

*seka* (säqa, säqqa) (A) edge of cliff, crest of a hill;

*sekka* (säkka) (A) walk along, traverse;

*zeka, zekat* (zäkat) (A) alms among Moslems

HC... **Seka** (Saka, Sakka, Saqqa) (historical) 07/36? [x]

1500s Sharka is probably the Sarka mentioned in the wars of Amde Tsiyon. It may have been part of the kingdom of Enariya whose capital was Saka. However, Sarsa Dengel on his way to attack Muhammad of Adal in 1577 passed through Sharka, which would place it just east of Hadya.

[J S Trimmingham 1952 p 73]

1800s The so-called capital of Enarea (Enariya) was described as a town of 10,000 to 12,000 people in the 1830s, with at least a few hundred Muslim *Ulama*. The town was in fact made up of groups of small hamlets, in the centre of which was a market village where merchants from the north had probably lived since the beginning of the century. This market village constantly expanded and contracted with the arrival and departure of caravans.

The caravans from the north usually stayed in Seka no more than two months in order to conclude all their business and be able to return to Basso before the rainy season.

[Abir 1968 p 81, 85]

The Seka market had important trade in gold, coffee and ivory.

In the mid or late 1830s Abba Bagibo forbade foreign merchants to go beyond Seka, so the merchants from Gondar, Adwa, Derita and Dawe were forced to meet their counterparts from Kefa, Kulo, and the south at Seka only.

[Abir 1968 p 90]

1840s Antoine d'Abbadie wrote in 1843: "At Saka where the Muslim king of Enarya rules, many families in spite of vexation remained faithful to their Christian faith. In 1840 these Christians had not seen any priests for four generations. The touching perseverance of these unfortunate people is a veritable miracle!"

[Trimingham 1952 p 109]

Saqqa, an important trading centre, became the capital of Limmu-Ennarya after 1825.

It was the greatest emporium in the region up to the 1850s when it was eclipsed by Hirmata in Jimma.

There were trade routes from Saqqa in all directions, such as the one bringing mules and cotton from Kullo, gold from Wellega, or slaves and ivory from Janjero and from Ilubabor. The most important of all routes leading out of Saqqa was that which went to Baso in Gojjam and further on to Gondar etc. Most of the imported foreign goods travelled along this route.

The Jabarti traders possessed relatively large capital and had large caravans, while the Afkala possessed little capital and had small caravans but moved fast. Abba Bagibo favoured the Afkala, and by the 1830s it was prohibited to the Jabarti to go beyond Saqqa. The result was that Jimma attracted the Jabarti and through them also the trade.

By 1847 Abba Jifar had freed Jimma from dependence on Limmu-Ennarya's route to the northern markets. However, Saqqa remained "the seat of wealth and luxury" up to 1861 when Limmu-Ennarya was militarily a spent force.

Two caravans annually from Gondar were noted for their riches. Imported luxury goods were sold at the *mandera*, which had been built by the king for exclusive use of foreign merchants. Cheaper goods were sold at the local market, which was held on Sundays in an open field large enough to accommodate several thousand people (goods are detailed on page 147 of Mohammed's book).

By 1840 Saqqa had a population of about 12,000 being at least 10% of the entire population of Limmu-Ennarya.

[Mohammed 1994]

1870s Antonio Cecchi and Giovanni Chiarini were prisoners of king Abba Gommol here from 23 November 1878 to 29 January 1879. The camp of Cecchi and Chiarini about 15 minutes walk to the north-east from the centre was even later called Sefere Ferengi, 'Camp of Foreigners'.

[Guida 1938]

HCR41	Seka (Sek'a, Seqa, Saka, Sacca, Saca Gimma) 07°36'/36°44' 1828/1855 m (centre in 1964 of Chekorsa wereda, with Sunday market)	07/36	[Gz q WO Gu]
HCR61	Seka (Sek'a, Seqa) 07°47'/36°44' 1931 m east of Agaro	07/36	[Gz q]
HDB28	Seka (Secca), see under Bedele	08/36	[+ WO]
HDC03	<b>Seka</b> (Saca, Limmu Saca) 1841/1850 m (Saka, Sarca, Sakwa, Haro) (with sub P.O.) 08°12'/36°56' 1792/1841/1850 m Within a radius of 10 km there are at km 8S Suntu (Genet, Sintu, Gennet Limmu) (village) 8SW Gabana (Gabano) (mountain) 2097 m 10NW Mile (Mole) (mountain) 1619 m	08/36 08/36 08/36	[Gz Te WO Gu] [Wa Ha]
1930s	/this Seka?/: An Italian captain did most things wrong so that the local population of Seka were provoked and started something of a rebellion. By October 1937 the captain could hardly move outside his fort. Post office of the Italians was opened on 1 November 1939. Its cancellations read SACA * GALLA E SIDAMA. <i>Commissariato del Limmu Ennária</i> , post, telegraph, infirmary. Near the remains of the residence of the king, Welde Giyorgis built a church of Markos. [Guida 1938]		
1960s	In 1968 the telephone directory listed two numbers, for Hussein Mohammed and Taye Gemetta. The Seka primary school (in Jimma awraja) in 1968 had 176 boys and 80 girls, with 3 male and 2 female teachers.		
HDH20	Seka, see Disi		
HDL31	Seka (Sek'a, Seqa) 09°20'/38°34' 2375 m north-west of Sululta	09/38	[AA Gz q]
HDL40	Seka (Sek'a, Seqa) 09°28'/38°29' 2452 m	09/38	[AA Gz q]
HDL51	Seka (Sek'a, Seqa)	09/38	[AA q]
JDJ23	Seka (Sek'a, Seqa) 09°16'/41°57' 1797 m north-east of Grawa	09/41	[Gz q]
HDK62	Seka Berke (Sek'a Berk'e, Seqa Berqe) 09°36'/37°42' 2378 m, north-west of Kachisi seka ela: <i>ela</i> (O) 1. deep lake or pond; clear water; 2. very heavy /load/	09/37	[AA Gz q]
??	Seka Chekorsa sub-district (-1997-)	../..	[n]
JEA09	Seka Ela (Sicaela) (area)	10/40	[+ WO]
JEA19	Seka Ela (Seca Ela) (water) 720/750m Used to be a halting place for caravans, with water.	11/40	[+ WO Gu]
HD...	Seka Wachu (in Tegulet & Bulga awraja) (with church Maryam) The primary school in 1968 had 73 boys and 14 girls in grades 1-2, with one teacher. seka was: <i>was</i> (Som) copulate, have sex	09/39?	[Ad]
HDL52	Seka Was (Sek'a Was, Seqa Was) 09°30'/38°40' 2110 m	09/38	[AA Gz q]
HF...	Sekabo (=Seka Abo?) (centre in 1964 of Seriro sub-district)	14/39	[Ad]
HCD14	Sekama (Sek'ama, Seqama, Ualleia) 05°36'/37°53' 1718 m	05/37	[Gz q]

