

Empress Menen
The wife of His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie I
King of Kings of Ethiopia

A Memorial for Empress Menen Asfaw's Birthday

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Attosh

Empress Menen Your Excellency

I would like to offer this book for your 67th birth day ceremony. This book may not contain all your biography, but it is a small part of it. As I offer this book to Your Excellency, I pray You will acknowledge it. For it is presented to Your Majesty with the most humility.

Even though, Your kindness and charity is well known all over the world, I would like to transmit my knowledge of your good deeds to the coming generation. I was fortunate to observe what was going on in your palace when I was being educated in the compound of St. Mark Church beginning in 1916. During that time I observed, in close proximity, Your kindness, charity and good deeds. This obliged me to write this book in order to help the historians by giving them a credible source of information.

PREFACE

I have no intention of assuming myself a trained historical writer. But my interest is to give concrete facts for the next generation in written form. As His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie's regime helps writers to preserve historical facts, I, your servant would like to use this opportunity to make this book a memorial offering to the generations to come. This small book contains your good deeds and I am inspired after having observed your charity and kindness.

I am very grateful to the Almighty God for making it possible to accomplish this book. I also wish long life for the famous His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie I King of Kings of Ethiopia, the princes, the princesses and the entire Royal family. This is not only my wish but also the deepest and keenest interest of all Ethiopians

When we refer to ancient historical documents from the time of Adam we can observe that it is not only men who have struggled for the better. Women have also contributed a lot, being on the side of men. Women shared problems and scarified themselves; which makes them sacred and give them special place in the history of mankind.

Woman participated in the battle field with men and were as victorious as men. Some women are remembered famously because of their adventures. During times of peace, women show their hospitality in the home. History makes mention of the fact that women would invite members of the army into their homes and fostered good social relations.

More than in any country, women in Ethiopia have fought in the battle field just as courageously as men. On the war front women have fought along side their husbands. Some women were commanders of the army which made them famous with their name being hailed around the world. Among such famous women Queen Taitu received an historical place. Empress Taitu fought on the Adwa battle field as a soldier and as a commander of the army 62 years ago.

In 1924 a memorial photograph of His Majesty King of Kings Haile Sellassie I, Empress Menen, Princess

Tanagne Work Haile Sellassie I, Prince Merid Azmach Asfaw Wasenn, Princess Wolete Israel Syeoum, Princess Zenebework Haile Sellassie, Princess Tsehaye Haile Sellassie, Prince Mekonnen the 'Duke' of Harar was taken.

Next to Queen Taitu, our most fortunate Queen Empress Menen is, naturally, the one who is the most beautiful. Empress Menen is blessed and rich Queen Menen is kind, human, and God fearing. She is always with the people by sharing in their problems and finding solutions. Queen Menen stretches her hand unto the poor; such that all Ethiopians like her very much.

In 1928 when His Majesty King of Kings went to the battle field, Empress Menen administered the people in the capital city. When the enemy's airplanes came to bomb, Queen Menen encouraged the people and worked seriously.

In the history of Ethiopia no one, except the King of Kings Haile Sellassie and Empress Menen, has had the opportunity to have as many children and grandchildren; which helps to strengthen the dynasty. Perhaps one or two children may belong to the former kings, but they cannot taste how sweet it is to witness their grandchildren's effort and success.

His Majesty King of Kings Haile Sellassie and Empress Menen, because God blessed them during 47 years of marriage, have many children and grandchildren. The King and the Queen were tied with Holy communion. Their children and grandchildren are engaged in different jobs rendering service to their country. This is special and enduring history for us which can not be found anywhere else.

Empress Menen, since she came to this world in 1883, for 67 years age accomplished great human deeds and charity. This kindness categorized her as a sacred woman. Elders, Monks, and priests in the church are witnesses of such sacred deeds. I would like to describe her eternal work by writing her biography in the following chapters.

Your servant,
Yared Gebre Michael from Wogda (Jirru) Doba

Her Majesty Empress Menen

Princess Mrs (Woizero) now Empress Menen was born on March 25, 1883 in Wollo province, in the Ambassel Region in the Egua area from her father Jantirar Asfaw and her Mother Woizero Sehin Michael. She was baptized in Saint Delba George Church. Her Christian name was Wolete Giorgis. Her name Menen is given to the most beautiful respected ladies.

