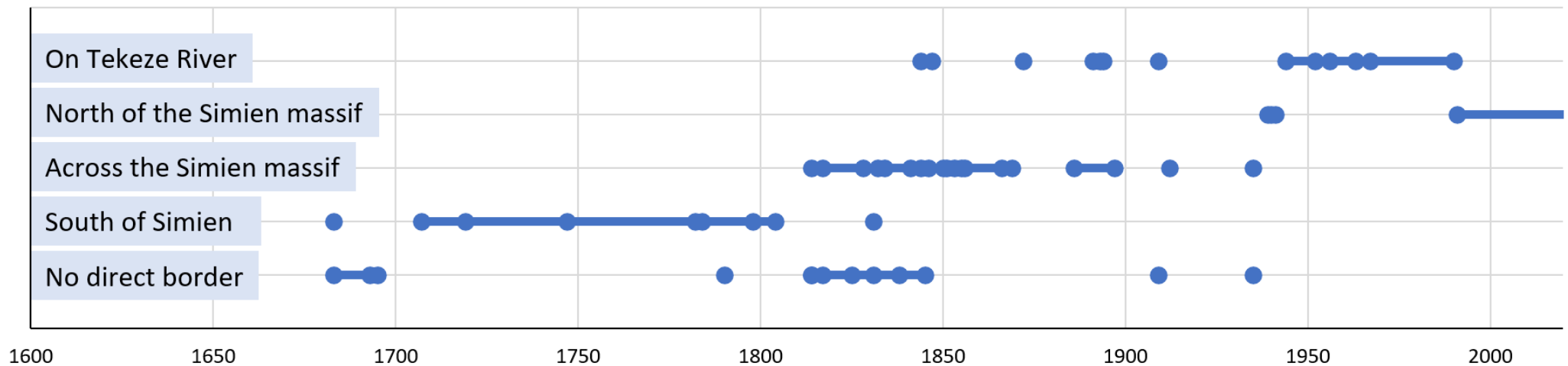


Fig. 2. Location of the border between Tigray/Tigrai/Tigre and Amhara/Gondar/Begemder, according to historical maps (n=58). Every dot represents a map in the dataset. Gaps between subsequent maps must be understood as “no information” or “period of shifting territorial control”. Conflicting information on territorial control in certain periods points to different information by cartographers. The power of such a large dataset is that the overall picture of the situation can be better grasped.

On 46 maps, the territorial control of Welkait is clearly indicated. On 18 of those maps, spanning the periods 1683-1693 and 1790-1838 and some isolated moments, Welkait belongs neither to Tigray, nor to Amhara/Begemder (Fig. 3). On 16 other maps (35%), Welkait is explicitly

included within a larger Tigray confederation (periods 1707-1784 and 1844-1866, and again briefly in 1939-1941); it is mapped as part of Amhara on 26% of the maps, i.e. in 1891-1894 (four maps), 1909, 1925, 1938 and from 1952-1990 (four maps).

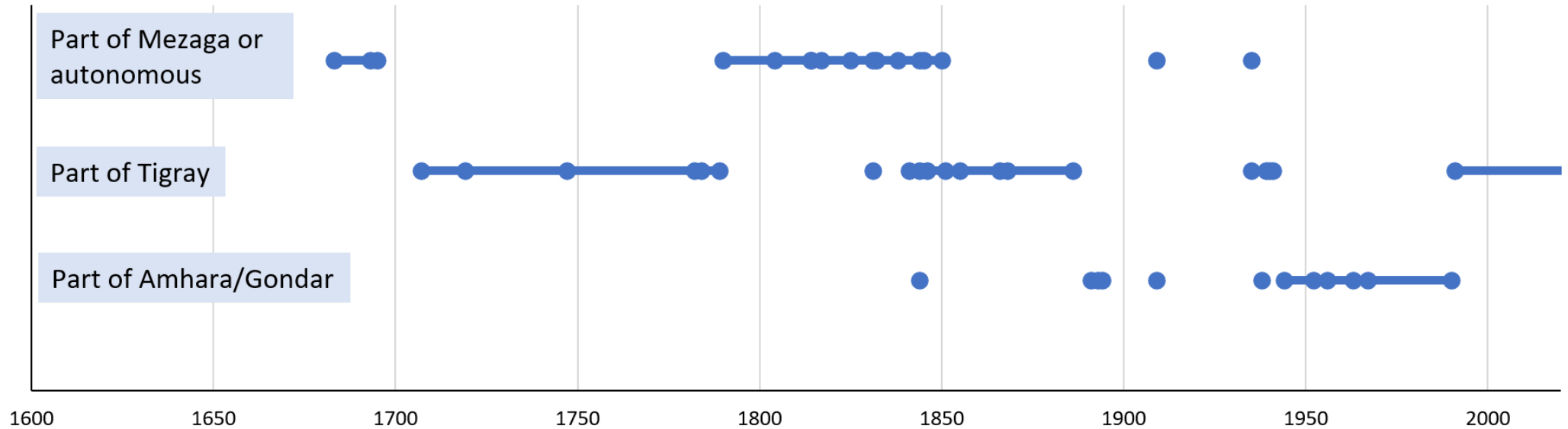


Fig. 3. Territorial control of Welkait, according to historical maps (n=46). Every dot represents a map in the dataset.

Discussion

Overall, these maps demonstrate that the argument that Welkait was *always* a part of Begemdir or Amhara is not based on evidence, apart from a territorial reorganisation in the mid-twentieth century (8, 9). Indeed, the Abyssinian emperors Menelik and Haile Selassie divided the country into provinces, replacing territories that were formerly semi-autonomously governed. As colonial powers did elsewhere, Haile Selassie cut into these existing territories and used this territorial reorganisation as a way to reward his allies. The resulting provinces were hence constructed along the

strength of local powers (zones of influence of major towns), regardless of ethnic composition. For instance, the northern third of Haile Selassie's Gondar province was inhabited by Tigrinya speaking population (Fig. 4); the Dejena mountain range in Welkait (up to 2700 metres high) became, around 1980, the main base for Tigray resistance against the Derg regime that was in power at the time (10).

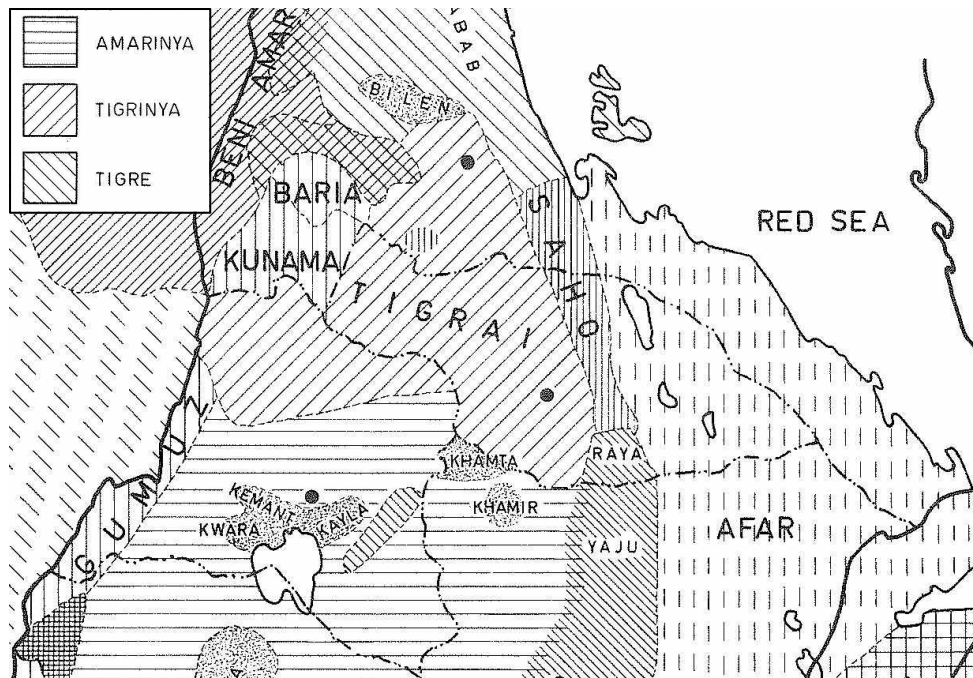


Fig. 4. Map of provinces and ethno-linguistic settlement patterns in northern Ethiopia by Trimmingham (1965) (11), republished by Westphal (12). The Gondar province extended from Lake Tana up to the then province of Eritrea, with the Tekeze River forming the boundary. Besides a majority of Amharic speakers, Gondar comprised large areas inhabited by Tigrinya and Gumuz speakers, as well as Kwara, Kemant, Kayla and Yaju Oromo (in the eastern part of Gondar province). Population groups in the 1965 Tigray Province comprised Tigrinya speakers, Saho, Afar and Raya Oromo. Provincial capitals Gondar, Mekelle and Asmara are represented by large dots. The northernmost province, Eritrea, has since become an independent state. The post-1992 Tigray region encompasses the Tigrinya-speaking areas of Ethiopia.

The numerous historical maps that show Welkait, Tsegede, Tselemti and adjacent districts (see Fig. 1) as part of Tigray were systematically omitted in Achamyelch Tamiru's (5) review justifying Amhara nationalist claims on

the area. Within Ethiopia, rivers appear seldom as ethno-linguistic borders. The rivers Abay, Awash, Kusa (Beles), Wabe Shebelle, Mereb, Gibe, and many more flow through the same linguistic area. Amhara nationalists frequently argue that the Tekeze river constitutes an ethno-linguistic border. However, in Ethiopia and around the world, the same communities dwell across large rivers. In Ethiopia, only the 200 kilometres of the Blue Nile canyon form an ethno-linguistic boundary.

In contrast, contemporary Tigray is a valid territory, whose legitimacy stems from the intention of modern federalism to create federated states on a new basis not derived from concepts of the Ethiopian empire-state (*sensu* 13). In 1991-4, when the boundaries of the Ethiopian federal regions, including those of the Tigray Region were established, local self-determination was way more important than historical maps (8). Remarkably, all but one language maps of the Ethiopian state at the time sustain the current extent of the Tigray region. As an exception among language maps (pages 112 to 124), Levine's (14) map (page 119) shows an extent of the Amhara language up to the Tekeze river. Ever since publishing the first edition of his "Greater Ethiopia – the evolution of a multiethnic society", Levine encountered much criticism for his vision of Ethiopia as a 'single societal system' and his advocacy for benefits of Menelik's conquests and Amhara dominance of the country under the cover of multi-ethnic evolution (8, 15). Hence, we consider his map as an "outlier" among all other language maps (since 1948) that show an extent of Tigrinya that fits with the borders of Western Tigray.

The approach is built into Ethiopia's legal constitutional framework: history is nowhere referred to in the constitution, as both Art 46.2 ('states shall be delimited on the basis of settlement patterns, language, identity and consent of the people concerned') and Art 39.5 ('a "nation nationality or people" for the purpose of this constitution, is a group of people who have or share a large measure of a common culture, or similar customs, mutual intelligibility of language, belief in a common or related identities, a common psychological make-up, and who inhabit an identifiable,

predominantly contiguous territory’) make it clear that history or historical precedent are *not* acceptable legal bases either for the demarcation of states or for identifying the nations, nationalities and peoples which constitute legal right-bearers under the constitution.

As historical maps are a subject of research by the Ethiomap research project (16), with Wolbert Smidt working on maps of the Ethiopian highlands and northern territories, more findings on the context of these four centuries of maps are expected. Yet, there are clear major trends appearing from the meta-analysis of the historical maps.

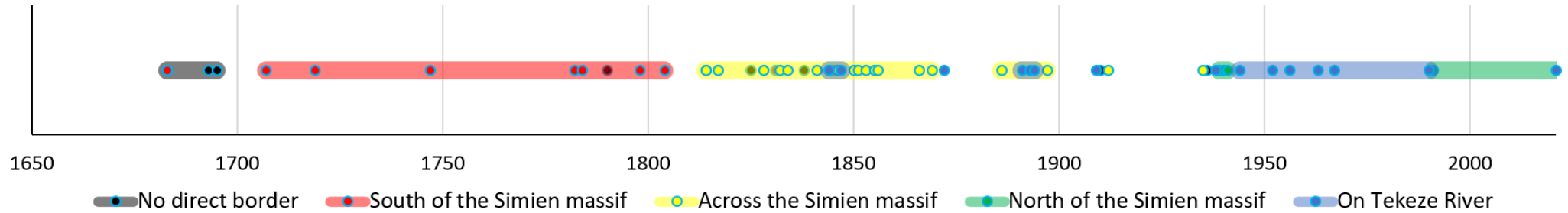


Fig. 5. Timeline of the location of the boundary between Amhara/Begemder/Gondar and Tigray/Tigrai/Tigre, according to historical maps (n = 58). Individual maps are represented by dots, some of which are hidden by overlap. This timeline holds the same information as Fig. 2, displayed in such a way to represent the major tendencies as well as interruptions in them. Position of borders is represented with the same colours in Fig. 6. Hiatuses represent time steps for which no information is provided by historical maps.

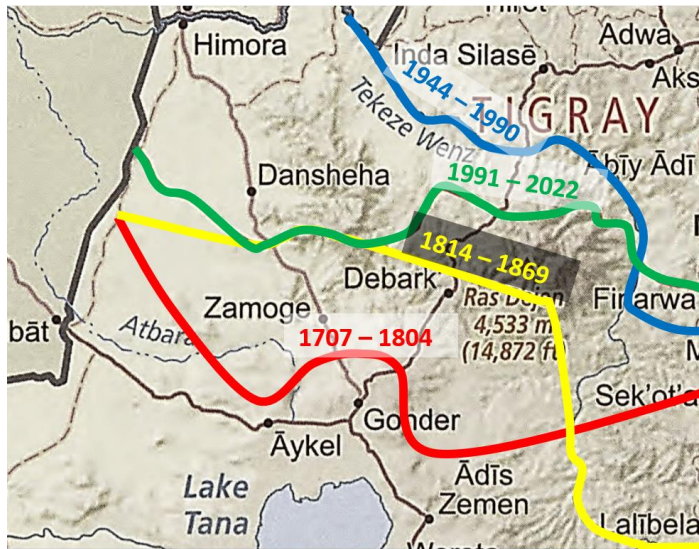


Fig. 6. Boundary between Amhara/Begemder/Gondar and Tigray/Tigrai/Tigre, according to historical maps (n = 58). Time steps and colours as in Fig. 5, and boundary courses in line with representative maps for the time steps: 1707 – 1804 (red, Bonne 1782); 1814 – 1869 (yellow, Handtke 1849); 1944 -1990 (blue, De Agostini 1952); and current (green). The latter boundary course as well as the base map are from Library of Congress (2009).

Western Tigray has been inhabited by Tigrinya speaking populations and for the larger part of the last 300 years or more, as the maps show, it has been under Tigray jurisdiction, with a border running along or across the Simien massif (Fig. 5, Fig. 6). However, at times of upheavals like what is happening today (2020-2022), the territory has been briefly reorganized under either the Amhara polities or was by itself, as many provinces were under separate rulers.



Fig. 7. Screenshot of a contemporaneous mapping error by UNOCHA (2021), representing a territorial claim. In digital times such errors are rapidly intercepted and the map has been deleted (yet without acknowledging the mistake).

For instance, the period 1891-1894 was immediately before the Adwa war of 1896 and there were lots of upheavals in the country; 1844-1847 was just towards the end of the Era of Princes (1769 – 1855) where the grip of power on regions was rapidly changing hands between the princes. Then, since 1952 Western Tigray was officially reorganized under Gondar by Haile Selassie, as was Raya, since he handed over territories from Tigray to his close regents and son (in the case of Raya).

If one were to come in 50 years from now, some maps of 2020-2022 would appear as in 1844-1847, or 1891-1894, with Western Tigray displayed as part of Amhara. For instance, on June 10th, 2021, UNOCHA briefly published a map of Tigray (presumably using information provided by their staff in

Conclusions

Historical cartography demonstrates that claims of long-standing Amhara dominance over Western Tigray are not supported by historical facts and are therefore based on sand. If historical ownership arguments are to take

Addis Ababa) with large parts of Tigay incorporated in the Amhara Region (Fig. 7). Hence, the brief hiatuses in historical maps where Welkait ceased to be part of Tigray may be explained by situations similar to that of 2020-2022.

place, they should include the full range of historical maps. This dataset supports such an approach. Also, settlement of territorial conflicts should especially reflect the recent and sub-recent ethno-linguistic situation.

Acknowledgments

We thank four internal reviewers, professionals who have a contextual understanding of the region.

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Database

Maps in the database are reproduced as historical documents, without correcting the derogatory xenonyms for some ethnic groups.

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Very poor locational accuracy; see relative position of Chilcut, Tigre-mahon, Bagamidri. Note also the erroneous mapping of Blue Nile and Atbara that were assumed to meet again upstream, creating the "Island of Meroé" which persisted in maps for a century. Same geography was used in numerous maps at the time. Such maps with poor accuracy were not used in the meta-analysis (see Table 1).



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~275785~90048763:-125--Abissinorum->

Sanson, 1656

Mercator's map, with boundaries drawn; large Begemedri Regnum, small Tigre Mahonur. Same large locational inaccuracy, note the large Meroe island (which is and was inexistent).



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~294868~90065866:Partie-De-La-Haute-Aethiopie-ou-son>

Boisseau & Jollain, 1659

Many locational inaccuracies (see Amasen, Syre); boundaries not drawn.

David Rumsey Historical Map
Collection

Record ▾

Author:

Boisseau, Jean

Author:

Jollain, G.

Date:

1659

Short Title:

Le Royaume Abyssin.

Publisher:

Natolie.

Publisher Location:

Paris

Type:

Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:

14

Obj Width cm:

19

Scale 1:

37,500,000

Country:

Ethiopia

Country:

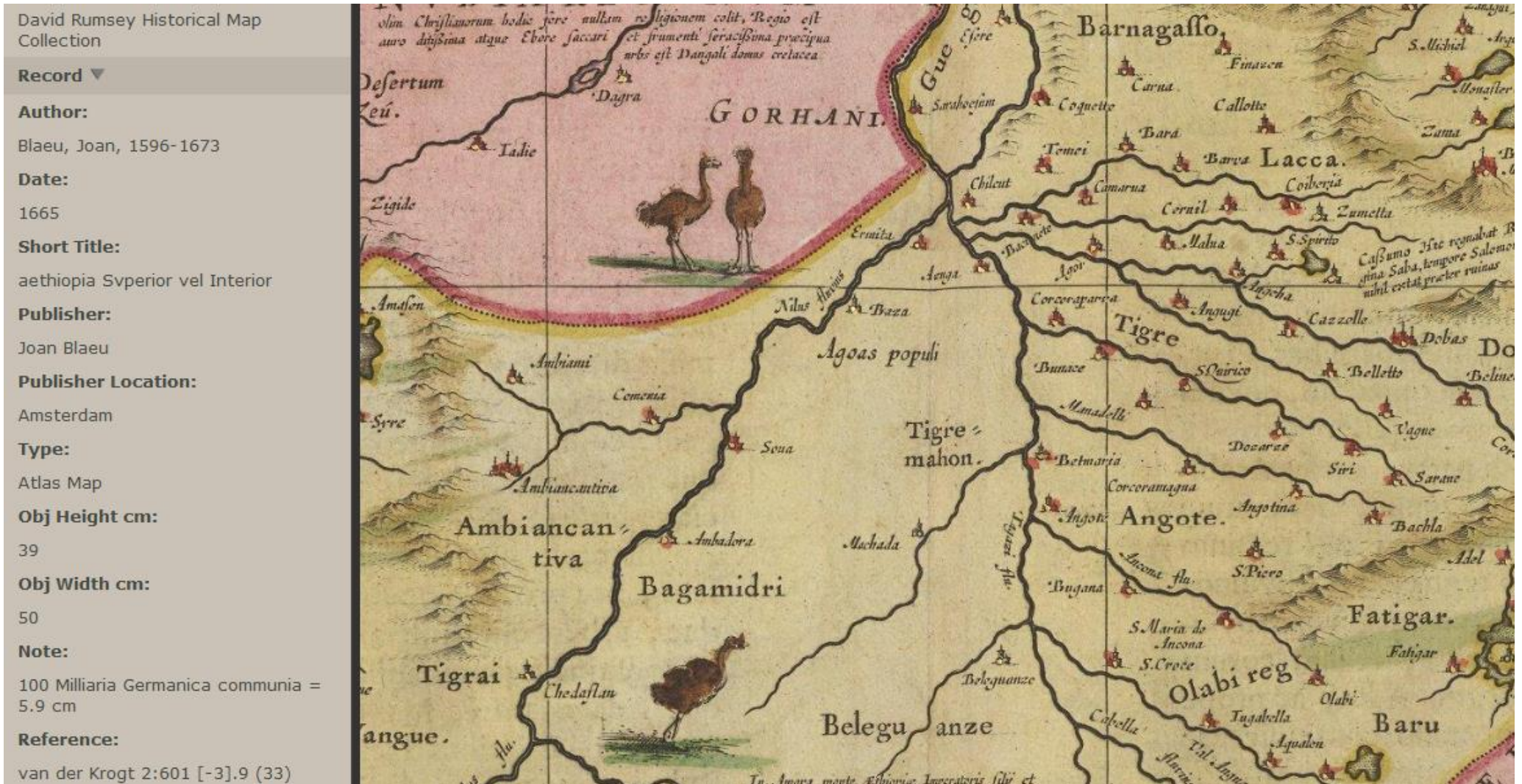
Kenya



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~305808~90076154:Le-Royaume-Abyssin->

Blaeu, 1665.

Largely based on Ortelius. Very poor locational accuracy; see relative position of Tigre, Chilcut, Tigre-mahon, Bagamidri. West of Bagamidri there is a non-identified "Tigrai".



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~282839~90054346:aethiopia-Svsperior-vel->

Morden & Cockerill, 1680

Numerous locational inaccuracies; internal boundaries not drawn.

David Rumsey Historical Map
Collection

Record ▾

Author:

Morden, Robert, approximately
1650-1703

Author:

Cockerill, Thomas, active 1674-1702

Date:

1680

Short Title:

(Ethiopia) Text: Of Æthiopia.

Publisher:

Atlas in Cornhill

Publisher Location:

London

Type:

Text Page

Type:

Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:

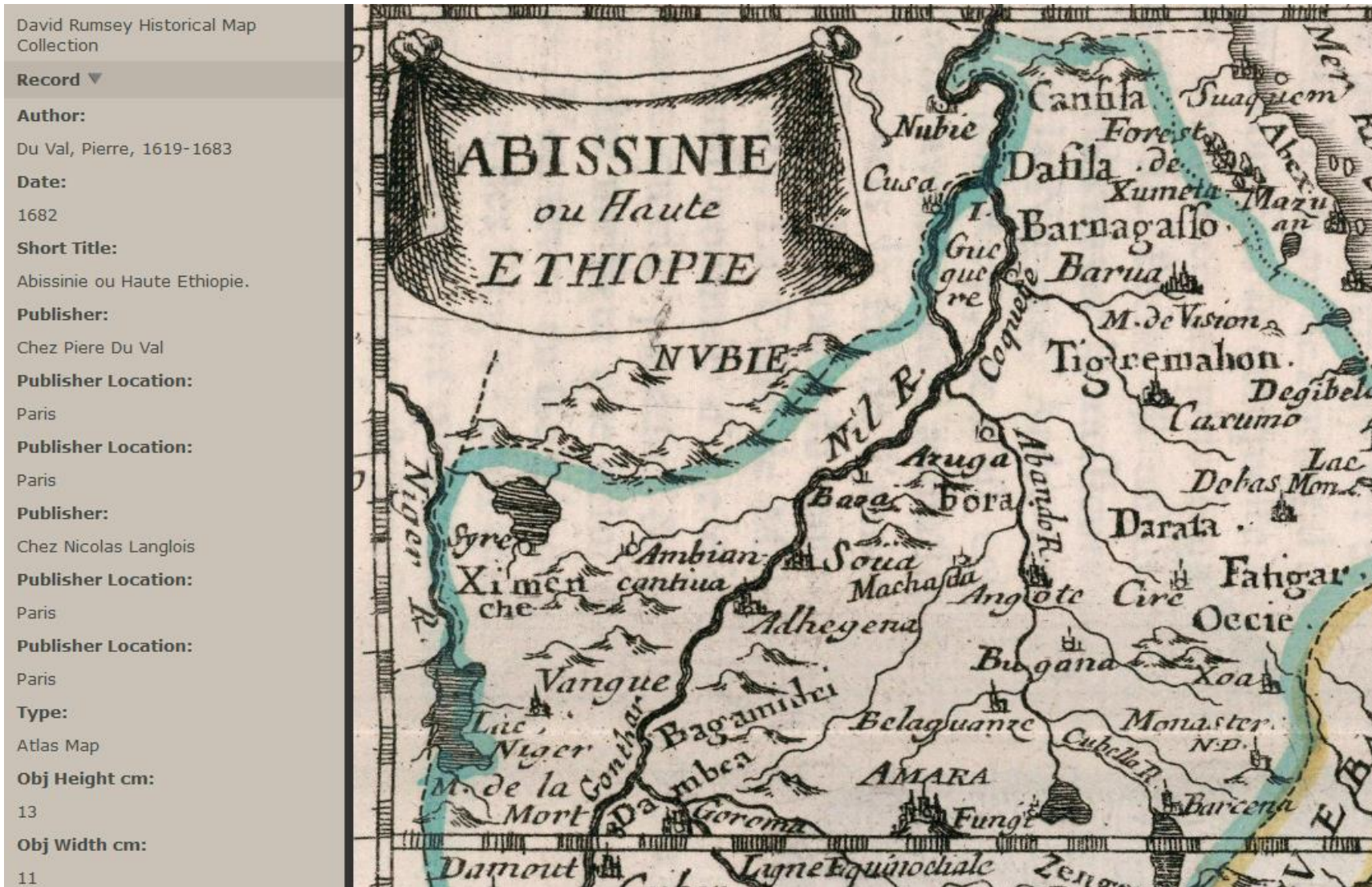
20



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~335450~90103132:-Ethiopia--Text--Of-%C3%86thiopia->

Du Val, 1682

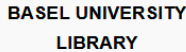

Numerous locational inaccuracies; internal boundaries not drawn.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~315847~90084676:Abissinie-ou-Haute-Ethiopie->

Ludolf & Gorgoryos, 1683

Besides Bagemder and Tigre, there are separate Midra Bahr and Semen (including Walkajit).

Title	lobi Ludolfi, Habessinia seu Abassia, presbyteri Iohannis regio
Description	lobi Ludolfi, Habessinia seu Abassia, presbyteri Iohannis regio : perperam dicta ad exemplum tab. chorographicae P. Balth. Tellezii quanta fieri potuit diligentia formata correctis multis nominibus male scriptis; plurimisque locis passim insertis ex Gregorii Habess. fida relatione, illorum situ non ubique aequo certo / Christianus Ludolfus J. filius delineavit ex autographo parentis, anno Christi 1683
Date	between circa 1683 and circa 1690
Source	10.3931/e-rara-13437 : Info: Kartenportal.CH
Creator	Hiob Ludolf (1624-1704) Christian Ludolf Pieter Schenk Gerard Valck
Permission (Reusing this file)	<p>This image is from the collection of the Basel University Library and has been published on Wikimedia Commons as part of a cooperation with Wikimedia CH.</p>  



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/59/UBBasel_Map_1683-1690_Kartenslg_Mappe_252-62_Habessinia_seu_Abassia.tiff

https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=22

Manesson-Mallet, 1683 (similar in 1685)

Quite good relative position of hydrography. Size of lettering tends to indicate hierarchy in territorial control. "Tigre" spans Tacaze R. and includes "Samen" (smaller lettering).



Title

Empire des Abyssins.

Creator

Manesson-Mallet, Allain, 1630?-1706?

Place of Publication

France

Date

1685

Coverage-Spatial

Africa, Eastern

Type

Cartographic material

Dimensions

14.7 x 10.3 cm.

<https://digital.library.illinois.edu/items/573c6910-e947-0133-1d3d-0050569601ca-1#>

<https://www.biblio.com/book/empire-abysins-mallet-allain-manesson/d/1342920520>

Coronelli, 1695 (also 1693)

Borders of Kingdoms of Tigre and Bagemeder and surrounding princedoms, including Walkajit; without hierarchy.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~283026~90055440:53--Abissinia->

Sanson & Sanson, 1695

Very poor locational accuracy; the "Island of Meroé" is again represented.

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection
Record ▼
Author: Sanson, Nicolas, 1600-1667
Author: Sanson, Guillaume (1633-1703)
Date: 1695
Short Title: Upper Ethiopia or Abissinian Empire, Nubia.
Publisher: Cloistre de S Nicolas du Louvre
Publisher Location: Paris
Type: Atlas Map
Obj Height cm: 41
Obj Width cm: 52
Scale 1: 12,900,000
World Area: Africa
Region:



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~280886~90053724:Upper-Ethiopia-or-Abissinian-Empire>

de L'Isle, 1707

Border is drawn well south of Simien Mts; Olcait in "Royaume de Tigré".



MAP

Map of Egypt, Nubia, Abyssinia, etc..

Carte de l'Egypte, de la Nubie, de l'Abissinie &c.

French cartographer Guillaume de L'Isle (1675-1726) was admitted into the Royal Academy of Sciences when he was 27 years old and subsequently became the first person to receive the title Premier Géographe du Roi (principal geographer to the king). He was one of the most important cartographers of the early 18th century and a major figure in making Paris a center of cartographic science....

Contributor: L'isle, Guillaume De - Desrosiers, Active

Date: 1707

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2021668731/>

Lobo & de Almeida, 1707

Many of Ortelius' elements still present; strong distortion of the projection in the eastern part.



Date 1707

Source [African Studies Centre Leiden](#)
Library African Studies Centre, Leiden (the Netherlands)

Author Jeronimo Lobo (1595–1678), Manuel de Almeida (1580–

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Africa_1707_Lobo.jpg

catalogue.leidenuniv.nl University Library, Closed Stack 5, 1392 H 6

Chatelain & Gueudeville, 1719

Clear boundary, to the south of the Simien Mts.

David Rumsey Historical Map
Collection

Record ▾

Author:

Chatelain Henri, 1684-1743

Author:

Gueudeville, Nicolas

Date:

1719

Short Title:

Tome VI. No. 3. Pag. 7. Carte
Particuliere de L'Egypte

Publisher:

L'Honore & Chatelai

Publisher Location:

Amsterdam

Publisher:

Freres Chatelain

Publisher Location:

Amsterdam

Type:

Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:

45

Obj Width cm:

57

Scale 1:

11,700,000



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~324696~90093924:Tome-VI--No--3--Pag--7--Carte-Parti>

Bowen, 1747

With internal borders. "Kingdom of Tigr" extends well south of Tekeze; Olcait part of "Kingdom of Tigr".



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~2593~280009:Nubia-&-Abissinia->

https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=39

Bonne, 1782

Boundary Tigré/ Dembea-Bagameder runs well south of Tekeze; Tselga = Aykel as border town. Similar map in 1780, but without borders.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~20493~540091:Nubie,-Abissinie->

Pitteri, 1784

Tigre border with Guender and Bagameder outlined; all are part of Abissinia. Border well south of Simien.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~295461~90066605:La-Nubia-ed-Abissinia>

Bruce, 1790

Separate territorial units Tigre, Begemder, Waldubba, Walcait...



