



EISENSTAEDT AND THE EMPEROR—1935



EISENSTAEDT AND THE EMPEROR—1955

# Ethiopia, 20 Years After

## ON HIS SECOND JOURNEY A PHOTOGRAPHER FINDS AN ANCIENT LAND ASTIR

On the eve of the Italian invasion of Ethiopia 20 years ago, Photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt visited Emperor Haile Selassie I (*above, left*) in his capital at Addis Ababa. It was a trip into the past, to a land that had drowsed for 3,000 years in feudal isolation, the land of a "king of kings" who claims descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Eisenstaedt found the slight, unbending monarch, Haile Selassie, feverishly mobilizing horse and donkey trains and barefoot armies for the war with Italy that was to end in his tragic defeat and exile. The pictures he took then, widely printed in Continental and American magazines, made photographic history.

This year Photographer Eisenstaedt again visited the emperor (*above, right*), long since restored to his throne in Addis Ababa. Eisenstaedt again found the capital in a state of feverish preparation. But this time it was joyous preparation for a triumphant occasion—the 25th anniversary celebration of Haile Selassie's coronation.

On these pages, the Ethiopia Eisenstaedt saw 20 years ago is pictured alongside the land he found on his recent visit. In 1935 hammering echoed everywhere. New wings were being added to hotels to help house the 4,000 distinguished foreign guests expected in the capital for the celebration. At the palace the throne room was being enlarged for the ceremonies to come. Economically Ethiopia seemed to be lifting itself up by its own bootstraps and the 20th Century was moving in on the ancient kingdom from all directions. And strolling along paved streets that he had known as ankle-deep mud paths, Eisenstaedt noticed a startling fact: the ragged, barefoot troops of 20 years ago today are handsomely clad and very well shod.

Photographed for LIFE  
by ALFRED EISENSTAEDT



**BAREFOOT ARMY OF 1935**, summed up in famous Eisenstaedt photo, fought in puttees and bare feet.

**WELL-DRESSED ARMY OF 1955** rests on football field. These are imperial guards, pick of the troops.







**NEW FORM** of transport (left) is adopted by Ethiopians at Bahrdar, boarding U.S.-built plane which flies rugged terrain. Planes also carry fantastic cargo like rancid butter and *kat* leaves, used as stimulant.

**OLD WAY** of travel, here photographed in 1935, is the railroad running from Addis Ababa to the coast. Even here the postwar improvements have cut running time for 486-mile trip from three days to two.





**OLD SQUARE** in mid-town Addis Ababa in 1935 was ringed with old ramshackle buildings. Traffic consisted largely of droves of cattle and horse-drawn carts, although a few official cars were in evidence.



**SQUARE TODAY** (right), Haile Selassie I Square, is paved, lined by new buildings and carries bustling traffic of foot- and bus-borne people. There are stop lights and policemen to keep the traffic in hand.

# BRIGHT ROAD UPWARD

Modernity is overtaking Addis Ababa even though hyenas still creep into the capital by night to raid for garbage and the air is redolent of eucalyptus branches burning in a thousand cooking fires. Ragged Haile Selassie I Square has vanished; in its place is a modern square that looks as if it had been lifted right out of an American town. New airlines and more than 2,500 miles of paved roads, many of them built by the Italians during their occupation, connect the city with agricultural and mineral regions which are potentially the richest in the Middle East.

Ethiopia seems to acknowledge no obstacles to progress. An American air adviser remembers being sent into the rugged country near Harar to find a site for an airfield. He finally suggested the least "impossible" site he knew and forgot about it. He thought the emperor had too, until a traveler called on him one day and said, "I wish you could see what is going on near Harar. They've got about 1,000 men working in shifts with hand tools down there and they are moving a couple of mountains."

But the difficulty of overlaying modern ways in the ancient land was brought out when a plane, forced to fly past a scheduled stop, landed at another airport 20 air minutes away. It took the passengers for the by-passed town four days on muleback to get back to their destination.



**WATER CARRIERS** (at left) labor up a hill above crater lake near Bishoftu with their big jugs. The Bishoftu area is both an air force training center and a vacation spot for Addis Ababa's well-off.

**COFFEE SORTERS**, tribal women wearing different traditional costumes, gossip at their work and frequently break into a high wailing song in Arabic. Coffee is Ethiopia's most important export product.