Princess Woizero now Empress Menen was raised well by her parents. She also had an instructor at home like the former Lords' and Dukes' sons and daughters. Empress Menen knows reading and writing very well in her native language Amharic. Her Amharic teachers were Maduna and Father Workineh. Beyond academic education she learned home economics and spinning; which is an Ethiopian tradition. Since she obtained the best knowledge in household management, people called her the head of women. Indeed, Empress Menen is charming lady and no one can compete with her.

In 1892 she legally married and bore two (2) daughters and two (2) sons. These are Woizero Belaynesh, Jantiror Asfaw, Jantirar Gebre Egziabher and Woizero Desta. On November 5 1903, she began her journey from Dessie and reached Addis Ababa on Nov. 25, 1903. In the same year in June the then Dejazmach Teferi, now His Majesty Emperor Haile Sellassie I King of Kings of Ethiopia, married her. Lij Eyasu was responsible for making them a couple. The Wedding Ceremony was accomplished in the following condition.

Sacred Marriage

His Majesty King of Ethiopia Haile Sellassie was the Governor of Harar. The bride princess Woizero Menen was in Addis Ababa. The then Dejazmach Teferi Majesty King of Kings of Ethiopia, Haile Sellassie

I sent for his loyal servants, the then Gijzasmach, now prince Ras Emiru Haile Sellasse, and Lij Beshah Wured, who were in Addis Ababa. Kegnasmach Gobaw led the other invited fellows and they travelled from Addis Ababa riding horses and mules and reached Harar on July 23, 1903.

When they arrived there, Dejasmach Teferi was waiting for them at the place called Hammaressa near Harar. Dejasmach Teferi was accompanied by his loyal servants and lords to receive her with respect. In addition to this, the Harar army was waiting around the Awash area to receive the Princess. The people of Harar wished for the couple to be like the sacred marriage of Abraham and Sarah.

Gave Birth

On the 22nd of January, 1905 the first daughter princess was born. This princess was baptized at Kombolcha Mariam and her Christian name is Fikirte Mariam. She was named after her grandfather's mother's name Tenagne Work and called Tenagne Work Haile Sellassie. Princess Tanagne Work has many children and also has become a grandmother.

On July 8, 1908 the second son, the "Duke" was born. This Duke was named Asfa Wosen by his father His Majesty Haile Sellassie. He was baptized at Adere Tiko Trinity Church and his Christian name Amha Sellassie was given. The then Princess Menen delivered Prince Asfa Wosen in Harar city.

By this time Dejasmach Teferi was in Addis Ababa. She held the small baby close and traveled to Addis Ababa. She started her journey and reached Qersa. The next day Princess Menen traveled from Qersa to Dire Dawa. From Dire Dawa they traveled by train to Awash and they reached Akaki on September 1st. Princess Menen reached Addis Ababa by using the Faltu train on September 2nd. They used the Faltu train because the modern train had recently been introduced in the country. Prince Asfa Wosen has many children and grandchildren.

On July 18, 1909 the third princess was born. The princess' Christian name was given as Hirute Sellassie. And her birth name is Princess Zenebework. The princess died in March 15 1925 having no children.

On September 17, 1909 Prince Eyashu was impeached by vote and Dejasmach Teferi promoted to the rank of Ras and became crown prince of Ethiopia. He received full authority to govern Ethiopia on behalf of the people and Empress Menen received the rank of Princess.

On October 17, 1909 Lij Eyasu was over thrown from his authority of ruling the country despite the fact that their grandfather King Mikael created a civil war on behalf of his son Lij Eyasu Michael. Princess Menen kept her promise to her husband Crown Prince Ras Teferi Mekonnen and showed her loyalty by helping him up to the end.

On February 4, 1909 Empress Zewditu took over her father's position. Her father was Emperor Menelik II. During that time the Crown Prince Ras Teferi Mekonnen got a gold crown and Princess Woizero Menen also got the rank of princess and received a gold crown.