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Chart of the Arabian Gulf... (James Bruce - 1790)



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=51

Cassini, 1798

Tigre border with Guender and Bagameder outlined, south of Semen; all are part of Abissinia.

David Rumsey Historical Map
Collection

Record ▾

Author:

Cassini, Gio. Ma. (Giovanni Maria),
1745-approximately 1824

Date:

1798

Short Title:

(17) La Nubia ed Abissinia.

Publisher:

Calcogr. Camerale

Publisher Location:

Rome

Type:

Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:

35

Obj Width cm:

48

Scale 1:

7,000,000

Note:

Relief shown pictorially. Includes
decorative title cartouche and bar
scale. In Volume III.

Country:

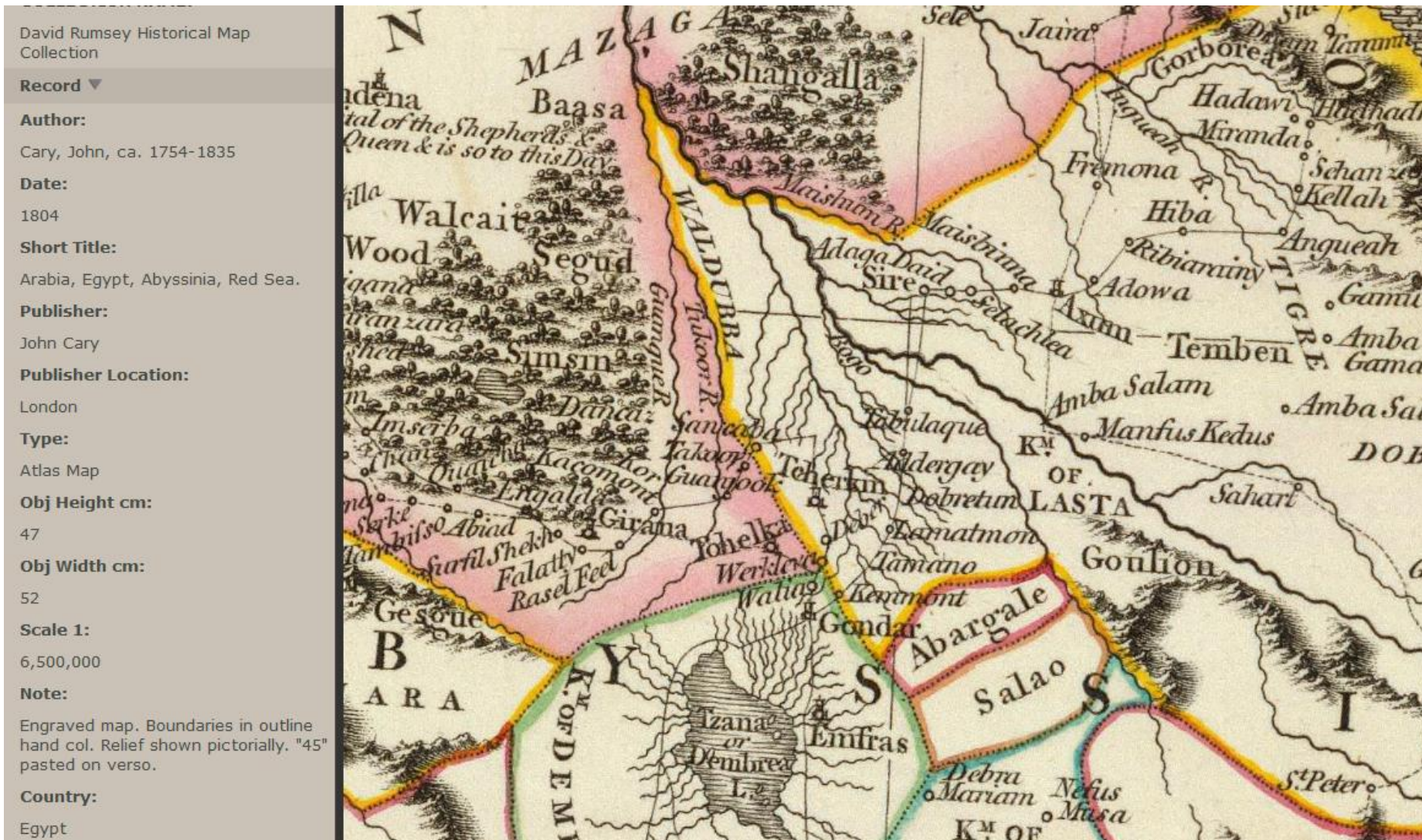
Nubia



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~325604~90094516:-17--La-Nubia-ed-Abissinia->

Cary 1804

Border is south of Simien; Walcait part of Mazaga.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~21540~640032:Arabia,-Egypt,-Abyssinia,-Red-Sea->

Pinkerton, 1814

No territorial hierarchy shown. Three intermediate princedoms are mapped between Tigre and Begemder; Walcail not part of Abyssinia.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~3834~370026:Abyssinia,-Nubia-&c->

Salt, 1814

Large Dembea; Large Tigre (including Simien, Waldubba); Walkayt separate.



Exploring historical maps of the Horn of Africa

Home Maps Help

Map of Abyssinia and the Adjacent Districts (Henry Salt - 1814)



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=23

Thomson, 1814

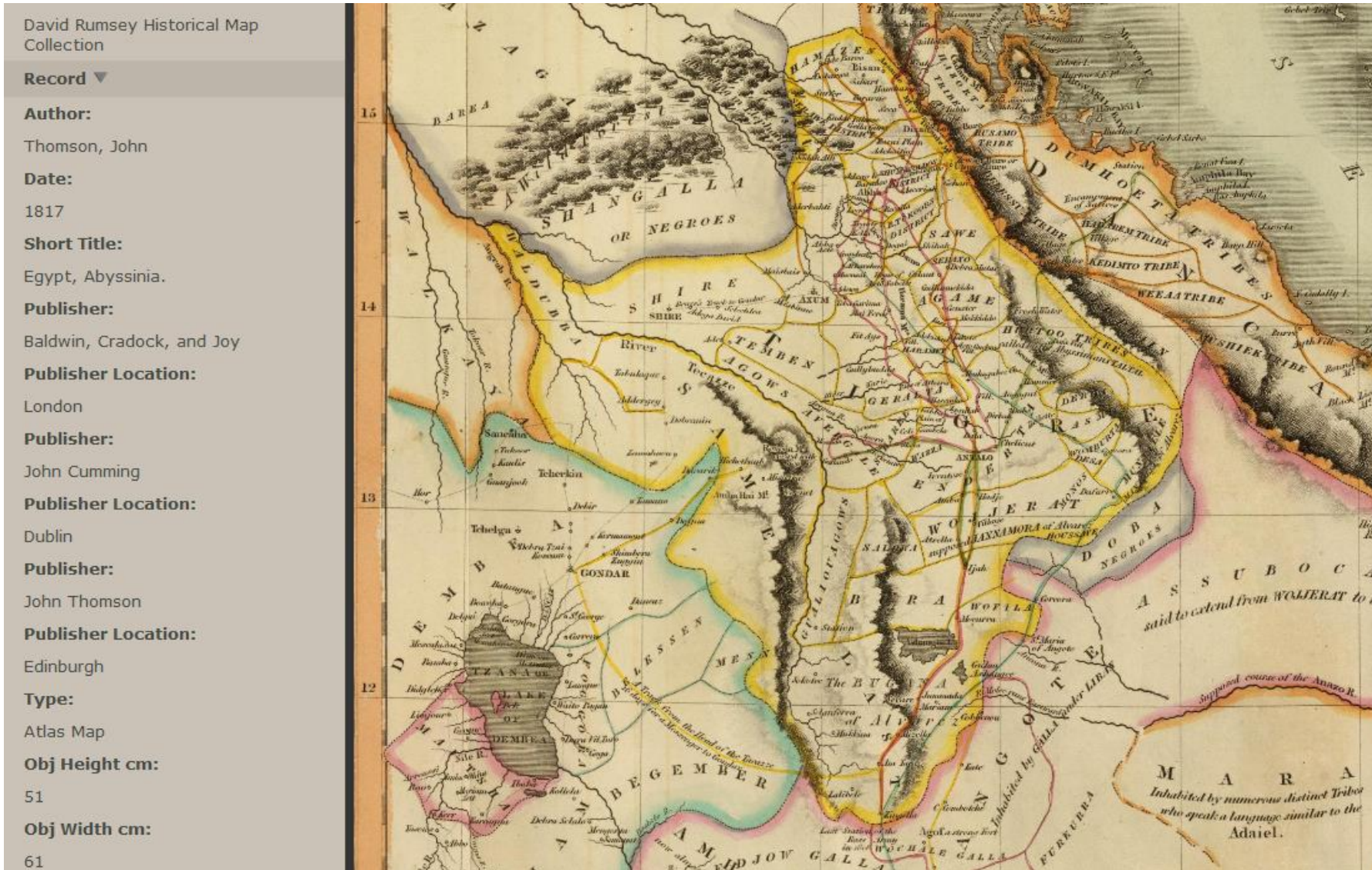
Numerous internal boundaries without hierarchy; Walcail part of Mazaga.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~28370~1120799:Arabia,-Egypt,-Abyssinia,-Red-Sea->

Thomson, 1817

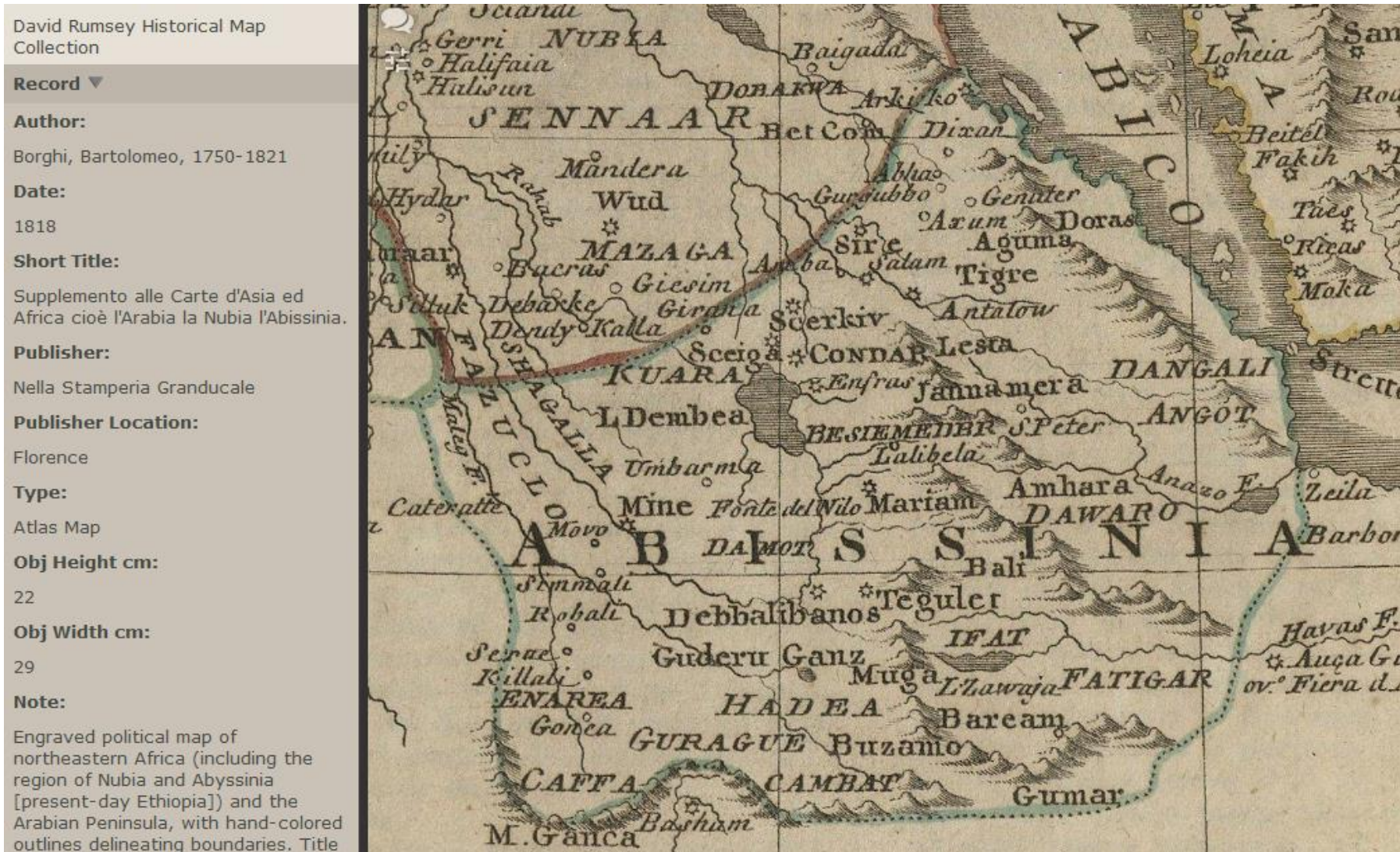
Clear delimitation of Dembea, Walkaya and Tigre, which extends west of Tekeze River.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~28373~1120802:Egypt,-Abyssinia->

Borghi, 1818

Abissinia, without internal boundaries.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~339860~90108067:Supplemento-alle-Carte-d-Asia-ed-Af>

Arrowsmith, 1825

Internal borders without hierarchy.

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection	
Record ▾	
Author:	
Arrowsmith, Aaron Jr.	
Date:	
1825	
Short Title:	
Abyssinia	
Publisher:	
A. & S. Arrowsmith	
Publisher Location:	
London	
Type:	
Atlas Map	
Obj Height cm:	
31	
Obj Width cm:	
23	
Scale 1:	
3,500,000	
Note:	
Hand color map, with colored boundaries. Showing regions, place names, rivers, etc. Includes notes. Relief shown by hachures. Prime meridian is Greenwich.	

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~233965~5509786:Abyssinia>

Vandermaelen, 1827

Numerous names of “princdoms”, no Tigray or Amhara, no boundaries.

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

Record ▼

Author:
Vandermaelen, Philippe, 1795-1869

Date:
1827

Short Title:
Sennaar. Afrique 25.

Publisher:
Ph. Vandermaelen

Publisher Location:
Bruxelles

Type:
Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:
48

Obj Width cm:
62

Scale 1:
1,641,836

Note:
Hand col. lithographed map. Relief shown by pictorially; depths by soundings. Prime meridian: Paris. Covers parts of Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Country:
Ethiopia



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~25205~90090253:Sennaar--Afrique-25->

Brue, 1828

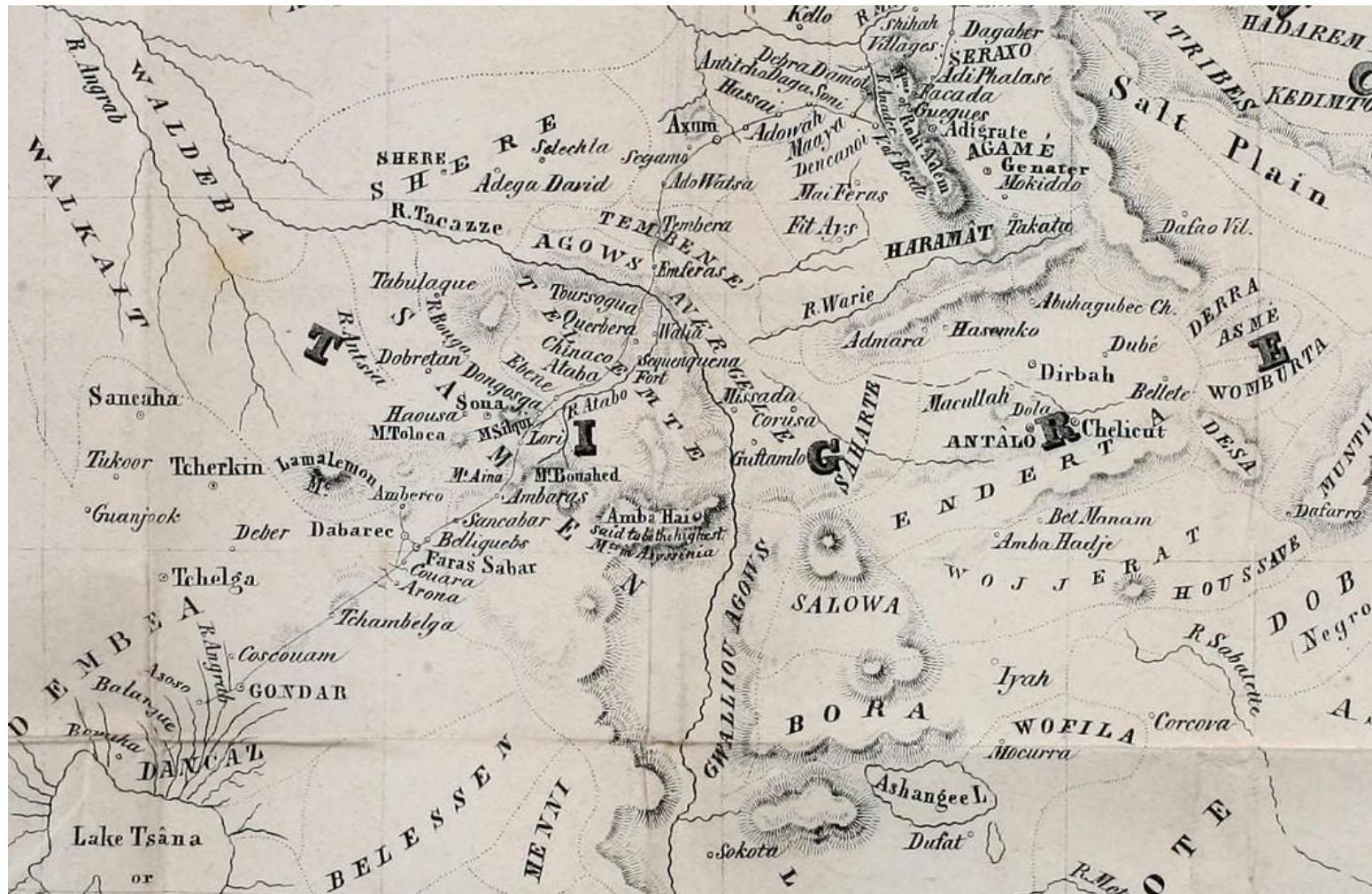
Dotted lines representing borders, across the Simien crestline



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~33953~1170106:Afrique,-septentrionale->

Gobat, 1831

Gobat's book and map refer to the period of his active travel in Abyssinia (1830-1832). Numerous internal boundaries; positioning of lettering TIGRE hints at territorial control including "Samen" and likely also "Walkait".



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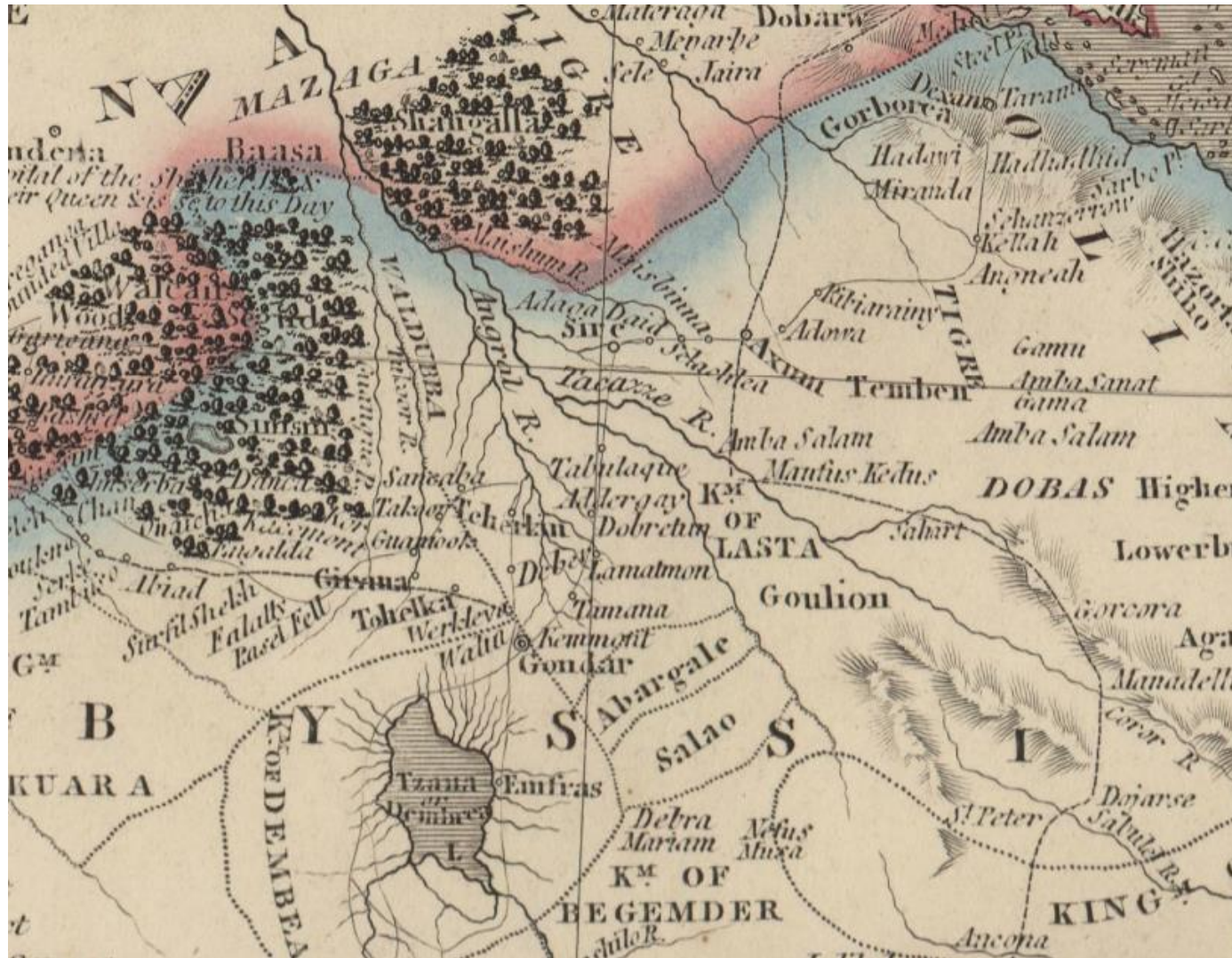
Journal of three years' residence in Abyssinia

[Gobat, Samuel](#); [Clark, Sereno Dickenson](#); [Baird, Robert M.W. Dodd](#), 1850

<https://library.si.edu/digital-library/book/journalofthreeeye00goba>

Lizars & Lizars, 1831

Map displays borders, without hierarchy; numerous smaller entities; Walcait is mapped as part of Mazaga



MAP

Arabia: With the Adjacent Countries of Egypt and Nubia.

Arabia : with the adjacent countries of Egypt & Nubia

William Home Lizars (1788-1859) was a Scottish engraver and painter and the son of the engraver Daniel Lizars. This map appears identical to the one engraved by Daniel, which appeared in The Edinburgh Geographical and Historical Atlas published by John Hamilton in 1831. It is plate 47 of the atlas. Relief is shown by hachures, and scale is indicated in British statute miles. The...

Contributor: Lizars, Daniel - Lizars, W.H. (William Home)

Date: 1831

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2021668729/>

Arrowsmith, 1832

Clear boundary, south of the Simien crestline

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

Record ▾

Author:

Arrowsmith, John

Date:

1832

Short Title:

Nubia, Abyssinia.

Publisher:

John Arrowsmith

Publisher Location:

London

Type:

Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:

52

Obj Width cm:

61

Scale 1:

3,860,000

Note:

Engraved map. Hand colored boundaries. Relief shown by hachures.

World Area:

Africa

Country:

Ethiopia



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~33873~1170025:Nubia,-Abyssinia->

Brue & Picquet, 1834

Internal border Amhara-Tigré runs well south of Tekeze R.

David Rumsey Historical Map
Collection

Record ▼

Author:

Brue, Adrien Hubert, 1786-1832

Author:

Picquet, C.

Date:

1834

Short Title:

Afrique, septentrionale.

Publisher:

C. Picquet

Publisher Location:

Paris

Type:

Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:

37

Obj Width cm:

54

Scale 1:

16,000,000

Note:

Hand colored engraved map. Relief shown by hachures. Includes inset of Cape Verde. Prime meridian: Paris. In embossed seal: Propriete acquise en 1835



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~35065~1180690:Afrique,-septentrionale->

Combes & Tamisier, 1838

Numerous smaller territories with boundaries, and three main territories, Tigré, Semen and Amhara (boundaries do not allow to ascertain affiliations).



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Carte de l'Abyssine, du pays des Galla, de Choa et d'Ifat (Combes et Tamisier - 1838)



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=44

Weiland, 1841

Internal border well south of Tacazze. Walkayt part of Tigre.

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

Record ▼

Author:
Geographisches Institut (Weimar, Germany)

Author:
Weiland, Carl Ferdinand, 1782 - 1847

Date:
1841

Short Title:
Northeastern Africa or Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan, and Ethiopia.

Publisher:
Weimar Geographisches Institut

Publisher Location:
Weimar

Type:
Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:
61

Obj Width cm:
49

Country:
Eritrea

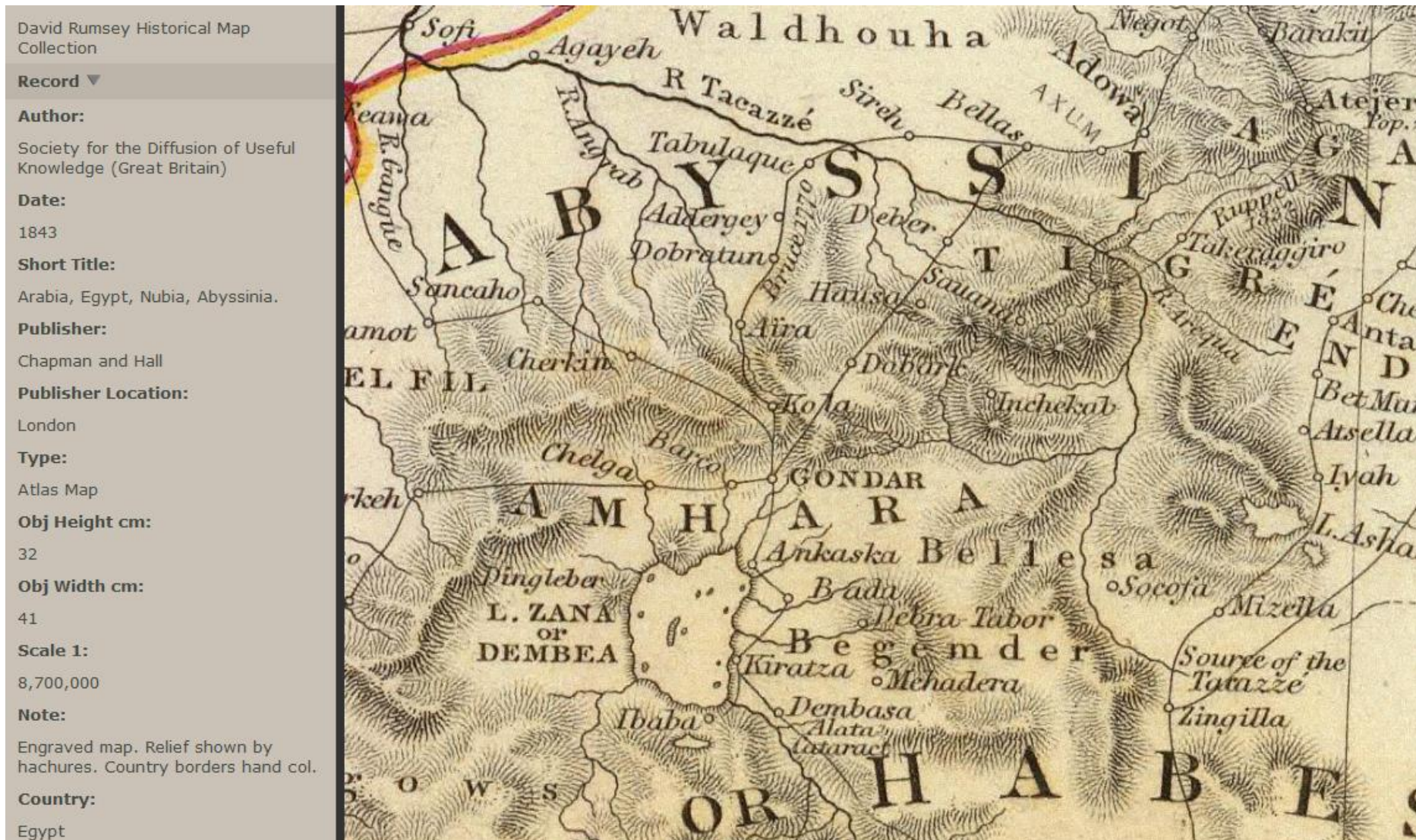
Country:
Egypt



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~280071~90053341:Northeastern-Africa-or-Egypt,-Eritr>

Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge (GB), 1843 (also in 1865)

No internal borders drawn; lettering Tigré across Tekeze and Amhara north of Lake Tana, suggesting a border over Simien.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~20915~530016:Arabia,-Egypt,-Nubia,-Abyssinia->

Mc Queen & Isenberg, 1844

No boundaries; naming Tigre and Amhara suggests boundary is on Tekeze; Walkait a bit to the west. Data collection: 1839-1842 (see <https://www.abebooks.com/first-edition/Journals-Rev-Messrs-Isenberg-Krapf-Missionaries/30494935218/bd>)



Exploring historical maps of the Horn of Africa

Home Maps Help

Karte von Abessinien (James Mc Queen - 1844)



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=24

Radefeld, 1844

Clearly drawn boundaries; Walkayt in Tigre

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

Record ▼

Author:
Radefeld, Carl Christian Franz,
1788-1874

Date:
1844

Short Title:
Nubien, Habesch, Kordofan, Darfur.

Publisher:
Bibliographischen Instituts

Publisher Location:
Hildburghausen

Type:
Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:
31

Obj Width cm:
36

Scale 1:
6,300,000

Note:
Engraved map. Boundaries hand col. Relief shown by hachures. "Meyers Handatlas No. 48." Prime meridians: Ferro and Paris.

