

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-43283-3 - A Galla-English English-Galla Dictionary  
Collected and Compiled by E. C. Foot  
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DICTIONARY

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E. C. FOOT, F.R.G.S.

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## NOTE

**A** BOOK of this nature has been a long-felt want in the interests of travellers and others to facilitate direct dealings with the Gallas and to enable supervision to be kept over interpreters when made use of.

It should be of service not only in Abyssinia but also on her frontiers with the Sudan, Uganda and East Africa.

The author's competency to deal with the subject is founded on long residence in Galla-speaking countries, and has been amply proved by his recently making a journey, without an interpreter, from Adis Ababa to the Benadir coast.

JOHN L. HARRINGTON

LONDON

8 *January* 1913

## PREFACE

**T**HE Galla are a very numerous people. They are found in Abyssinia from Harrar on the east to the Sudan frontier on the west, and from Wollo in the north right down to the southern frontier. South of the frontier in our East African Colony they extend at least as far as 3° North, while there is a detached tribe of them living to the west of Witu on the north bank of the Tana river or about 3° South Latitude.

Though there are marked local differences in dialects even in Abyssinia itself, as, for instance, between that of the Gallas of the highlands and that of the Boran, yet the language is so essentially constant that the women and children of the Gurri tribe, who inhabit the El Wak oasis and the surrounding districts under their chief Gababa, talk the same dialect as those of the Walega; though the men of the tribe, who travel about and have dealings with other tribes, use many Somali and even Arabic words.

When I first went to Abyssinia in 1907, my duties made it desirable that I should learn the Galla language. Doctor Krapf's Vocabulary, published in 1842, was out of print. I therefore began collecting from the natives such words as I could for my own use, till, in course of time, the work has assumed its present form.

I venture to publish this book in the hope that it may prove of service to those of my countrymen whose duties, official or other, may call them to have dealings with the Gallas. It will

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serve as a basis for further study. I hope, too, to facilitate the better understanding of a most industrious, pastoral and agricultural people, who are also keen traders. They inhabit, besides large desert tracts, some of the richest, most fertile and salubrious country in Africa, whose varied attractions to be appreciated must be seen. I have to thank Sir John Harrington, who was for some twelve years His Majesty's Minister in Abyssinia, for kindly writing me a prefatory note; and several others, more especially Doctor Cederquitz, for help and advice. My clerk, Liban Bultum, was of the greatest assistance.

EDWIN C. FOOT

BOURNEMOUTH

14 *May* 1913

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All Consonants have their ordinary English value  
except that “g” is always hard.  
The vowels are pronounced as in Italian.