On October 2, 1912 a fourth princess was born. The Christian name of this princess was Wolete Birhan and her birth name is Princess Tsehay. Princess Tsehay was kind and willing to help the poor. She died in August 12, 1934 without having any children.

There was an incomplete church being built by Empress Taitu in 1910; which is found in east Addis Ababa around Entoto Tigat. Empress Taitu told Empress Menen to complete the building. Keeping her promise, Empress Menen invested a lot of money and constructed the church. Empress Taitu gave this project to Empress Menen because she knew spiritually that princess Woizero Menen would be the Empress in the future.

On March 16 1915, the "Kidane Mihret" church started its ceremony. The church became a monastery and was called Hamere Noh. Empress Menen gave her estate to the monastery and therefore helped those who give service to the church. This monastery is still a shelter for many Christians. There is holy water near

the church in which people immerse themselves and they also drink it. People from every corner of Ethiopia give thanks to Empress Menen for this Holy water.

In March, 1915 Empress Menen traveled to Jerusalem to visit the place where Jesus Christ was born. Jesus Christ preached Christianity and sacrificed himself for the sake of our sin. Empress Menen went to Jerusalem by train and ship via Djibouti. After she visited every part of Jerusalem, she went to Egypt to visit holy places. She gave a lot of money to monasteries and came back to Ethiopia.

On October 5, 1916 Empress Menen delivered the fifth prince. The prince took the name of his grandfather Mekonnen while his Christian name was Araya Yohannes.

Orice Mekonnen the Duke of Harar, passed away in May 4, 1919 after he had five sons.

On May 30, 1916 His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie was visiting Europe in order to introduce to many countries.

On May 20, 1908 Majesty Haile Sellassie was saved from the accident in the Harmay sea and Empress Menen was praying; wishing for the Crown Prince to come back home safely.

Empress Menen gave her daughter Princess Tenangne Work Haile Sellassie to be married with His Excellency Ras Desta Damtew on Nov 7 1917.

On May 28 1919 Empress Menen donated a big amount of money to construct schools for the poor children and freed slaves.

On Oct. 3 1920 her mother "Woizero Sihin passed away in Addis Ababa at the age of 56 years. The funeral ceremony was at Debre Selam Medhane Alem Church.

In June, 1920, Empress Menen visited Teferi Mekonnen School and donated money after observing different kinds of handicraft products.

On Sept. 27 1921 His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie was promoted as Ethiopia's King of Kings Crown Prince with full authority and they celebrated with a crowning ceremony. On this occasion Empress Menen showed her hostess ability by inviting many guests for an eight (8) day feasting. The feast began an historical chapter which cannot be forgotten.

On Nov. 18 1921 Empress Menen went to Djibouti due to health problems and came back on December 9th.

On Feb. 5, 1921 she took King Mikael's dead body from Holeta Genet Kidane Mihret Church to St. Michale Church at Tenta. She accompanied the body up to Desie and came back to Addis Ababa.

On March 24, 1922 Her Majesty Empress Zewditu passed away. His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie I took over the crown of his grandfather King Menelik II. As a result of this, Empress Menen also had the same fortune of being promoted with her husband.

On September 24, 1923 Empress Menen founded a new school for girls near Genete Loul Palace. This school teaches women to be equal participants with men in the sphere of knowledge and technology. In this school a great number of ladies receive a chance to learn. Many students obtained scholarship to foreign countries; indeed this school fulfilled its objective.

On Oct. 23, 1923 (November 2nd 1930) His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie I King of Kings of Ethiopia was crowned Emperor of Ethiopia at Menagesha St George Church. He allowed Princess Menen to be Empress and crowned on the same day. The invited guests from different countries received gifts of silver medals which had the picture of King of Kings of Ethiopia Haile Sellassie I and Empress Menen. Dear invited foreign guests appreciated the beauty of Empress Menen.

On February 20, 1923 Empress Menen delivered the sixth prince. The prince took the Christian name of his grandfather Prince Sahile Aba Dina. He was baptized at Mekane Sellassie Church in Addis Ababa.

On February 3, 1924 Empress Menen went to Djibouti for a visit and came back on February 10th to Addis Ababa.

