



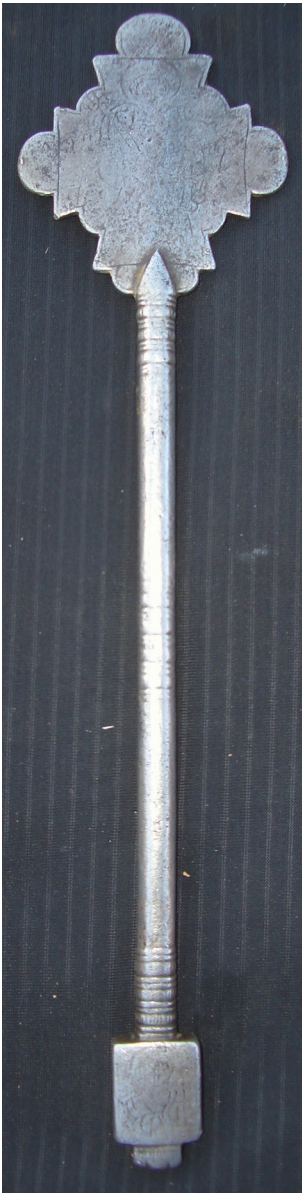
**STAFF CROSS; 14<sup>th</sup> century** (ascribed to *abba Bärtaloméwos*)

Iron; H.: 157 cm; head of the cross: 25 x 14 cm

The whole cross was cast as a single piece. The long, thin stem of the cross is marked at the top by a knot and three inlaid messing rings. The head of the cross is made in open-work technique: the arms and the enlarged centre are pierced by apertures, the latter in the form of a cross decorated by the roundels stamped into the metal. The horizontal arms are shorter than the vertical, all four enlarged at the ends by the elaborated finials, each composed of a cross flanked by two volutes.

**Comparative material:** *Äthiopien. Christentum zwischen Orient und Afrika*, Girma Fisseha (ed.) München (Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde) 2002, nr.102; S. Chojnacki, *Ethiopian Crosses. A Cultural History and Chronology*, Milano 2006, fig.187a-b; M. di Salvo, *Crosses of Ethiopia. The Sign of Faith. Evolution and Form*, Milano 2006, p. 31; M. Simovic & R. Pankhurst, *Daughter of Zion. Orthodox Christian Art from Ethiopia*, Jerusalem 2000-2001, p. 27.





**HAND CROSS; 15<sup>th</sup> century** (ascribed to *abba Bärtäloméwos*)

Iron; H.: 32.5 cm; head of the cross: 9x8 cm;

The cross has a long cylindrical stem with triple ring marks at the top, in the middle and at the bottom. The upper part of the cross has short, flaring, rounded arms, separated by W-shaped indentations. It is decorated with an incised figure in the style of late 15<sup>th</sup> c. representing an equestrian saint holding a cross in one hand and the reins in the other. At the foot of the cross there is a squared panel with incised representation a man rendered in a half-figure. On both narrow sides of the square runs an incised inscription which reads: *abunä Bätäläméwos*. At the bottom of the square is a small protrusion with a hole through which a piece of textile would be laced.





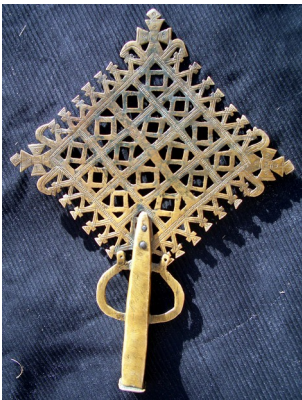


### SHAFTED CROSS; 14<sup>th</sup> century

Bronze; 27 x 16.6 cm

The head of the cross and the shaft with two loops and two horn-like hinges are casted in one piece. The central squared cross is enlarged by the quatrelobe frame and connected with it by four small crosses. The similar crosses are placed in between each quatrelobe arm and at the top of them.