JCN19	Sekaso (Sek'aso, Seqaso) 07°20'/40°40' 1975 m north-west of Ginir	07/40	[Gz q]
	seke: <i>zekke</i> (zäkke) (A) food collected by students in church schools; meal eaten at church after mass service		
HDK98	Seke 09°56'/38°19' 2558 m see under Tulu Milki, cf Siki	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL51	Seke (Sek'e, Seqe) 09°33'/38°34' 2210 m south-west of Fiche	09/38	[Gz q]
HDS09	Seke (Sacche)	09/38	[+ WO]
	seke gura: <i>gura</i> (A) boasting, bragging		
HDK52	Seke Gura (Sek'e G., Seqe G.) 09°32'/37°46' 1971 m seke haro: <i>haro</i> (O,Som) lake, pool, pond; (A) valley subject to seasonal flooding	09/37	[AA Gz q]
HDK52	Seke Haro (Sek'e H., Seqe H.) 09°32'/37°44' 2195 m seke korcha: <i>korcha</i> (A) saddle	09/37	[AA Gz q]
HDK52	Seke Korcha (Sek'e K'orcha, Seqe Qorcha) 09°32'/37°43' 1864 m seke kushi: <i>qushee</i> (Som) make bad-tempered, spoil	09/37	[AA Gz q]
HDK52	Seke Kushi (Sek'e K., Seqe K.) 09°33'/37°44' 2334 m seke roba: <i>roba</i> (O) rain	09/37	[AA Gz q]
HDL40	Seke Roba (Sek'e R., Seqe R.) 09°27'/38°28' 2433 m	09/38	[AA Gz q]
HDL83	Seke Sole (Sek'e S., Seqe S.) 09°50'/38°46' 2355 m (with church Aregay), see under Fiche seke yedi: <i>yadi</i> (O) 1. female buffalo; 2. promise	09/38	[AA Gz q]
HDK52	Seke Yedi (Sek'e Y., Seqe Y.) 09°32'/37°46' 1971 m	09/37	[AA Gz q]
HDB35c	Sekecha	08/36	[LM]
HDE49	Sekekelo (area, sub-district in 1964?) see under Nazret	08/39	[x]
HEL83	Sekel (Sek'el, Seqel) 12°32'/38°47' 2045 m south-west of Sekota	12/38	[Gz q]
	<i>sekela</i> (säqäla) (A) large rectangular house or shed; <i>yesekela meret</i> (yäsäqäla märet) (A) land which is not hereditary		
HDL13	Sekela, see Sakela		
??	Sekela (small lake with brackish water near)		
HEC16	Sekela /Gish Abay/, see Gishe Abay		
HEC27c	Sekela	11/37	[LM]
HED00	<b>Sekela</b> (Sek'ela, Seqela) 10°55'/37°32' 3025 m (Siqäla), north of Dembecha Spelling used by the post has been SEKELA (-1975-) The Sandford mission slipped across the frontier on 12 August 1940. "Three weeks later, the first wireless message was received in Khartoum from Col. Sandford to the effect that he had established headquarters at Sekela, due south of Lake Tana in the heart of the Gojam highlands. He reported that he had met with many of the Gojam chiefs, such as Dejazmatch Negash and Dejazmatch Mangasha Jembari, all of whom had promised full cooperation. Sandford asked for and received ammunition and supplies, dropped by RAF planes based in Khartoum at his Sekela headquarters." "On the 20th of November, a vintage RAF Vincent aircraft landed on a backwoods airstrip near Sekela, which Sandford and his men had prepared. The lone occupant was Colonel Wingate who came to meet Sandford. He brought word that the time was now ripe for a frontal invasion of the area." [R N Thompson, Liberation .., 1987 p 146, 148]	10/37	[Gz q]
HE...	Sekela Hulk (S. Houlk)	11/39	[Ad]

	(centre in 1964 of Tis Abalima sub-district)		
HEC16c	Sekela sub-district? (-1997-)	11/37	[n]
HEC16c	Sekela wereda (centre in 1964 = Gish Abay Mikael)	11/37	[Ad]
	sekele: <i>sekkele</i> (säkkälä) (A) tie the legs of an animal; (säqqälä) hang, suspend, crucify		
HEL24	Sekelew (Sek'elew, Seqelew) 12°00'/38°51' 2072 m west of Lalibela	12/38	[Gz q]
HDK97	Sekelo (Sek'elo, Seqelo) 09°56'/38°09' 1932 m west of Tulu Milki	09/38	[AA Gz q]
HER08	Sekelt (Säqält) (district) 12°43'/37°19'	12/37	[n]
HEE99	Sekera (Sek'era, Seqera) 11°43'/39°18' 3318 m	11/39	[Gz q]
HDK65	Sekerbu (Sek'erbu, Seqerbu) 09°40'/38°02' 2547 m	09/38	[AA Gz q]
	sekere: <i>sekkere</i> (säqqärä, säkkärä) (A) to get drunk; <i>zekere</i> (zäkärä) (T) to remember		
JDJ49	Sekere (Sekerie, Segare, Sacarre) 2140 m (sub-district & its centre in 1964) Ridge which ends to the north with the flat calcareous summit of mount Illo. There are houses among large euphorbias, plenty of pastures and wide cultivations. [Guida 1938]	09/42	[LM Ad Gu WO]
HEU75	Seket, see Shehet		
HES42	Seket Amba (Sechet Amba) (area), see under Dabat	13/37	[+ WO]
HES57	Seketati (Baarna Abbo) 13°11'/38°11' 3583 m north of Deresge	13/38	[Gz WO]
HDU91	Seketo (Sek'et'o, Seqeto) 10°50'/39°30' 2700 m	10/39	[Gz q]
JDA47	Sekina 08°30'/40°28' 1692 m, east of Mechara	08/40	[Gz]
	<i>seko</i> (O) jest, joke; <i>seko</i> , <i>sako</i> (Arabic, Som) annual alms; <i>Seko</i> , first month of the Somali lunar calendar /time for almsgiving/; <i>seku</i> (seequu) (O) 1. to smile; 2. smoulder, burn slowly		
GDF06	Seko (Saco, Sako) (mountains) 08°12'/34°52' 624 m	08/34	[Gz WO 18 Gz]
	sekoro: <i>sokoro</i> (O) kind of stout sub-woody shrub, <i>Acanthus arboreus</i> ; <i>sekorru</i> (western O) weak-stemmed climber, glory lily, "Mother Mary's umbrella", <i>Gloriosa superba</i> , <i>Gloriosa simplex</i>		
HDL35	Sekoro 09°23'/38°55' 2647 m, north-east of Sululta	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL76	Sekoro 09°41'/39°01' 2568 m, cf Sokoro	09/39	[AA Gz]
HDL84	Sekoro 09°49'/38°52' 2374 m, east of Fiche	09/38	[AA Gz]
HCR79	Sekoru (Socorro, Soccoro) 07°55'/37°25' 1879 m (Sekuru, Sekouru), in Jimma awraja MS coordinates 07°40'/37°20' would give map code HCR48 about 30 km to the SSE - not the same locality? Centre in 1964 of Sekoru wereda. With sub-post office using spelling SEKURU on its postmark. The Deneba (Sekoru) primary school in 1968 had 217 boys and 46 girls, with 5 teachers. The Dori (Sekoru) primary school then had 164 boys and 41 girls, with 3 male teachers and one female.	07/37	[Gz Ad WO Te]
HCR79	Sekoru sub-district? (-1997-)	07/37	[n]
HEL96	<b>Sekota</b> (Sek'ot'a, Seqota, Socota, Sokota, Sakota) (Soquota, Saqot'a, Säqot'a, Säqwäta, Socata, Soketa)	12/39 12/39	[Gz WO Ha Wa] [Te x n]

Gz: 12°38'/39°02' 2266 m; MS: 12°37'/39°04' 2253/2264 m

Gz coordinates would give map code HEL97.

With sub-post office.

Centre at least in 1964-1980 of Wag awraja and

in 1964 of Sekota wereda & sub-district.

Within a radius of 10 km there are at km

3S Dorasma (village) 2345 m

5S Uker (Ucher) (village)

.. Ucker (Uccher) (rock-hewn church Meskele Kristos)

(It: Aucher Mascale' Christos) at one hour's walk

7S Olik (Olic) (village) 2149 m

7SW Aba Yohanis (Abba Johannes) (church)

10SW Debre Gelila (D. Ghelila) (church)

7N Mai Lomin (Mailomin) (village)

10NE Amba Shmilyora (A. Scmilliora) (area)

?? Hamsal Feres 2611 m

Sekota has large, usually round stone houses, two-storied, mostly with two walls and a stair outside or between the walls. There are also square or rectangular buildings, and the whole placed in "picturesque disorder".