On April 30, 1924 Ethiopia's King of government Crown Prince Mered Azmach Asfawosen legally married Princess Wolete Israel.

On November 11, 1925 Empress Menen constructed St. Hana Church at Furi on her estate. She gave a lot of acres of land to priests and deacons of the church. Empress Menen also gave urban land for the residents.

On September 6, 1926 Empress Menen went to sacred land Jerusalem for the second time. After she visited different churches and monasteries, she constructed, with her own funds, the St. Trinity Church for the Ethiopians in Jerusalem. She donated a lot of money to the monastery and clergymen and inaugurated the church.

On October 2, 1926 she completed her visit of Jerusalem and came back to Addis Ababa.

On May 19, 1926 Empress Menen went to Harar to visit and inaugurate Prince Mekonnen the Duke of Harar as governor of Harar.

In 1928 Fascist Italy was preparing to invade Ethiopia. Empress Menen gathered Ethiopian ladies by preparing logistic support, first aid materials and sent them to the battle field. She did her best up to the end.

On September 13, 1928, Empress Menen disclosed the aggression to the World Women Association and appealed to all world nation states:

"I am pleased to present my speech to all world women. When Italy conquered our people and country the World Women Association supported us to settle peace and freedom. We are very happy to express our deep feeling for the association. While I am speaking now, in order to be understood by all countries my daughter, Princess Tsehai, will translate my speech into English.

Princess Tsehai made the following speech on behalf of Empress Menen:

"Recently, Italy conquered us unjustly and the world's women should hear the voice of the Ethiopian people. Even though women of the world are living in different countries with different climates, all women are interrelated with the same will and objectives. War is a distress and trouble to mankind. For all women of different countries, different races, and religions, the acts of violence and war have victimized their husbands, brothers and children. War is a destruction of the family and creates homelessness. So women are against war.

We know that even Italian mothers and barren women may worry about the war, since war is good for nothing. Therefore, all women should prevent war before it brings trouble and distress. They should collaborate their voices and request the avoidance of war before there is bloodshed on both sides.

Ethiopia does not think of violence as a means to resolve conflict and wishes to maintain peace. Ethiopia tried to settle the conflict peacefully in the early months. In every aspect Ethiopia has done her best. So we have a clear conscience. Ethiopian people welcomed all foreigners; the guests who came to work peacefully and innocently. The Ethiopian people's good hospitality towards foreigners has been well-narrated in the history of the world. However, one state which is the neighbor to Ethiopia, is trying to control and govern. Ethiopia is always on the line of peace, while the rival state is looking only after its own interest.

The enemy deployed its army and set up bases around our country to kill our women's husbands, children, and brothers. Our people live and working peacefully, by being God-fearing, but the enemy is trying to devastate the wealth of the country and destroy our family in the name of modernization.

We pray to God not to face this kind of distress and destruction if the so-called modernization brings such big trouble. Hence, the association which is established for the purpose of peace by the world's women may exert influence to bring peace and stability. We don't hesitate to believe that the World Women Association may contribute a great deal to settling this conflict peacefully. We pray to God that the Association accomplishes its mission. We hope the activities of the Association may bring fruitful results in the preservation of peace and security in our country.

Nonetheless, if the war is started, we women should treat wounded soldiers and minimize the damage from the war. Women who are living all over the world, who stand for peace, may help us during the time of war. We know that these women assist the sacrificed patriot's family. All women of the world should struggle to bring about peace and justice. Government officials must be guided along the lines of God and we pray for this as well as your collaboration with us in this effort.”

On Nov. 18 1928 His Imperial Majesty King of Kings Haile Sellassie I went to the north battle field Empress Menen stayed in Addis Ababa and prepared logistics and sent to the battle field. When the enemy's planes bombed civilians she advised the people to be careful. During the bombing she traveled by car in the city to advise and embolden the people with courage. In addition to this she kept praying thereby waging spiritual warfare against the enemy.

On April 28, 1928 the Maichew battlefield was bombed and devastated by Italian army, His Majesty King of Kings came back to the capital city to give the guiding instruction for the rest of the people. Then he went abroad in order to appeal to the League of Nations. Empress Menen also went to Europe with him to assist him by giving advice and constructive ideas.

