



Asmara and Massawa

– Eritrean architecture from Ottoman to Late Modern

*Working Seminar at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul,
SRII, February 12, 14.00 in the Ådahl seminar room*

This seminar will report from site visits made in October 2018 and discuss related topics. Asmara, the modernist capital of Eritrea, along with its predecessor with Ottoman roots, Massawa, are explored in a study of architectural qualities and connections. Aspects of regional, classical, Italian, Ottoman and "international style" identities are considered in perspectives ranging from the urban scale to architectural details.

In 2017 Asmara was included in the Unesco World Heritage List. The criteria fulfilled were thus summarized: *"The authenticity of local intangible attributes manifested in language, cultural practices, identity, and sense of place have been retained through Asmara's evolution from an indigenous centre of economy and administration, through a colonial capital, to a modern African capital."*

The project will focus on some specific architectural cases, but also consider the position of the Eritrean cities in a globalized historiography.

The project is a collaboration between the Swedish Institutes in Rome and Istanbul.

The project members are:

Kristian Göransson, PhD, director of the Swedish Institute in Rome

Maria Mellgren, MSc, scholar at the Swedish Institute in Rome

Johan Mårtelius, Professor, former director of SRII

Gertrud Olsson, PhD, senior lecturer, scholar at SRII

Greger Widgren, LL.B, ambassador, former member of the National Property Board and head of the MFA Property Dep:t, member of SRII Research Collegium

Most welcome!

Please spread to other interested colleagues, but register for attending before February 11 is necessary. RSVP to <gertrud.olsson@hdk.gu.se>