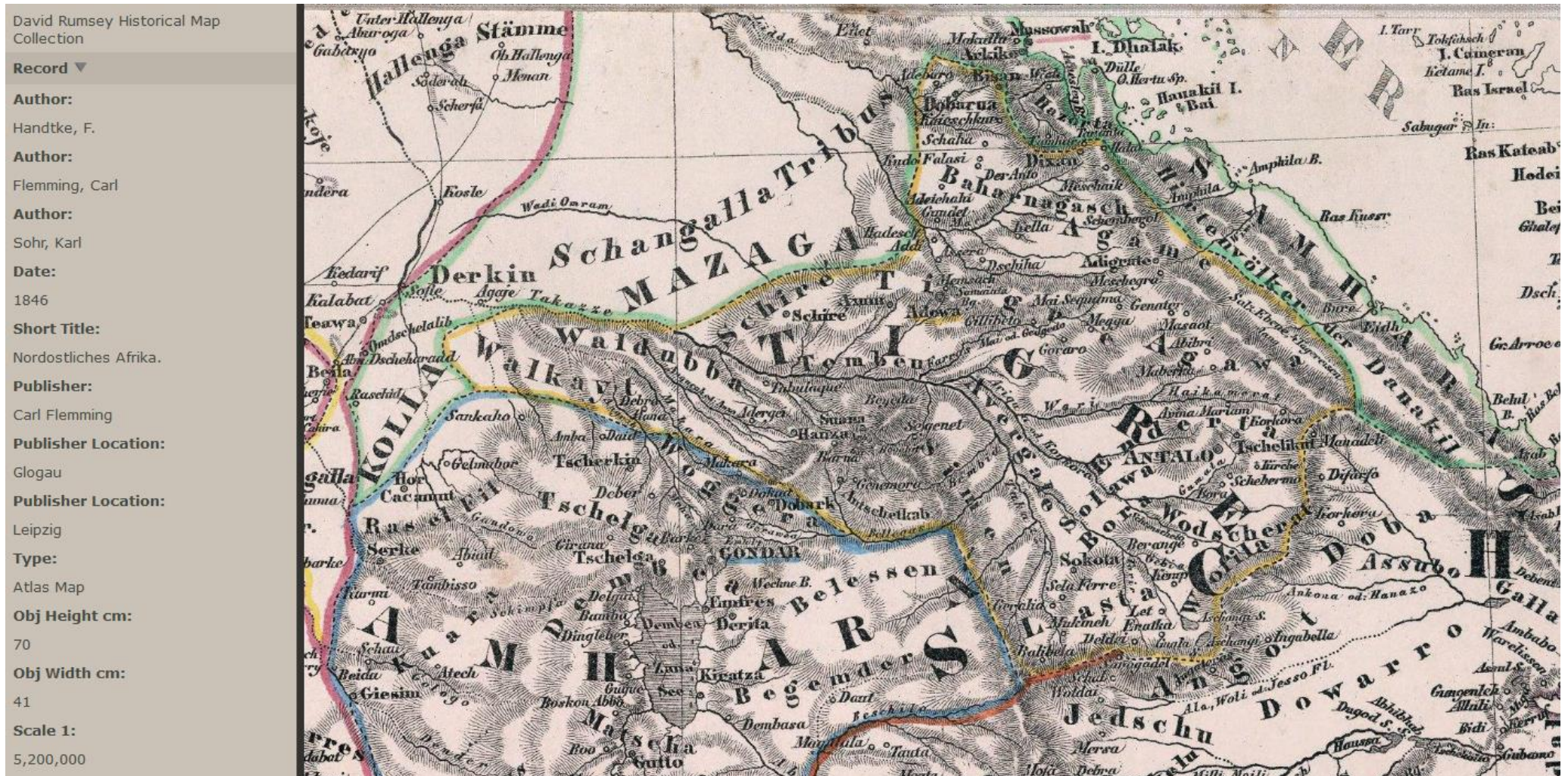
Country:
Ethiopia



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~21270~690036:Nubien,-Habesch,-Kordofan,-Darfur->

Handtke, 1846 (also 1851, 1855)

Borders Amhara-Tigre outlined; Walkayt and Simen in Tigre



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~304175~90074736:Nordostliches-Afrika->

<https://www.digar.ee/arhiiv/nlib-digar:429790>

Lefebvre, 1847

No borders drawn, position of lettering Amhara and Tigre may suggest a border on Tekezze R.

Carte générale d'Abyssinie (Théophile Lefebvre - 1847)

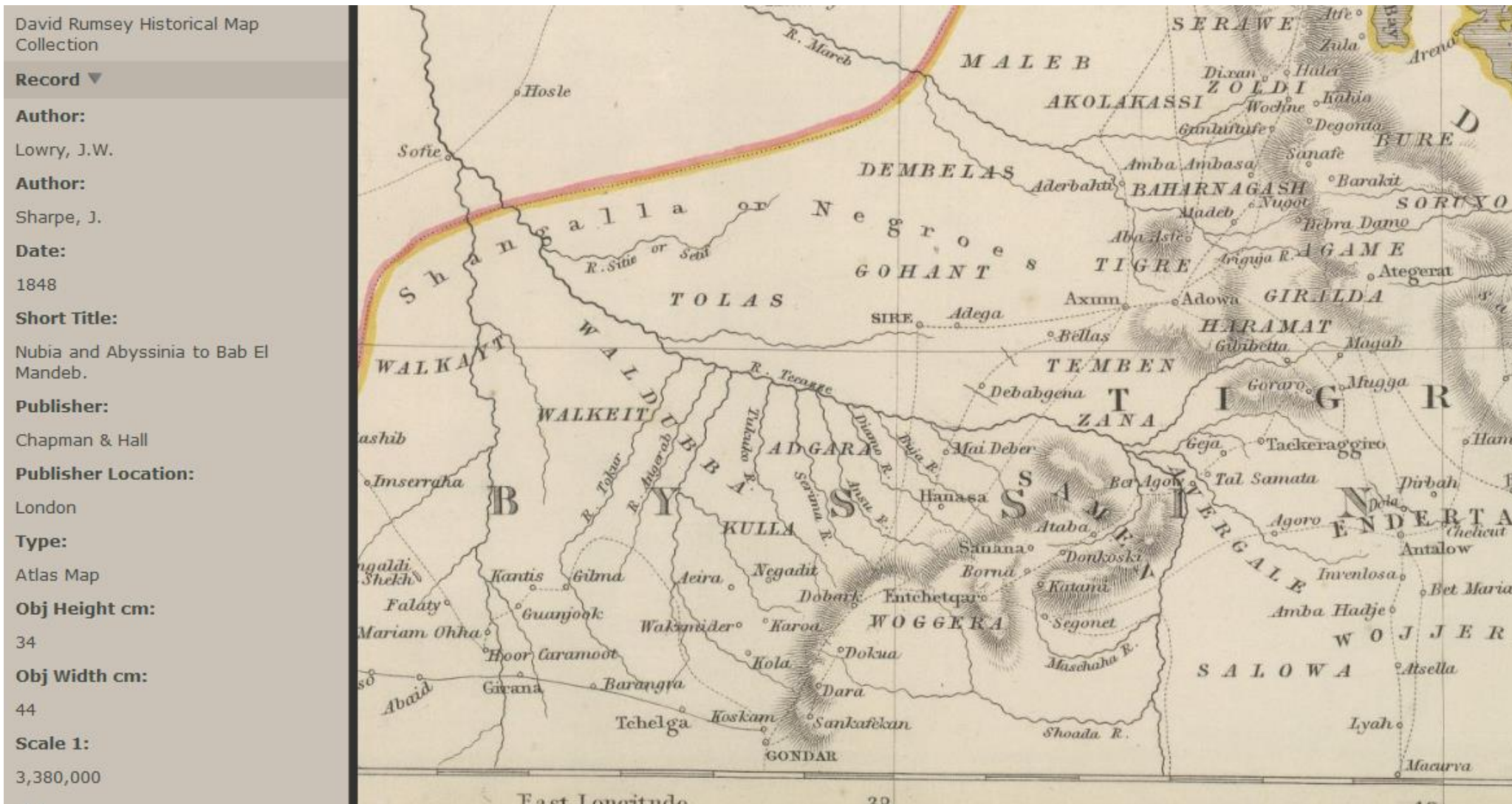


Leaflet | Ethiomap

https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=21

Lowry, 1848

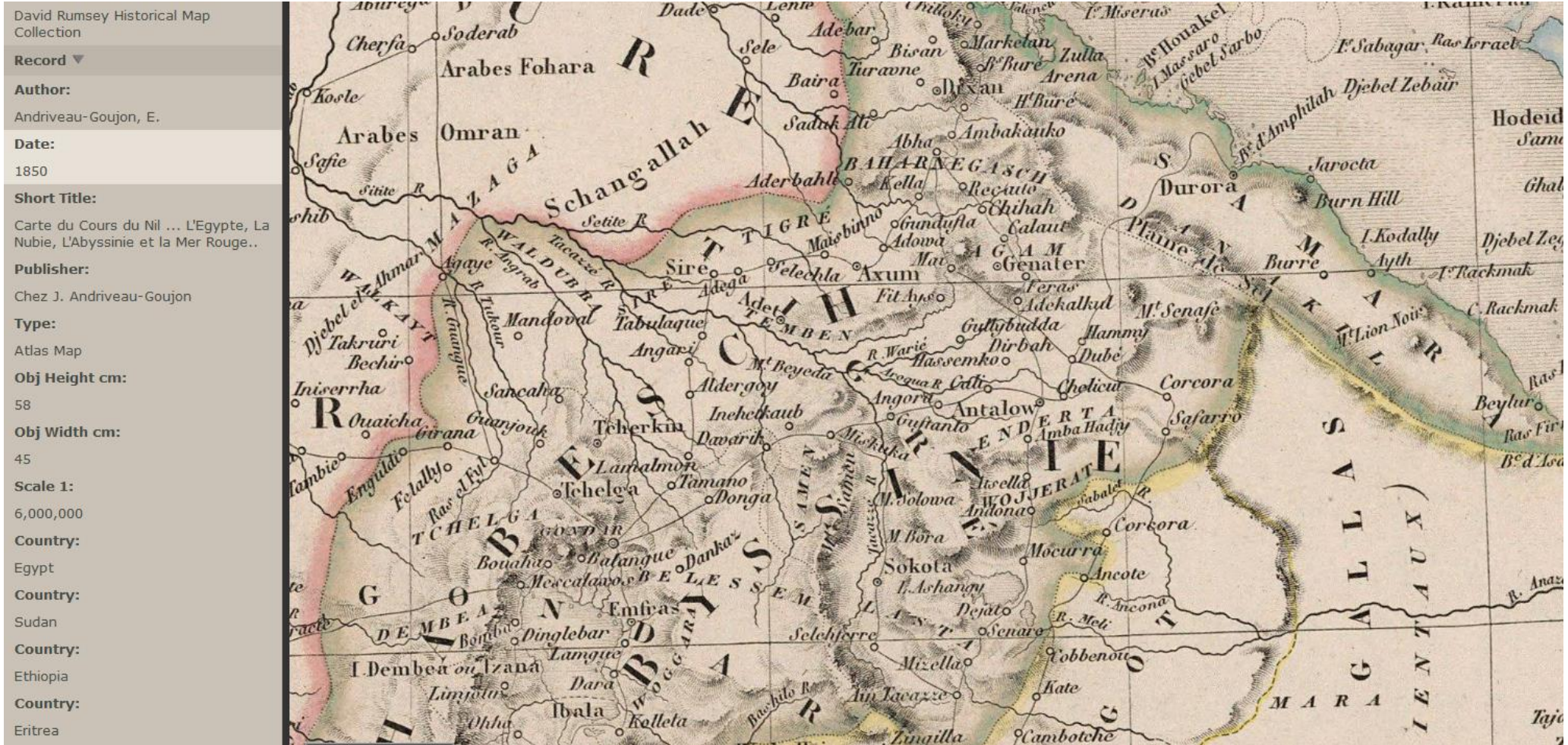
Internal boundaries not mapped



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~37507~1210498:Nubia-and-Abyssinia-to-Bab-El-Mande>

Andriveau-Goujon, 1850

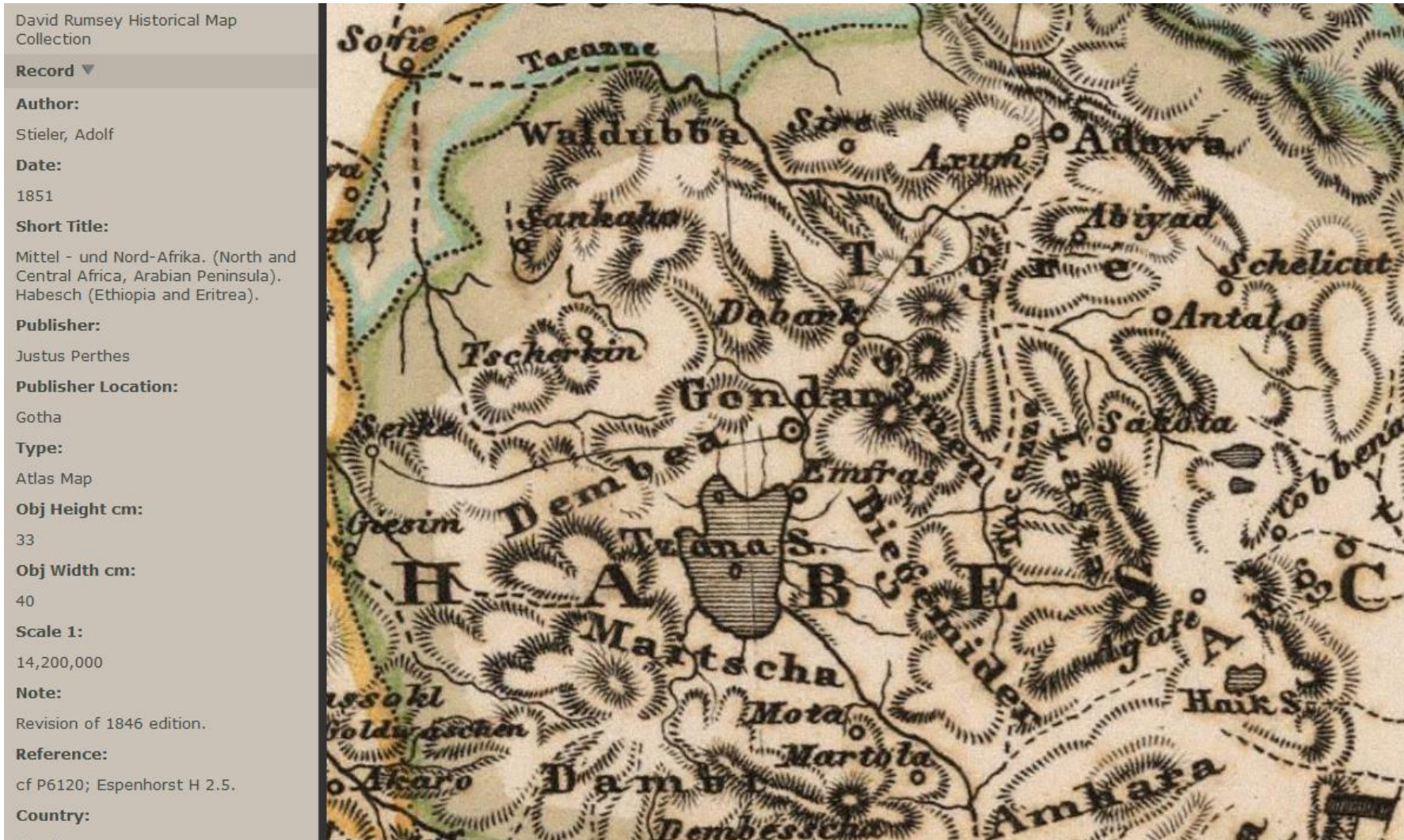
Habesch with Gondar and Tigre, border in thin dotted line, across Simien. Walkayt part of Mazaga.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~283026~90055440:53--Abissinia->

Stieler, 1851 (also 1853)

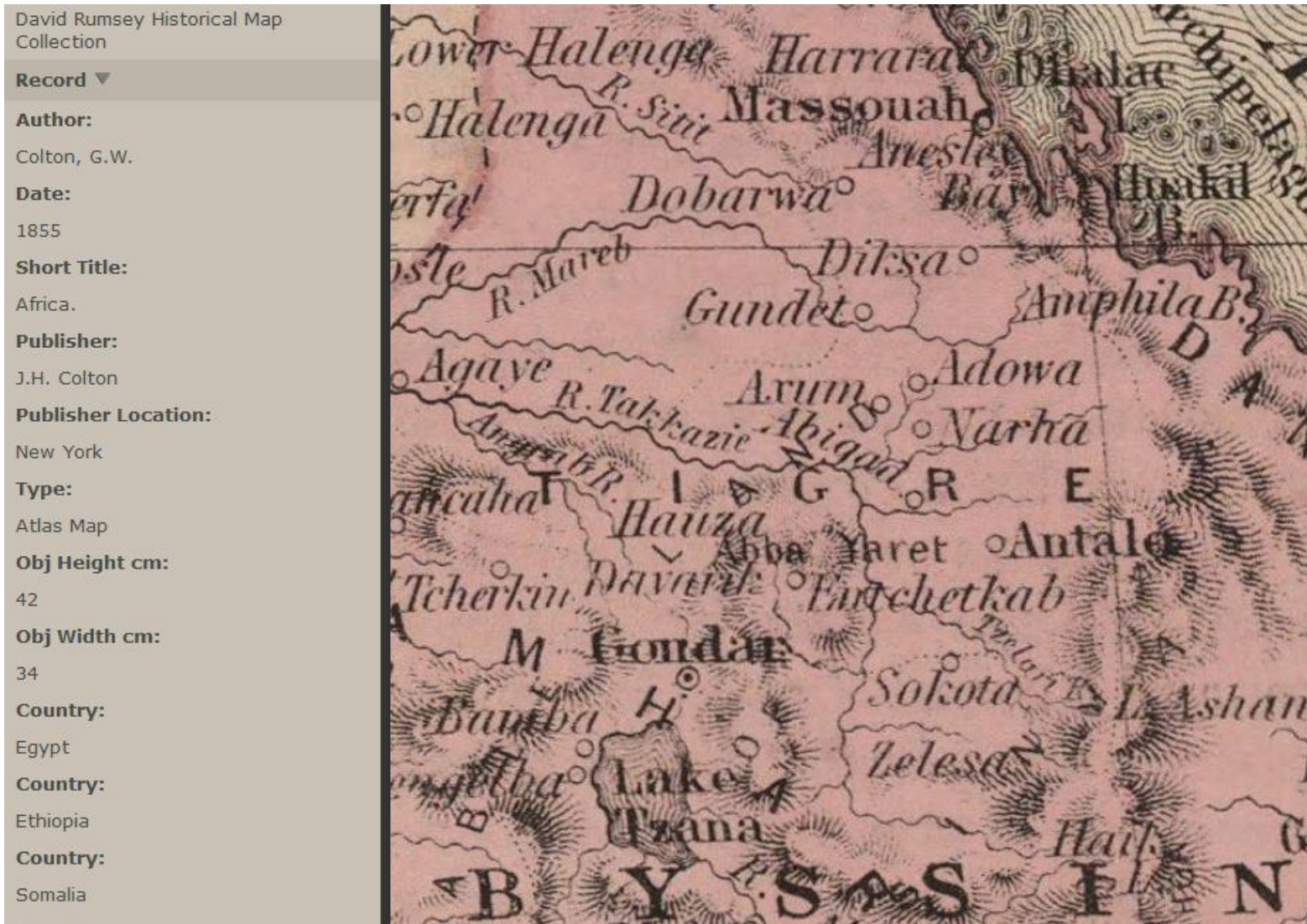
No internal borders; lettering Tigré spans both sides of Tekeze R.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~244056~5513687:Mittel---und-Nord-Afrika---North-an>

Colton, 1855 (very similar in 1866, 1874)

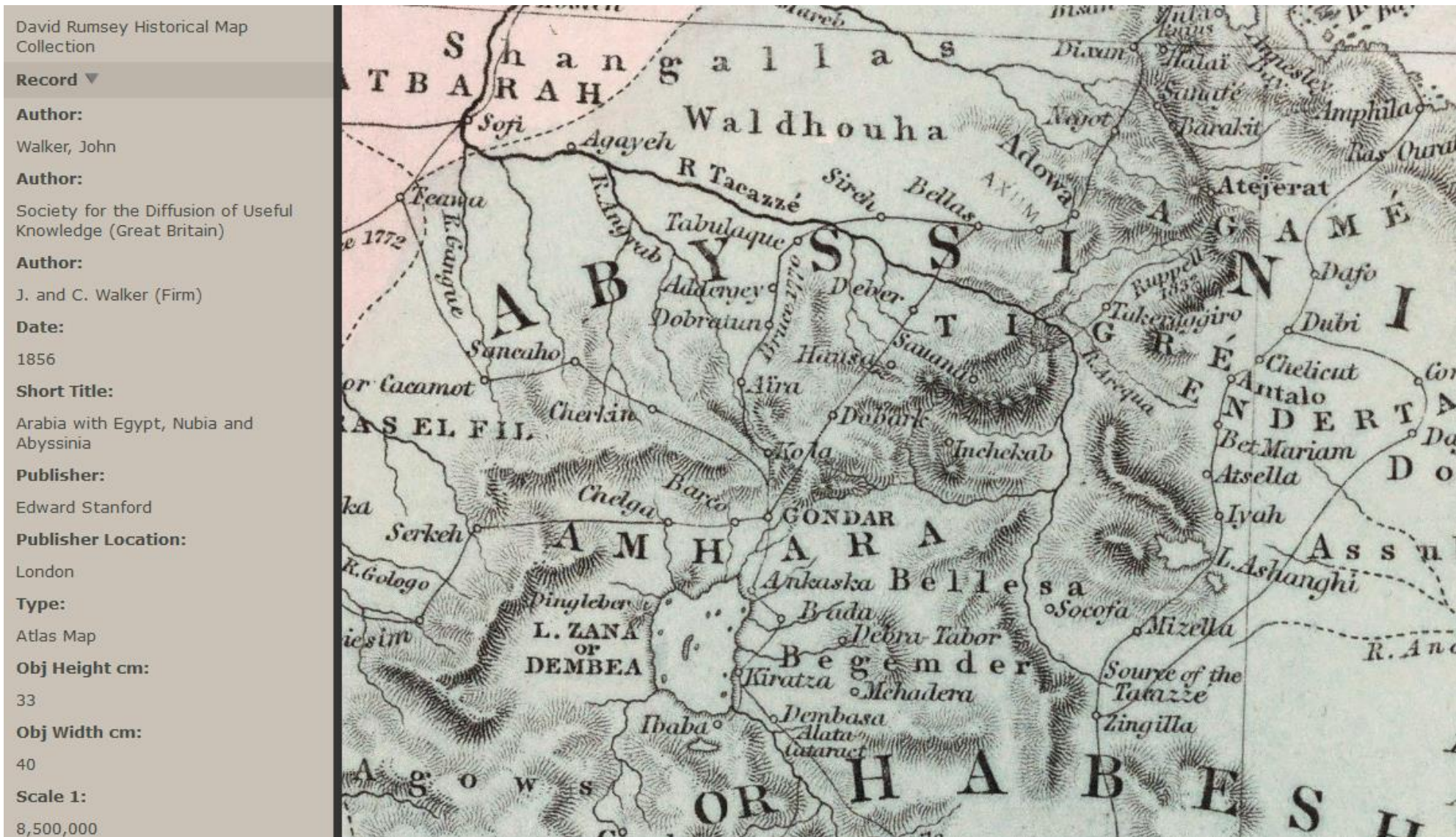
No internal borders, lettering Tigre spans both sides of Tekeze



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~308930~90078654:Africa->

Walker, 1856

No internal borders drawn; lettering Tigré across Tekeze and Amhara north of Lake Tana, suggesting a border over Simien



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~292734~90063977:Arabia-with-Egypt,-Nubia-and-Abyssi>

Marmocchi, 1858

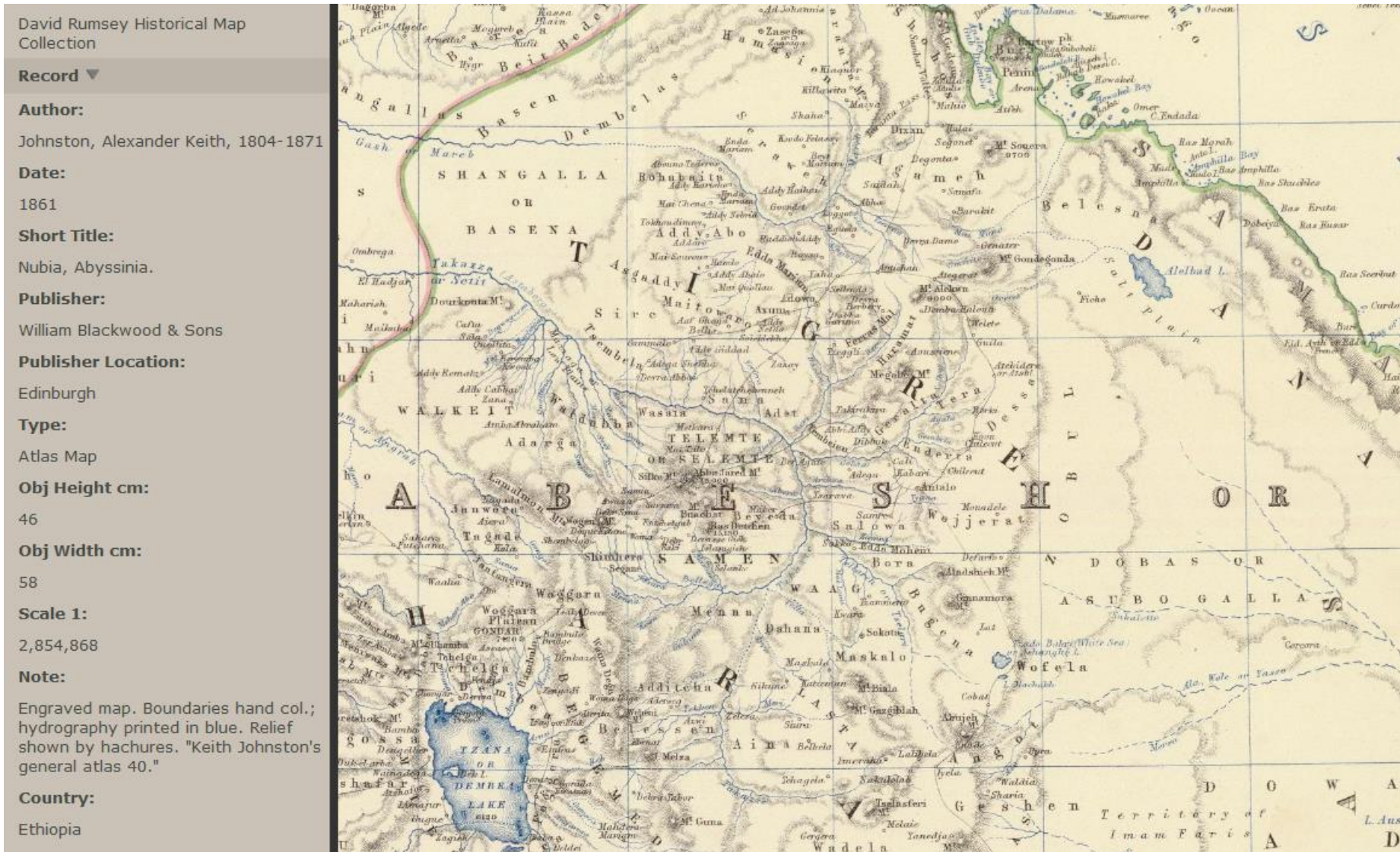
Abissinia (internal boundaries not drawn)



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~296942~90068532:4--La-Nubia-e-L-Abissinia->

Johnston, 1861

Tigre and Amhara as main subunits of Habesh; border not drawn



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~21335~620035:Nubia,-Abyssinia->

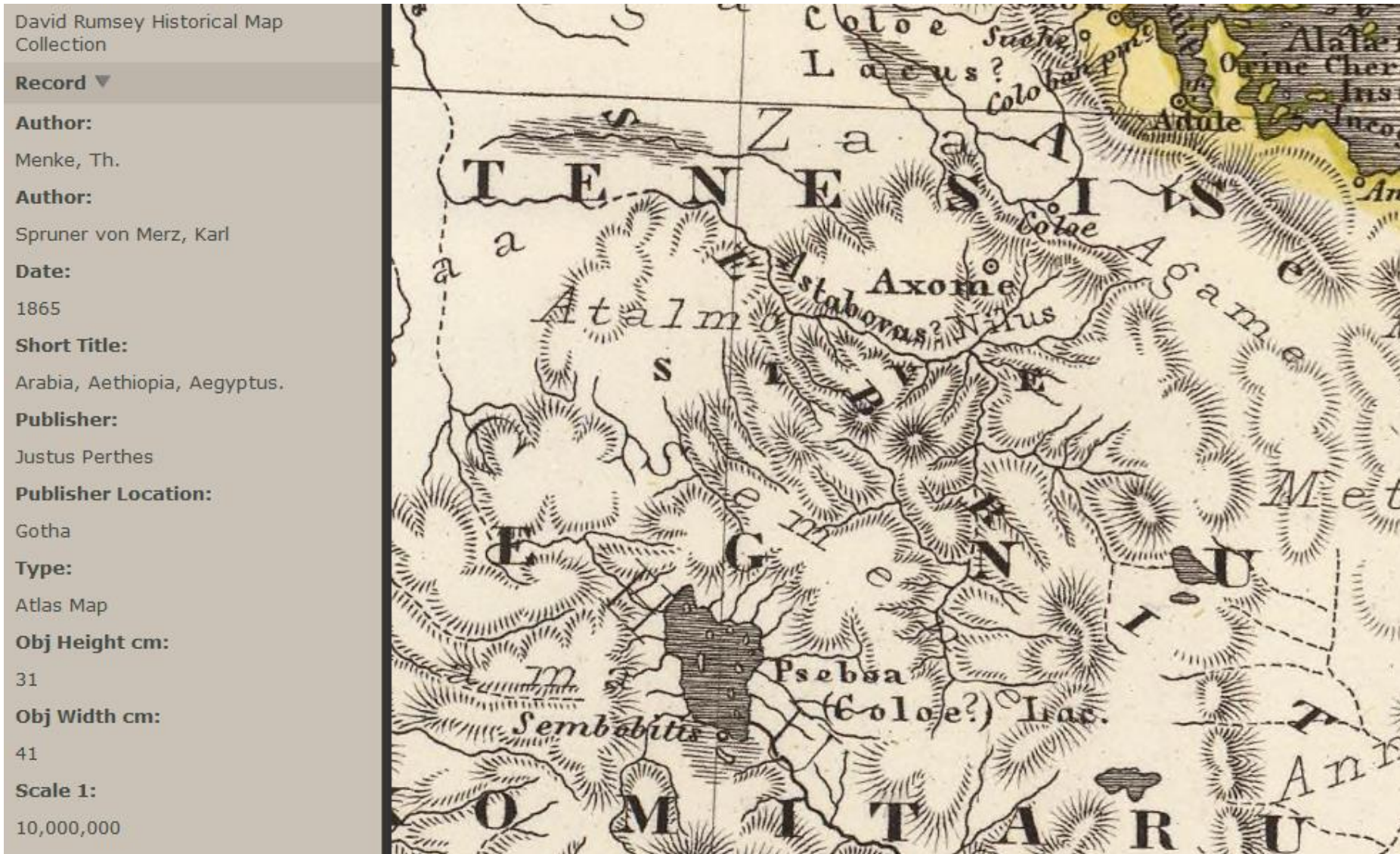
Originalkarte von Nord Abessinien (Werner Munzinger - 1864)



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=42

Menke & Spruner von Merz, 1865

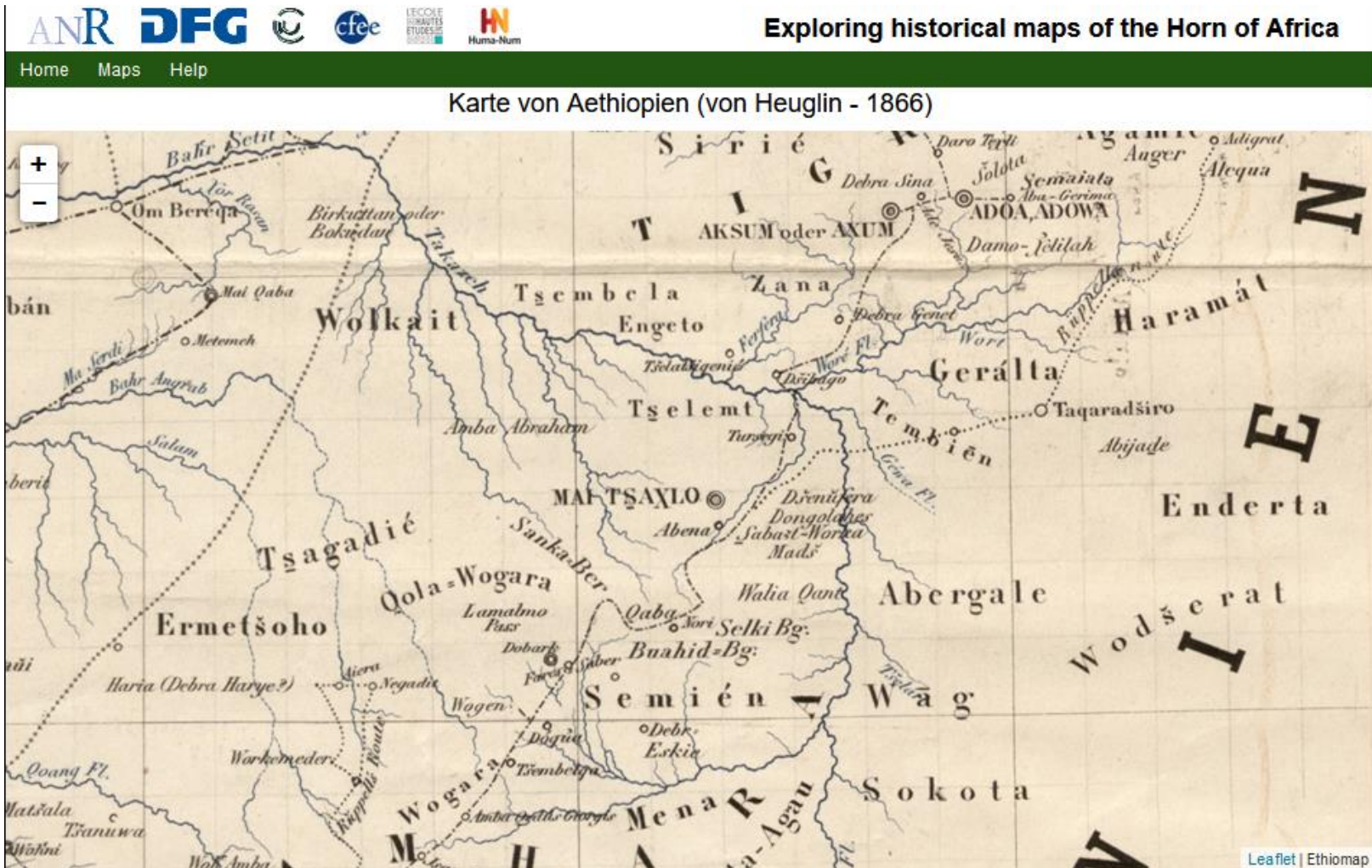
No internal boundaries



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~34744~1180357:Arabia,-Aethiopia,-Aegyptus->

Von Heuglin, 1866

No borders shown between Amhara and Tigríé. Names are clearly written with Tigrinya accents including Ermetšoho, Ṭselemt, Ṭsagadié, Mai Ṭsaxlo, May Qaba, Dogu'a, Qola, etc. The geographic descriptions suggest these regions have been under Tigray at the time.