From 1928 -1933 (1936 - 1941) they stayed in England in exile. During those trouble years they were praying day and night. They felt deep sorrow for the people because the enemy conquered Ethiopia. Empress Menen stayed with the King of Kings Majesty Haile Sellassie as an advisor. In 1933 (1941) she saw the rise of Ethiopia.

On February 12, 1929 the Fascist Italian army led by Graziani killed children, old women and men. When Empress Menen heard this news she was felt deep sorrow for the massacred people. She sobbed and pray to God for this inhuman act.

On April 27, 1933 (May 5th 1941) When His Imperial Majesty King of Kings Haile Sellassie I reached the capital city with victory Empress Menen sent Him the following telegram message:

Telegram

“I have received a Telegram your Majesty is victorious and has entered in the capital. Your family extends congratulations with great pleasure. I extend my greetings to Prince Crown Mekonnen”

After the invader army evacuated Addis Ababa on August 23, 1933, Empress Menen returned back home by extraordinary airplane with her beloved daughter Princess Tsehay. This time His Majesty King of Kings received them at the airport. The residents of Addis Ababa also received them with deep happiness.

In 1934 Empress Menen went to Wollo province and gave a speech through princess Tsehay, offering the following advice:

“My country's ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to thank the Almighty Lord for our flag having been returned to it's rightful place. Our patriots were victorious after staying in the bush for 5 years. Secondly, any human being would feel the great pleasure, I feel at this moment, when he or she is rejoined with his/her birth place. By the grace of God, I was eager to see my native home, Wollo. I am very happy

as it has been 31 years since I last visited this region. Finally, I am very grateful for the people who received me with great pleasure.

All of you know that this naturally gifted country which is green and different from any other African country has never been colonized and has been ruled only by its own kings. After many attempts at colonization, Italy perpetrated propaganda warfare. Through this campaign, Italy tried to dismiss our unity and divide our people.

Is there anybody who did not lose a relative during the war? Some of our citizens were killed by hoes, spades and machine guns.

God made it possible that Ethiopia was quickly victorious over its enemy. We, the citizen's children feel proud when we see our country freed from any aggression and we are very thankful to Almighty God.

Ethiopian people have had good lessons from past experience which enables us to cooperate; much like one mother's children who love each other. This made every Ethiopian struggle for the country's independence and freedom. You have seen that a people without freedom are victims; as was seen during the 5 years aggression. Indeed our people did not hate native rulers as long as they kept the language, custom and tradition of the people. But Italians tried to rule in a subtle way. During the aggression, even though the enemy killed our people, patriots went to the bush and some went abroad in exile. This situation surprised the world.

My native ladies and gentlemen of Wollo, our country has been free for 3000 years. However through the help of England and the fierce struggle of its children, we freed our country, the flag and King of our common motherland Ethiopia. We have to be one and united. The crown prince is selected by and came up from you, our beloved son, prince Meried Azmach Asfa Wosen is now with you. Even though I was separated from Wollo 31 years (physically, as it is impossible to say that I was living alienated from you), I was with you spiritually.

Our beloved son is your governor. I believe you will be very happy when I tell you this information. You will treat him loyally and kindly and he will share your problems and help you. He will govern you through good justice. Please, give him good advice and assist him whenever he needs it.

May Good keep our country fertile. May God give long life to our flag.”

Here she completed her speech. At this time ladies & gentlemen of Wollo event children touched their heart with great happiness by her speech.

In 1934 Empress Menen reconstructed Empress Menen Girls' School and made it possible to restart the girls' academics.

On November 15, 1934 Empress Menen went to Harar by train and stayed up to December 5th to visit different parts of Harar. Then after her visit she came back to Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia.

On April 18, 1934 her daughter princess Teshay Hailu Sellassie was given in legal marriage to Colonel Abiy Abebe who is now promoted to Brigadier General.

Princess Tsehay died August 12, 1934 without having any children.

On May 26 1934 Empress Menen visited the Ethiopian Women Association. Again she visited Tensae Birhan School which was established for the poor children and donated money to strengthen the school.

On November 11, 1935 Empress Menen after visited Ethiopian Women Association and advised how the association could strengthen itself.