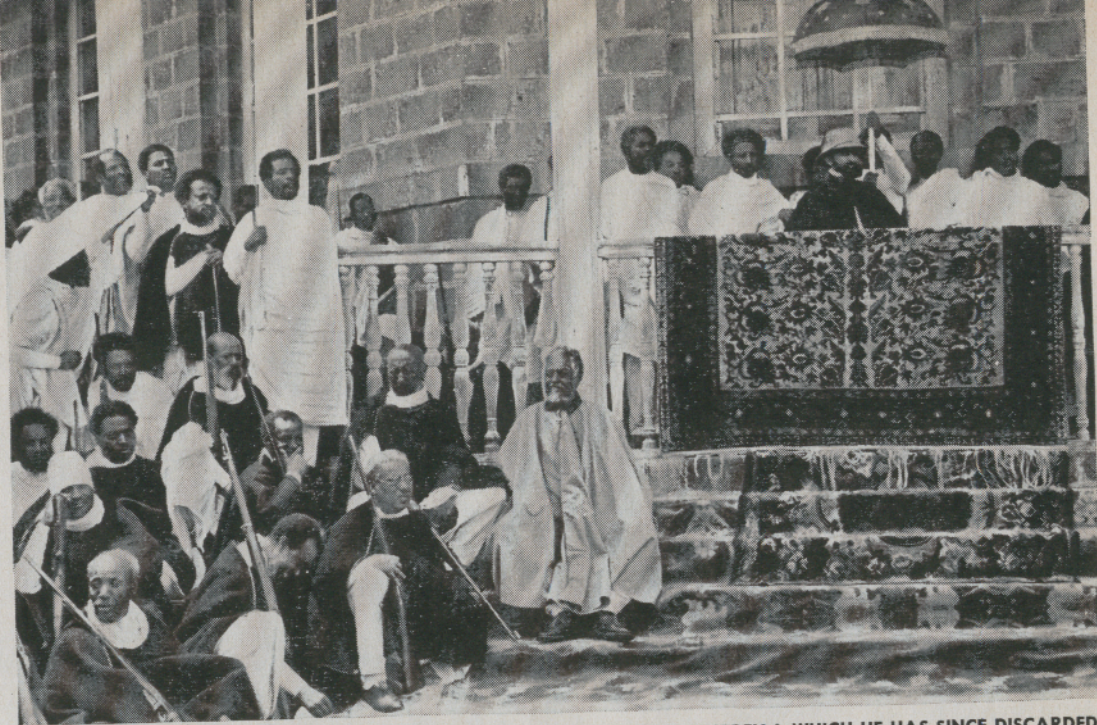


**ETHIOPIA** CONTINUED

# RULER'S POMP AND PROGRESS

Haile Selassie I seems always out personally working to change Ethiopia. When streets are to be paved, he swings the first pick. He lays cornerstones, dedicates buildings, keeps after projects until they are well launched.

But while pushing his people into a new age the emperor is careful to observe old traditions. He moves about in regal splendor designed to build enthusiasm among his people. Because Ethiopians believe that for royalty "sitting is a secret thing," a screen is placed in front of the emperor's chair before he takes it. The screen is taken away after he has sat down.



IN 1935 EMPEROR ATTENDED ST. GEORGE'S DAY RITES UNDER ROYAL UMBRELLA WHICH HE HAS SINCE DISCARDED



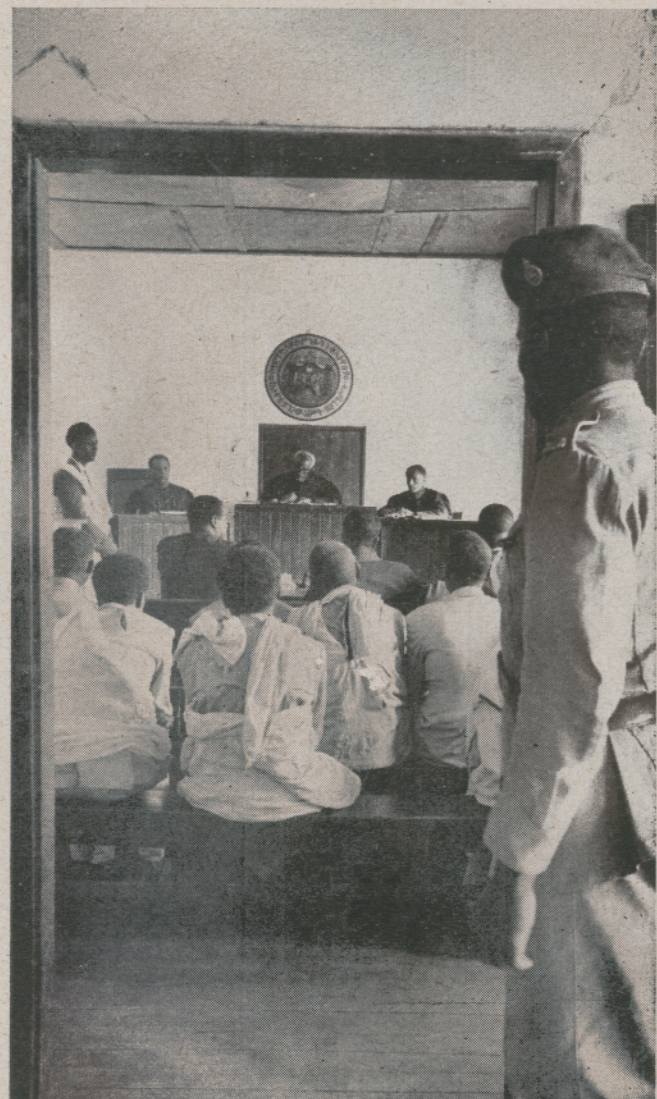
**FAMILY GROUP** sits at ease while watching army games. With the emperor are his three sons (*seated left of throne*), five grandchildren (*around his feet*) and high officials of the government of Ethiopia.