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=52

D'Abbadie, 1868

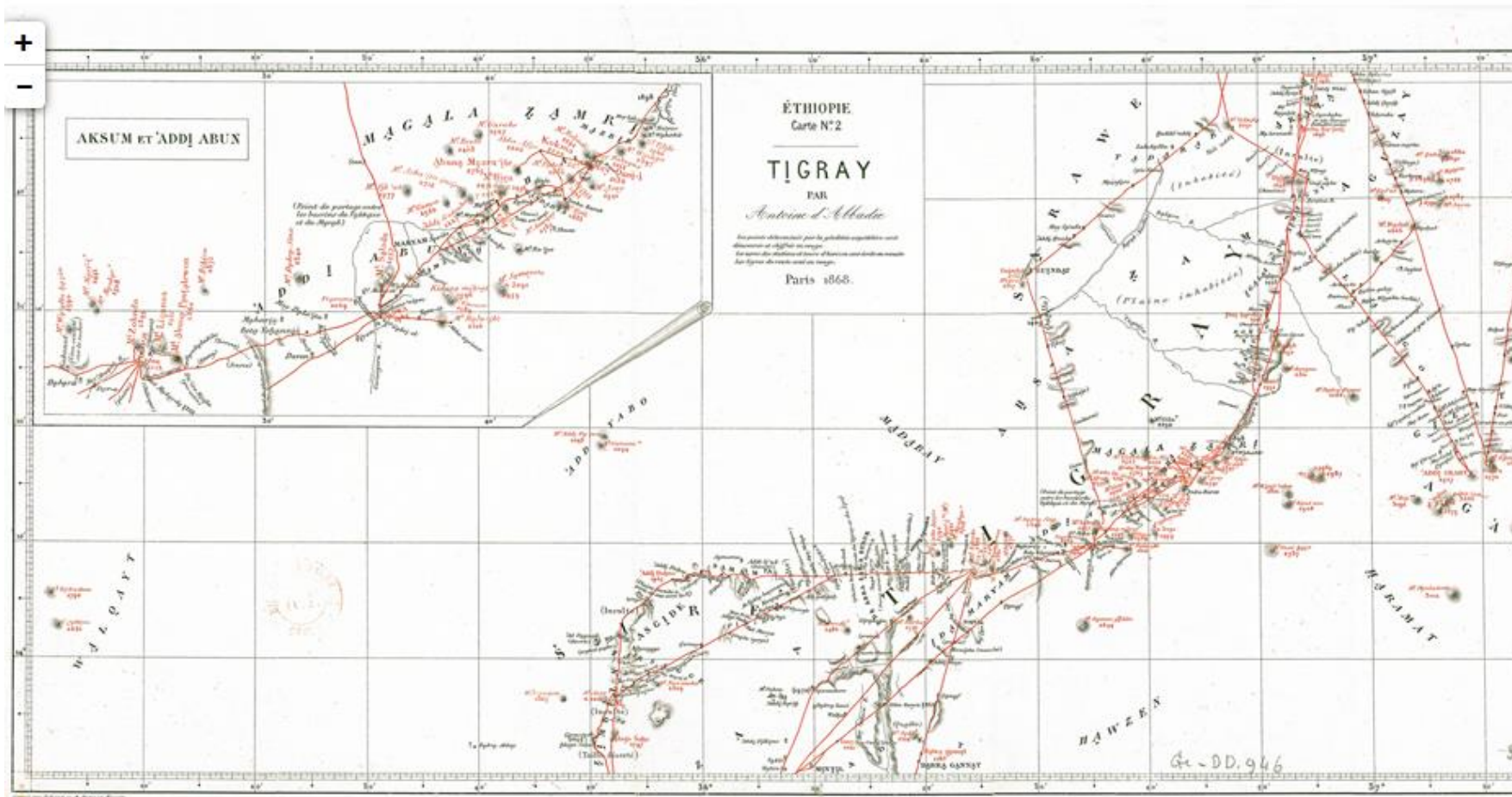
Maps 2 and 3, no borders shown; Walquayt suggested as part of Tigray



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D'Abbadie n° 2 - Tigray (Antoine d'Abbadie - 1868)



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=12

Petermann, 1868

No borders shown; coloured lines are itineraries

ANR

DFG



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Originalkarte von Central-Abessinien (A. Petermann - 1868)



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=36

Colton, 1869

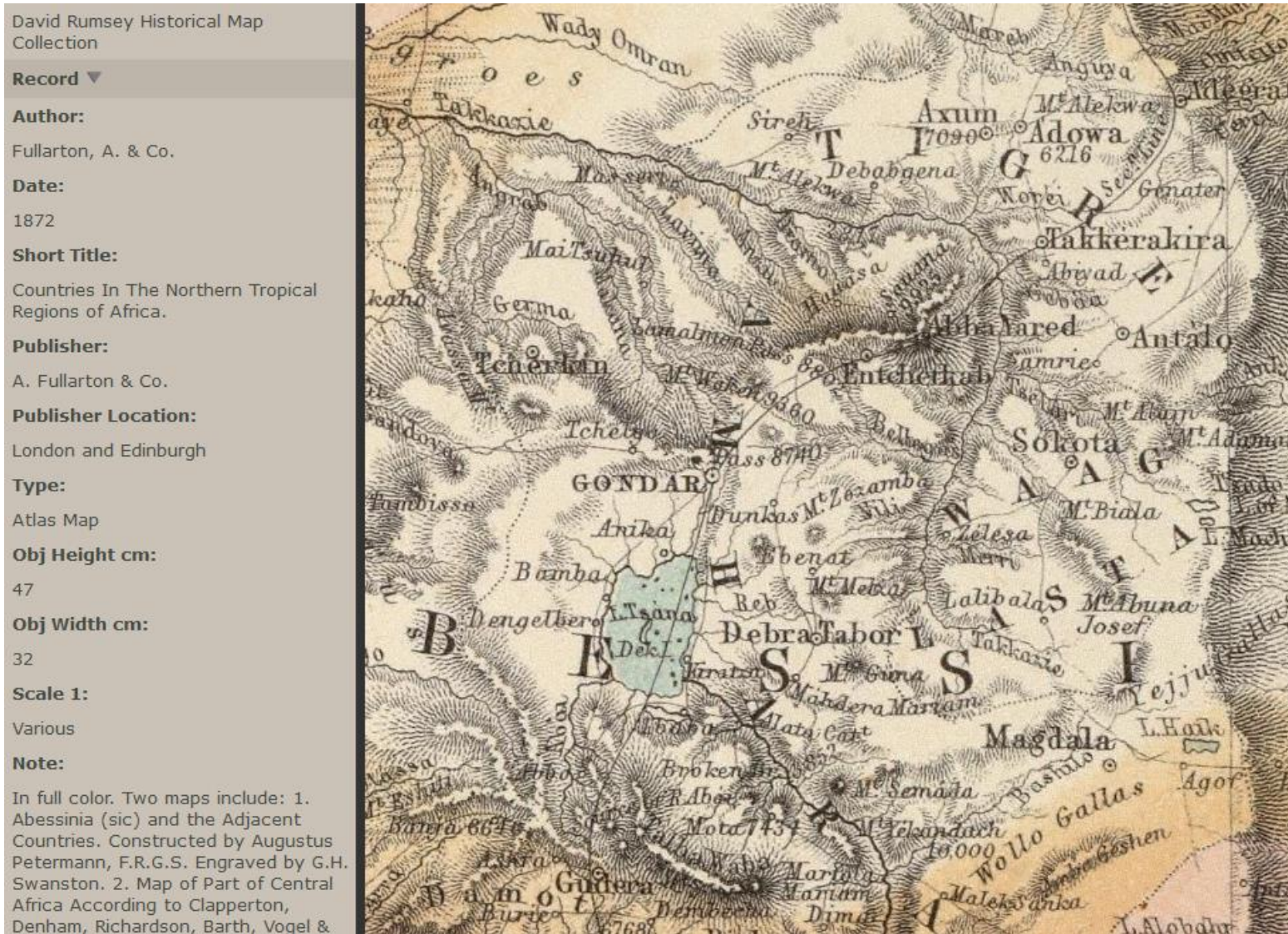
Thin dotted line as border, well south of Tekeze R.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~209210~5004023:North-Eastern-Africa->

Fullarton, 1872

No internal borders. Letterings Tigre and Amhara both are close to Tekeze, probably indicating that it was considered the border



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~3462~400032:Countries-In-The-Northern-Tropical->

Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge (GB), 1872

No internal borders drawn

Author:
Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge (Great Britain)

Date:
1872

Short Title:
Arabia with Egypt, Nubia, and Abyssinia.

Publisher:
Edward Stanford

Publisher Location:
London

Type:
Atlas Map

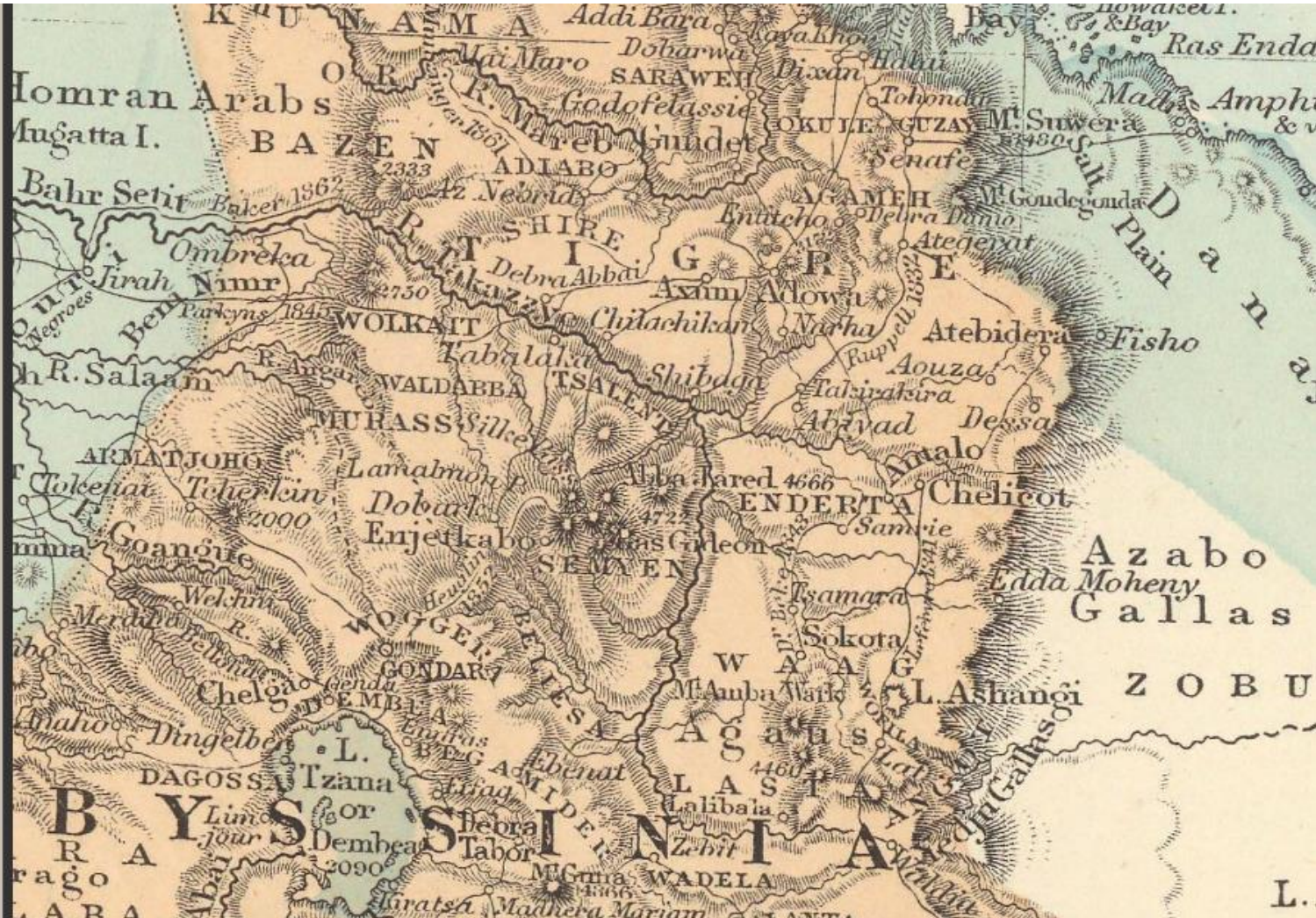
Obj Height cm:
38

Obj Width cm:
43

Scale 1:
8,400,000

Reference:
cf P3559.

Full Title:
Arabia with Egypt, Nubia, and Abyssinia.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~337962~90105928:Arabia-with-Egypt,-Nubia,-and-Abyss>

Smith & Muller, 1874

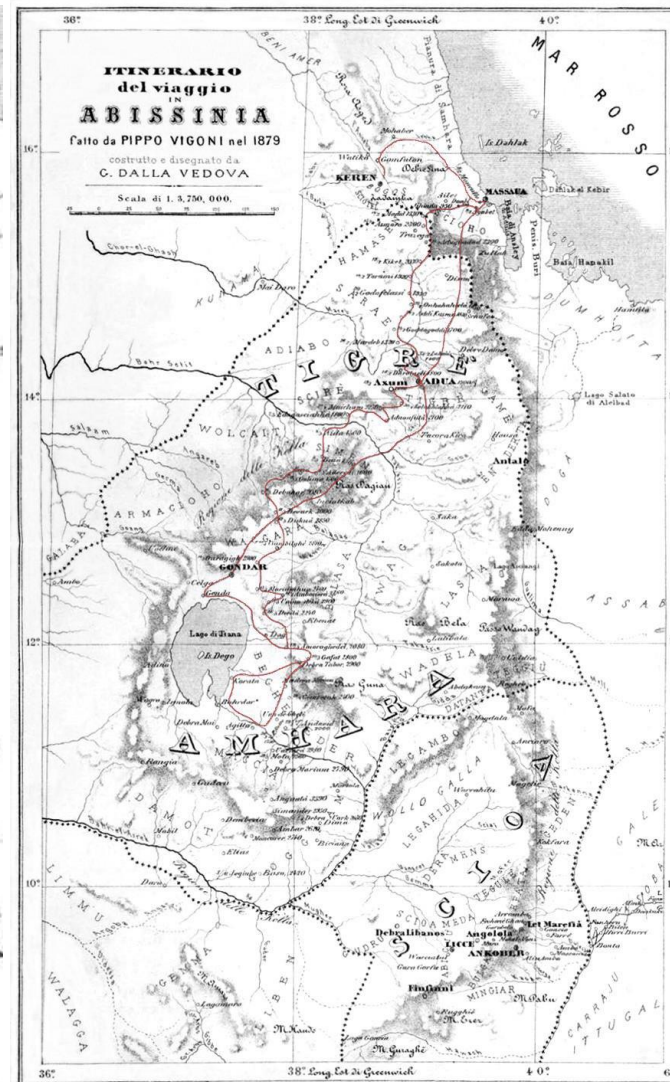
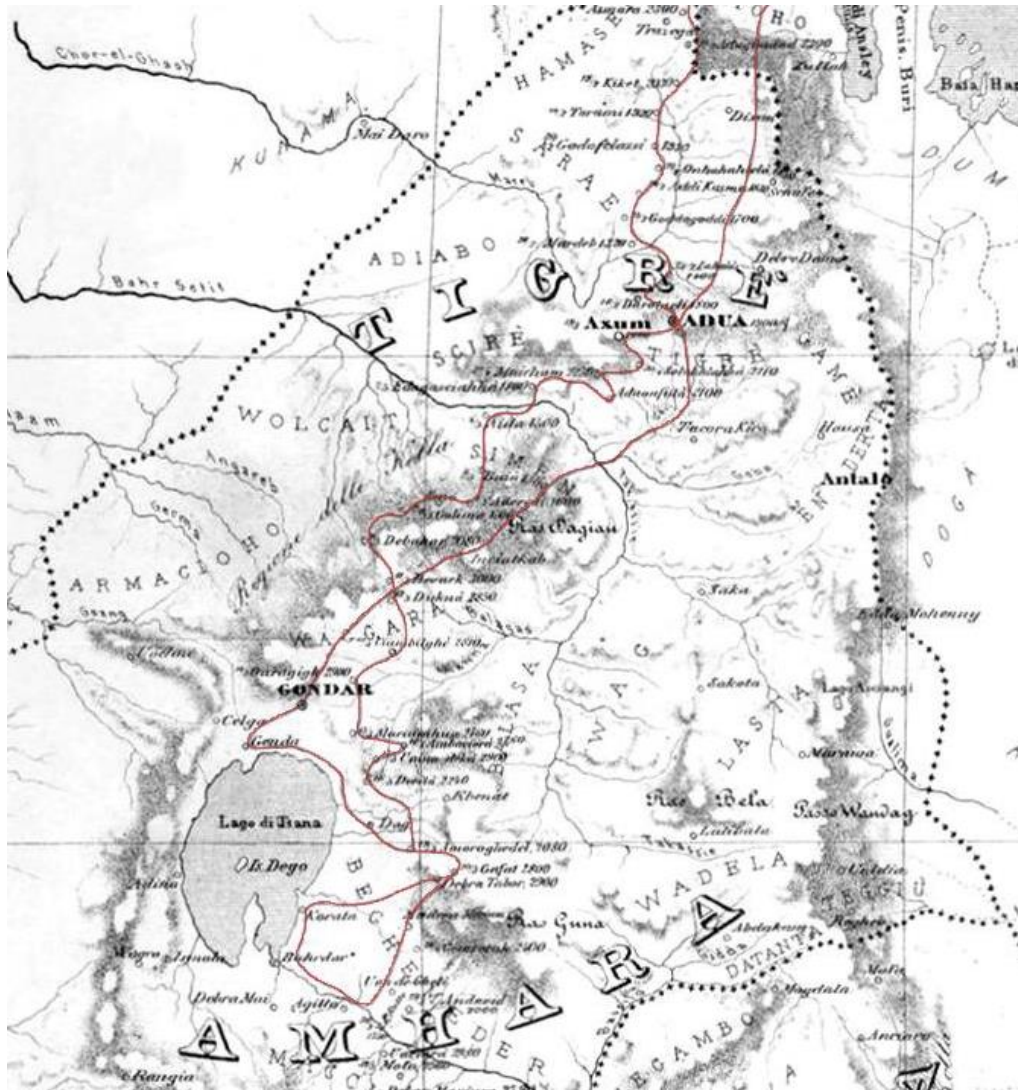
Without boundaries



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~315602~90084335:Arabia-et-Aethiopia-->

Vigoni, 1879

Border Tigré-Amhara not represented. Red line is itinerary.



https://books.google.be/books?id=xVFrasFe_YOC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false

Johnston, 1879

No internal boundaries

COLLECTION NAME:

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

Record ▼

Author:

Johnston, Alexander Keith

Date:

1879

Short Title:

Upper Nubia and Abyssinia.

Publisher:

W. & A.K. Johnston

Publisher Location:

Edinburgh

Type:

Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:

47

Obj Width cm:

60

Scale 1:

2,854,868

Note:

Countries and districts outlined in color. Relief shown by hachures. Four scales.

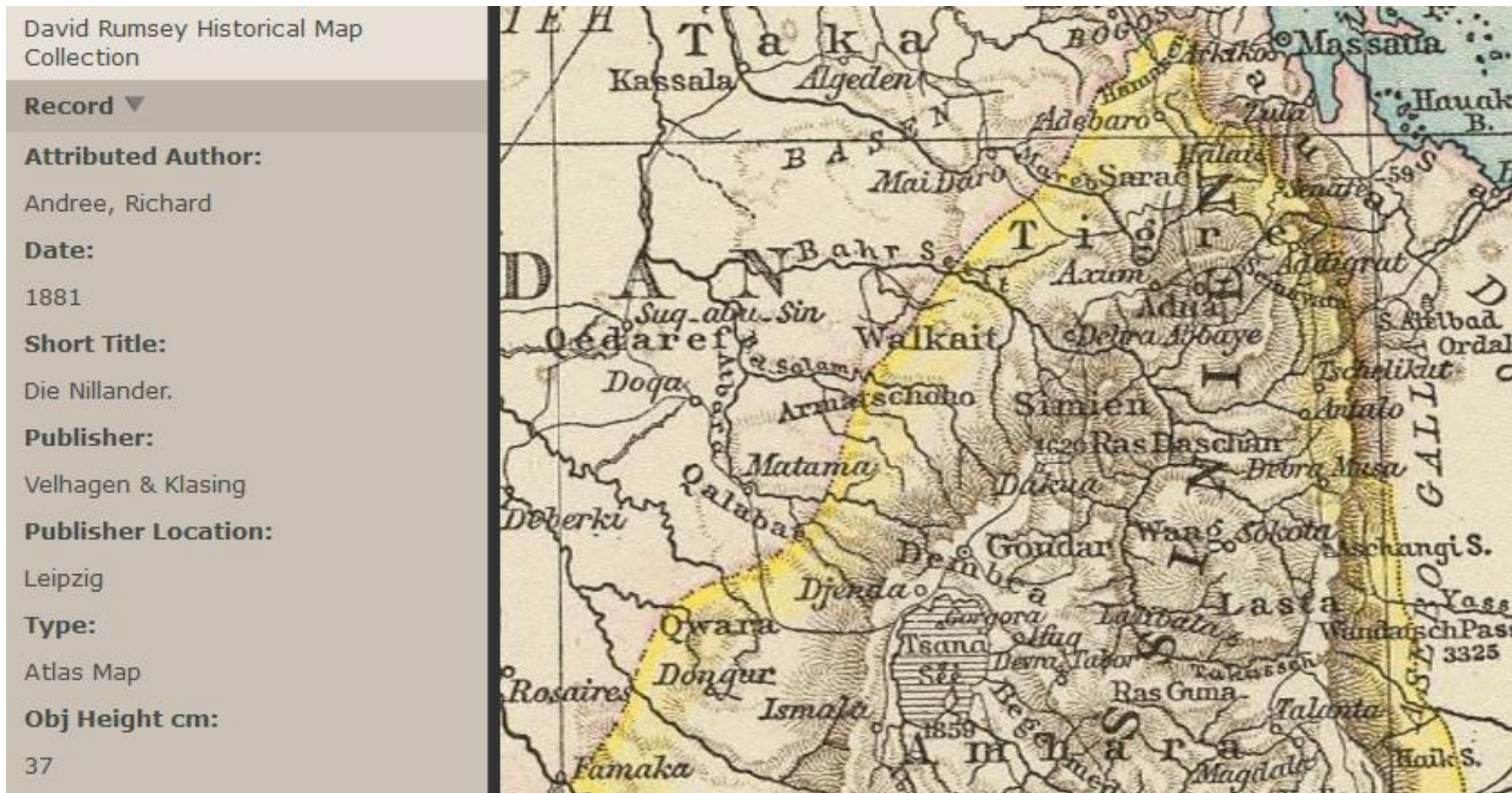
Country:



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~37189~1210166:Upper-Nubia-and-Abyssinia->

Andree, 1881

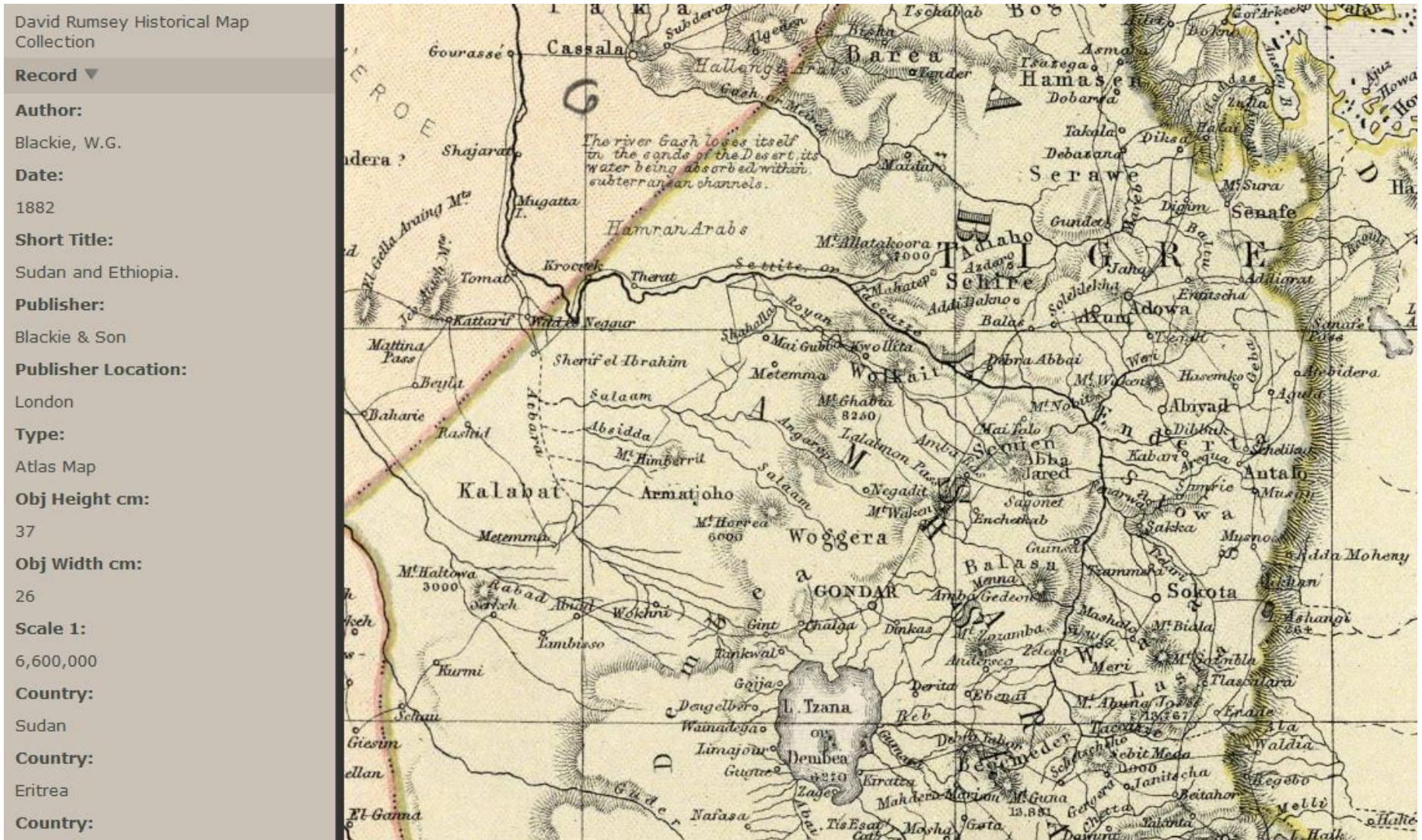
Internal boundaries not shown



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~30816~1150754:Die-Nillander->

Blackie, 1882

Internal boundary not drawn



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~272644~90046422:Sudan-and-Ethiopia->

Letts, 1883

No internal borders shown



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~31449~1150405:Arabia,-Egypt,-Nubia,-Abyssinia->

Habenicht, 1885 (similar in 1887)