On July 1, 1935 she inaugurated the handicraft school which was established to work different products.

On 1935 she gave her estate for the orphans whose fathers and mothers were killed by the enemy. She opened Siwaswe Birhan School. In this school even the blind are learning how to write and read.

On October 5, 1936 Empress Menen visited Empress Menen School and advised girls about studying hard.

On November 14, 1936 her beloved children, Princess Tenagenework Haile Sellassie and the young Prince Sahle Sellassie came back from England. On this occasion there was invitation in the palace.

On January 7, 1937 she inaugurated the new Trinity Church. On this same day there was a ceremony for the patriots and a memorial for the recently deceased Princess Tsehay.

On February 15, 1937 she visited Empress Menen handicraft school.

On February 3, 1938 Prince Mekonnen the Duke of Harar and Princess Sara Gizaw got married legally with a crown ceremony.

Empress Menen school progressed and became fruitful. Due to the increase in a large number of students. Empress Menen put the base stone to be built for a new building for 300 girls.

Empress Menen visited Harar province and surrounding areas. She also observed different offices in Dire-Dawa.

On September 24, 1934 she visited Gondar for the first time with His Majesty King of Kings. They traveled by an extraordinary airplane. They stayed up to October 7, 1938 visiting Lake Tana. Empress Menen received and talked to ladies of Gondar and donated her money to encourage women.

On July 10, 1939 she sent her crown to Bethlehem church near which Jesus Christ was born.

On 1939 Empress Menen allowed the construction of Gete Semani St. Mary Church at Sebeta which is 23 kilometers from Addis Ababa. This modern building was started through her private funds.

On March 25, 1940 the St. Mary church at Sebeta was completed and inaugurated by her. Empress Menen gave her estate and residence area for priests and deacons of St. Mary church.

On May 21, 1940 she visited Empress Menen's school to initiate students in their academic and handicraft products.

On May 29, 1940 she visited Ambo Twon and the surrounding area.

On June 22, 1940 Empress Menen went to Harar for visit. She stayed for 12 days and came back on July 5th to Addis Ababa.

On September 1, 1941 His Majesty King of Kings gave instruction to the people that Ethiopians should wear cultural dress so that the coming generation may follow this as an example. Empress Menen took the initiative to wear cultural dress for the first time in new year.

In 1941, on the Empress Zewditu Avenue, Empress Menen gave her estate for the school which is named for her beloved daughter Princess Zenebework.

On January 24, 1941 Empress Menen traveled by an extraordinary plane to Gondar for the second time. She visited ancient historical places and she donated garments and money for many churches in Gondar.

On December 15, 1941 Empress Menen visited the new St. Trinity Spiritual School as she is a model for spiritual deeds.

In 1942 the 14 sacred books of the church were printed by Empress Menen. The number of books were 3800 in number and were sold for the Sewaswe Berhan St. Paul School as a donation. The amount of the money was 19000 birr from the sales of the books.

Moreover, she gave part of her mother's estate and many houses for the service of the school.

On April 22, 1942 Empress Menen was invited to the inauguration ceremony for the Haile Sellassie I Bridge. This bridge was built across Abay River.

On July 8, 1942 Empress Menen went to Yerergota district found in the Harar province. She stayed there until July 27th and returned back to Addis Ababa. During her stay she donated and talked to the people of the district.

Empress Menen renewed the Gishen church which is found in the Ambasel Region in Wollo province with her own funds. In addition to this, she oversaw the construction of a good road over a path which was previously difficult for the elderly believers to navigate get access to the church.

Empress Menen reconstructed Boru Trinity church which was devastated by Italian aggressors in Wollo province. She donated Birr 56,500 from her private account and made the church in modern building in 1943.

On January 8, 1943 she went to Debrezeit to visit the Haile Sellassie Air Force School. She observed the war tactic demonstration at Hamedea and evaluated the progress of the cadets of air force.

On February 20, 1943 she was invited guest in the inaugural ceremony of Addis Ababa University College when it was opened for the first time.

On March 10, 1943 she inaugurated Gebremariam School, especially the kindergarten building which is named by princes Azeb Asfa-Wosen.