[Guida 1938]

1740s Emperor Iyasu II in 1746 carried out a major invasion of Lasta. He also marched to Sekota, where he spent five days in the house of *Wagshum* Nä'äkuto Lä'äb, father of the then ruling *Wagshum* Téwodros.

[7th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1984 p 224-225]

1840s Charles T. Beke visited the town in 1842.

1850s Plowden stated in 1854 that the Nägadräs (chief of trade) of Sekota was one of only six officials with that title in northern Ethiopia.

1870s In a letter of January 1873 is written: "*Wagshum* Teferi rules Seqota with the permission of *Atse* Yohannes."

[Acta aethiopica III p 138]

/this Sekota?/: An agent of the Bible Society, Johannes Maier together with his family and Debtera Zenneb, was detained for two months in the first half of 1872 by the governor of the Yeju Oromo, Ras Ali Birru.

[Arén 1978 p 170]

1890s The traveller A.B.Wylde in the late 1800s thought that the palace of the Lasta capital of Sekota had been built around 1650. It was a three-storey structure which cannot be dated with any precision, but the masons and craftsmen no doubt were some who had worked at Gondar.

[7th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1984 p 219]

According to Wylde the Sekota markets, held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, were regarded as very large in the 1890s. The trade in mules and ivory was important.

It was estimated (Alamanni) that around 1890 there were sold annually 21,000 oxen, 2,900 cows, 10,000 goats and 1,500 sheep.

Ras Alula was sent to the north by Emperor Menilek as preparation for war with the Italians, but around May 1895 Menilek ordered Alula to proceed to Sekota in view of the coming rainy season. In June Alula spent some time in Lasta.

[Ehrlich 1996 p 191]

1900s Around 1900 an Evangelical movement occurred in Sekota, led by Sheik Zakarias who had read both the Koran and the Bible and had started believing the Gospel. Many Muslims joined this Christian community for a while, and books were obtained through missions, which even provided a pair of eyeglasses when the Sheik became old. However, the first enthusiasm faded and no lasting Christian conversion in Sekota was achieved, even if followers were estimated to number 8,000-10,000 when Sheik Zakarias died in late 1920.

[Bortom bergen /I/, Sthlm (EFS) 1953 p 239, 261]

- 1930s Sekota was administrative centre of Wag also in the 1930s. Wagshum around 1935 was Ato Kebede.  
 [Zervos 1936]  
 Sekota was hit by Italian poison gas bombs on 10 January 1936.  
 An Italian column of the IIIrd Corps "was detached from Fenarò on the 21st /of March 1936/, to occupy Socotà; this was composed of 2 battalions and 1 group of artillery - representing all the Italian troops of the corps - and of one irregular unit composed of local natives."  
 "A mule-track over 50 miles long /80 km/ across an otherwise trackless, difficult, and little-known region soon made it necessary to organize the conveyance of supplies by means of carriers, who by working in reliefs were to ensure the transport of the necessary provisions to the operating column."  
 "Four thousand men of this corps, along a distance of 25 miles /40 km/, undertook this heavy task for several days, while the column pressed on towards its objective as rapidly as the difficulties of the ground and exigencies of supply would allow."  
 "On the 28th Socotà, the capital of the Uaag region, a large and important market town from which radiate the great caravan roads to Gondar, Addis Ababa, and Quoram, was peacefully occupied, to the evident satisfaction of its population. In this way our rule was in actual practice also extended over the fertile regions of Uaag and Lasta."  
 [Badoglio (Eng.ed.) 1937 p 130]  
 Post office of the Italians was opened on 5 August 1936. Its cancellation stamp read SOCOTA \*ETIOPIA which by 1938 had been changed to SOCOTA AMARA.  
 The Italians built a road to Sekota passable by motorcars.  
 They also repaired the mosque in Sekota during their time as occupants.  
 Population about 4,500 around 1938. Italian *Residenza*, post, telephone, infirmary, school, *spaccio*.  
 The very important market on Tuesdays and Wednesdays used to receive caravans from all the northern regions, such as from Mekele carrying salt. Products exchanged were honey, beeswax, coffee, textiles, salt, mules, donkeys, etc. Spinning and weaving of cotton was done in the area.  
 [Guida 1938]
- 1940s "We set off in June 1945 -- Sokota is a very large village, or rather a town by Ethiopian standards, filling a wide, shallow basin above 7,000 feet and almost entirely surrounded by higher hills. Of all the places I have seen in these parts, it is perhaps the most interesting as preserving unchanged the old style of stone-building which is such a distinctive character of northern Ethiopia. -- there are few modern buildings in the place. It consists largely of round stone houses -- of magnificent proportions, with two concentric walls supporting a pointed thatched roof. A stone stairway, either outside or between the two walls, leads to an upper storey --"  
 [D Buxton, Travels in Ethiopia, London (1949)1957 p 157-158]
- 1950s Sub-province Governor of Wag awraja in 1959 was Wagshum Getahun Admasu.
- 1960s In 1962 the Highway Authority described the north-south connection through Sekota as a trail only.  
 Population 7,145 in 1967.  
 A new telephone line to Sekota was inaugurated on 1 August 1968.  
 Wag. Seyoum Admasu School in 1968 at the primary level had 292 boys and 159 girls in grades 1-6, with 6 teachers.  
 At its secondary level it had 37 male and 13 female students in grades 7-8, with 3 teachers (Ethiopian).
- 1970s An elementary school building constructed of concrete elements and with Swedish assistance through ESBU was completed around 1970.  
 [SIDA 1971]
- 1980s The TPLF /around 1980?/ was able to capture and briefly hold the key Wello town of Sekota. With local labour and resources, a road was built parallel to the Derg-controlled north-south main road. This provided the final link in a road network that stretched from

Shire in western Tigray to Sekota in the south-east.

[Young 1997]

Written by Kurt Jansson, Head of the UN Relief Operation in Ethiopia and based in Addis Abeba:

"In August 1985 it was brought to my attention that food supplies had run out in the town of Sekota in Northern Wollo where immediate emergency supplies were needed to feed about 25,000 people. The food was normally transported from the relief camp at Korem, 96 kilometres east of Sekota, but the road had been badly damaged by rains and road transport had to be interrupted. Sekota was a heavily fortified town in an area largely controlled by the rebels. I raised the possibility of an airdrop with Ambassador Barder and the RAF Commander. The security problem was such that a decision needed to be made in London -- As agreed with Ambassador Barder I sent him a letter requesting that the RAF be allowed to carry out an airdrop of up to 500 tonnes of food pending the repair of the road to Sekota. I pointed out that -- the nutritional situation was very poor and the death rate high. According to RCC reports 351 people had died between 1 July and 10 August."

"In order to get London's approval steps had to be taken to ensure that no action would be taken by the rebels which would endanger the RAF crew or the aircraft. Obviously the TPLF had to be informed of the airdrop and their assurance of non-interference obtained. I could not be in direct contact with the TPLF but I asked my counterpart in Sudan, Winston Prattley, to act as a communication channel. I sent him a message, using the coded British Embassy circuit --"

"The TPLF replied through Prattley that they would cooperate subject to several conditions including airdrops at other locations selected by TPLF. TPLF was clearly trying to use this humanitarian operation to gain political advantage and an implied recognition by the UN and the British government. I therefore suggested to Ambassador Barder that the airdrop should go ahead without any further contacts with TPLF. This was not acceptable to London for security reasons and it was agreed that the TPLF should simply be informed that the airdrop would take place."

"The airdrop was successfully carried out without any incident and Paavo Pitkanen, whom I had assigned to monitor the operation, reported to me that the distribution had started immediately and that the large Ethiopian army contingent in Sekota did not in any way attempt to divert food. This was confirmed later by NGOs working in Sekota. The Sekota airdrop was exceptional in that neither the RRC nor anyone else in the government knew of my contacts with TPLF in Sudan."

[Jansson et al. 1987 p 52-53]

There were eight wells in or near Sekota town in 1986 and they were opened for some hours every morning but then closed because there was not enough water.

