phoric thought are given cultural explications. Peculiarities of the Masa environment, the local species of flora and fauna, customs and social institution of the people are explained in the footnotes. They are both the author’s observations as well as knowledge coming form the earlier works on Masa.

The booklet is provided with an index of key-words (p. 72-74), a Masa-French index (p. 75-80), a French-Masa index (p. 81-86), and an index of scientific names for plants and animals (p. 87). In an easy way it allows the reader to make acquaintance with the elements of Masa culture and their life style.

Stanislaw Piłaszewicz


The *Pount* is a new yearly periodical specializing in humanities issued in France in cooperation with l’Institute national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO) which focuses on the cultures of the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia) and Southern Arabia (Oman, Yemen). It is a seemingly new publication; however, its publishers Les Éthiopisants Associés claim continuity with the periodical of the same title founded by Robert Ferry which circulated in Djibouti in 1966-1986. Les Éthiopisants Associés itself is a non-profit association founded in 1992 in Debre Markos, Ethiopia, to promote the scientific knowledge of the countries situated in the Red Sea basin. It encourages publications in the field of human science such as archeology, art, biography, ethnology, geography, history, linguistics, literature, philology, religion and sociology. Apart from the *Pount* it publishes a gazette *La Lorgnette du Bab el-Mandeb* where one can find news about interesting books and other publications that focus on this part of the world.

The first issue of the *Pount* appeared in 2007 and was fully dedicated to the history of Djibouti and in particular that of Robert Ferry. In the second issue bearing the intriguing title “Eros en mer Rouge” all articles concern the subject of love, affection and sexuality in the Red Sea basin seen from various perspectives.
Frédérik Martel is the author of the first contribution entitled *Citron mon amour* (pp. 9-19). While looking for cultural representations of the romantic associations in the Ethiopian folk songs he found an interesting metaphorical figure of “lemon” which is used among the Amhara people in a whole variety of amorous contexts. The second article, *Charmate charmouta* (pp. 20-53), focuses on the topic of prostitution in Ethiopia from a philological angle and traces the practice to the times of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Alain Rouaud analyzes various Amharic terms to define a prostitute but the greatest emphasis is given to the term *šarmuta*, of which a comprehensive etymology is given with the scrutiny of its Arabic or even French roots. The number of dictionaries consulted by the author in the course of writing is rather impressive. In the third article *Quand un Afar parle de sexe* (pp. 55-67) Didier Morin explores oral poetry of the Afar people pointing to the extrovert ways in which they express their sexuality. Next is Franck Mermier’s socio-anthropological study based on a survey carried out in Yemen in 1983-86 *L’éducation sentimentale à Sanaa: une evocation* (pp. 68-83). It depicts a sexual consciousness among the young people in the urban environment of Sanaa taking into consideration various cultural aspects of the Muslim society including that of chewing *qat* – a plant of desire. The fifth contribution by Susanne Dahlgren *Sexualités et espace public à Aden* (pp. 85-107) belongs to a current research trend on the subject of public sphere in the modern-day Islamic world and in particular it discusses the problem of sexual segregation in Aden – past and present.

There follows a short document (pp. 109-113) found in the archives of French consulate in Dire Dawa written on 20 April 1937 by the then consul André Pâris. It contains an interesting comment on the law forbidding interracial relationships which was introduced by the Italian occupants in Ethiopia.

The only article the topic of which is neither love nor sexuality is *Tîfâri and Mohamedally: a picture and its history* (pp. 114-125) written in English by Wolbert Smidt. It is a historical inquiry regarding the involvement of India, in particular that of an Indian Muslim.
merchant Mohamedally, in Ethiopia based on an unknown photograph dated 1905 found in a private Hulton-Deutsch collection.

The last part of the *Pount* includes literary proposals and reviews. The first recommendation by Alain Rouaud (pp. 127-137) is very well suited for this publication as it is the translation of the book *Letum aynāɡalṣān* (2000/2001) by Səbhat Gābrā-İğziabber, the author famous for his scandalizing writings. *Les nuits d'Addis Abéba* (2004) was translated into French by the writer himself and Francis Falceto. The second book, suggested by Didier Morin (pp. 139-147), is a biography written by Colette Dubois and Jean-Dominique Pénel of a prominent entrepreneur and politician Saïd Ali Coubèche who played an important role in the colonial Djibouti, *Saïd Ali Coubèche - la passion d'entreprendre*. This is followed by reviews of five books (pp. 149-163): Shelagh Weir’s *A Tribal Order: Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen* (2007), Steven C. Caton’s *Yemen Chronicle. An Anthropology of War and Meditation* (2005) (by F. Mermier), Gabriele vom Bruck’s *Islam, Memory and Morality in Yemen: Ruling Families in Transition* (2005) (by S. Camelin), Fasil Giorghis’s & Denis Gérard’s *The City and Its Architectural Heritage. Addis Ababa 1886-1941* (2007) (by A. Gascon) and Alain Leterrier’s *Treize jours de soleil* (1999) (by A. Rouaud).

In 2009 the third issue of the *Pount* appeared with the title *Étranger (1)* which is dedicated to the broad subject of ‘outsiders’ in the area of the Red Sea basin. The enterprise of the French scholars is certainly worth taking note of, as it provides a fresh insight on a highly scientific level into the diverse issues concerning the cultures of the Horn of Africa and Southern Arabia.

Ewa Wołk


Jerzy Zdanowski has written a study on one of the most important problems of the 20th century, mainly slavery. He deals with the first half of the century and focuses on the area of the Persian Gulf. The source material comes from the British Archives, which