



## CALL FOR PAPERS MAQDALA AT 150

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ERA OF TEWODROS II

April 10-13, 2018 (ግ.ም.ም 2-5, 2010 A.M.)

Hosted by University of Gondar, Ethiopia

In April 2018 the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of Amba Maqdala and the tragic death of Emperor Tewodros II of Ethiopia will be celebrated. The fate of Maqdala in 1868 was one of the defining chapters in the history of modern Ethiopia and in the wider world it became an icon of African utopia and tragedy under colonialism. In order to celebrate this episode, to ponder about its causes, its consequences and also about a wide range of related issues in Ethiopia and elsewhere in the African continent a consortium of Ethiopian and foreign institutions, including Ethiopian state and regional authorities, universities, local bureaus and NGOs has organized an international conference. In addition, preparations are underway to organize a cultural-artistic festival that shall include exhibitions, poetry, music and drama performances centred on Tewodros II and his time as well as tourist routes guided by expert historians to the sites where the Emperor spent his life and exerted his power are planned.

The international conference “Maqdala at 150” will take place during four days, from **April 10 to April 13, 2018**, in parallel to the historical events that, 150 years earlier, led to the fall of Maqdala and the death of Tewodros II. The conference will be organized by Gondar University on its campus in partnership with three other universities: Debre Tabor University, Amba Maqdala University (to be opened yet) and Bahir Dar University.

While the main focus of the conference is an historical episode, the academic profile of the participants shall include historians as well as experts in folklore studies, literature, archaeology, anthropology, philology and political sciences and also intellectuals and heritage professionals. The topics of the conference will be related to the life and times of Tewodros, his vision for Ethiopia and the African continent, the political and cultural history of Ethiopia in those times i.e the relations of Ethiopia with foreign powers during the modern era, to the places where Tewodros lived and exerted his power and to the legacy of Tewodros and his time in modern and contemporary Ethiopian and African societies. Some of the questions, but by far not the only ones, the attendees may want to ponder are:

- How has Tewodros II been interpreted, portrayed, and imagined in Ethiopia and beyond?
- What is the state of the historiography on Tewodros II and his time today?
- What was the contribution of Tewodros II and his time for the present society?
- What has been the fate of the Maqdala treasures until the present day and what role do they play in the contemporary plea of non-western nations for the return of their national heritages?
- What were the cultural, artistic and intellectual developments that characterized Ethiopia under Tewodros II?

**Participants** are invited to submit until **September 25, 2017** a paper proposal in English or Amharic, including a title and an abstract with no more than 300 words, at the organizer's official email: [maqdala150@gmail.com](mailto:maqdala150@gmail.com).

**Deadline for proposals:** September 25, 2017

**Notification of acceptance of proposals:** October 25, 2017

For more information and updates, visit the conference's website at <http://maqdala150.org/>.