Then "cave children" started crawling into rock openings to try to get some more water. There had not been "real" rain for some ten years. Shortage of water seemed to be a larger problem than shortage of food.

[UNICEF i dag, 1986 no 136 p 2]

In July 1986 there was an emergency airlift of food to Sekota when the overland supply of food aid to 220,000 people in the town had been interrupted by flash floods (and also by rebel activity). Two Belgian transport aircraft began dropping food at Sekota.

The Ethiopia People's Democratic Movement (EPDM) said that its forces ambushed government troops near Sekota on 14 November 1986. According to the EPDM, 300 government soldiers were killed or wounded, and 520 captured.

[News]

In 1988 Sekota was the base area of the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM), founded by a group of former EPRP fighters. The EPDM operated in northern Wollo jointly with the TPLF.

[12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994]

2000s Sekota was in the heartland of the famine in 1985-85.

"Even a few years ago going to Sekota was gruelling. I travelled there in 1997 on the old

road - which took five hours. The town itself wasn't as charmless as I would have thought. This part of Ethiopia has a unique architectural feature --"

"The road to Sekota made us late that trip, so we arrived after dark and there was no room in the inn. I ended up in the second best hotel in the town, where a donkey stood outside my window braying most of the night. I sat in bed reading, and throwing whatever came to hand at a rat which kept appearing through a hole in the wall at the roof. After awhile the generator which kept the electricity going in the town was turned off, and I was left at the mercy of the rat, which scurried around happily in the dark."

"Now there are two good roads to Sekota - one from Korem on the main road north, and the other from Lalibela. The road from Lalibela comes from Weldiya along the China road."

[John Graham in AddisTribune 2000/04/28]

picts

F Wencker-Wildberg, Abessinien, Berlin 1935 pl 42 general view;

D Buxton, Travels ..., London (1949)1957 pl 124-125 wide view of the town and local-type house with gatehouse;

B Playne, Saint George ..., London 1954 p 108 drawing of outskirts of town.

### **Sekota : Aba Yohanis**

(Not proved for the notes here that the Abba Yohanni in Tigray photographed and described by Georg Gerster really is near Sekota:)

"Fortunately, on the day I visited the monastery of Abba Yohanni in Tegre, I was accompanied by a sub-provincial governor, Shebeshi Agidew, and a sizeable retinue. -- As we came in sight of the whitewashed façade glittering on the honey-toned amba escarpment, deacons struck stone bells and beat drums. We saw a tent awaiting us in a field."

"The monastery church, reached by an easy climb, is the most majestic, I think, in northern Ethiopia. Ten fully preserved cupolas crown it. There used to be two more, but a landslide took them away, and the monks filled the gap with masonry sometime in the 1950's."

"Newly constructed whitewashed walls replace a part of the building lost in a landslide centuries ago. The church bears the name of its founder, believed to have been killed at that time. Legend blames the mother of Abba Yohanni for bringing him bad luck. She unexpectedly appeared at his retreat, disregarding his vow never to look again on the face of a woman."

[National Geographic, December 1970 p 870, 882]

pict

Nat. Geog. as above, p 882 white front high up on cliff wall.

### **Sekota : /Ukre/ Meskele Kristos, "Cross of Christ"**

Approaching by an artificial cleft in the rock, we are confronted with the decorative south façade, but the church is not entirely isolated from the rock. We pass through a door on the left into a high passage or gallery; the ceiling and left wall are rough-hewn, but the wall on the right is the western façade of the church, accurately carved into forms derived from wooden building.

Entering by a door in the centre of this façade, we find ourselves in a very dark space encumbered with massive stone columns. As our eyes become accustomed to the darkness, the main interior space resolves itself into a nave of three bays with an aisle on either side. The vault is round arched and the nine rectangular ceiling-compartments are carved with crosses and other designs. All the work is accurately laid out and perfectly finished.

There is another curiosity near by - the mausoleum, also hewn in the rock, of the Wagshums. Some time after the death of a Wagshum his remains used to be dug up and the bones put into a miniature coffin about two feet long. The coffin was then brought to Sekota and deposited on the shelves of this mausoleum with the others.

[D Buxton, Travels in Ethiopia, London (1949)1957 p 158]

picts

Buxton as above pl 126 western entrance of Meskele Kristos, pl 127 mausoleum.



- MS: 14°09'/39°36' = HFE61, c1500/1700 m  
 Centre in 1964 of Dima Mehara sub-district.  
 Administrative post south of Tekezze river and some 25 km east of road  
 Gondar-Adwa. The larger Sekota as above is more than 100 km to the south-east.  
 This Sekota is in an area rich in cultivations and cattle.
- 1930s About 800 inhabitants. Italian *Residenza*, post, telegraph, infirmary.  
 [Guida 1938]
- picts Gli annali ..., anno IV vol 4 Roma 1941 p 1186-1187 drawings  
 by the artist Lino Bianchi Barriviera
- HEL86 Sekota awraja (Sek'ot'a ..) 12°30'/39°00' 12/39 [Gz]  
 HEL96 Sekota sub-district? (-1997-) 12/39 [n]  
 HEL96 Sekota wereda (-1964-1994-) 12/39 [Ad n]  
 "The /early/ taxation for noncultivated land, *taf*, was 1 *gundo* of honey or 1 thaler. Some  
 uncultivated land was not taxed. -- Besides the tithe, another tax of 2 *k'unnas* (10 kg) of  
 grain was due every time a peasant threshed his crop. One goat out of every ten was taken  
 as tax once a year. A tax of 30 thalers for each district was due as payment for the ox  
 slaughtered for the *Naskal /Meskel?/* celebration.  
 When a new district governor was appointed, the farmers had to pay 1 thaler for each  
 group living under the orders of one chieftain."  
 [Agriculture in Ethiopia, Rome(FAO) 1961 p 111]
- 2000s Relief food was distributed by Save the Children UK in 2003.  
 [AddisTribune 2003/10/31]
- HCS79 Sekotu 07/37 [MS]  
 HCR79 Sekuru, see Sekoru  
 HES84 Sekwar (Secuar) (hill) 13°24'/37°57' 1730 m 13/37 [+ WO Gz]
- sela dingay* (A) wheatstone; cutting stone? rolling stone?  
*sala* (A,O,T) Oryx antelope; *sila* (A) falcon, hawk
- HDU03 **Sela Dingay** (Seladingai, Sala Dingai, S. Dengai) 09/39 [MS Ad WO Gu]  
 (Sela Dengay, Salla Dingai, Salla Dengai, Sali Dingai) 09/39 [Po x]  
 (Sahla Dengai, Sahle Dengay, Sabala Dingay, Sabala, Sahala)  
 Gz: 09°58'/39°38' 2700 m; MS: 09°55'/39°30' = HDM91, 2880/2915 m  
 (with sub P.O. under Debre Birhan and church Markos)  
 Centre in 1964 of Wedera sub-district.  
 Within a radius of 10 km there are at km  
 8E Derek Wenz (Dereq W., Derac Uonzi) (village)  
 6S Embissie (village)  
 10S Guroberet (village)  
 4SW Ashel Ager (Asciel A.) (village)  
 10SW Moja (Mogia) (church)  
 4W Bek Amba (Bec A., or Chid. Bec Amba?)  
 5W Chid (or Kidane Bek Amba?) (church)  
 8W Sasit (Sahasit) (village) 2713 m  
 2N Gedel Selassie (Ghedel S.) (church)  
 On a height above the deep gorge of the stream Mofer  
 and some of its affluents.
- 1800s Wossen Seged, who rebelled against his father Merdazmach Asfa Wossen and was  
 defeated, was pardoned after 40 days in chains and made governor of the district of Sela  
 Dingay, where he founded the town of that name. This was around 1804.  
 [A Cecchi, vol 1, 1886 p 242]
- 1810s Wossen Seged (1808-1813) built a new church at Sela Dingay.  
 Sahle Selassie, youngest of the sons of Wossen Seged and 18 years of age when his father  
 was killed in 1813, was studying in Sela Dingay when this happened. A couple of years

