

WHERE WOMEN SMOKE & BANANA TREES GROW NO FRUIT



Itinerary and Participants



hand-drawn expedition route

The expedition in 1950-51 was the second expedition of the Frobenius Institute to Ethiopia. It was a remarkable undertaking as it was the first expedition after the Second World War and was fully sponsored by German industries.

The expedition had originally planned to reach Lake Turkana. However, since they had to continue on mules after Gidole, the Hamar Mountains were the southernmost destination.

The German press followed the expedition with great interest. In their articles they focused on the exotic destination, where women were said to smoke and banana trees could not bear fruit.



„Handing out salaries“ (Pa 53-23)



„In Konso“ (Pa 65-49)



„Drinking sorghum beer during a celebration“ (Wd 69-10)



„A last sip of Underberg“ (Ha 45-7)

Prof. A.E. Jensen was director of the Frobenius Institute. He had also taken part in the first Ethiopia expedition in 1935 and led the 1950-51 expedition.

Dr. E. Haberland was hired as a research assistant. He later became a professor and Ethiopist, and succeeded Jensen as director of the Frobenius Institute.

Dr. W. Schulz-Weidner was hired as a research assistant at the Frobenius Institute for a few years.

E. Pauli made drawings and did ethnographic fieldwork during the 1950-51 expedition. Most of the circumstances of the expedition are known through her letters and reports.