Boundary Amhara-Tigre not drawn; Italian territory not outlined

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection	
Record ▼	
Author: Habenicht, Hermann	
Date: 1885	
Short Title: Sektion 6: Abessinien	
Publisher: Justus Perthes	
Publisher Location: Gotha	
Type: Atlas Map	
Obj Height cm: 59	
Obj Width cm: 72	
Scale 1: 4,000,000	
Note: Color map of Ethiopian Empire. Relief shown by shading, hachures and spot heights. Prime meridian is Greenwich.	
World Area: Africa	

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~317143~90086028:Sektion-6-->

https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=37

Colton, 1886

No internal boundaries drawn; most of the Tigre lettering established southwest of Tekeze; Wolkait clearly in Tigre



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~209908~5003708:North-Eastern-Africa->

Rand McNally, 1889

No internal boundary

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection	
Record ▼	
Author: Rand McNally and Company	
Date: 1889	
Short Title: Upper Nubia and Habesh or Abyssina.	
Publisher: Rand McNally	
Publisher Location: Chicago	
Type: Atlas Map	
Obj Height cm: 27	
Obj Width cm: 34	
Scale 1: 5,000,000	
Note: Countries in color; states outlined in color. Relief shown by hachures.	
Reference: P952.	
Country: Eritrea	

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~37470~1210344:Upper-Nubia-and-Habesh-or-Abyssina->

Habenicht, 1891

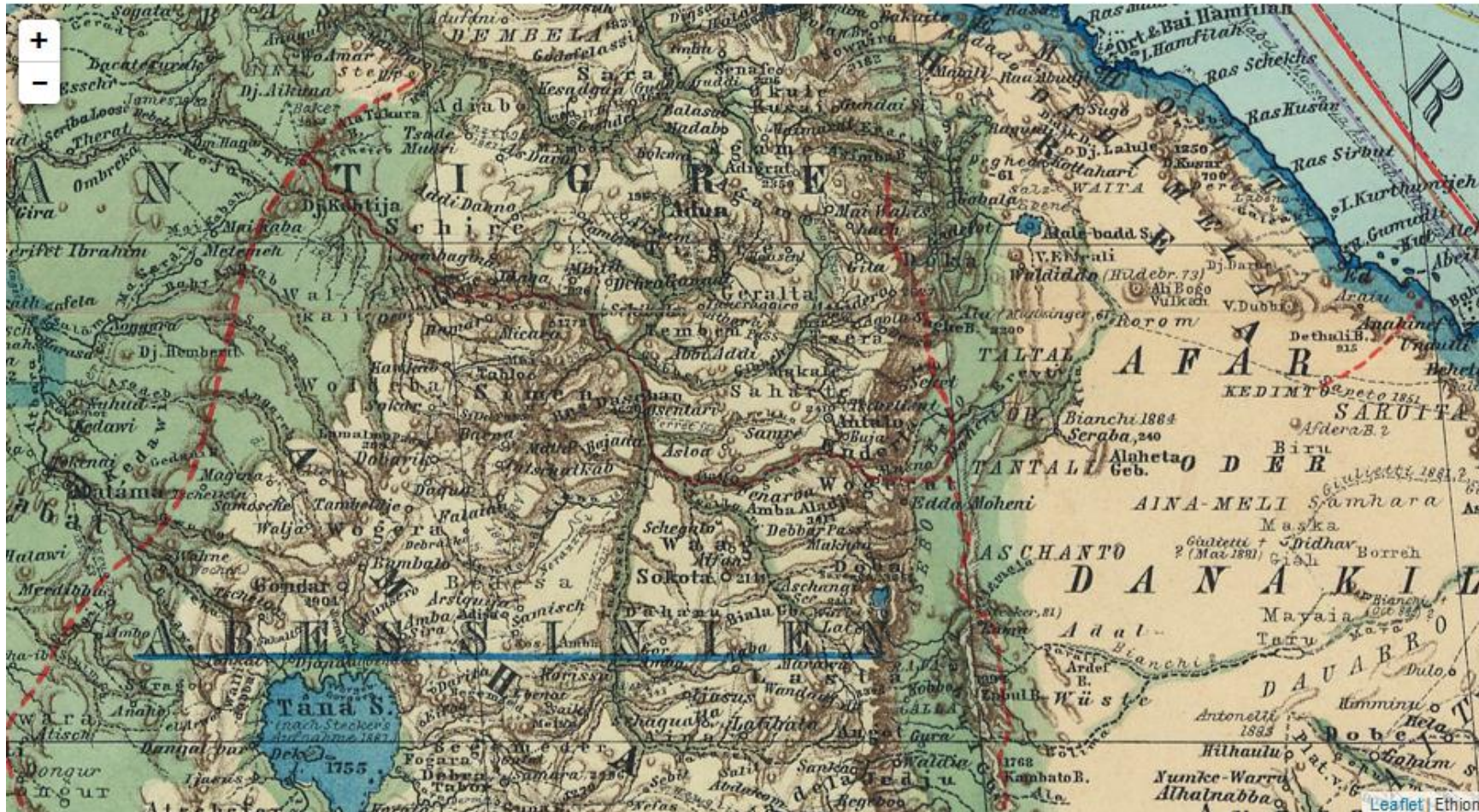
Border Amhara Tigre drawn on Tekeze R. in red colour.



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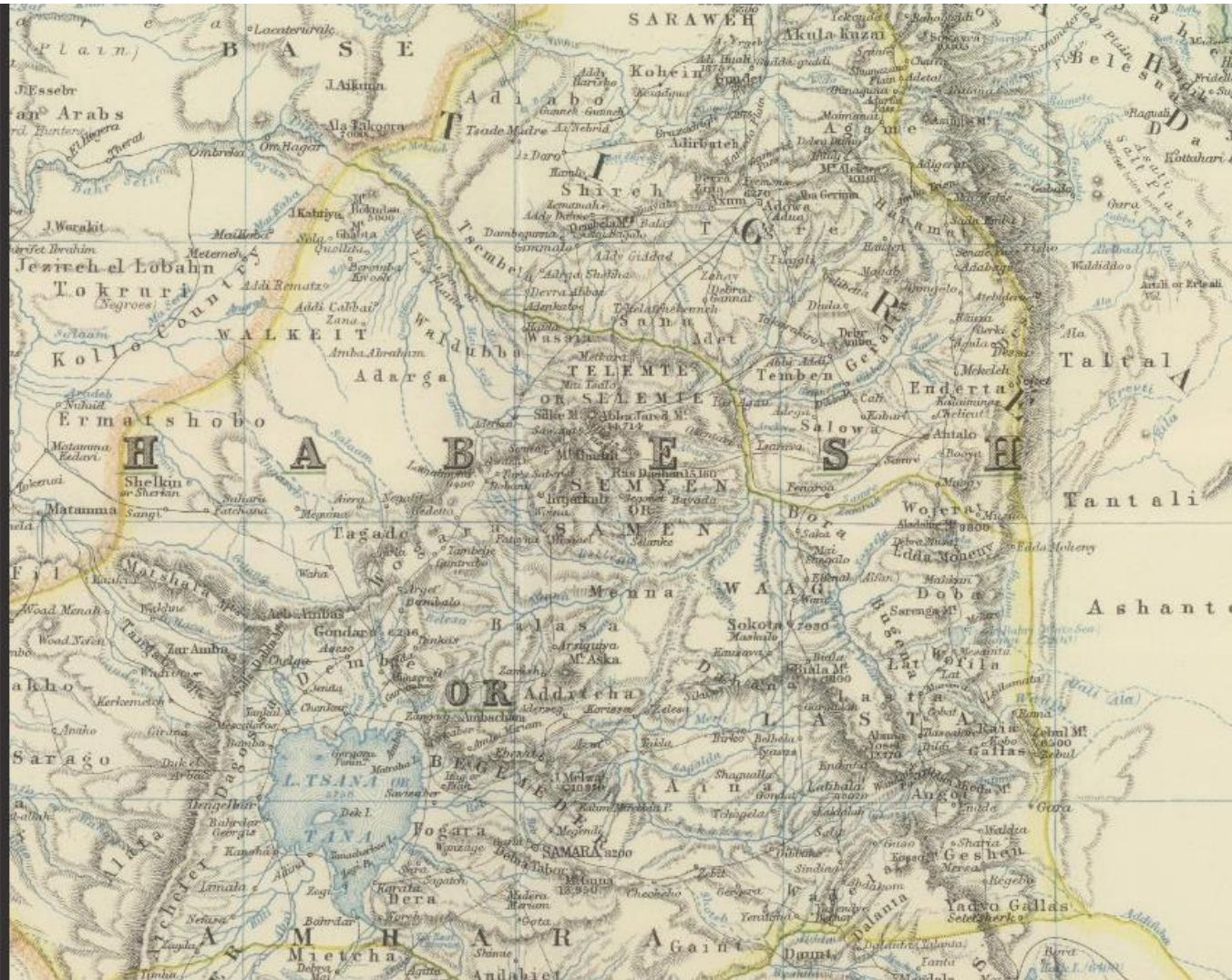
Justus Perthes' Afrika (Habenicht - 1891)



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=2

Johnston, 1893

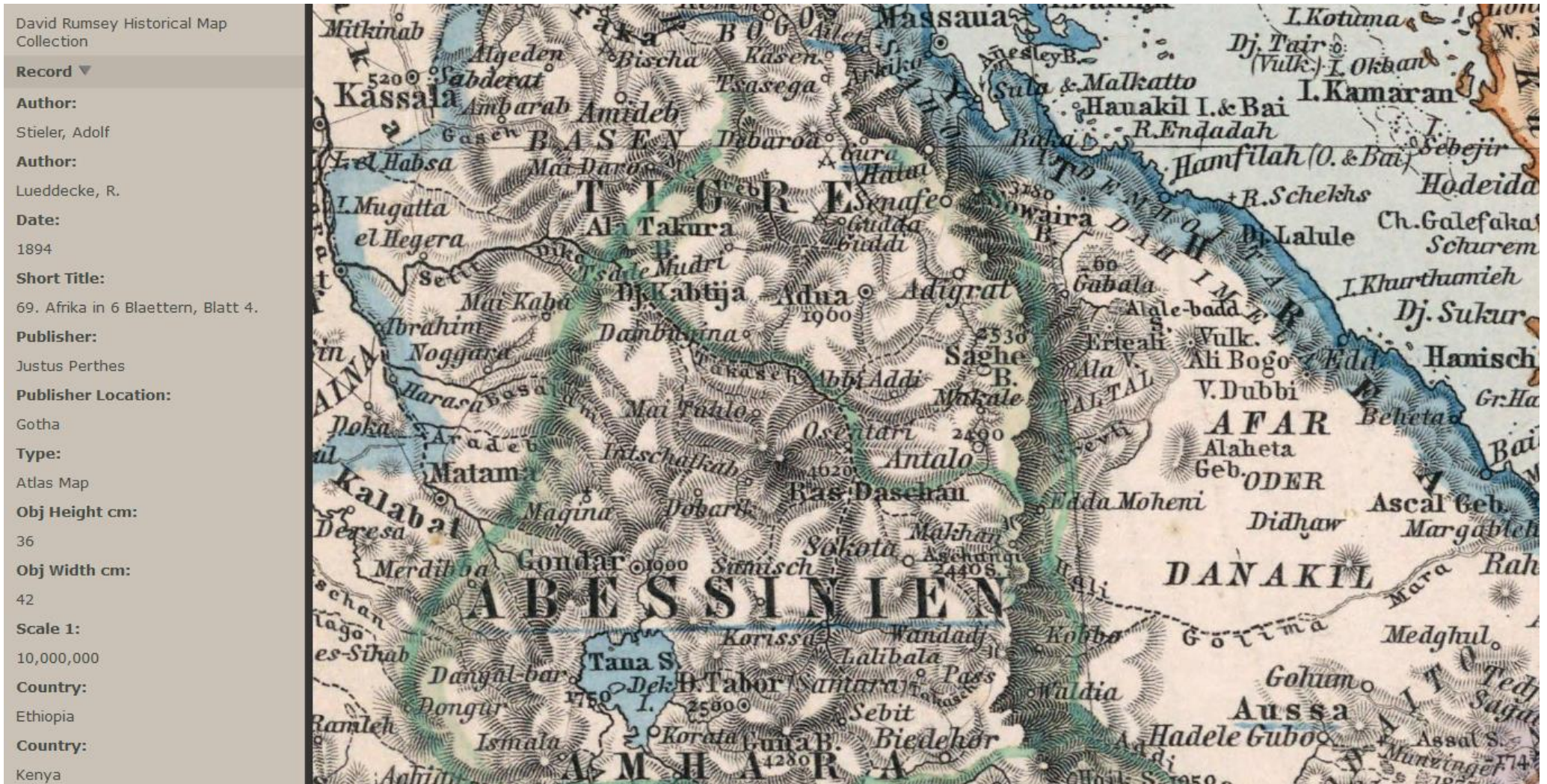
In a 50- year record of atlas maps (1861-1911), this Johnston map in one instance places the border on Tekeze

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection	
Record ▼	
Author: Johnston, Alexander Keith	
Date: 1893	
Short Title: Upper Nubia and Abyssinia.	
Publisher: W. & A.K. Johnston	
Publisher Location: Edinburgh	
Type: Atlas Map	
Obj Height cm: 47	
Obj Width cm: 60	
Scale 1: 2,854,868	
Note: Countries and districts outlined in color. Relief shown by hachures. Four scales.	
Reference: cfP6269 (1894 ed.).	

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~37991~1211004:Upper-Nubia-and-Abyssinia->

Stieler & Lueddecke, 1894

Internal border Amhara-Tigre on Tekeze R., but inconsistent. Italian territory not mapped.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~319981~90088877:69--Afrika-in-6-Blaettern,-Blatt-4->

Andree, 1895

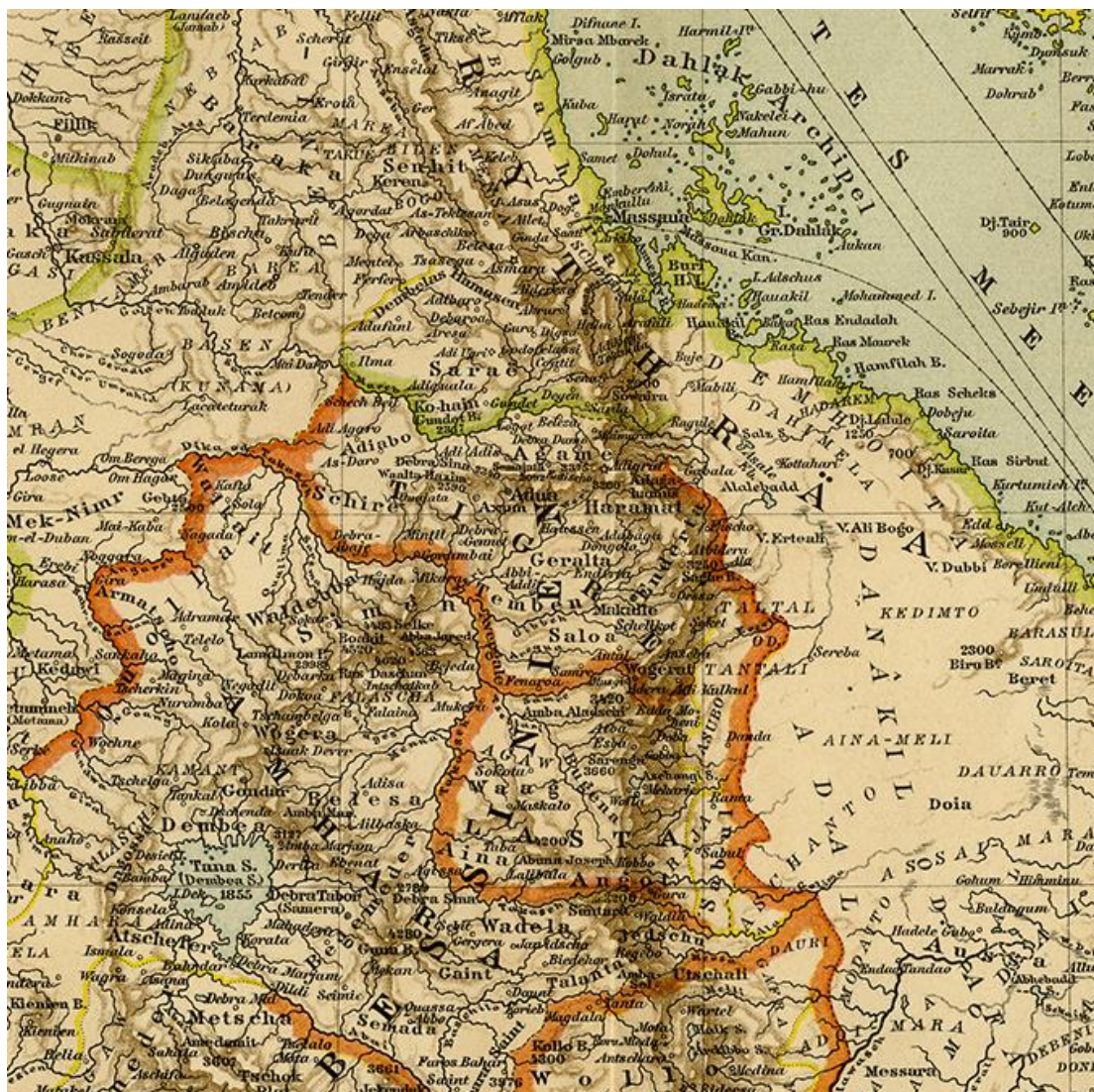
Tigre and Amhara as main subunits of Abyssinia; border not drawn. Italian possessions not outlined



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~30738~1150672:Africa-NE->

Brockhaus, 1895 (similar in 1905)

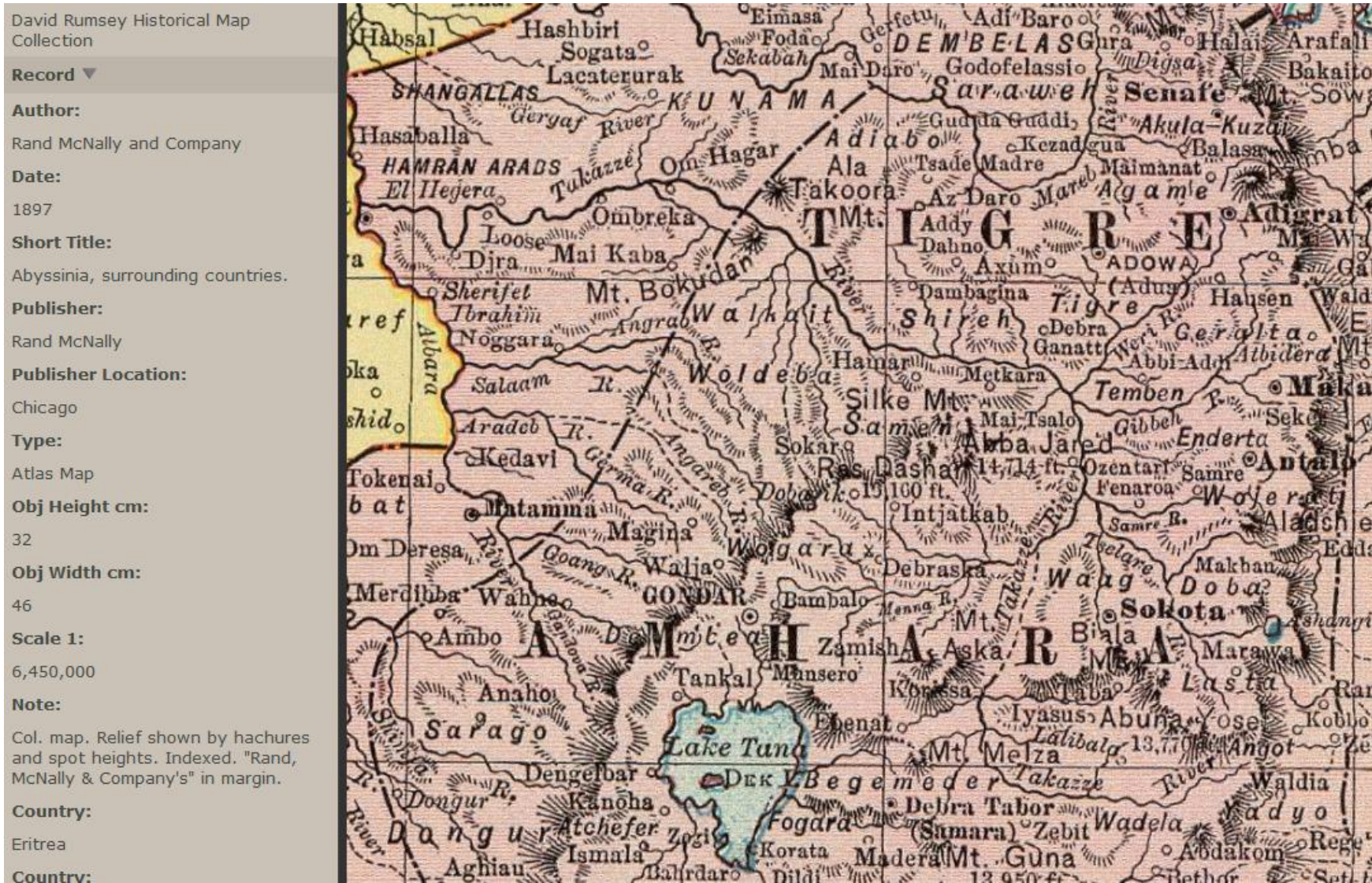
Border Amhara-Tigre drawn on Tekeze River



<https://pictura-prints.com/product/antique-map-africa-arabia-eritrea-ethiopia-meyers-1895/> This map is available at many commercial sites. So far it could not be retrieved from a formal repository.

Rand McNally, 1897

No internal borders



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~20367~550109:Abyssinia,-surrounding-countries->

Lannoy de Bissy, 1897

No internal boundaries; position of Tigre and Amhara lettering suggests Simien is the boundary



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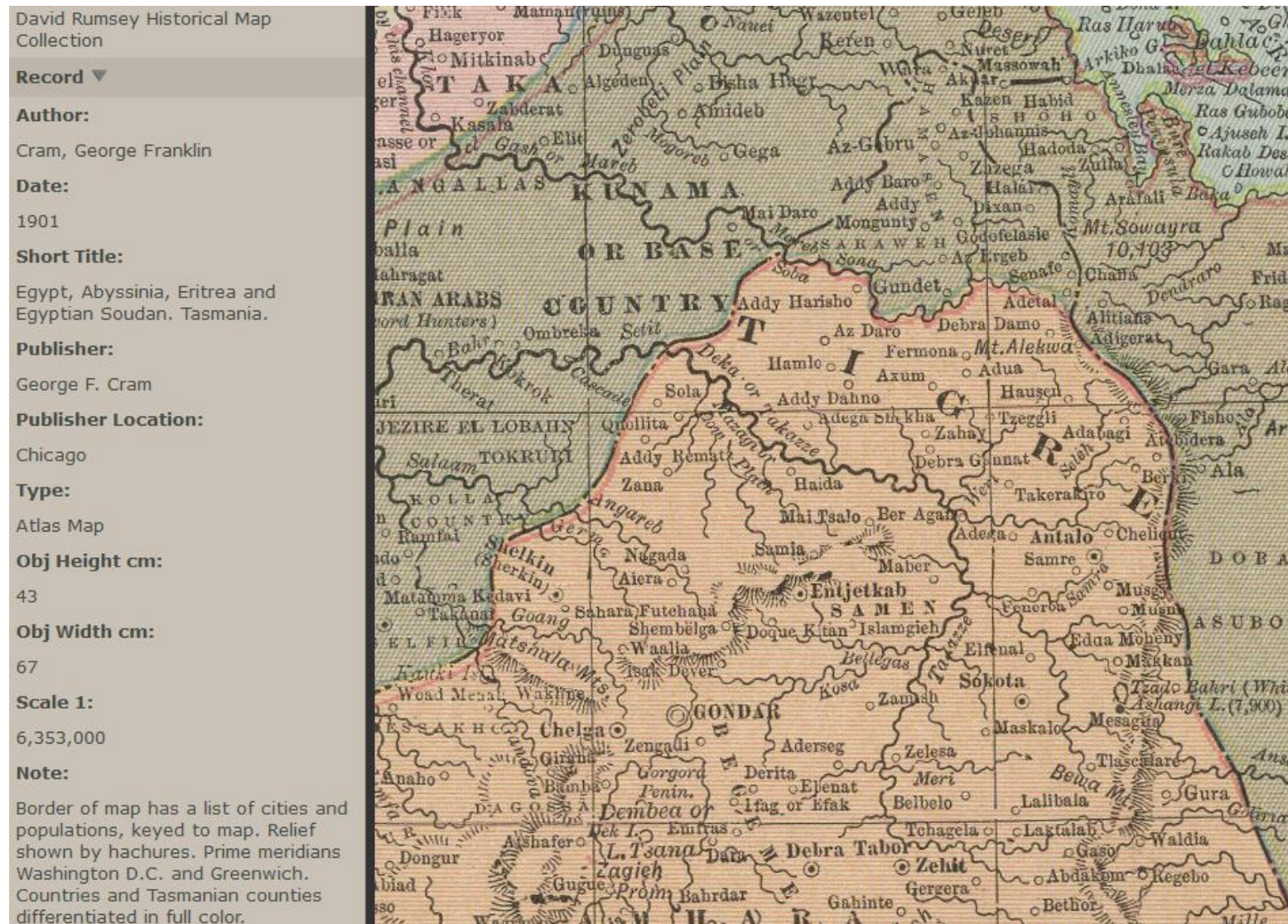
Afrique - F° 29 - Gondar (Lannoy de Bissy - 1897)



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=30

Cram, 1901 (similar in 1889 and 1893)

Internal borders not drawn



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~213586~5501058:Egypt,-Abyssinia,-Eritrea-and-Egypt>

Johnston, 1906

Tigré-Amhara border not shown. Eritrean border according to Ethiopian claims.

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

Record ▼

Author:
W. & A.K. Johnston Limited

Date:
1906

Short Title:
Upper Nile and East Sudan. Abyssinia.

Publisher:
W. & A.K. Johnston Limited

Publisher Location:
Edinburgh; London

Type:
Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:
27

Obj Width cm:
45

Scale 1:
10,496,000

Reference:
P1078.

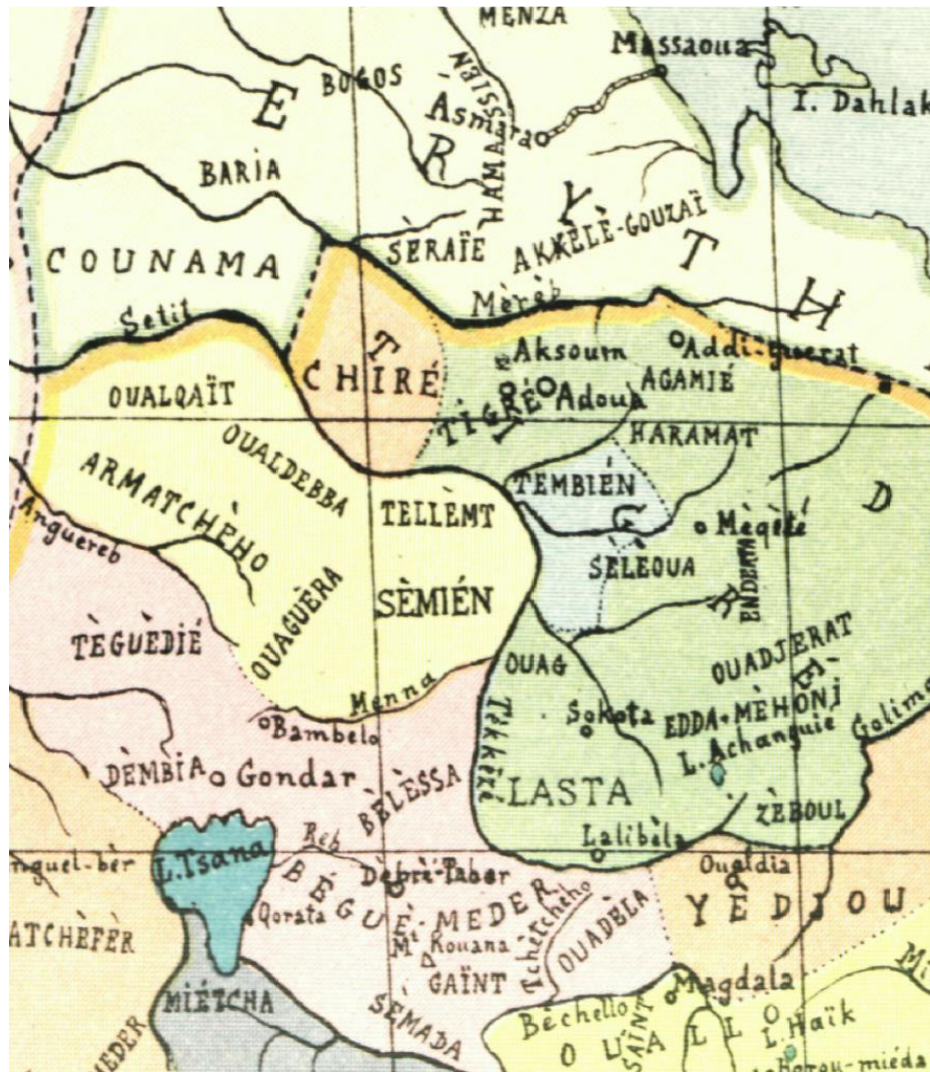
Country:
Egypt



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~238158~5511391:Upper-Nile-and-East-Sudan--Abyssini>

Guèbrè Sellassié, Tèsfa Sellassié, De Coppet, 1909

This is based on the work of Menelik's chronicler Guèbrè Sellassié. Though published in 1930, the map refers to the period of Menelik's reign, more precisely 1909. At the position of the current Western Tigray, there were districts Oualqaït, Sèmién, etc., intermediate between Tigré and Béguè-Meder.



Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur

CHRONIQUE DU RÈGNE DE MÉNÉLIK II ROI DES ROIS D'ÉTHIOPIE

Traduite de l'amharique
PAR
TESFA SELASSIE

Publiée et annotée
PAR
MAURICE DE COPPET
ANCIEN MINISTRE DE FRANCE EN ÉTHIOPIE.