- later he was proclaimed Ras of Shewa.  
[Cecchi p 244]
- 1850s When Shewan resistance to Tewodros collapsed in 1855 at the time of King Hayle Melekot's death, his widow went to Jerusalem, but the dowager-queens, Bezebesh and Zenebe Werq, remained at Sela Dingay.  
[C Prouty, Empress Taytu ..., 1986 p 4-5]
- 1870s Bezebesh (Betsabeh), a Menz lady of good family and queen of Shewa, died at Sela Dingay about 1870-71.  
[Prouty 1981]  
Emperor Yohannes entered Menz in late January 1878. On the morning of 6 February Menilek learnt that he had reached Sela Dingay, one of Menz's more important towns.  
[Marcus, Menelik II, (1975)1995 p 54]
- 1910s On 14 October 1916 Negus Mikael occupied Selas Dingay, which jeopardized the Shewan left flank. Ras Lul Seged retired to Ankober.
- 1920s Ras Teferi on the way back from his large expedition to Dessie arrived to Sela Dingay on 10 July 1921. Dr Mouzels kept a journal and wrote:  
"Ville assez importante; fief de l'abuna Mattéos, situé au sommet d'un arête rocheuse son nom signifie d'ailleurs 'pierre à aiguiser les couteaux.' Grand messe avec chants et danses."  
[12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994 p 892]
- 1933 The Swedish BV missionary Anna-Lena Röstin passed Sela Dingay with a caravan in early 1933. She heard a legend about a tyrannic judge who passed his sentences sitting on a stone. When the judge rose after a session also the stone moved away by itself from the place of wrongdoing, and it went up to the church hill where Anna-Lena was invited to see it. This was supposed to be the explanation of the name Sela Dingay, "the stone which obeyed".  
The church was fairly new at that time, built by Abuna Mattewos who was said to be very greedy so the church was poorly built.  
Sela Dingay has plenty of water, with the Mofer river being the boundary between Wello and Menz.  
[A-L Röstin, Arvet i främlingars hand, Sthlm 1936 p 33-34]
- 1936 When cadets from Holeta under the Swedish Captain Tamm tried to stop the Italians at Termaber, Tamm also sent two officers and 25 men to Selay Dingay for the purpose to prepare the defense of that place.  
[V Tamm 1936 p 290]
- 1960s 26 March 1967: "-- climbed from this broad ledge, over a still higher summit, to the big village of Sali Dingai - an outpost of 'motor-road civilisation'. A new fifteen-mile track links it to the main Asmara-Dessie-Addis road and there is a daily bus-service. Where the track ends a few square shacks and a small school have recently been built; otherwise Sali Dingai remains unspoiled, though one can foresee it changing soon."  
"-- as we searched for *talla*, a cheerful man emerged from a mud shack and invited us to help celebrate the christening of his fifth son. In the dark, straw-strewn room about forty men sat on mud benches around the walls, fondling rifles, while a minstrel played in the centre of the floor and a tall, elderly woman sang and danced with strange, fierce gaiety."  
"At seven o'clock Samuel, the Director of the school, waveringly led Assefa and me towards his home. -- Lots of strong black coffee sobered us and when I was again able to focus I saw that my hostess is a most beautiful and charming young woman. Both she and her husband are Addis-born and educated but here they are living - resentfully - at a level little higher than that of the local peasants."  
Next morning I gave my severely lame donkey to Samuel, "as a present of doubtful value, and a little boy shouldered my sack to the bus-stop. -- The mini-bus arrived on time and Samuel carefully explained that when we reached the main road I must change on the big Dessie-Addis bus. He added, wistfully, that by midday I would be in the capital of the Empire."  
[Dervla Murphy, In Ethiopia with a mule, 1969 p 265-266 (1994 p 265-266)]

The primary school in 1968 had 109 boys and 28 girls in grades 1-5, with 3 teachers.

An elementary school building constructed of concrete elements and with Swedish assistance through ESBU was completed around 1970.

[SIDA 1971]

pict E Berlan, Addis-Abeba, Grenoble 1963 at p 28  
general view and mountains (from postcard).

HDU03 **Sela Dingay : Debre Mitmak Maryam**  
in Tegulet in Shewa.

1440s Emperor Zera Yaqob (1434-1468) built it and gave it *gult*.

In the 1440s Emperor Zera Yaqob received an embassy from Egypt at Eguba near his capital in the Tegulet area. They told that the Méتماق convent in Egypt had been destroyed by Muslims. Zera Yaqob then built a monastery with the name Debre Mitmak Maryam near his own capital.

[J Doresse, 1957 vol II p 130-131]

"Emperor Zär'a Yaq'ob's rule in Adäl was challenged, in 1445, by Sultan Bädlay ibn Sä'd ad-Din, a local amir who is disparagingly referred to in the chronicle as the Arwé, or Beast, Bädlay. The text, which goes into some detail, states that the Emperor was building the church of Däbrä Metmaq at Tägulät in northern Shäwa when he learnt that the Adäl ruler was advancing to attack him. Zär'a Ya'qob at that moment had only a very small force -- but he immediately marched south to confront the invader in Däwaro."

[Pankhurst, .. borderlands 1997 p 116]

1450s "The Council of Debre Mitmaq (in 1450) resolved many, though by no means all, of the theological problems that beset the Emperor and his country."

[Ullendorff (1960)1973 p 67]

1470s Emperor Baeda Maryam passed there with his army in the 1470s and proceeded through Menz.

[Doresse 1957 p 163]

HFE61 Selaclaca, see Selekleka

HFE65 Selado (mountain)

14/38

[Pa]

HDS29c Selakulla

10/38

[Wa]

HDT11 Selakulla (Selaculla), see Suba

*selala* (A) crippled, paralyzed; *sillela* (A) espionage, reconnaissance

HBL21 Selala (area), cf Salala, Selela

03/38

[WO]

HDL78 Selala (Sellela), see under Deneba

09/39

[LM WO]

*selale, salale* (A) bone to which the arm muscles are jointed; *salaleh* (Arsi O) *Erucastrum arabicum*;

*sellele* (A) scout out, spy

*Selale*, a branch of the Oromo/?/

estimated to number 2,628,000

HDK76 Selale 09°41'/38°08' 1887 m

09/38

[AA Gz]

south-west of Tulu Milki

HDL72 Selale (Selallie, Sellale, Selalle) 09°41'/38°39' 2740 m

09/38

[WO AA Gz 18]

south-west of Fiche

In Menilek's time (-1870s-) it was a district in Merhabete province, governed by a Dejasmach.

HDL72 **Selale** (Salale) (mountain) 09°42'/38°38' 3111 m

09/38

[WO AA Gz]

mountain also at 09°43'/38°46' = HDL73, cf Beri, cf Gara Guda

1920s "In Salale, about five hours' trek from the celebrated monastery of Debra Libanos, some ruins of remarkable interest were unearthed by the efforts of Ras Kassa. -- Ras Kassa caused trenches to be dug which revealed some really excellent carved stonework,

including a pattern of interlaced arches carved in low relief on slabs of stone about four inches thick -- Now it is obvious that, given the date of the destruction of the old church, it must have been built *before* the arrival of the Portuguese in Abyssinia; it was probably destroyed long before the Muslim invasion."