On June 7, 1943 she visited Empress Menen school and observed the handicrafts output. Empress Menen encouraged them and gave her motherly advice to the students.

On May 1, 1944, Empress Menen visited the school found in Nazareth.

On June 17, 1944 again she visited different schools found in Nazareth.

On June 26 1944 she visited different schools found in Nazareth.

On June 26, 1944 she visited patients in Princess Tsahay Memorial Hospital.

On September 24, 1945 she went to Asmara to visit Eritrea after it was converged with the other part of the country. On her visit the people of Asmara received her warmly. Empress Menen talked to the ladies of Eritrea and donated and gave gifts. She stayed up to October 8th in Asmara and then she went to Dessie. She returned back to Addis Ababa on October 18th.

On January 14, 1945 she went to Eritrea for the second time and solved different problems.

On April 16, 1945 she visited Empress Menen School because she was interested in expanding the handicraft products. She encouraged the students to keep up the good work.

On May 1, 1945 she put down the base stone of the construction of a new church around Fitawrari Habte Giorgis' area. The name of the church was St. Raguel Building which was started by Empress Menen.

On July 19, 1945 she went to Harar and Dirdawa to visit different official departments. Empress Menen resolved problems which came up from the people.

Empress Menen went to Eritrea for the third time. She received the ladies of Eritrea in her palace. She assisted them with finances and came back to Addis Ababa on February 3, 1945.

On March 16, 1946 she visited the department of handicraft which was established in the Empress Menen School.

His Majesty King of Kings went to America on July 16, 1946. As he was invited by President Eisenhower, Empress Menen celebrated His Majesty's birthday in Genete Leul Palace.

On August 8, 1946 Empress Menen prayed continuously during the first fasting of Filseta in Addis Ababa and the second fasting in Harar. She donated finance to priests and stayed up to Pagumen 4.

On October 23, 1947 As His Majesty Haile Sellassie went to Europe for a friendly visit, she celebrated his coronation day nicely.

On February 23, 1947 she awarded certificates to successful graduate nurses in Empress Zewditu Hospital. His Imperial Majesty and Empress Menen awarded certificates for young girls who passed the examination successfully.

On February. 24, 1947 she visited the Empress Menen school.

On March 23, 1947 Empress Menen visited the Nazareth region and its surrounding area.

On June 3, 1947 Empress Menen went to Ambo and visited different schools and clinics which are found around Hagere Hiwot.

On July 7, 1947 Empress Menen awarded certificates for successful nurses.

On October 23, 1948 she went to Menagesha St. George Church to celebrate the 25th coronation ceremony. Empress Menen thanked the Almighty God them.

On December 15, 1948 she went to Massawa by an extraordinary airplane to visit Eritrea for fourth time. Then she visited some places found between Asmara and Massawa. Empress Menen presented Christmas gifts to the young ladies of Asmara. She came back to Addis on January 8, 1948.

On January 5, 1948 she visited the nurse school in Asmara which is named after her own name. In this nursing school many Eritrean young ladies are continuing their education and give services in their profession.

Empress Menen as she is generous bought the land of the former German mission, investing hundreds of thousands of Birr. This institution is found at the East of Debre Selam Medhane Alem Church. Empress Menen gathered the blind who are orphans around Addis Ababa and hired Ethiopian and foreigner teachers. She also assigned guardians for the orphaned blind children to facilitate their learning teaching process. Moreover, in this school she constructed an additional new building paying 200,000 Birr for 100 boarding students. The building was opened on December 30, 1949.

On April 18, 1949 she celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Empress Menen school. During this celebration, there were a lot of people. The school had shown progress and gave an opportunity for many girls to be educated. On this occasion she extended her message through Teferra Work to the gathered people:

“His Imperial Majesty King of Kings believed that there is nothing better for the development of a country's progress and advancement than education. In this regard on his willingness he built many schools for boys. But if girls are left behind without having regular education, they will be at a disadvantage.

Therefore, I have opened this school for the teaching of girls 25 years old and younger, since I believe girls should learn as boys.

This school was discontinued by the invasion of the enemy against Ethiopia. By the grace of God the school resumed its function after the victory. Many girls have received a chance to be promoted at the higher level of education after graduating from this school. Many of them are working in the government offices and in private organizations.