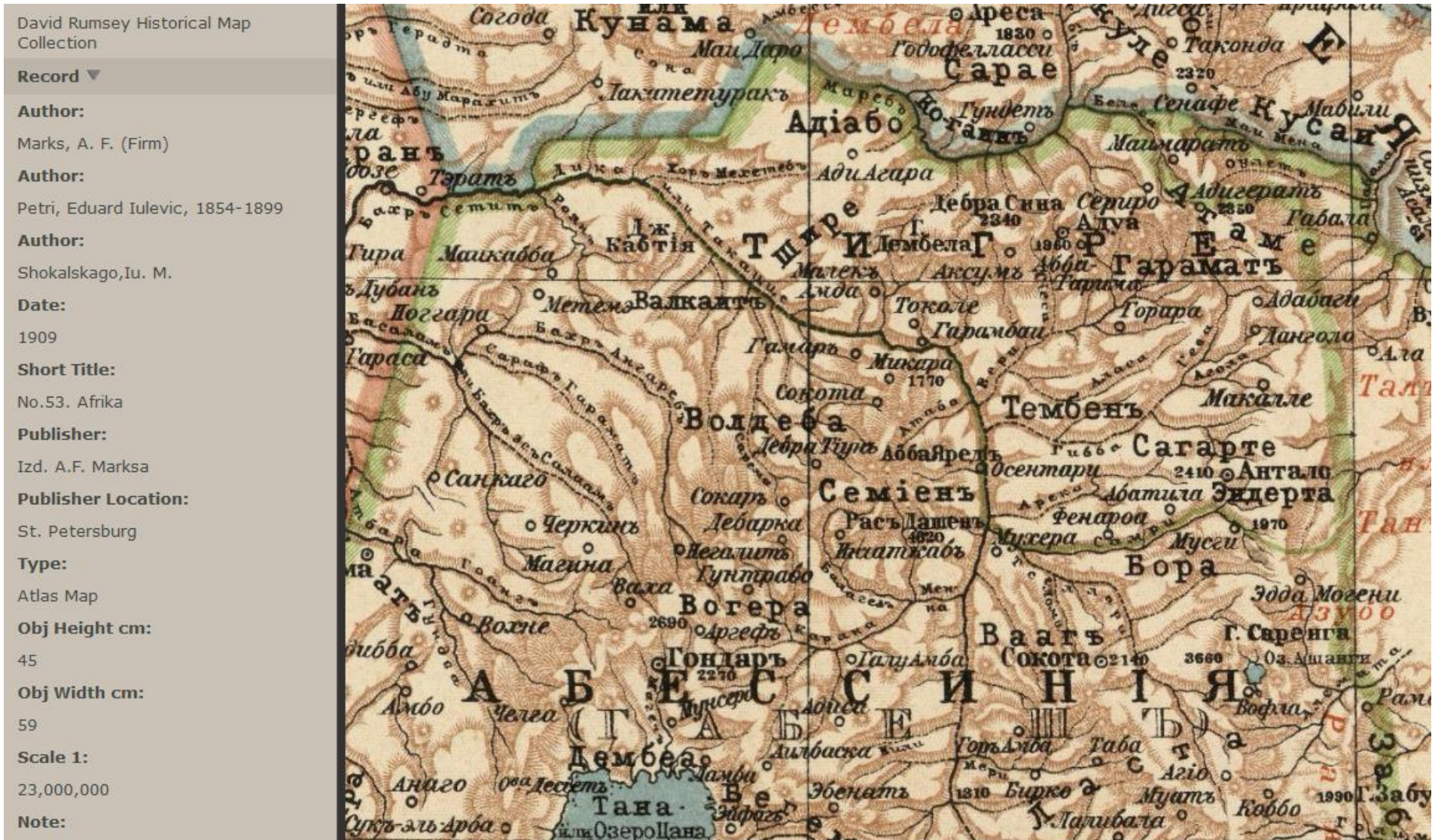
ATLAS



http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/cul/texts/ldpd_10249517_000/ldpd_10249517_000.pdf

Petri & Shokalskago, 1909


Border on Tekeze, in green colour



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~255796~5520039:No-53--Afrika>

Johnston, 1911

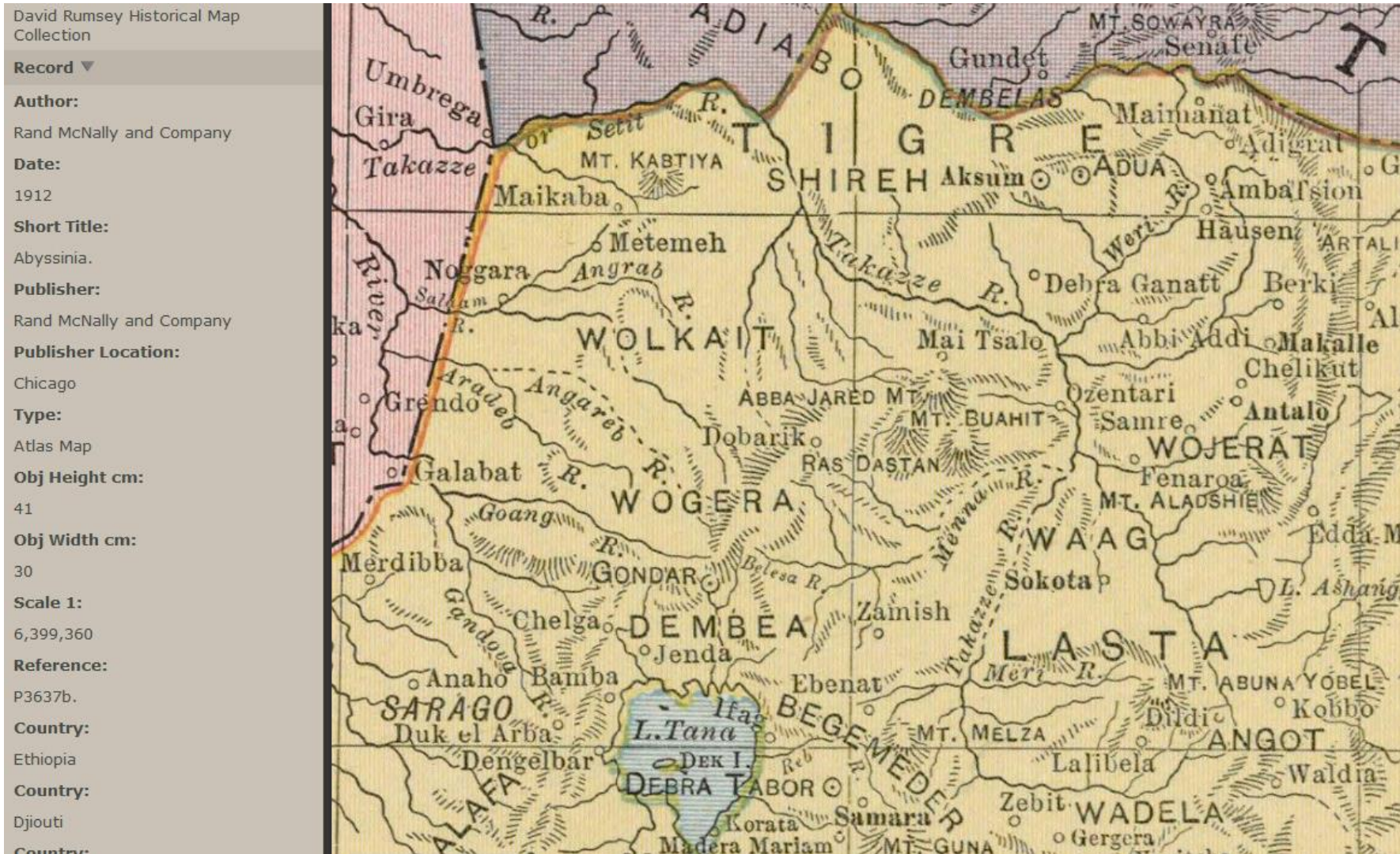
Tigré-Amhara border not shown. Eritrean border drawn according to Ethiopian claims.

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection	
Record ▼	
Author:	
Johnston, W. & A.K.	
Date:	
1911	
Short Title:	
Upper Nubia and Abyssinia.	
Publisher:	
W. & A.K. Johnston	
Publisher Location:	
Edinburgh	
Type:	
Atlas Map	
Obj Height cm:	
47	
Obj Width cm:	
60	
Scale 1:	
2,854,868	
Note:	
Countries outlined in color. Relief shown by hachures. Three scales.	
Reference:	
cfP6269 (1894 ed.).	

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~37127~1210668:Upper-Nubia-and-Abyssinia->

Rand McNally, 1912

No internal borders; lettering Tigre spans across Tekeze



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~308634~90078214:Abyssinia->

Papazian, 1923

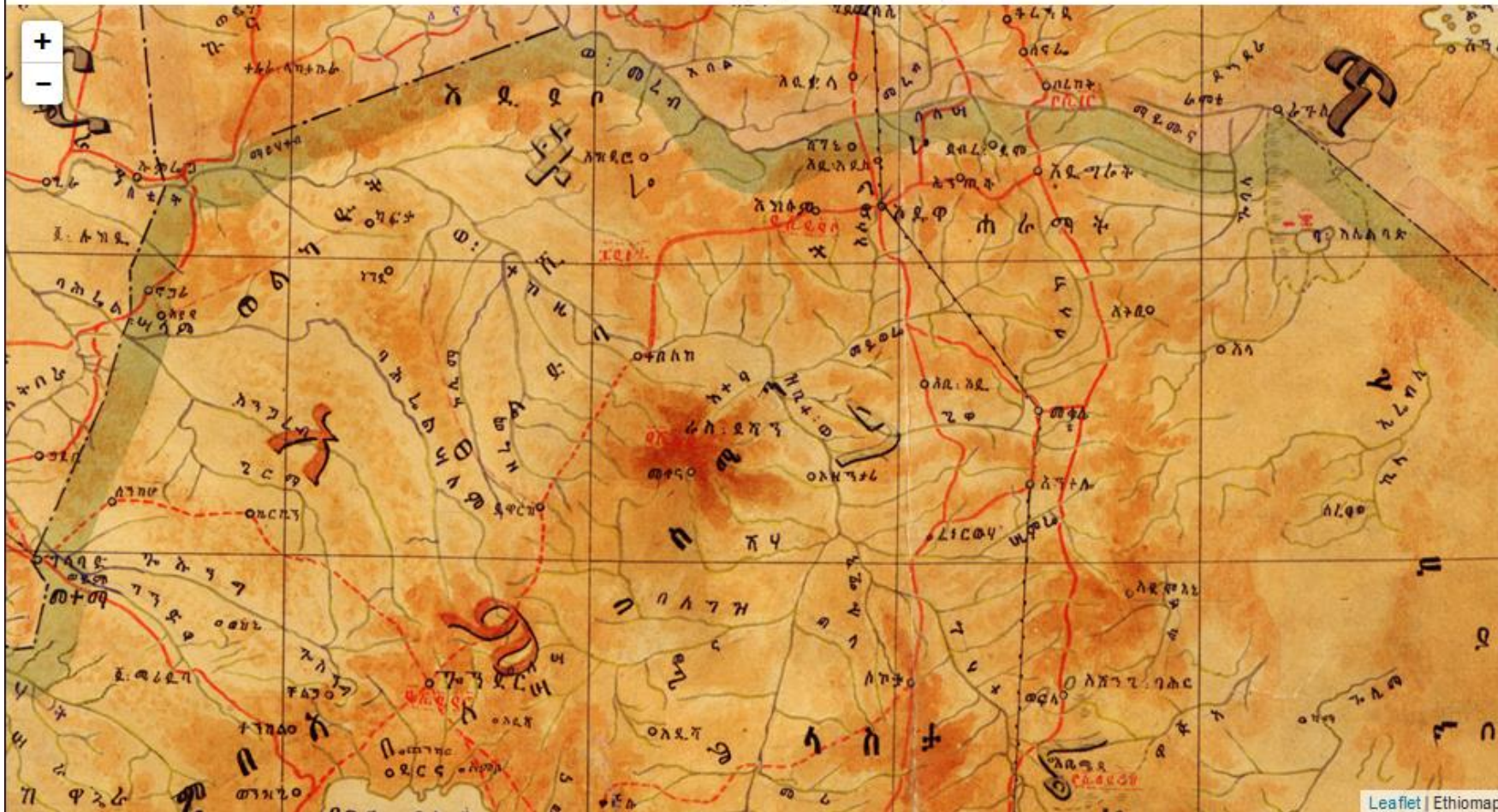
Tigre and Amhara as main subunits; border not drawn. Eritrean border according to Ethiopian claims.



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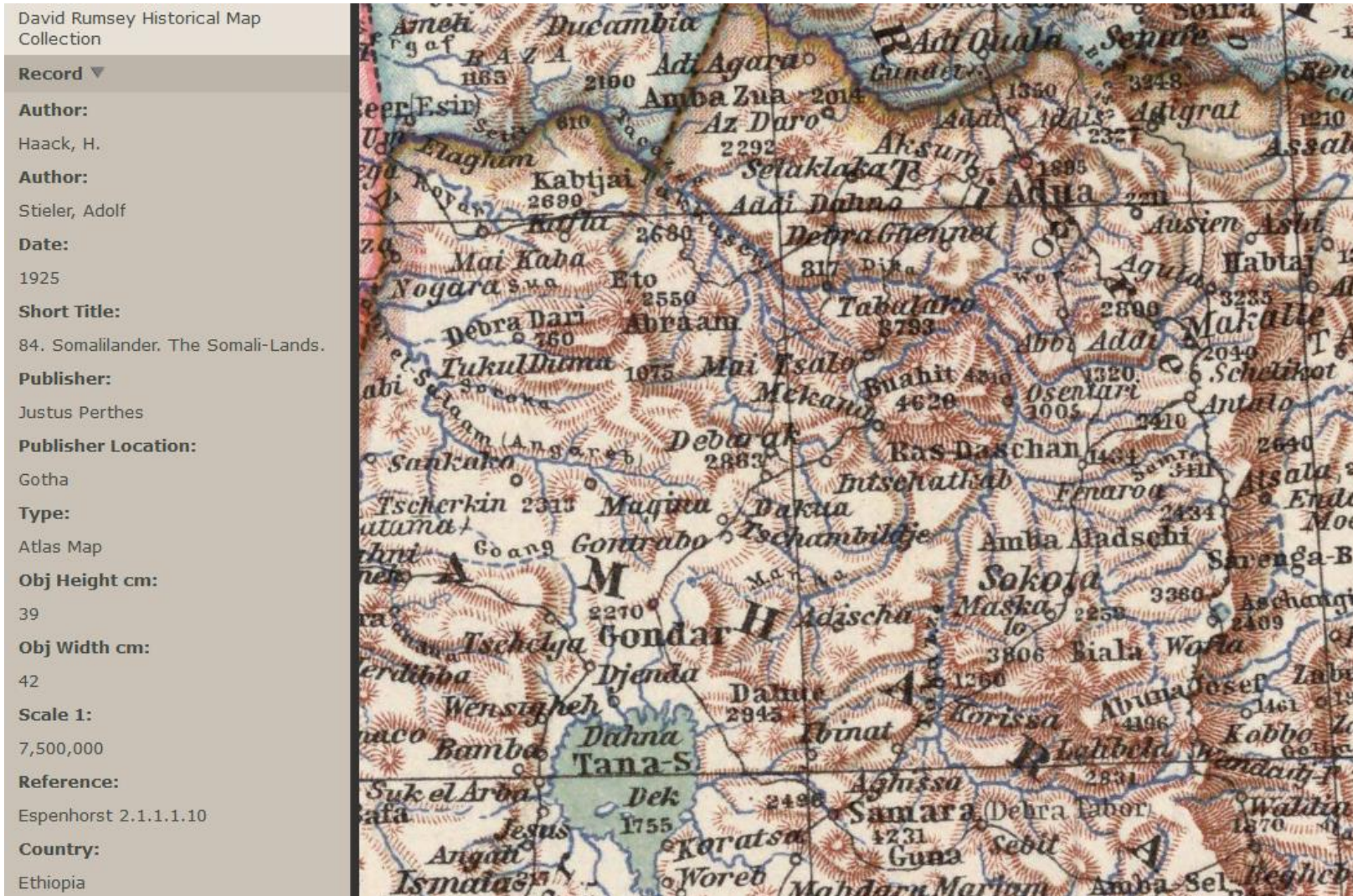
የኢትዮጵያ ካረታ (Papazian - 1923)



https://ethiomap.huma-num.fr/public/?id_article=9

Haack & Stieler, 1925

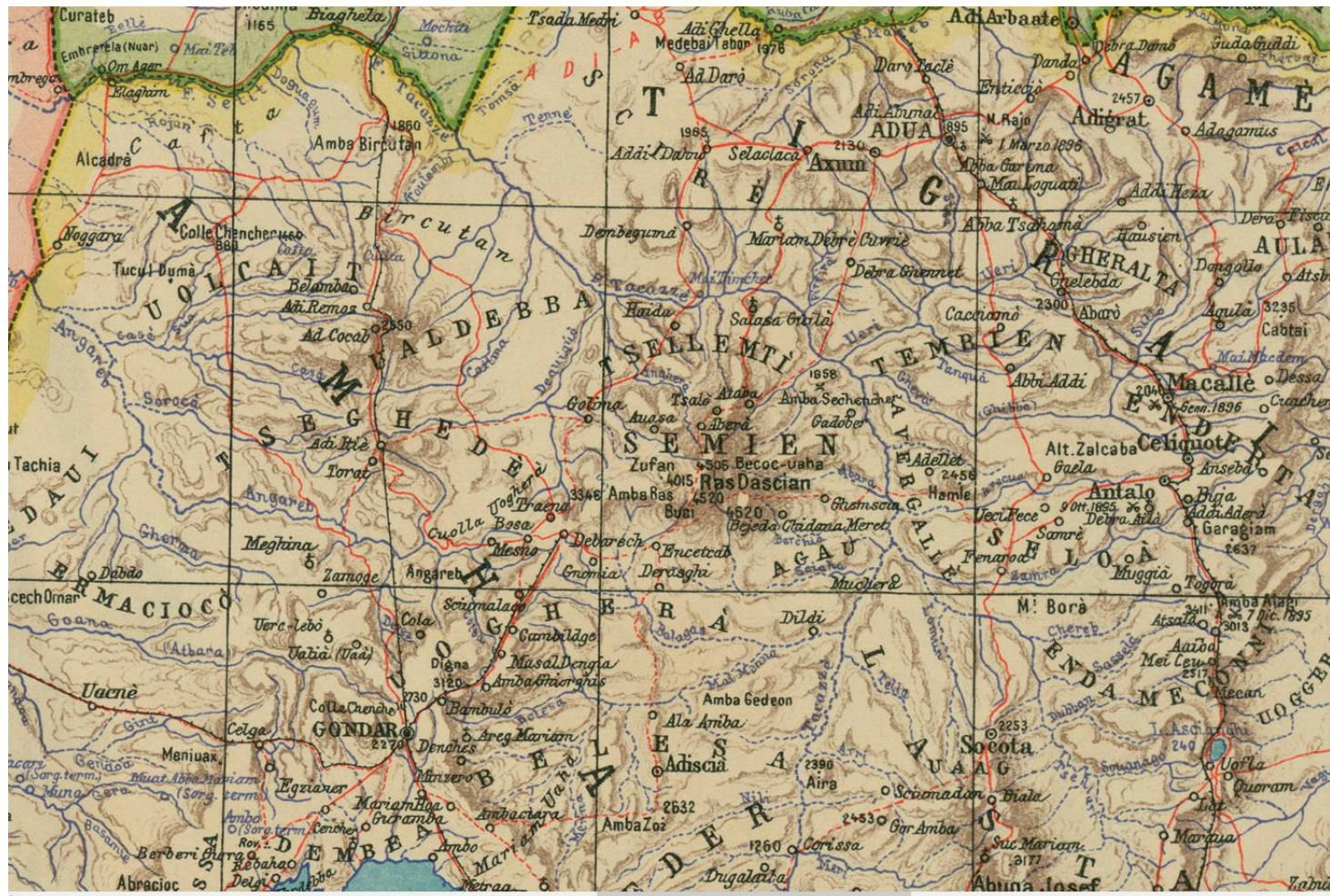
Internal border not shown; Eritrean border according to Italian claims



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~265654~90040053:84--Somaliländer--The-Somali-Lands->

Dardano, 1925

No border drawn



English: Africa Orientale - Carta dimostrativa fisico-politica costruita / redatta e disegnata da Achille Dardano, Ministero delle Colonie. Ufficio studi e propaganda

1925

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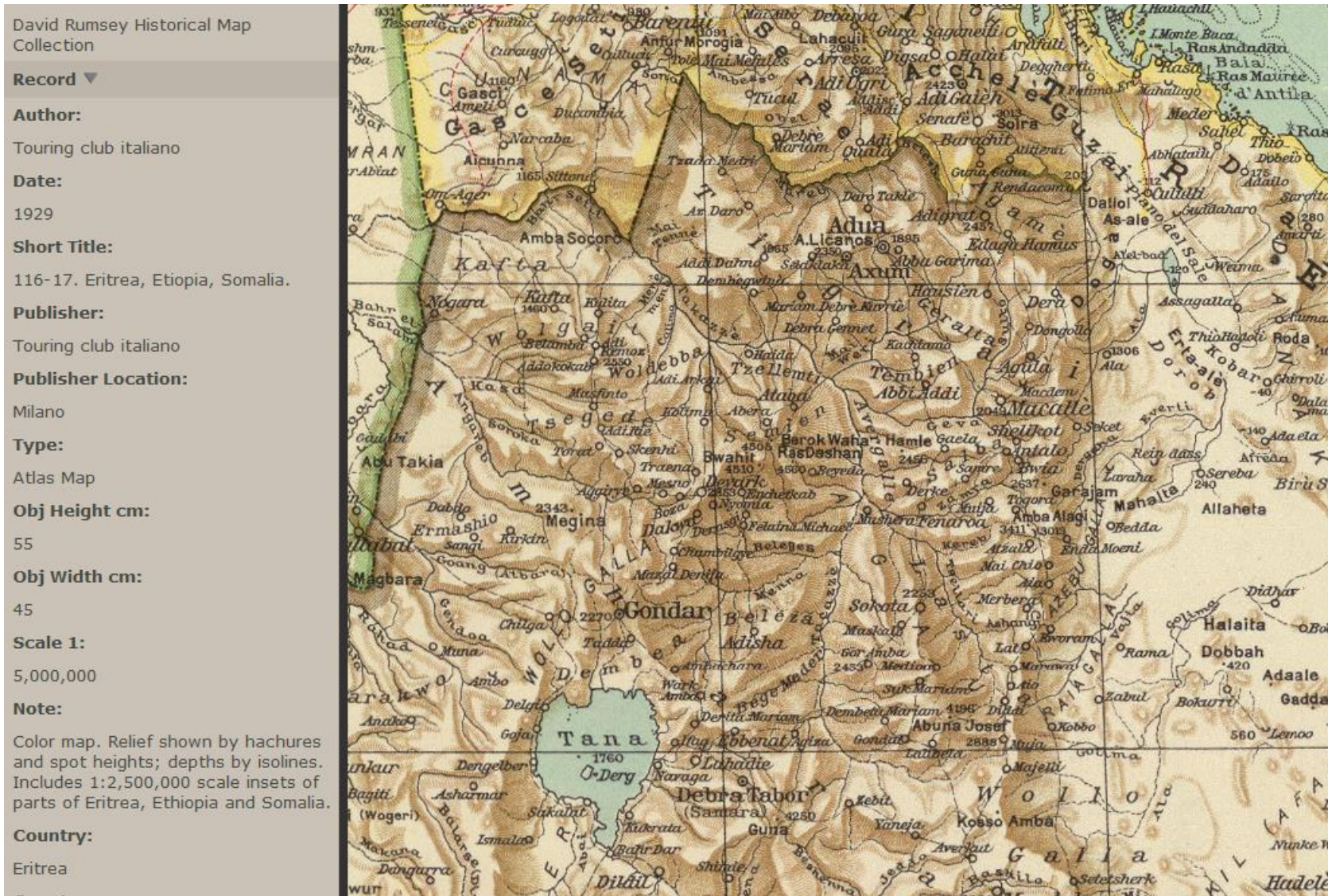
Achille Dardano (1870–1938)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1925 - Africa Orientale - Carta dimostrativa fisico-politica.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1925_-_Africa_Orientale_-_Carta_dimostrativa_fisico-politica.jpg)

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53064995t>

Touring Club Italiano, 1929

Tigray and Amhara as subunits of Etiopia; border not drawn. Italian possessions outlined with border along Italian claims.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~31884~1151211:116-17--Eritrea,-Etiopia,-Somalia->

IGMI, 1935

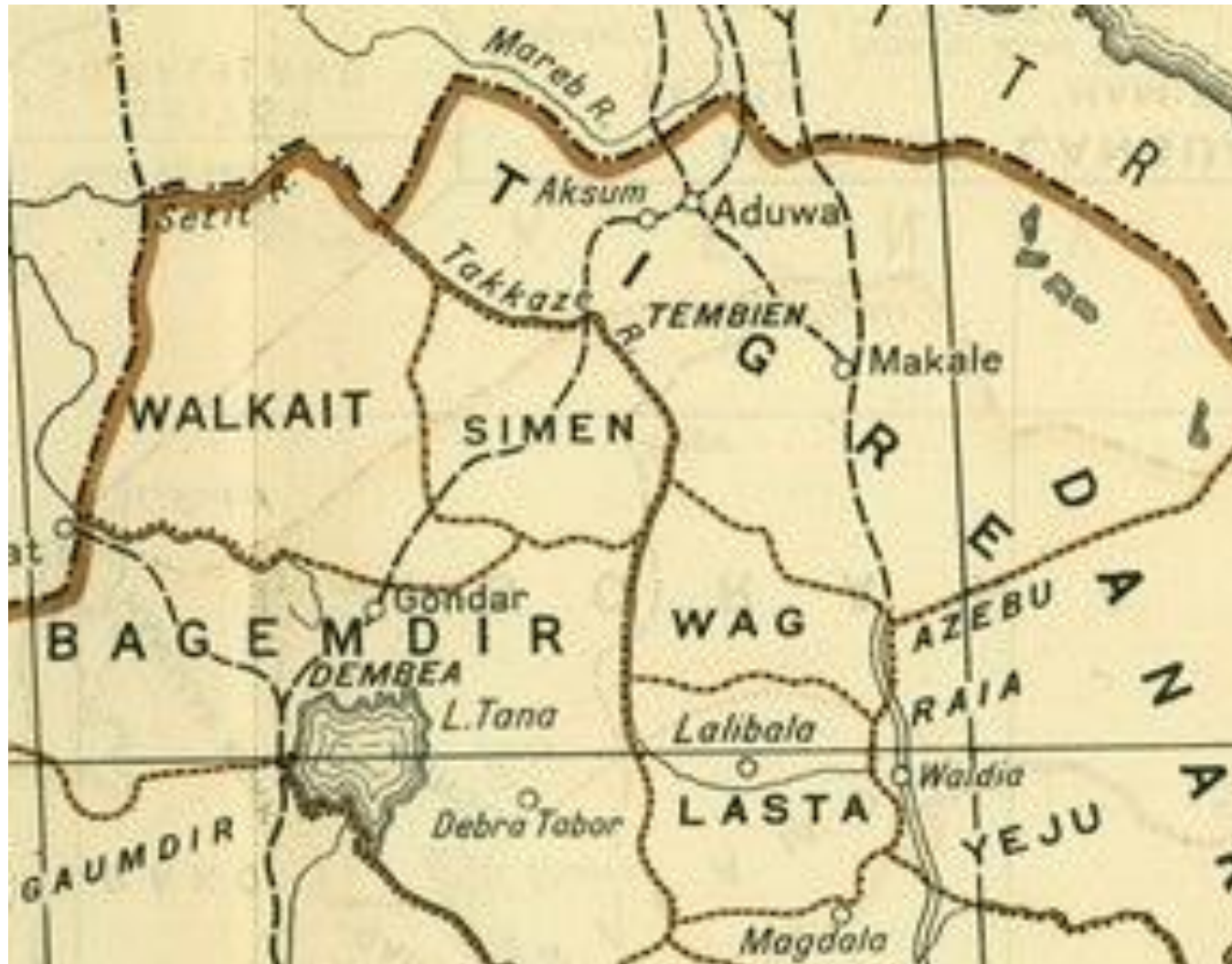
“Carta del Tigray”, one map on two sheets, before Italian occupation



<http://explore.bl.uk/BLVU1:LSCOP-ALL:BLL01018941675>; https://search.nls.uk/permalink/f/sbbkgr/44NLS_ALMA21433089100004341;
https://www.igmi.org/en/carte-antiche/colori_a1/carta-1617469408.27 and https://www.igmi.org/en/carte-antiche/digitale_300_dpi/carta-1617469408.75

Perham, 1935

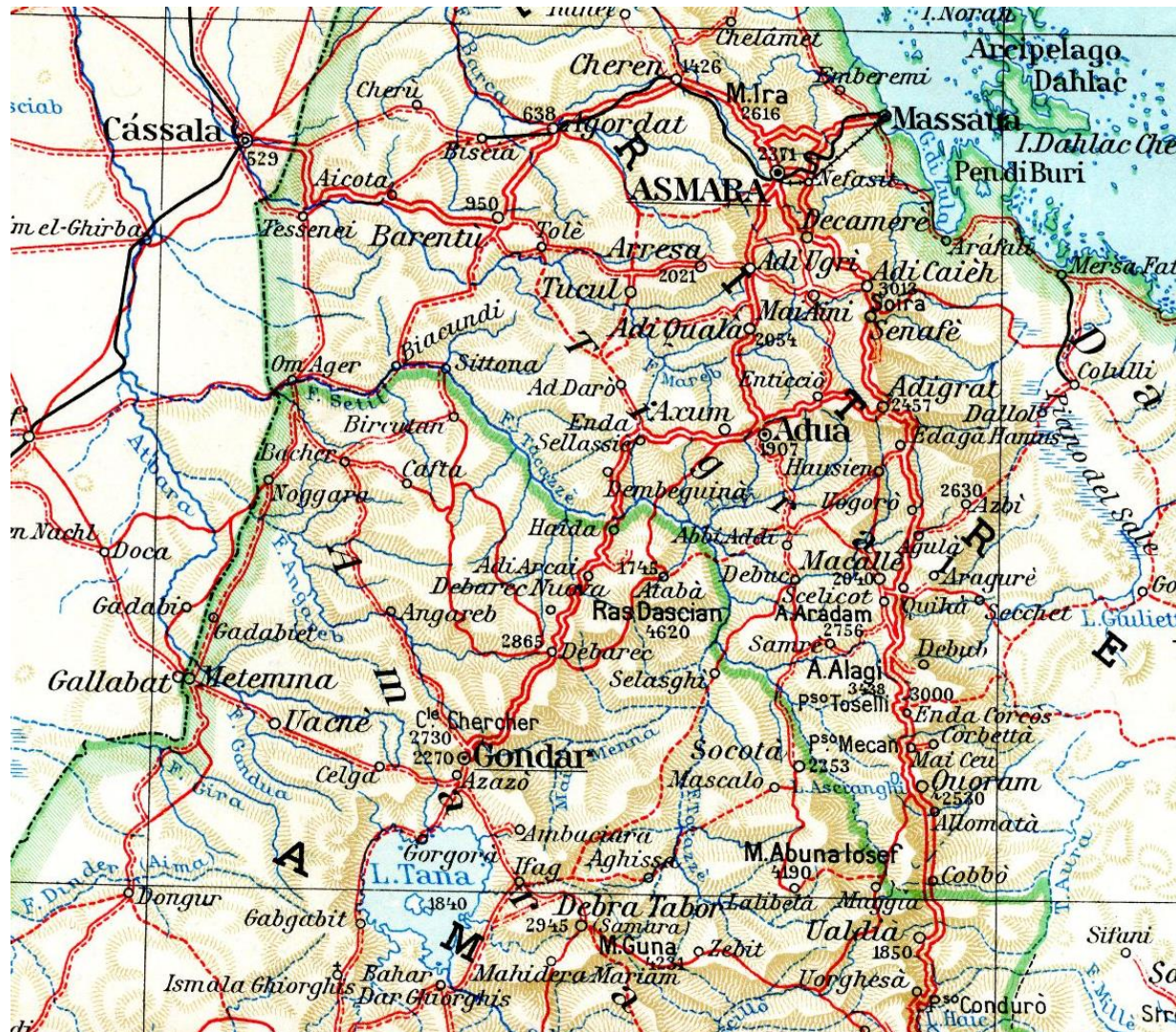
1935 situation, published in 1948. No direct border between Bagemdir and Tigre.