[C F Rey, In the country ..., London 1927 p 169-170]

- 1930s Dejazmach Gebre Iyesus, also called Gerso, was a patriot fighting the Italians and usually having his main camp in Selale, without the benefit of any natural fortress. He was an Ethiopian "of the old and rather brutal type". When Castagnia tried to negotiate with him he was ordered to leave his weapons behind. Castagnia agreed to this, but instead of negotiation he was made prisoner, bound to a tree and shot. The Italian escort which had remained at a distance then opened fire, but they were also killed.  
[A B Svensson, Abessinien under italienarna, Sthlm 1939 p 124-126]

HDL80 **Selale awraja** (Sälalé ..) 09°50'/38°30' 09/38 [Gz x]  
(centre -1964-1980- = Fiche)

HDL80 Selale & Merha Bete awraja 09/38 [x]  
(centre in 1959 = Fiche)

When Sahle Selassie became ruler of Shewa (after 1813) he established his authority over Selale and other areas.

[Henze p 128]

- 1900s After Ras Makonnen's death in 1906 his young son Tafari /future Haile Selassie/ was kept at the court in Addis Abeba and named titular governor of Selale with the rank of dejazmach.

In May 1908 Emperor Menilek set out on a mule trip to Selale and suffered a stroke again. He was incapacitated for three weeks before returning to the capital.

[P B Henze, Layers of time, London 2000 p 186]

- 1930s The Patriots made attacks in Addis Abeba in 1936, but after they were forced to leave the capital on 30 July, the Italians attacked them from the air all the way to Selale. Dejazmach Aberra settled at Selale and resisted the Italians up to December 1936.

[3rd Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1969 p 297]

- 1960s Butchery sheep skins from Selale are said to be well-known in international trade. The high quality is especially due to the fact that, as a rule, they are pulled off by hand without the use of knives.

[FAO 1961]

- text Bairu Tafla, Some aspects of land-tenure and taxation in Sälalé under Ras Dargé, 1871-1900 (conference paper) A.A. 1973, 15 pages mimeogr.

- ?? Selalo, see Tselalo

*selam* (A,T) peace, tranquility, prosperity; salutation hymn

- HC... Selam (in Jemjem awraja) 05/39? [Ad]  
(centre in 1964 of Uraga Selam sub-district)

The primary school in 1968 had 221 boys and 32 girls in grades 1-4, with 5 teachers.

- HC... Selam Ber (S.Bir, Salamber) 06/37 [Po Ad x]  
(centre in 1964 of Kecha wereda) (Salamber)

With sub-post office under Arba Minch.

Town beautifully situated on a hill, with comparatively well-built houses.

Construction of a school building was to be started in 1968.

*selamge* (sälamge) (A) land of peace?

- HDM20 Selamge (Salamghe) (slight saddle) 09/39 [+ Gu x]  
(with church Giyorgis), in Bulga/Kasim wereda

"Before beginning construction of Addis Alem -- Menilek established an arsenal at Salamge in Bulga, where Empress Taytu held a *gult* (fief). Near by were some hot springs in which Menilek could soothe his rheumatism. In the first five months of 1900, Menilek

	and the empress went back and forth to Salamge, a two-day trip in each direction." [Prouty 1986 p 240]		
HES34	Selamge (Salamghie) 13°01'/37°54' 2704 m east of Dabat, "an almost imperceptible saddle". There are curious phenomena of erosion in the neighbourhood. [Guida 1938]	13/37	[+ Gz]
HES33	Selamge Iyesus (Selamghie Jesus) (church) see under Dabat	13/37	[+ WO]
HEE58	Selamge Silase (church) 11°22'/39°10' south-west of Mekdela	11/39	[Gz]
HES..	Selamge sub-district (centre in 1964 = Gorgorek)	13/37	[Ad]
HET32	Selasgi (Selasghi, Selasghe)	13/38	[+ Gu WO]
	<i>selasie, selase, sillase</i> (A) the Trinity		
HDL98	Selasie (Sellassie), cf Silase ..	09/39	[+ WO]
HEL06	Selasterri (area)	11/39	[WO]
HEL36	Selatit Mikael (Selat'it Mika'el) (church) 12°05'/39°01', north-west of Lalibela	12/39	[Gz]
HC...	Selay Kembokha (in Mocha awraja) The primary school in 1968 had 73 boys in grades 1-4 and no girls, with two teachers.	07/35?	[Ad]
HCT19	Selazz 3014 m	07/39	[x]
HDE84	Selbane 08°54'/38°47' 2132 m, near Akaki	08/38	[Gz]
GDM50	Selbute	09/34	[WO]
HEC88	Selcen, see Deke		
	<i>selchen</i> (sälchän) (A) a kind of plant		
??	Selchi, see Selki		
HDL64	<b>Sele</b> (Selie, Selle, Salle) 09°36'/38°51' 2663/2737 m (with church Kidane Mihret), south-east of Fiche (centre in 1964 of Wichale wereda), cf Sala .. Population 317 as counted in 1967. About 80 km north of Addis Abeba. "-- there is a turnoff to a road which will be very interesting when completed. This is the so called 'Victory Road' which leads to Alem Ketema -- The stretch of road from Sele to Fiche contains many interesting stops. Sele itself has one of the palaces of the former King of Shoa. The picturesque town of Debre Tsigie is next, then the turnoff to Debre Libanos." [John Graham in AddisTribune 2000/07/14]	09/38	[AA Gz Te WO]
HBR05	Sele Bedirru (pass) sele harma: <i>harma</i> (O) breast, udder, teat	04/37	[WO]
HBJ84	Sele Harma (pass)	04/37	[WO]
HC...	Sele sub-district? (-1997-)	07/35	[n]
HCN65	Sele wereda (Selie ..) (centre in 1964 = Keto/Nono) (coordinates 14°00'/38°30' as found somewhere would give map code HFE04 and may be incorrect or refer to some other locality)	07/35	[+ Ad Gz]
HEJ55	Seleb 12°18'/37°05' 1855 m, west of lake Tana	12/37	[Gz]
HEM20	Selehest 11°59'/39°22' 3581 m, north-west of Weldiya	11/39	[Gz]
HCC85	Selekelo 06°14'/37°11' 1299 m	06/37	[Gz]
HFE61	<b>Selekleka</b> (Selecleca, Seleklaka, Selaclaca) (Slehleka, Salaklaka) 14°08'/38°28' 2107 m (with sub P.O. under Mekele) With American Lutheran mission to the south-west.	14/38 14/38	[Gz Ad Te Po] [WO Gu x n]

Centre in 1964 of Tach Koraro sub-district.