If my country's girls get the opportunity to receive the standard education I hope they can contribute a lot which is expected from them as their brothers.

Twenty-five years ago, there were not more than 50 students, when the school was opened. Today there are about 1300 students. This number is increasing because girls are aware of the advantage of education. I am very happy to see to this progress.

I thank the Almighty God for which I celebrate the 25th year of the Empress Menen School. I thank the director of this school and the lady teachers who have shared the problems of the school, as well as its progress.”

On May 3, 1949 Empress Menen went to Sidamo by extraordinary plane and reached in Awasa for a visit.

On May 4, 1949 her beloved son prince Mekonnen the Duke of Harar died in accident and she came back to Addis Ababa by plane. On May 5, 1949 at the funeral ceremony she felt deep sorrow. Empress Menen mourned up to Pagumen 4, 1949 for the death of her beloved son.

GENERAL REMARK

I have tried to write about your generosity and kindness. This book may help the future writers as a book which gives basic information. This book may not be a complete work about the Empress, but I have tried to mention only some part of it. I restricted my pen here since the future writers may be able to complete the work in this regard.

Even though, my capability is limited to 1916 to April 28 and then from 1933 up to now (1950), I have had the opportunity to see with my own eyes her kindness and human deeds. Therefore, I am responsible for transferring this good work to the coming generation and I am very fortunate to be able to write this chronicle.

Empress Menen requested His Imperial Majesty King of Kings excuse those who committed mistakes and asked for commendation for those who have done good deeds for their country by being promoted and assigned to the government offices.

As she is a God fearing Empress, she always prays to God. Every Friday she goes to Mehanealem Church of St. Mark Church for special praying since Friday is a day which Jesus Christ is crucified for the sin of all mankind.

Empress Menen except for her childhood always gave her life for good deeds. She goes to St. Mark church Everyday where she stays up to 9 A.M. praying to God and receiving monks and nuns who come from different churches and monasteries. Empress Menen also gives donation her own money for the reconstruction of churches. When she returns to the palace from church, receives the women who lost their husbands in the war front and fulfills whatever they demand.

The Author Yared Gebre Michael presented the book titled "YAFICATSEHAY' (The Sun of Africa) to the Emperor and Empress on the occasion of the 64th birthday of His Imperial Majesty King of Kings Haile Sellassie. On this occasion he presented also a special newspaper which was prepared by the office.

Empress Menen builds many churches and reconstructed the likes of Gishen Mary, Tenta Michael Boru Trinity, Endelba St. George church etc. Empress Menen is not praying for herself only but also for the pillar of Ethiopia His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie, for her country Ethiopia, and for the development of the loyal of Ethiopia. Empress has never alienated herself from the church. Wudasie Amlac, Seife Selassie Arganon, St Mary praying in Golgotha - she always reads those books. Empress Menen likes to give attention to the interpretation of the books of the church. This shows how she is farsighted and is very intelligent.

Empress Menen allowed the orphans to learn who live in the area out of the capital city. Empress Menen understands the problems of the poor and always visits patients in hospitals. Empress Menen believes man is mortal so that she always shares the problems of the people and tries to solve them. Ethiopian people rely on her.

During the five years of Italian invasion many churches were devastated. Empress Menen has been in a deep sorrow because her beloved children were killed. All Ethiopian people shared her grief and sympathized with her. As she is strong spiritually, Almighty God gave her strength. She passed through each problem patiently. Even though she lost her children she never neglect the country's problem this is well known by Ethiopian people. Therefore, Ethiopian people love Empress Menen from the bottom of their heart and share the happiness and sadness with her.

On the occasion of her 67th birth day ceremony all Ethiopian people wish the best for Empress. The whole people express the deepest feelings for her and say what a happy birthday it is that His Imperial Majesty King of Kings Haile Sellassie is also with you during the ceremony of your birthday.

Ethiopian people wish the best for you in the coming year. May it be celebrated with your princes and Princesses' children.

This Book was published during the 28th year of the Reign of His Imperial Majesty Haile Sellassie I King of Kings of Ethiopia.

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