**A CELEBRATION** brings the emperor and Empress Menen to Old Ghebbi (Old Palace) for a diplomatic reception marking their return to Ethiopia in 1941 when the British forces chased out the Italians.

**VEILED CHAIRS** on the terrace at a new Y.M.C.A. building are for the imperial couple who are to dedicate structure. Screens will be removed after they have taken their places. Then tea will be served.





**GLORY OF PAST** is recalled by tomb of Menelik II, Haile Selassie's predecessor who whipped the Italians in 1896. Standing by the tomb is a priest.

**THE LAW** is administered, as in this Addis Ababa criminal court, with patience. The people speak 12 different languages and there is much translation.



**THE IMPERIAL FAMILY**, photographed in palace, include (from left): Prince Sahle, 24, the emperor's youngest son; the Duchess of Harar and her youngest son Philip; the crown prince, 39, with his daughter Mary; the empress; the emperor

with Paul, eldest son of the Duke of Harar; the crown princess; the Duke of Harar, 32, the emperor's second son. Seated in front are Princes Dawit and Amde Iyasas, sons of the Duke of Harar, and Yakob and Sehen, children of the crown prince.

**ETHIOPIA** CONTINUED

# ART, ELEGANCE, EDUCATION



**PAINTER AT WORK**, Tesfaye Manderfrow, a government-subsidized painter, completes a work showing cold lady, symbol of the world, ignoring man's struggles.

**PRINCESSES AT TABLE**, the emperor's granddaughter, crown princess and the Duchess of Harar, all wearing elegant evening gowns, fill their plates at buffet.

**NURSES IN CLASS** at the Princess Tsahai Hospital study the structure of cells. The hospital was named for a daughter of the emperor who died in 1942 after having served as fulltime working nurse.









PAST MODERN FACADE OF POWER COMPANY BUILDING IN ADDIS ABABA TRADITIONALLY MOUNTED ESCORT RIDES WHITE CHARGERS IN EMPEROR'S ANNIVERSARY PROCESSION

# A CELEBRATION, A CONSTITUTION

In the opening days of November, Emperor Haile Selassie I celebrated the silver anniversary of his coronation with pomp, pageantry, prayer and the sharpest shove he has thus far given his country into the free world.

First he rode through the newly modernized streets of his capital to the ancient Cathedral of St. George, where 11 robed and mitred bishops of the Ethiopian Church sang a thanksgiving Communion service and Archbishop Basilios, head of the 1,600-year-old church, hailed him as a great monarch worthy of his people's love. Priests pounded *kabards* (religious drums) and choirs chanted his praises. As he returned to the palace, tribesmen leaped in spear dances in the streets, beginning a joyous night of Ethiopian frolic and fun.

Next day, from the imperial box above the hall of parliament, Haile Selassie gave Ethiopia his jubilee present—a constitution limiting his own powers and granting the people the vote and a liberal bill of rights. It was the product of six years' consultations with his Ethiopian and European advisers. It was linked with a massive new measure codifying Ethiopia's laws, civil, criminal and maritime. On these works, perhaps as much as on his brave and dramatic stand against Benito Mussolini, the proud little emperor, King of Kings, Conquering Lion of Judah, Elect of God and Defender of the Faith, based much of his hope for remembrance in the history books of the future.



**IN ROBES OF STATE** Empress Menen and Emperor Haile Selassie I arrive at St. George Cathedral

for the services of thanksgiving. The emperor's cockade is topped by the imperial lion's mane plume.

## ETHIOPIA CONTINUED

**COURTIER** in the dress of olden times strolls outside the cathedral waiting for the imperial family's arrival. His costume is that traditionally worn by the lord chamberlains in the service of the throne.





**WARRIOR** in gala dress traditional in the country wears a lion's mane cape and headdress. While the army is being modernized, spears, shields and glittering saddlery are still pride of the fighting tribesmen.



**THE ABUNA** Basilio, the archbishop and head of the official state religion, presided at the silver jubilee church service. He is only man in the country to whom as a mark of reverence the emperor bows.



**IN THRONE ROOM** Haile Selassie, waiting to sign new constitution, stands with empress on dais decorated with imperial symbol repeated in tablecloth.



**IN THE PARLIAMENT** the emperor, speaking from his box high above the rostrum, proclaims constitution. Officials stand facing parliament members.