- 1920s The British hunters Maydon and Blaine passed Selekleka and Beles in January 1923 on their way to Simen.  
"Both these villages are small and unworthy of mention, the usual collection of stone or mud-walled tukuls with thatched roofs, and an adjacent church enclosed within its sacred grove of trees."  
[H C Maydon, Simen, London 1925 p 55]
- 1930s December 1935: "I authorized the commander of the II<sup>nd</sup> Corps, after the encounter at Dembeguinà, to withdraw his right wing, which had been pushed up to Selaclacà, so as to be in touch at the saddle of Hill 2140 with the forces occupying Axum, preferring to keep the troops more closely together in view of future developments, rather than cling to the important key-point of Selaclacà."  
"With the purpose of holding up the advance of Ras Immiru -- a column about 12,000 strong was to take part -- This column assembled on December 23<sup>rd</sup> near the saddle of Hill 2140, mentioned above; on the following day it reached the Selaclacà area."  
[Badolio (Eng.ed.) 1937 p 41]  
General Maravigna's force of 20,000 men left Aksum and began their advance towards Selekleka at dawn on 29 February 1936. As no Ethiopian troops had been reported to be anywhere in the area, Maravigna had decided to forego security for speed.  
The Blackshirt '21st April' Division headed the long column; behind it came the Gavinana, the Gran Sasso, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Eritrean Brigade with a few detachments of cavalry functioning as a very casual flankguard.  
All went well until midday. But - as often happens when risks of this nature are taken - the unforeseen was bound to occur, and Maravigna's troops were soon to pay for their commander's rashness. When the column reached a crest overlooking the Selekleka plain the 'Gavinana' moved up to take the lead from the '21st April'. But it had barely resumed the advance when it was suddenly caught in a deadly cross-fire. The column had driven straight into an ambush, and the battle that ensued lasted for ten hours. Covered by the fire from machine guns hidden in the bush, the Ethiopians threw themselves on the Italians. All the latter could do was to form a series of squares, and the artillery they had with them was virtually useless. -- for a time it was touch and go whether or not the Gavinana's ammunition trucks would be captured.  
Shaken by this engagement and overestimating the Ethiopian strength, Maravigna called off the advance, ordered a defensive position to be formed and the men to dig in.  
Badoglio was furious at the postponement of his operation, and Ras Imru was given an extra forty-eight hours to continue his orderly withdrawal to the Tekkeze.  
Maravigna's men resumed their advance on 2<sup>nd</sup> March but they made little progress again that day because they ran into Imru's rear-guard.  
But when dawn broke on 3<sup>rd</sup> March the Ethiopians had gone. During the night they had broken off the action and slipped away, leaving Maravigna in a complete void.  
[A J Barker, The rape .., New York 1971 p 87, 91]  
On 4-5 March 1936 the IV<sup>th</sup> Corps of the Italians "continued its march towards Selaclacà. Here, on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup>, changing to a fresh line of supply, rations for the whole of that corps were received from Adowa --"  
[Badoglio p 119]  
The Swedish doctor Harald Nyström was - as the only European on the northern front - present on the Ethiopian side. He noticed that the Ethiopians did not know about pulling out the pin of hand grenades they had collected, so they could not make them explode. They waited for the darkness so that the airplanes overhead would disappear.  
Fitawrari Zewdu and Mulau were ordered to abandon their position and reinforce the right wing. It was a brightly moonlit night when the order for retreat was carried out.  
Dejazmach Ayelu received a letter from the Emperor written in Dessie a week earlier. It said that he could retreat across the Tekkeze if he did not feel able to sustain the attacks. Men, and also women, started disappearing southwards even without order. It seemed that the Italian hand grenades had done most to demoralize the Ethiopians.

Ayelu's own guns had fired 63 shots.

Nyström estimates that 3,000 Ethiopians had been killed or wounded in the battle. He read later an Italian report that they had lost 90 officers, 950 white soldiers and 250 *askari* in the engagement.

Nyström cites V. Vecchi about the weapons available on the Italian side. They had some 40 rapid-firing guns with 50,000 rounds of ammunition, 25,000 rifles and machine guns with 12,000,000 rounds, 200,000 hand grenades, and 330 trucks for transport.

Furthermore: 200,000 sand bags, 350 tons of barbed wire, 25,000 spades, 15,000 hoes, 60 tons of dynamite, and 80 radio sets.

[H Nyström, *Med S:t Giorghis ...*, Sthlm 1937 p 132-136]

1938 An Italian centre was established a little north of the road. The original village was to the north-east behind a hill and was also called Edaga Sunni / = Idaga Senyi, Monday Market?/.

Post, telephone, tobacco shop with restaurant.

[Guida 1938]

Doctor Cesare Baduel from Malta in March 1936 started to found a leprosarium at Selekleka on behalf of the institute to which he belonged. It would comprise a medical centre and three villages on an area of 289 hectares. The foundation stone was laid in January 1938, with Fratelli Varnero as building contractors. The leprosarium was named after Prince Chigi Albani.

1940s The staff of the leprosarium had to abandon the place on 30 March 1941 because of the liberation war, and soon after the leprosarium was sacked and destroyed.

[G Puglisi, *Chi è? ...*, Asmara 1952]

There was a mission station /When?/ of the American Lutheran Mission.

1950s In late 1959 injera was baked and distributed as food aid from the Mekane Yesus Church.

1960s Population 2,759 as counted in 1967.

The primary school in 1968 had 72 boys and 52 girls in grades 1-3, with two teachers.

Mekane Yesus Lutheran Mission primary school had 208 boys and 46 girls, with 5 male teachers and one female.

1980s Derg forces sent from Inda Silase in 1988 to relieve the garrisons at Aksum and Adwa found themselves attacked by the TPLF at Selekleka and were forced to retreat.

[Young 1997]

Government forces took Selekleka in early July 1988. "By the end of August, large-scale military action had ceased, but army patrols continued to be routinely brutal.. In October, at Tselessi Bit and Selekleka, 20 people were killed in five separate incidents, including people locked in their houses and then burned alive."

[Africa Watch 1991]

On 29 December 1988 the 16th Army Division was seriously attacked by the TPLF and returned to Selekleka after two days. The 9th Army Division returned to Selekleka on 31 December 1988 with (according to a government report) only 800 soldiers out of 8,000 troops it had before the battle.

[12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994]

On 8 February 1989 a government offensive operation began when the 103rd Commando Army Division moved as a vanguard in the offensive campaign from Selekleka.

By 11 February the whole force of the 604th Core Army was confined to Selekleka and Shire Inda Silase.

[12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994]

Five days after the Commando Division had been completely defeated in February 1989, the command centre of the 604th Army Corps at Selekleka was taken over by the TPLF.

[Young 1997 p 164]

In a series of battles between February 15 and 20, a joint TPLF-EPLF force captured Selekleka and then Inda Silase. The fronts claimed that 26,000 soldiers were put out of action.

	[Africa Watch 1991]		
picts	Gli annali ..., anno III vol I /Roma 1940/ p 799-801 three building drawings for proposed leprosarium; 804-805[3-4] eight photos of the leprosarium.		
HDM42	Selekulla (Seleculla)	09/39	[+ WO]
HE...	Selel (centre in 1964 of Hamus Wenz sub-district) selela: <i>sellele</i> (sällälä) (A) 1. acted as a spy; 2. became paralyzed	11/38?	[Ad]
HDL85	Selela 09°48'/38°53' 2634 m, east of Fiche, cf Selala	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDS49	Selelkula 10°24'/38°21' 2115 m, south-east of Bichena	10/38	[Gz]
HEE84	Selelkula 11°38'/38°47' 2735 m, west of Bete Hor	11/38	[Gz]
HDM56	Selelkulla (Selelculla) (area)	09/39	[+ WO]
HDT11	Selelkulla (Selelculla, Selalkulla, Selalkoulla), see Suba		
HDM01	Selelo Mikael (church) 09°05'/39°27'	09/39	[Gz]
HEF91	Selen Tekle Haymanot (church) 11°44'/39°30' south-west of Weldiya	11/39	[Gz]
HEL62c	Selesa	12/38	[Gu]
HET11	Selesa, see Salaise		
HET16	Seletsba 12°46'/38°59' 2000 m, north of Sekota	12/38	[Gz]
HET59	<b>Selewa</b> (Selo, Solawa, Säläwa, Sloa) (Silawa) (with rock-hewn church Agwa) 13°10'/39°20' (13°07'/39°15')	13/39 13/39	[+ WO Ha n] [x]
	The rock church was listed without comment by Roger Sauter in 1976. In the 1870s there was a governor of Selewa by name Ras Haylu.		
HET59	Selewa sub-district? (-1997-)	13/39	[Gz]
HET59	Selewa wereda (Sloa ..) (-1964-1994-) (centre in 1964 = Samre)	13/39	[Ad x n]
GDM85	Selgan, see Salgal		
HED82	Selhassie Terara, see Silase Terara Selie, see Sele		
HDM34	Seliya 09°20'/39°42' 1720 m, south of Ankober	09/39	[Gz]
JCG55	Selka (Selk'a, Selqa) 06°52'/40°17' 1544 m south-west of Ginir An elementary school building constructed of concrete elements and with Swedish assistance through ESBU was completed around 1970. [SIDA 1971]	06/40	[Gz x]
HES..	Selki (Selchi) (mountain) 13°20'/38°17'	13/38	[x Gu]
picts	F Rosen, Eine deutsche ..., Leipzig 1907 p 451, 453, 455 steep mountains and pass.  <i>sella</i> (Italian) saddle; (A) succede, prosper; (T) flog, whip		
HFE39	Sella (Sella'i) (with rock-hewn churches) see under Geralta churches - northern	13/39	[x]
HCT19	Sella di Carra, see Karra		
HEK33	Sella Taragedam, see Taragedam		
HBK66	Sellach (pass)	04/38	[WO]
HFF23	Sellasi Adu 13°45'/39°40' 2462 m, see under Wikro	13/39	[WO Gz]
HDL64	Selle, see Sele		
HFD19	Sellemt (Sällämt), see Tsellemti		
HER30	Sello Shek Omar (Sello Sceic Omar), see Shek Umer		
HDM.?	Selmenya (w church Maryam), in Bulga/Kamis wer.	09/39?	[x]
HDL..	Selmi (river) Outcrops of coal have been indicated near Debre Libanos in the Selmi river,	09/38	[Mi]