Perham M.F., 1948. The government of Ethiopia. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 481 p. (Own scan)

Consociazione Turistica Italiano, 1938

Widely published map. Administrative border clearly represented. Border between Eritrea/Tigray and Amara follows the Tekeze River.




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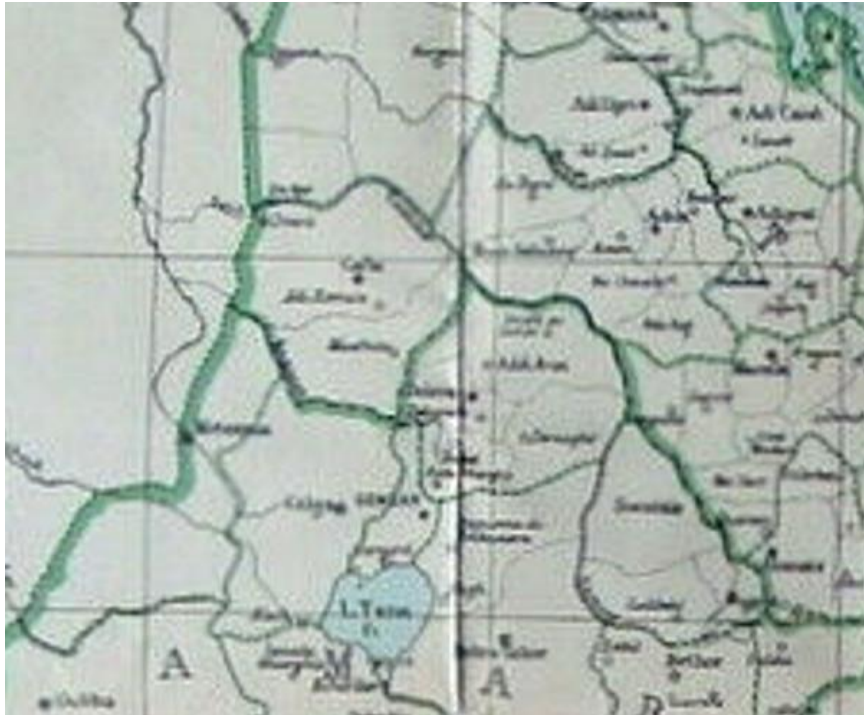
PAGE 1 117 Results

1  **BOOK**
Africa orientale italiana.
Touring club italiano.
1938
Shelved Under: Touring club italiano.

https://catalyst.londonlibrary.co.uk/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma990004461790206436&context=L&vid=44LON_INST:LondonLib&lang=en&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=Everything&query=any,contains,africa%20orientale%20italiana%201938&offset=0

Ministero dell'Africa Italiana, 1940

Low resolution map is available online. Administrative border clearly represented. Welkait and surroundings (the hexagone north of Lake Tana) mapped with Eritrea/Tigrai; Tselemti and Dima included in Amara.



Libreria: Libreria Grandangolo di Salvarani Paolo e c. sas (Italia)



Soggetti: Storia e politica - colonie - Geografia viaggi esplorazioni - Prodotti

Peso di spedizione: 1.000 g

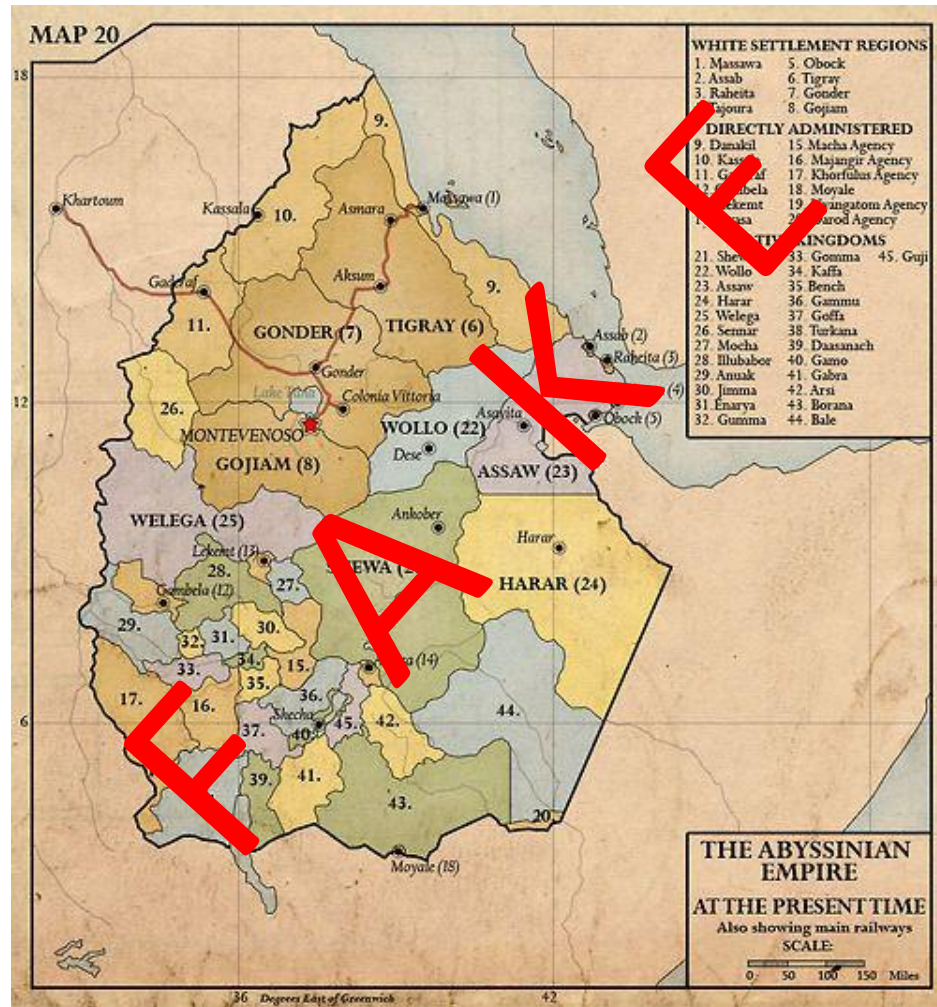
Note Bibliografiche

Carta geografica, CIRCOSCRIZIONI AMMINISTRATIVE Dell'Africa orientale Italiana N 743 - 1940-XVIII Tipolitografia del Servizio Cartografico, 1940, cm 64x56, grande carta geografica ripiegata, legenda al margine inferiore. Condizioni di conservazione Esemplare in discrete condizioni con tracce d'uso, normali pieghe con alcuni strappi restaurati (vedi foto), angoli con pieghette e angolo sup destro mancante, margini con piccoli strappetti e qualche macchietta, per le condizioni vedi foto. Ministero dell'Africa Italiana ufficio studi servizio Cartografico SC03.D14963F blu

<https://www.maremagnum.com/libri-antichi/grande-carta-circoscrizioni-amministrative-africa-orientale/163503214>

Thomasten, ca. 1940 – fake map

Not used in meta-analysis.



This map is often posted on social media as evidence that the Gonder-Tigray border has been on Tekeze since the time of the Abyssinian empire. The map shows numerous flaws. See non-existent “white settlement regions”, “Montevenoso”, “Colonia Vittoria”, railways and encroachment onto Sudan and Djibouti. The map is fake; it was created in 2009. Source is Ed Thomasten, a believer of Alternate History: <https://www.deviantart.com/edthomasten/art/Empire-of-Abyssinia-c-1940-145811981>. Colleagues fake mappers discuss the creation here: <https://www.deviantart.com/edthomasten/art/Empire-of-Abyssinia-c-1940-145811981>

De Agostini, 1941

A map at low resolution is available online. Original to be scanned at Berkeley. Administrative border clearly represented. Welkait and surroundings mapped with Eritrea/Tigrai; Tselemti and Dima included in Amara



https://search.library.berkeley.edu/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991024063599706532&context=L&vid=01UCS_BER:UCB&lang=en&search_scope=MyInstitution&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=Everything&query=any,contains,39146267&offset=0

<https://www.maremagnum.com/libri-antichi/carta-dalla-cirenaica-all-etiopia-egitto-e-sudan-anglo/158267423>

De Agostini, 1952

Border on Tekeze R.



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~212786~5500703:Northeast-Africa->

Bayer, 1953

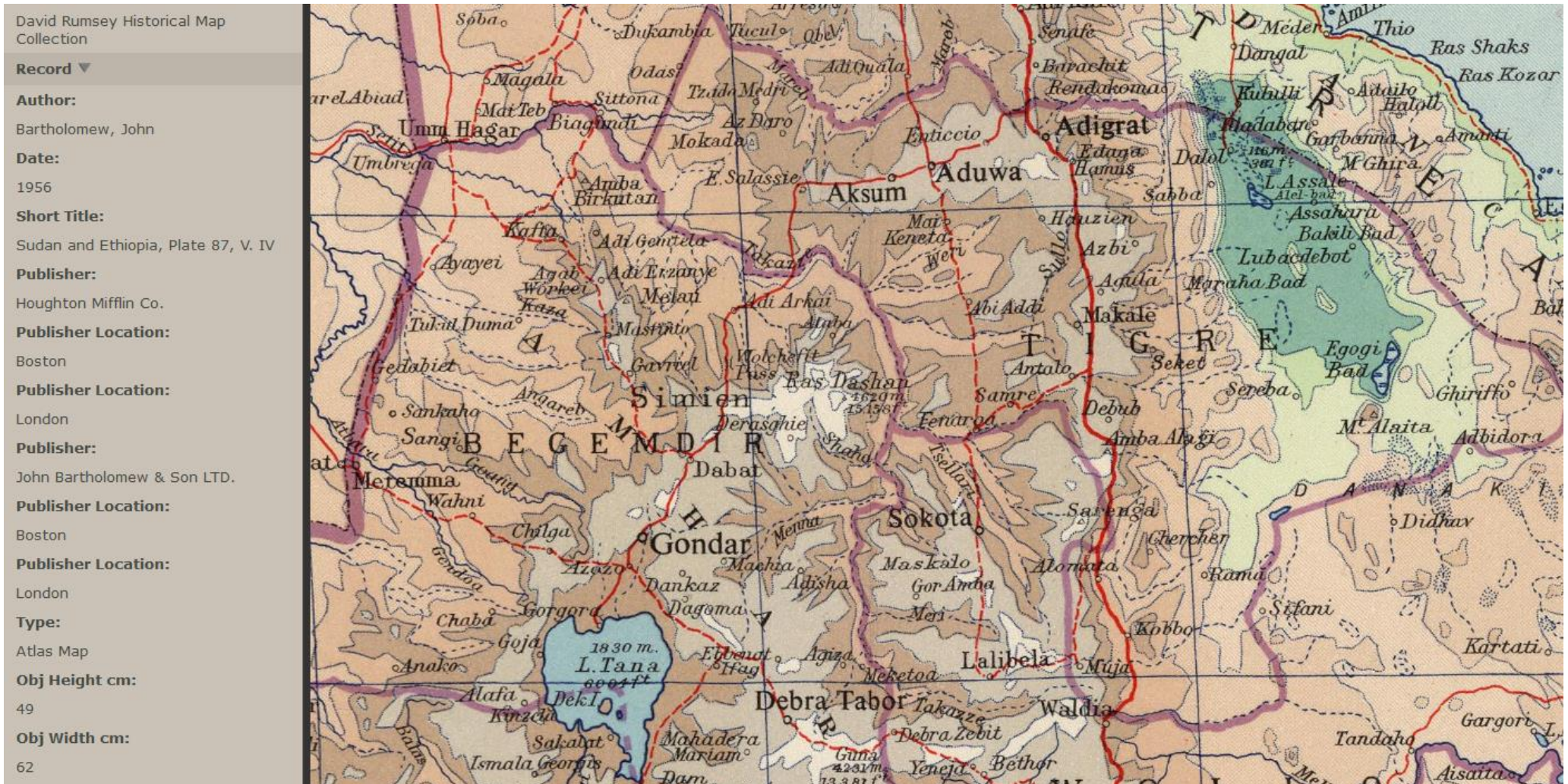
Internal borders not drawn



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~218067~5504025:Northeast-Africa->

Bartholomew, 1956

Border on Tekeze; Kobo and Muja included in Tigre



<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~225488~5506192:Sudan-and-Ethiopia,-Plate-87,-V--IV>

National Geographic Society, 1963

Border Begemder/Tigre on Tekeze

Africa, Countries of the Nile

Afrika, landen van de Nijl 1 : 7920000

Afrika, landen van de Nijl, Egypte, Libië, Soudan, Ts
Ethiopië, Somalië, Kenia, Oeganda, Centraal Afrika
Republiek, DR Congo, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi,
Jordanië, Saoedi-Arabië

56

Sheet Number

Undefined

Serial Number

Undefined

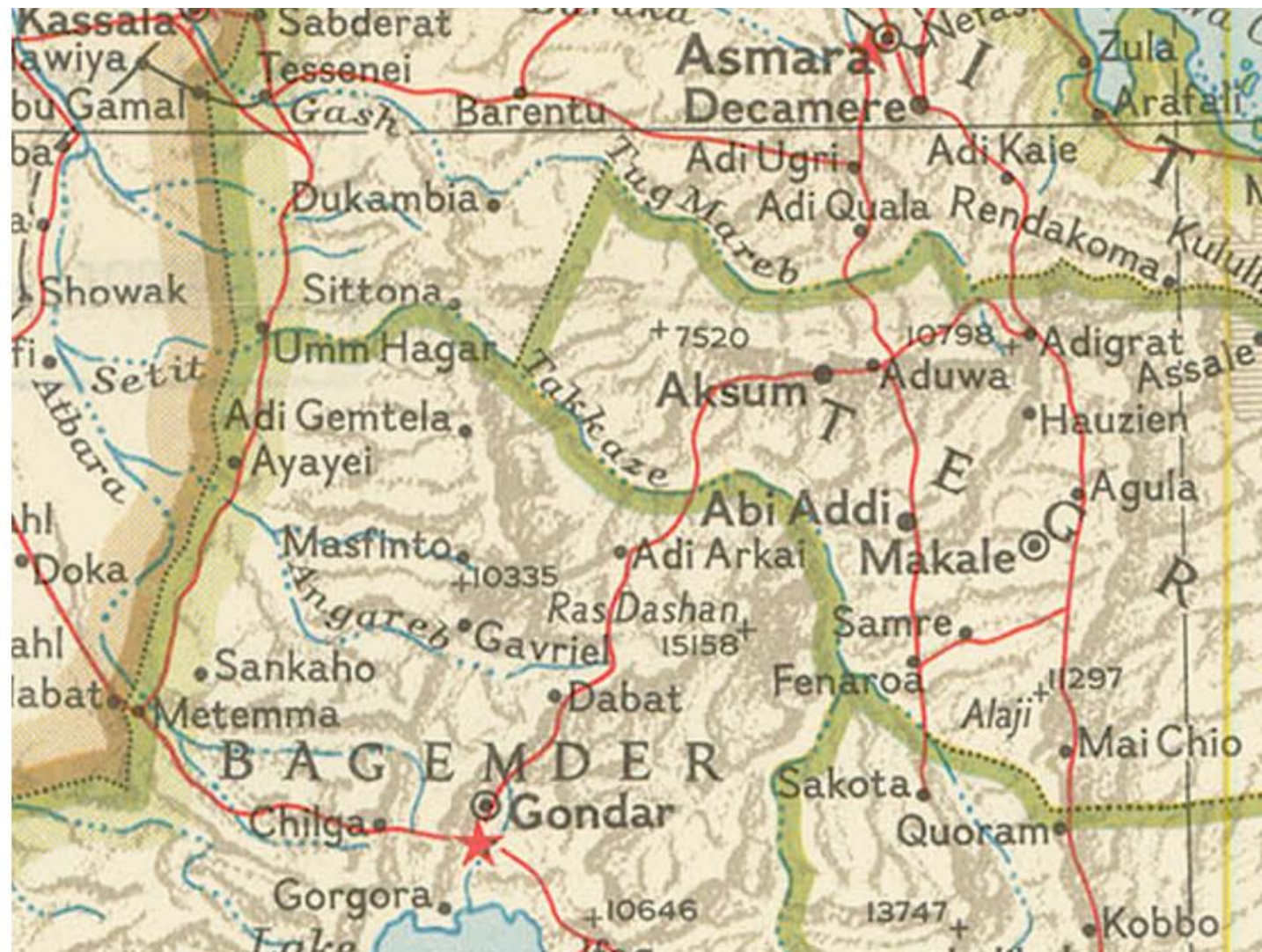
Edition

National Geographic Society

Publisher

1963

Washington D.C.



<https://www.atlas.ugent.be/items/5071>

USSR, 1967

Border Begemder/Tigre on Tekeze

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

Record ▼

Author:

USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

Date:

1967

Short Title:

170-171. Africa, Equatorial. The World Atlas.

Publisher:

USSR

Publisher Location:

Moscow

Type:

Atlas Map

Obj Height cm:

47

Obj Width cm:

66

Scale 1:

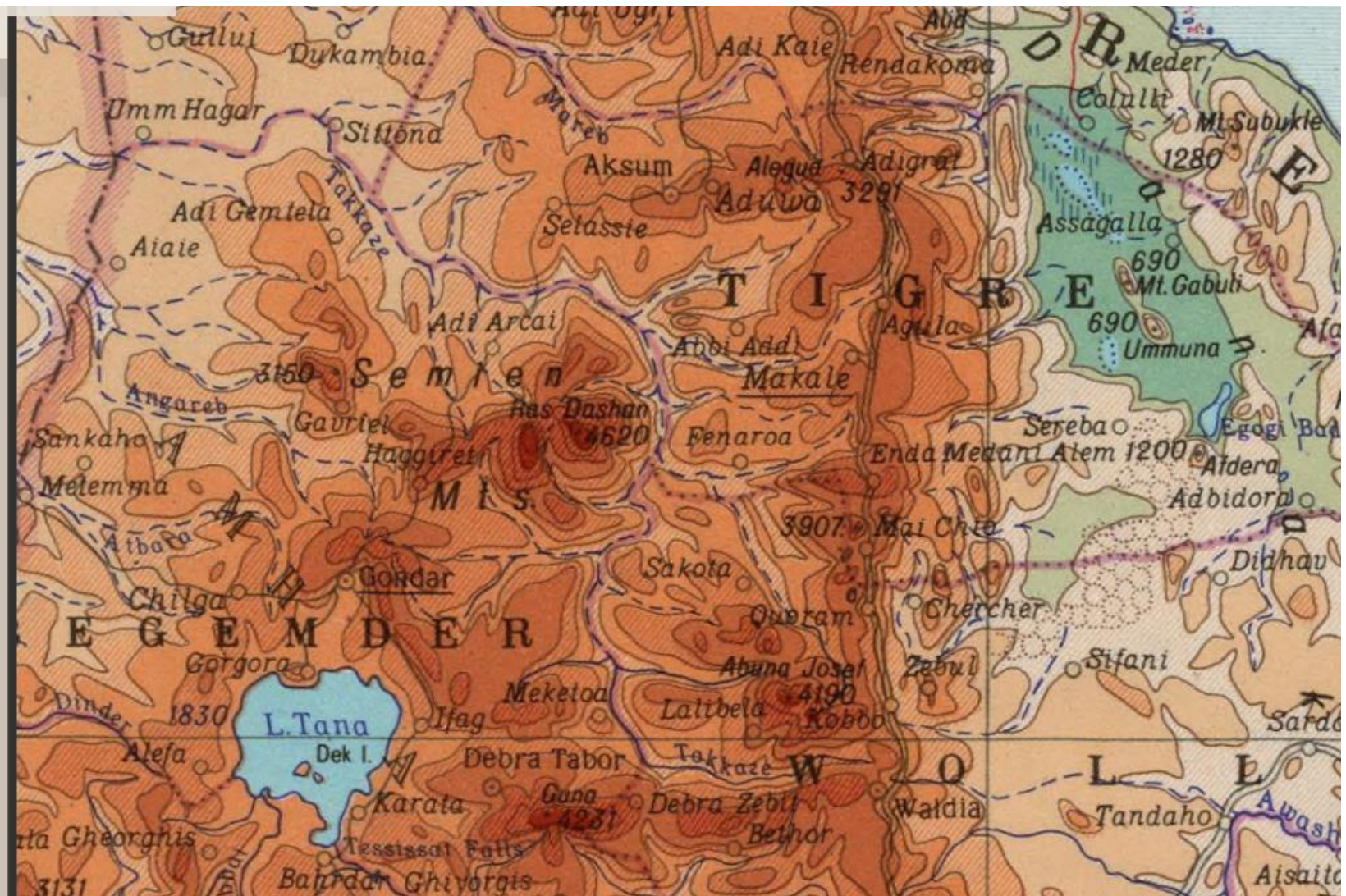
7,500,000

Country:

Central African Republic

Country:

Ethiopia

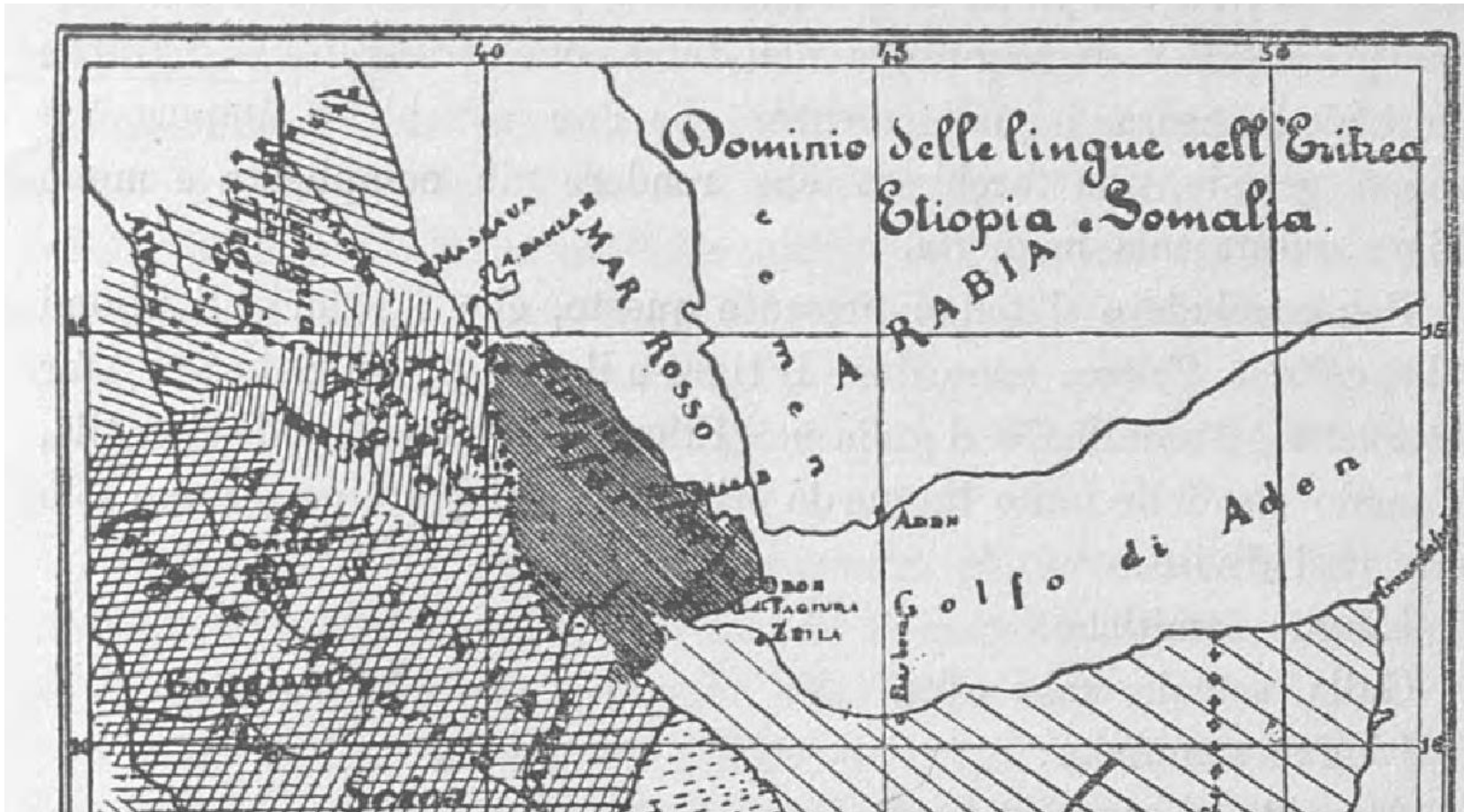


<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~208346~3001988:170-171--Africa,-Equatorial--The-Wo>

ETHNO-LINGUISTIC MAPS

Wolynski, 1903: Dominio delle lingue nell'Eritrea, nell'Etiopia e nella Somalia

"Tigrigna" (pattern with vertical lines) spans across Tekeze River.

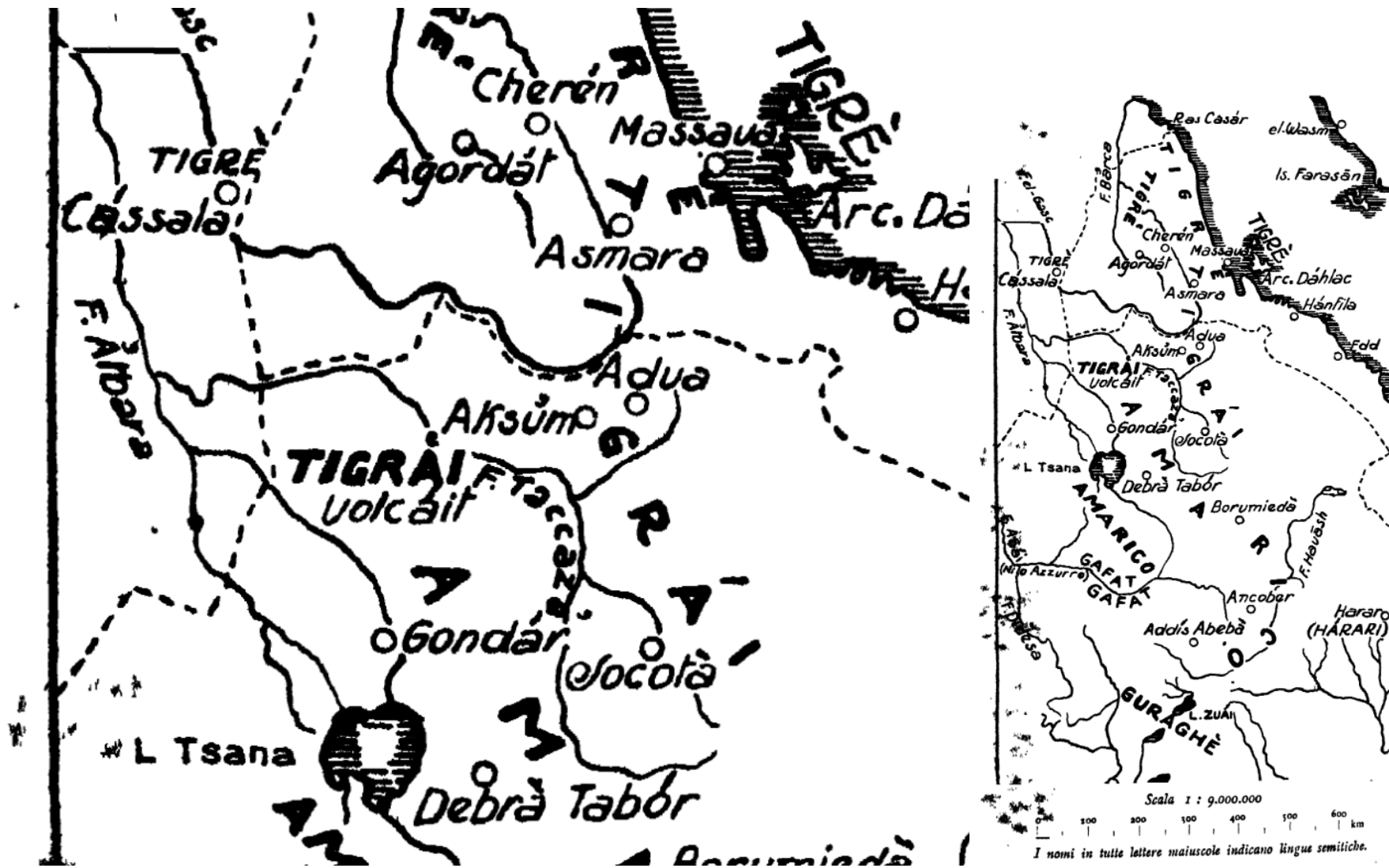


Wolynski, D., 1903. Glottologia coloniale. Lingue e dialetti parlati nell'Eritrea, nell'Etiopia e nella Somalia. *L'Italia Coloniale*, 4 (1): 1-18.

[http://sebinaol.unior.it/sebina/repository/catalogazione/documenti/Wolynski_Glottologia%20coloniale%20\(84531\).pdf](http://sebinaol.unior.it/sebina/repository/catalogazione/documenti/Wolynski_Glottologia%20coloniale%20(84531).pdf)

Conti Rossini, 1921: Lingue semitiche d’Etiopia

Names in bold capital letters indicate extent of Semitic languages in Ethiopia. Tigrai language stretches west from Tekeze River up to the Sudanese border , including Uolcait.