**Comparative material:** S. Chojnacki, *Ethiopian Crosses. A Cultural History and Chronology*, Milano 2006, fig. 87; W. Korabiewicz, *The Ethiopian Cross*, Addis Ababa 1973, nr. 121; A. Marx, *Museum Haus Völker und Kulturen. Katalog der Äthiopienabteilung*, Sankt Augustin 2001, p. 148; M. di Salvo, *Crosses of Ethiopia. The Sign of Faith. Evolution and Form*, Milano 2006, p.138 figs 4, 5; M. Simovic & R. Pankhurst, *Daughter of Zion. Orthodox Christian Art from Ethiopia*, Jerusalem 2000-2001, p. 40.



### SHAFTED CROSS; 15<sup>th</sup> century

Brass; 46.5 x 34.5x cm

The head of the cross and the shaft were cast separately and connected by two rivets. The cross is a lozenge shape, its centre decorated with open-work design showing the Greek crosses which emerge from the pattern of diagonally arranged lines and squares. The finals of the lozenge are in the form of the cross, each flanked by two leaf-shaped forms. The borders between the finales are filled with triangular extensions surmounted by small crosses. Several forms are refined by incising.

**Comparative material:** *African Zion. The sacred Art of Ethiopia* (ed.) R. Grierson, New Haven-London 1993, nr. 73; 'Nigra sum sed Formosa'. *Sacro e bellezza dell'Etioopia Cristiana*, Venezia 2009, no.70; A. Marx, *Museum Haus Völker und Kulturen. Katalog der Äthiopienabteilung*, Sankt Augustin 2001, p. 146; M. di Salvo, *Crosses of Ethiopia. The Sign of Faith. Evolution and Form*, Milano 2006, p. 111, figs 28, 32, p. 113, fig. 38.



### SHAFTED CROSS; 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century

Alloy; 44 x 35 cm

The cross was casted in two pieces (cross with the loops and the shaft) connected by two rivets. The ground form is an equally armed cross with the central square decorated by incising and the arms by pierced small crosses. Between the arms there are four crosses one of them different, a result of a repair. The arms ends by elaborated finals composed of a central cross surrounded by an intricate set of the small ones.



### SHAFTED CROSS; 19<sup>th</sup> century

Alloy; 42.5 x 33.5 cm

The cross made of three separate pieces (cross, shaft, loops) is composed of a pierced, intricate web of interlaces which springs from the central Greek cross and develops to the triangular finials at the ends of three arms. The fourth, lower arm is prolonged by a short, tubular shaft and flanked by two large loops, also covered by a pierced design. The motif of the cross in different shapes emerges from interlaces and the small appendices in the form of lozenges which decorate the borders of the cross are transformed to the crosses with help of incising.

**Comparative material:** W. Korabiewicz, *The Ethiopian Cross*, Addis Ababa 1973, nrs 109, 118, 129; 'Nigra sum sed Formosa'. *Sacro e bellezza dell'Etiochia Cristiana*, Venezia 2009, no. 94; *L'Arche éthiopienne. Art chrétien d'Éthiopie*. 27 septembre 2000- 7 janvier 2001, Paris 2001, p. 184; M.di Salvo, *Crosses of Ethiopia. The Sign of Faith. Evolution and Form*, Milano 2006, figs 39-45.



### HAND CROSS; 19<sup>th</sup> century?

Wood; H.: 43.5 cm; head of the cross: 14 x 9.5 cm

Carved of one piece dark wood this cross with a medium length stem placed between two lozenges has the upper part composed of the diamond-shaped arms springing from the diamond-shaped centre. The vertical arms have the pointed ends, the horizontal somewhat rounded. At the bottom of the cross there is a squared panel which ends by a diamond-formed protrusion. The surface of the cross is decorated by carved ornament: zig-zags on the stem and framed crosses on the arms, on the stem flanking lozenges and on the squared bottom panel and its protrusion.

**Comparative material:** D. Hecht & al., *The Hand Crosses in the IES Collection*, Addis Ababa 1990, p. 19. W. Korabiewicz, *The Ethiopian Cross*, Addis Ababa 1973, nrs 72, 75.