	in sandstones sedimented on the limestones of Jurassic. The thickness of coal is about one metre. [Mineral 1966] The primary school in 1968 had 68 boys and 19 girls in grades 1-3, with two teachers.		
HDL..	Selmi (place), in Selale awraja	09/38	[Ad]
HCJ45	Selo 06°44'/37°07' 1109 m It is located in the Hana area of the Omo zone. A chief Dhalichbhagoloni died there, after first having lived at Jakuku and Delmagoloni. [K Fukui]	06/37	[Gz]
HET59	Seloa, see Selewa		
HEL07	Selonaj (Salit) 11°50'/39°06' 3219 m north of Bete Hor	11/39	[Gz WO Gu]
HD...	Sels (in Selale awraja) Sels (Mekature) primary school in 1968 had 166 boys and 65 girls in grades 1-5, with 4 teachers.	09/38?	[Ad]
HEC89	Selselima, see Chimbil, under Bahir Dar		
HC...	Selti (in Haykoch & Butajira awraja) The primary school in 1968 had 132 boys and 29 girls in grades 1-4, with 3 teachers.	08/38?	[Ad]
HEC35	Selviet	11/37	[WO]
JE...	Sema Matatay sub-district (centre in 1964 = Huluko)	11/40	[Ad]
HED48	Semada (Samada), see Simada		
HE...	Semada sub-district (centre in 1964 = Kenber Ber)	11/38	[Ad]
HED47c	Semada wereda (centre in 1964 = Teklu Ketema) (-1964-1994-)	11/38	[Ad n]
HFE66	Semaiata, see Temeyata		
HFD79	Semama, see Semema		
	semana: <i>semanya</i> (A,T) eighty; 80th day memorial service; civil marriage		
HFD68c	Semana (area and place), cf Simana	14/38	[Gu]
HEK06c	Semana Giyorgis (S.Ghiorghis) (village) see under Debre Tabor	11/38	[+ Gu]
HEJ47	Semana, see Simana	12/37	
HES99	Semaroa	13/38	[WO]
HFD09	Semaroa 13°35'/38°22' 2615 m, near Sekota Simen <i>semay</i> (A,T) sky, heaven; <i>semayi</i> (T) listener; <i>semey</i> (T) call, name, entitle, appoint	13/38	[WO Gu Gz]
HFE98c	Semaya (Semaia) 2210 m	14/39	[+ Gu]
HFE66	Semayata (Semayat, Semaiata, A.Sänayata) (recorded in 1400s as Amba Senayt) (mountain east of Aksum) 3013/3024 m, see under Adwa <i>semayt</i> , <i>semait</i> (A,T) martyr	14/38 14/38	[+ WO Gu 20] [Pa]
HDC91	Sembet (church)	09/36	[WO]
HDK89	Sembie, see Sumbe		
HCR30	Sembo (Sombo) 07°33'/36°37' 2081/2150 m (with sawmill), south-west of Jimma	07/36	[Gz WO Gu]
HDM40	Sembo 09°25'/39°21' 2981 m, north of Sheno	09/39	[Gz]
HDT75	Sembo 10°37'/38°56' 1968 m, east of Ajibar	10/38	[Gz]

HC...	Semedo (sub-district & its centre in 1964)	07/36	[Ad]
	semema: <i>semmeme</i> (T) poison		
HFD79	<b>Semema</b> (Semama) 14°12'/38°21' 1933 m north-east of Inda Silase (sub-district & its centre in 1964, also centre of Shire Gult wereda) The primary school in 1968 had 47 boys and 12 girls in grades 1-5, with two teachers.	14/38	[18 Ad Po WO]
HFE60	Semema 14°09'/38°27' 1965 m, west of Aksum /which Semema north-west of Aksum?/: Mansfield Parkyns passed there after the big rains in 1843. "Semema is a fertile district, being watered by a stream of some size, running with considerable fall, is profitably used by the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages for irrigation, its waters being carried over the land at different levels. These artificial aids, little practised elsewhere in Tigrè, cause the naturally fertile soil to produce -- all the varieties of the vegetables known in the country. Close by, on a hill, is the camp, formerly occupied by Lemma, but now by his Belladt Inkata [=Blattengeta?/ Obsabius. A number of soldiers were busy washing their clothes at the brook --" [M Parkyns, Life in Abyssinia, vol I, London 1853 p 245]	14/38	[Gz]
HE...	Semera Emperor Yohannes IV and his court were at Semera in 1879 and several important letters from there are dated in May and September-November. In a letter at the same time, by Mahdere Qal Tewelde Medhin, the names Debre Tabor and Semera are written next to each other like being almost the same locality. [Acta aethiopica III p 317, 323-338]	11/38?	[n]
JEB92c	<b>Semera</b> (town near the Awash river) Located on the road to Assab, about 80 km past Mille and near Logiya. Selected to be the capital city of the Afar Region but in the late 1990s still a quite small settlement. A good track towards Tendaho and Dubti branches off there, in the neighbourhood also an insignificant track to Hadar where 'Lucy' was found. [Äthiopien 1999 p 415]	11/40	[n Ca]
1995	Radio Ethiopia reported that the founding conference of the Afar Regional Council was opened in Semera on 20 July 1995. Ato Mulugeta Negusse, the electoral board coordinator, said in a speech that the Afar people had for the first time in their history elected their own leaders. On 26 July 1995 the founding conference of the Afar National Regional State decided that Semera would be its capital city and Amharic its temporary working language. The three top officials would be President Hanfre Alimirah, Vice-president Osman Ainet and Secretary Mohammed Seid. Fifteen executive committee members were elected. Within this government 8 members were from the Afar People's Democratic Organization (APDO) and 4 from the Afar Liberation Front Party (ALFP). APDO was EPRDF-affiliated. The current chairman of the Afar Region, Habib Alimirah, was not present at the founding conference.		
2000s	The capital is apparently soon to be shifted from Asaita to Semera. [AddisTribune 2000/12/29] President of the Afar regional government in 2001 was Esmael Alisero.		
HEM60	Semesani	12/39	[Gu]
GD...	Semete (in Kelem awraja) A private school in 1968 had 24 boys and 5 girls in grades 1-3, with one teacher. Semien .., see Simen ..	08/34?	[Ad]

JBR01	Semlei 04°36'/41°46' 232 m, at Ganale Doria river <i>semma</i> (sämma) (A) 1. listen, understand; 2. be witness; <i>zemma</i> (zämma) (A) adulteress	04/41	[Gz]
HCL96	Semma (area)	07/38	[WO]
HED65	Semmie, see Shime semo: <i>semmo</i> , <i>semmoo</i> (O) floor of a granary		
HDC12	Semo (area), cf Samo	08/36	[WO]
HFE..	Semorat, see under Aksum	14/38	[20]
HDR99	Semoy 10°49'/37°26' 1980 m north-west of Dembecha	10/37	[Gz]
HFE94	Semro Kristus 14°24'/38°51' 1758 m (with church Yohanis), north of Adwa, near the border of Eritrea and a main road to there <i>semu</i> , <i>semmu</i> (O) brain, top of the head	14/38	[Gz]