



A GALLOP IN ETHIOPIA

Wax, Gold & the Abyssinian Pony

Yves-Marie Stranger

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‘Everything you’ve always wanted to know about Ethiopia (and the Abyssinian pony)—but never dared to ask’

Short, compact and vigorous (in keeping with the Ethiopian horse breed), *A Gallop in Ethiopia: Wax, Gold & the Abyssinian Pony* will provide you with some pointers to help you ‘get’ a country that is often misunderstood.

‘A book for anybody interested in Ethiopia who would like to get a better grasp of where the country is headed’

A Gallop in Ethiopia includes three interviews with people who have intimate knowledge of the country. Rahel Shawl is a well-known architect who designed many of the most iconic buildings in Addis Ababa. Beede Mekonnen is a respected businessman once jailed for the crime of being the grandson of Haile Selassie. Éloi Ficquet co-edited the book *Understanding Contemporary Ethiopia* (Hurst), and is a former director of the French Centre for Ethiopian Studies.

Filled with insights into what makes Ethiopia ‘tick’, brief chapters include:

- ✧ A preamble: ‘*Is understanding Ethiopia really rocket science?*’
- ✧ An account of the author’s first failed attempts to understand Ethiopia, starting in the year 2000.
- ✧ A sketch of the great Ethiopian writer, Sebhat Guebre Egziabher
- ✧ A portrait of Hapte-Selassie (‘The Father of Ethiopian Tourism’) and his secretary, Ato Worku Sharew.
- ✧ Encounters with local (Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus), as well as foreign elites (Bob Geldof).
- ✧ An application to Ethiopia of the family theory of Emmanuel Todd.
- ✧ A tongue in cheek outline of the importance of the Abyssinian Pony in Ethiopian history.
- ✧ An afterword by Manuel de Geez, ‘The Era of the Princes—with Drones.’
- ✧ Three interviews with people who have intimate knowledge of the country.
- ✧ Ethiopia in 10 words.
- ✧ A historical chronology of Ethiopia.

Yves-Marie Stranger is a writer and translator. He is the editor of *Ethiopia through Writers’ Eyes* (Eland Books), and the author of *Ces pas qui trop vitent s’effacent* (L’Archange Minotaure). His exhibition ‘*The Abyssinian Syllabary*’ was shown both in Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, Alliance Éthio-Française) and in France (Carré d’Art, Nîmes). You can also listen to *The Abyssinian Syllabary* podcast on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Youtube](#). He is the translator of the books *Menelik* and *African Train, Djibouti-Addis Ababa* (Hugues Fontaine, Amarna).

[A Gallop in Ethiopia: Wax, Gold & the Abyssinian Pony](#) (paperback, 183 pages, \$ 10, Kindle ebook, \$ 5)

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