



PAULI, ELISABETH (*1906; †1984)

Elisabeth Charlotte Pauli grew up in Cologne in a bourgeois environment. She learnt to draw at a young age but artistic talent was not valued in her family. At the age of twenty-seven she met Leo Frobenius and, impressed by his personality, she joined his Institute. In 1933 she participated in the Institute's expedition to the Libyan Sahara, where she copied the rock paintings. Expeditions to Transjordan followed in 1934/35 and to Italy in 1937. She also drew environments, people, material culture etc. to supplement the photographic documentation of the field research. Increasingly she also did her own ethnological investigations.

During World War II, when most of her male colleagues were in military service, she perfectly managed the formalities, accounting, collection and correspondence of the Institute. During this period she also did research on the ethnography of Ethiopia. The resulting publication helped secure her a place on the next expeditions to Ethiopia in 1950–52 and 1954–55 as, not only as illustrator, but also an anthropologist. Besides her scientific field research, she was responsible for the general organization, the baggage and the correspondence and wrote a detailed report comprising several hundred pages on the expedition. Her reports and letters give excellent insights not only in the detailed circumstances of the field research but also in the private relations of the researchers, their ethical attitudes and their humour by reporting small anecdotes. In 1952 Pauli married Adolf Ellegard Jensen. She died in 1984.