Conti Rossini, C., 1921. Le lingue e letterature semitiche d’Etiopia. Oriente Moderno, 1: 169-176. <https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.318622>

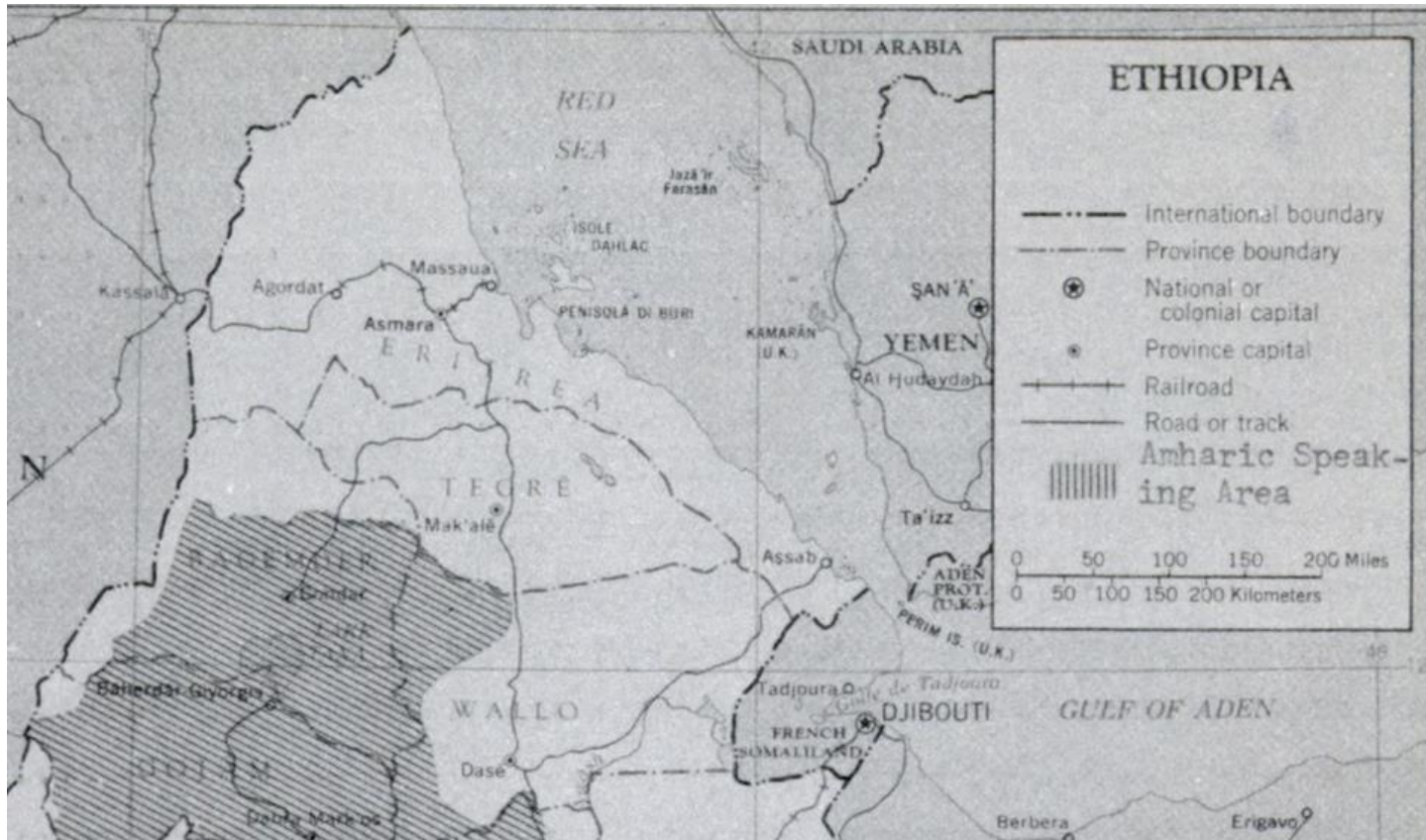
Perham, 1948: Language map of Ethiopia



Perham M.F., 1948. The government of Ethiopia. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 481 p.

Obolensky, Debebow, Mulugeta, 1964. Amharic speaking area

On this map, the northern part of the then Bagemder province is displayed as non-Amharic speaking area. That area corresponds to the current Western Tigray, as well as Tselemti and Dima woredas in Northwestern Tigray.



AMHARIC

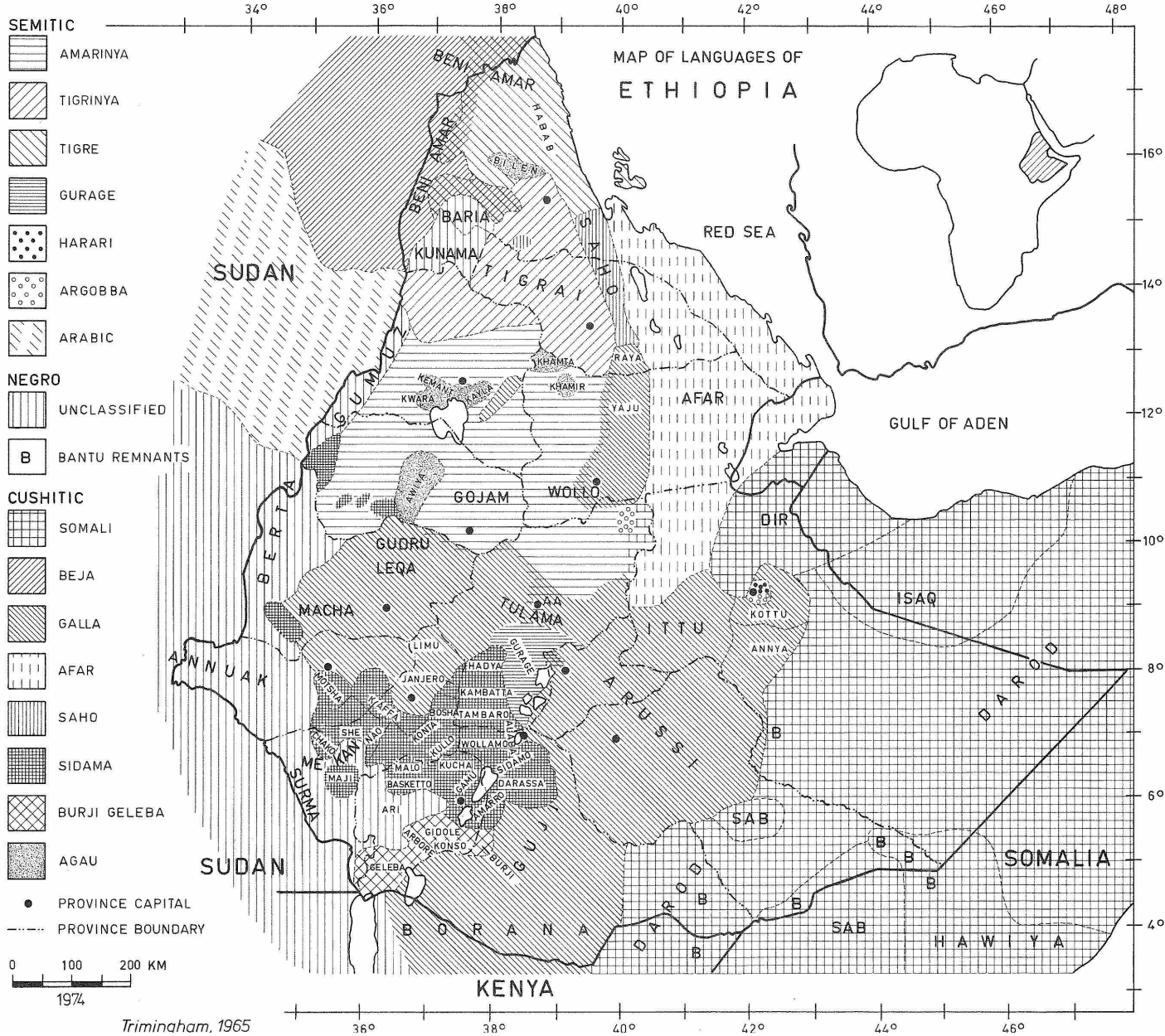
BASIC COURSE
Units 1 - 50

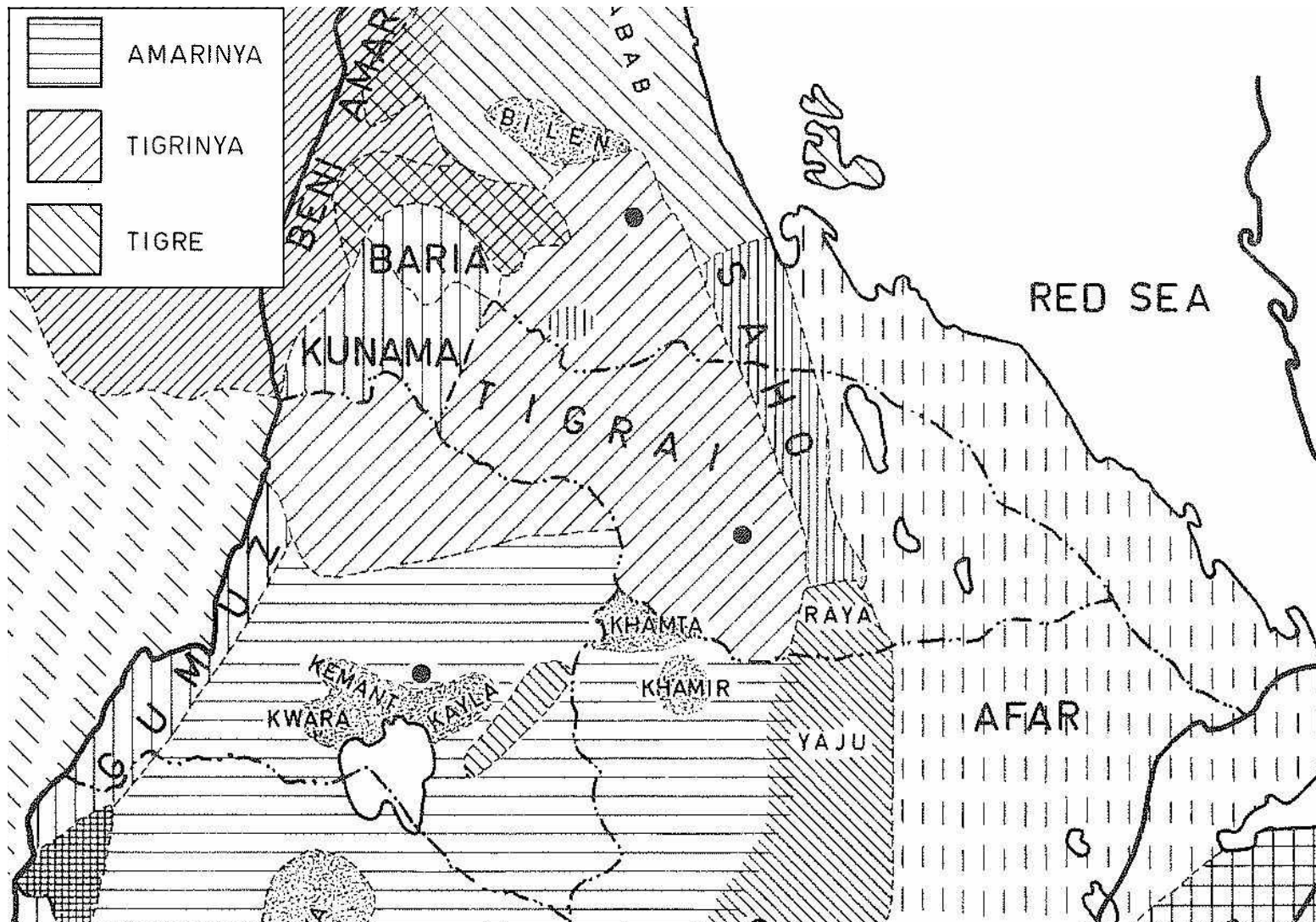


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<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.31210007315870&view=1up&seq=17&q1=map>

Trimingham, 1965: Map of provinces and ethno-linguistic settlement patterns in Ethiopia, republished by Westphal (1974)





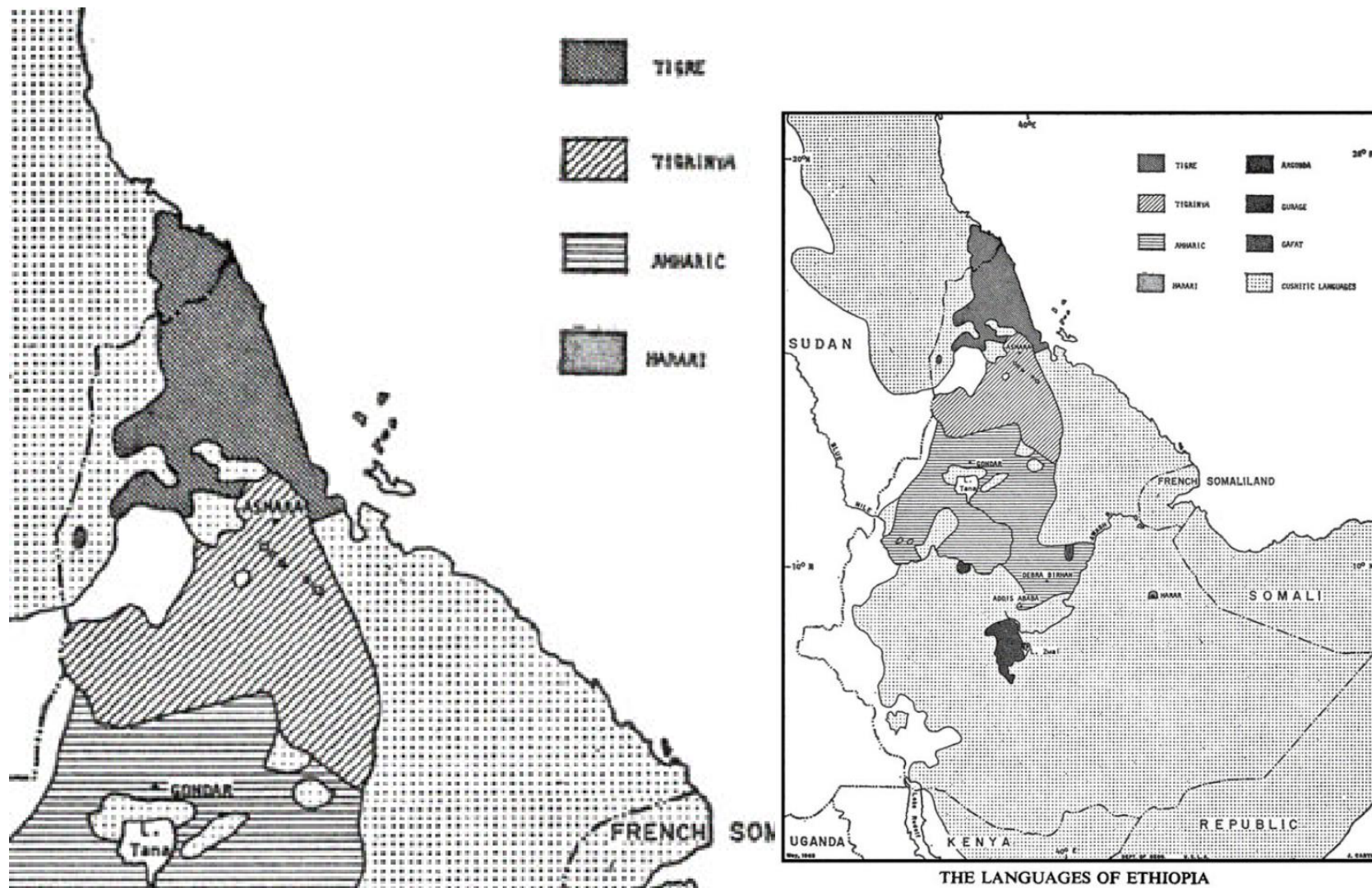
Excerpt of: Trimingham, 1965. Map of provinces and ethno-linguistic settlement patterns in Ethiopia, republished by Westphal (1975)

Trimingham J.S., 1965. Islam in Ethiopia. London: Frank Cass & Company.

Westphal E., 1975. Agricultural systems in Ethiopia. Wageningen: Centre for Agricultural Publishing and Documentation. 278 p.

Leslau, 1965: The Semitic languages of Ethiopia

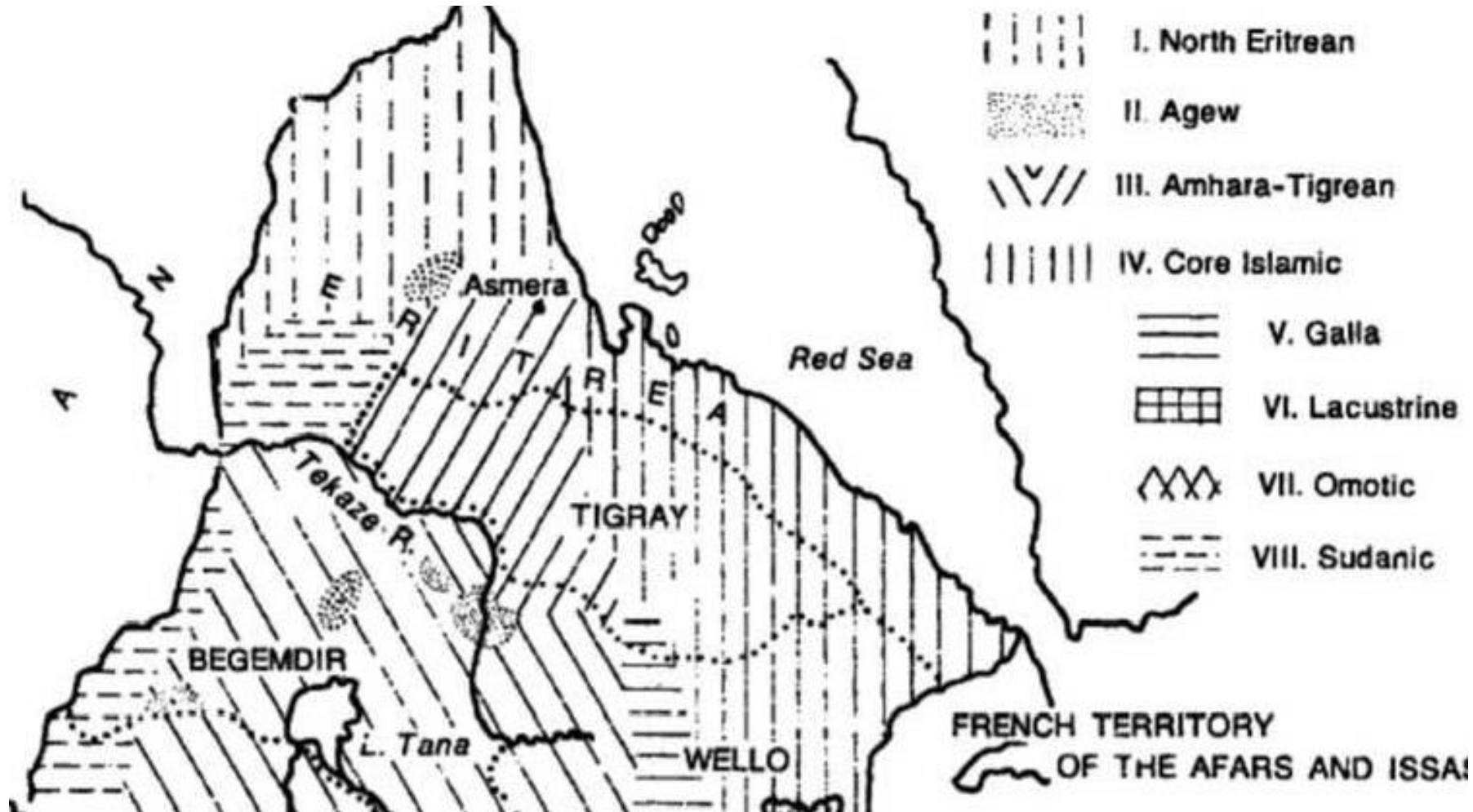
Tigrinya language extends from East to West up to the Sudanese border



Leslau, W., 1965. An annotated Bibliography of the Semitic languages of Ethiopia. De Gruyter Mouton. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111657325>

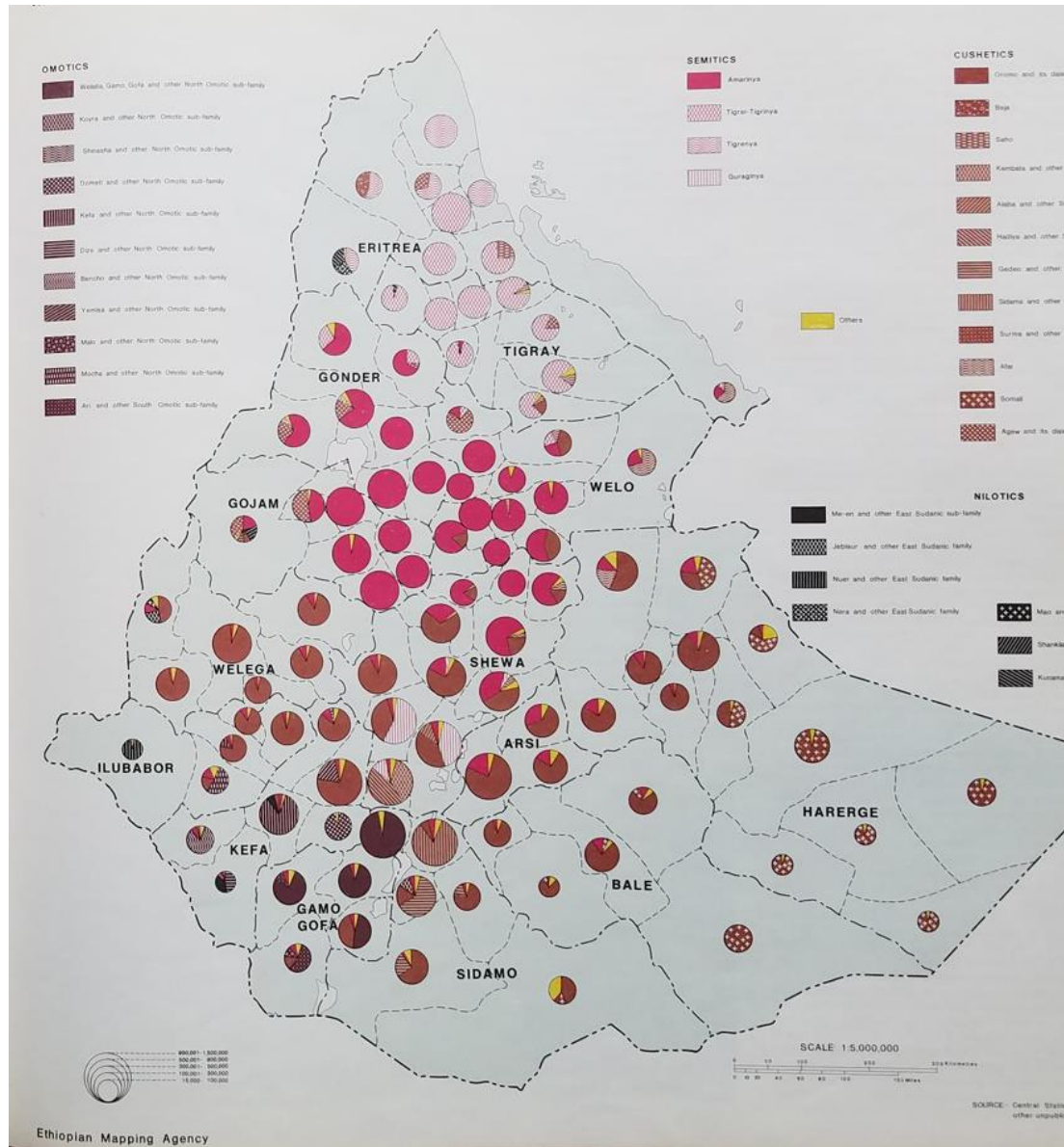
Levine, 1974: Language map

Besides an extent of Amhara language that is out of phase with all other language maps (pages 113 to 124), Levine's map holds numerous other inconsistencies. Tigre or Gurage are absent from the legend; dozens of Cushitic and Omotic ethnic groups as well as Gurage are lumped as "lacustrine"; Afar and Somali are merged into "core Islamic"...

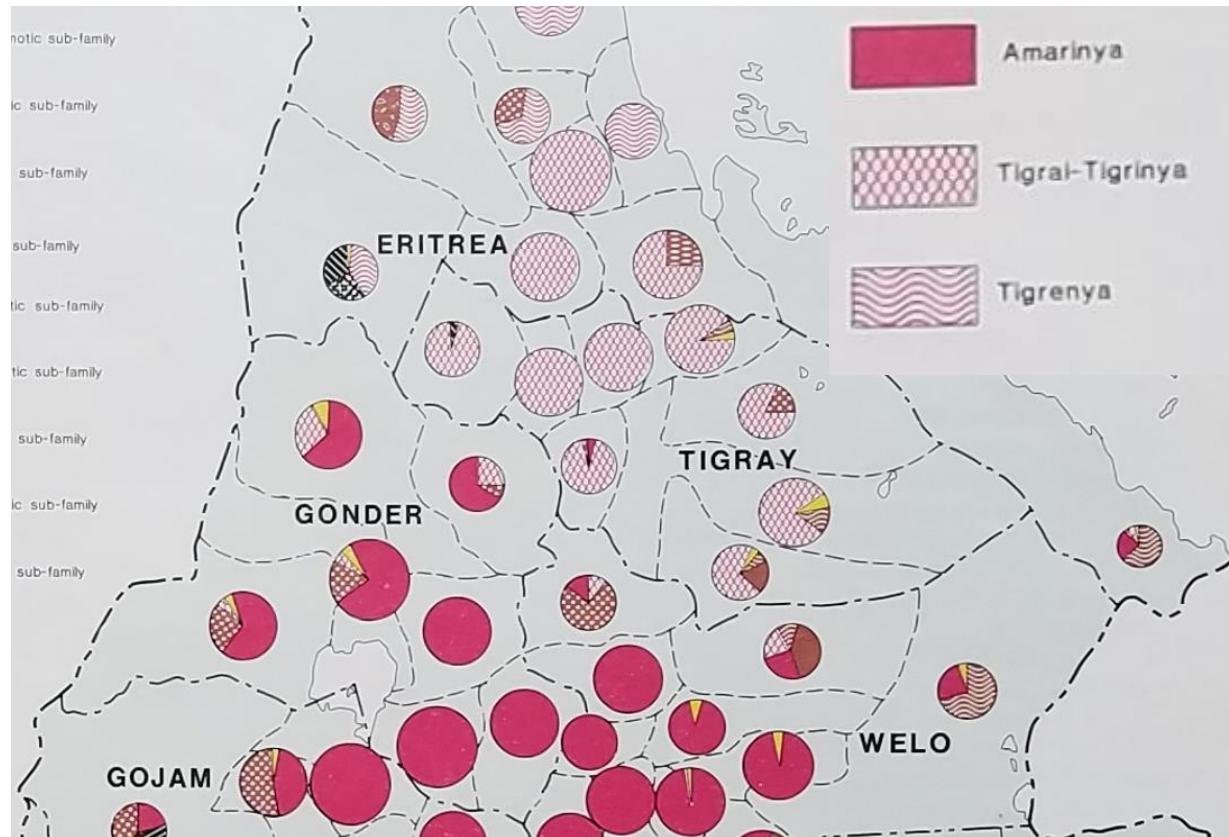


Levine D., 1974. Greater Ethiopia: The Evolution of a Multiethnic Society. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

EMA, 1988: National Atlas of Ethiopia - Languages

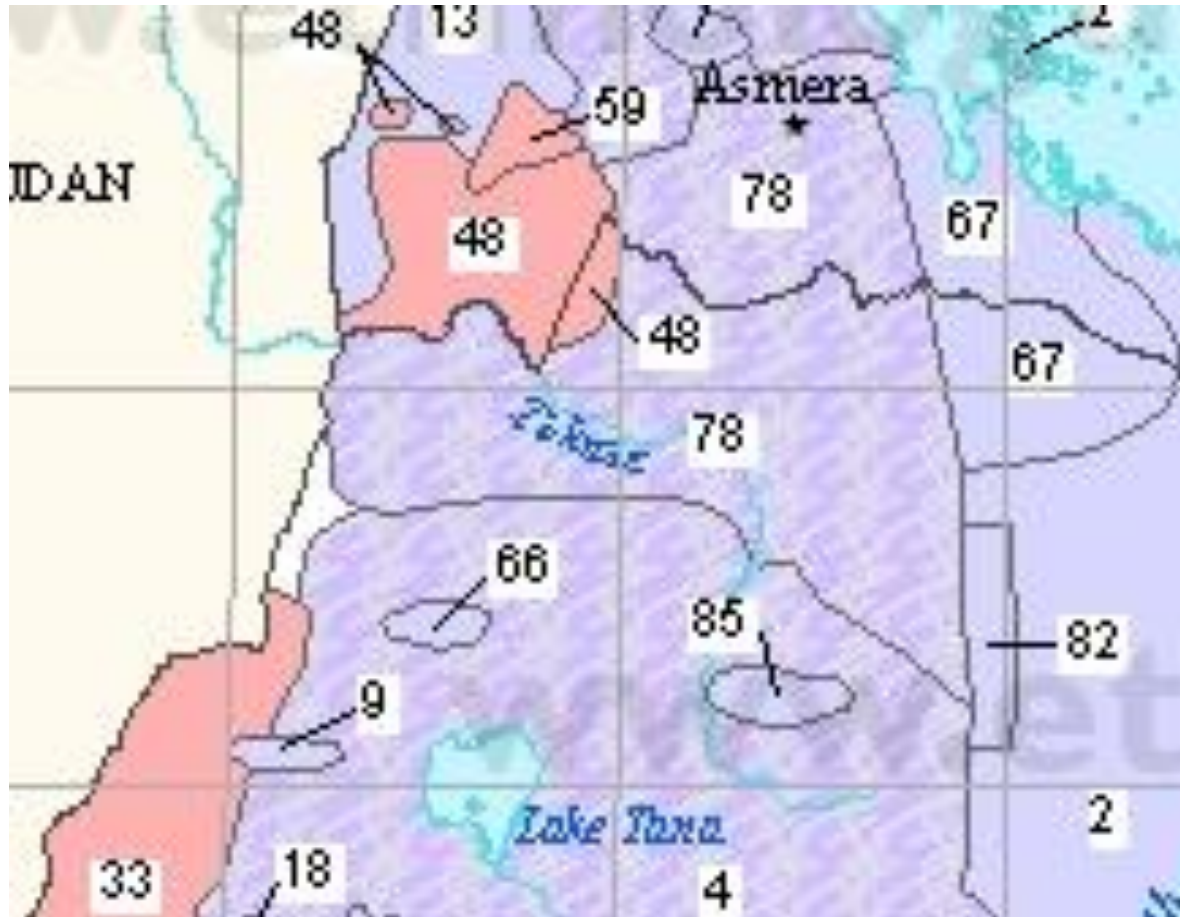


The map in the 1988 National Atlas of Ethiopia actually does not represent a spatial distribution of languages, but pie charts of census results at the level of *awrajas*, an intermediate administrative level at the time. Details in the zone of interest show large shares of Tigrinya speakers in the northern *awrajas* of the then Gonder province. The ethnic groups are not homogeneously “mixed” in each *awraja*, rather the Tigrinya speakers occupied the northern part of the two northern *awrajas*. Compare with Trimingham’s (1965) map.



Ethnologue, 2009

Legend: 78 for Tigrinya, 2 Afar, 4 Amharic, 33 Gumuz, 48 Kunama, 66 Qemant Agaw, 67 Saho, 82 Oromo and 85 Xamtagna Agaw



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Ethiopia

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COUNTRY	LANGUAGES	STATUS	MAPS
Official Name	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia		
International Conventions	ACHPR (1998), CPPDCE (2008), CSICH (2006), ICCPR (1993), UNCRPD (2010)		

http://www.ethnologue.com/show_map.asp?name=ET (behind paywall)

Map retrieved from: Tekabe Legesse Feleke, 2021. Ethiosemitic languages: Classifications and classification determinants, Ampersand, 8: 100074.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amper.2021.100074>.