

## Scenes in Ethiopia

Illustrations by Johann Martin Bernatz

Sophia THUBAUVILLE and Wolbert G.C. SMIDT

Johann Martin Bernatz (1802-1878) was a German painter and illustrator known for his wide travels in ‘exotic’ countries. After assignments in Germany, Turkey, Palestine and Sinai, he went to India as a draughtsman. There he was selected by the East India Company government to accompany a diplomatic mission under the lead of Captain Cornwallis Harris to the court of King Sahle Sillassé. From the southern Red Sea coast, they crossed the °Afar regions to reach finally the then independent kingdom of Shoa. Bernatz remained in Ethiopia for nearly three years (1841–1843). During that time he produced numerous paintings, which depict not only the countryside in the vicinity of Ankobar and Debre Berhan, but also illustrate scenes of daily life and even political events. In 1854 he published his paintings and drawings from the travel in a book, which was widely noticed by geographers and intellectuals like Alexander von Humboldt, Heinrich Barth and others. His paintings and drawings are remarkable due to their love for detail, showing animals, botanic details, hunting scenes, locals with their traditional clothing, their houses, scenes from their life and a slave market. Due to this success he was asked to illustrate also a number of other travel accounts to the East-Sudan and Abyssinia (e.g. Heuglin 1868 and 1874).

The illustrations published in the present catalogue are all archived in the Ethnographic Picture Archive of the Frobenius Institute in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. More paintings and a report of his observations in Ethiopia are published in his book *Scenes in Ethiopia*, which gives a first-hand report of this time and is therefore an important historical source of Ethiopia’s north.

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Johannes Martin Bernatz, *River Hawash*



Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Lake near to River Hawash*



Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Hunting of the elephant*

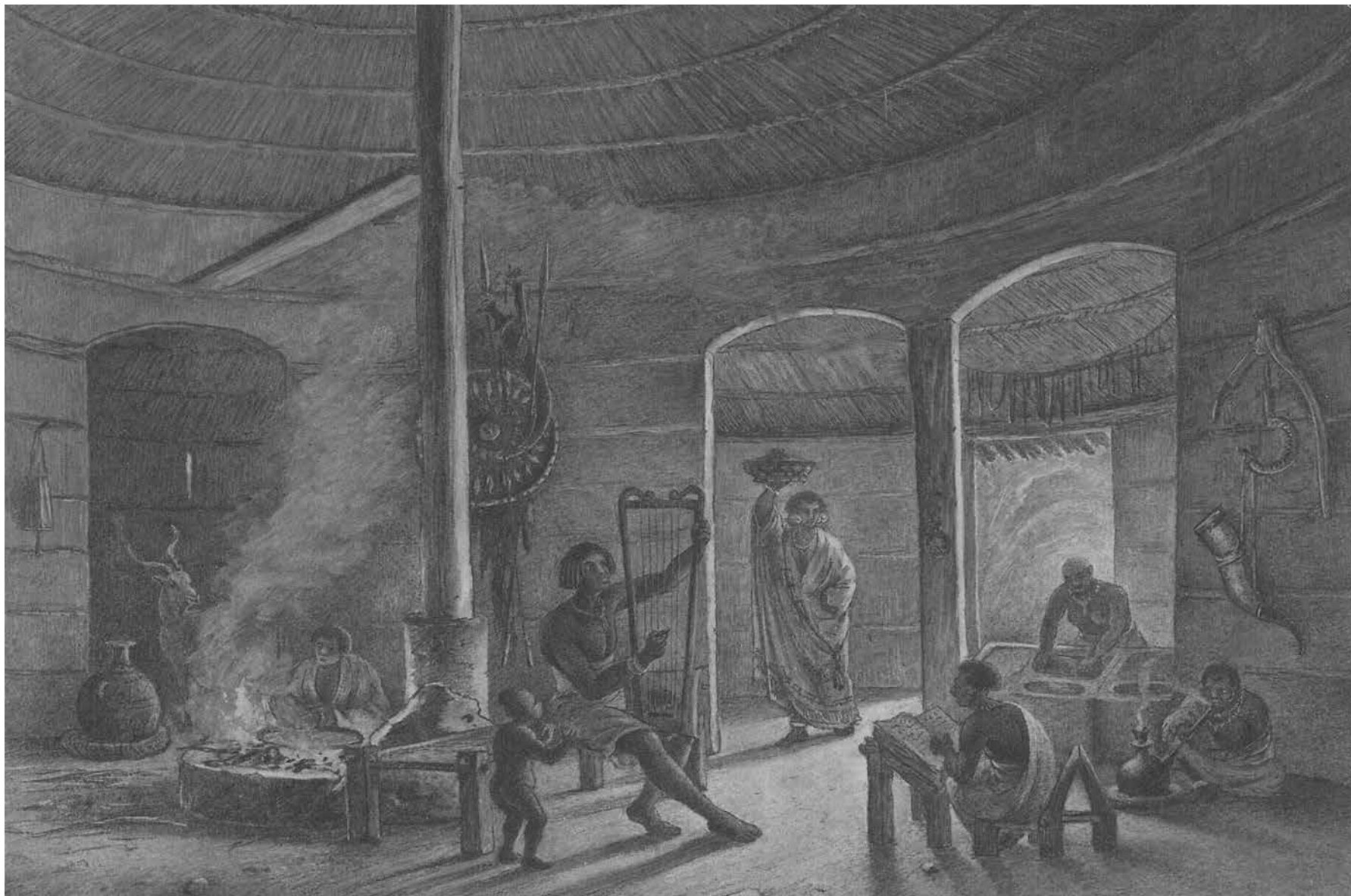




Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Hunting of the leopard, River Hawwash*



Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Hunting of the ostrich at Girarobi, River Hawash*



Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Interior of a dwelling at Ankobar*





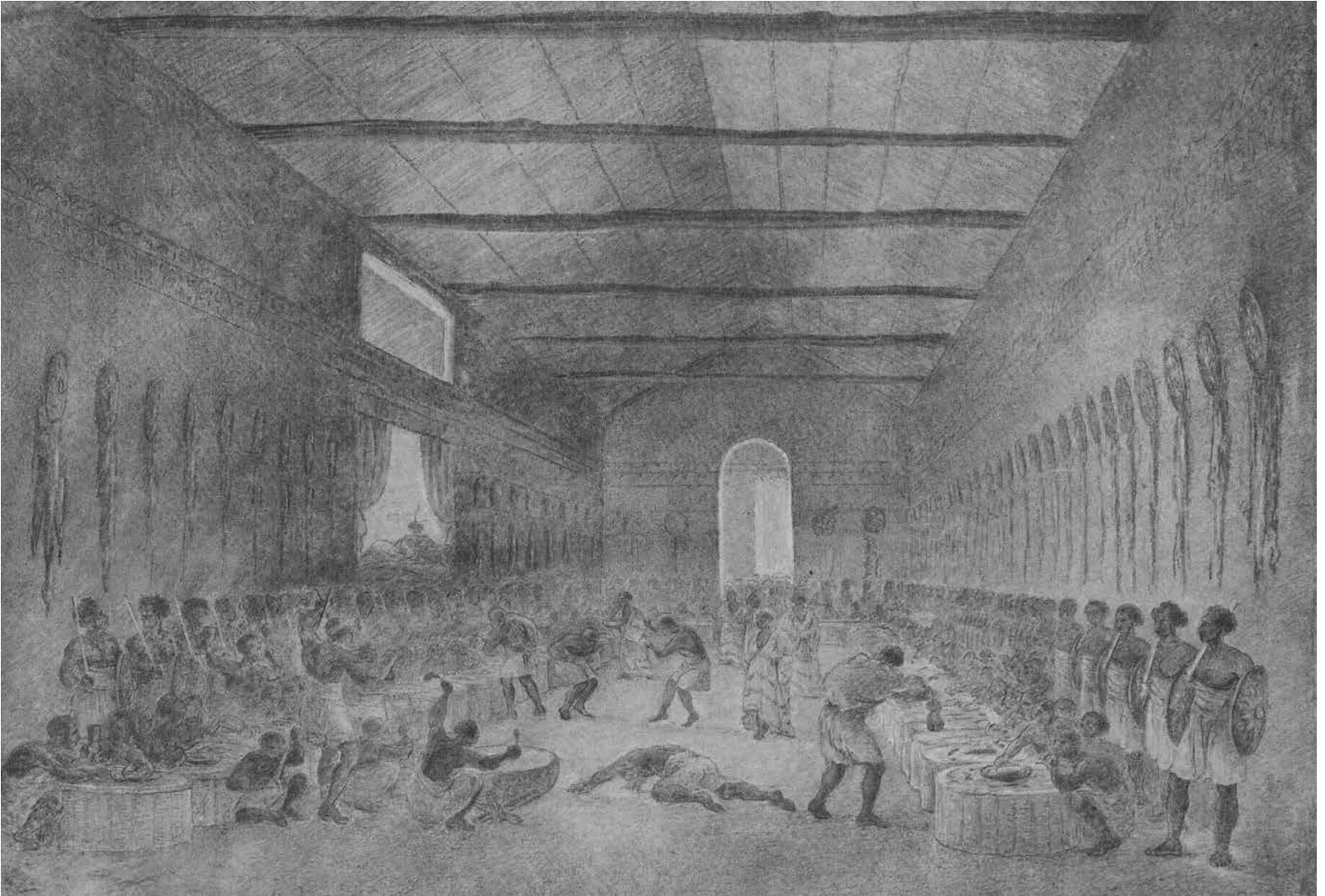
Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Religious procession from the court of St. Michael at Ankobar*



Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Interior of the town Ankobar and view of the Mountain Emmamrat*



Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Part of the Royal Court, the king sitting in judgement*



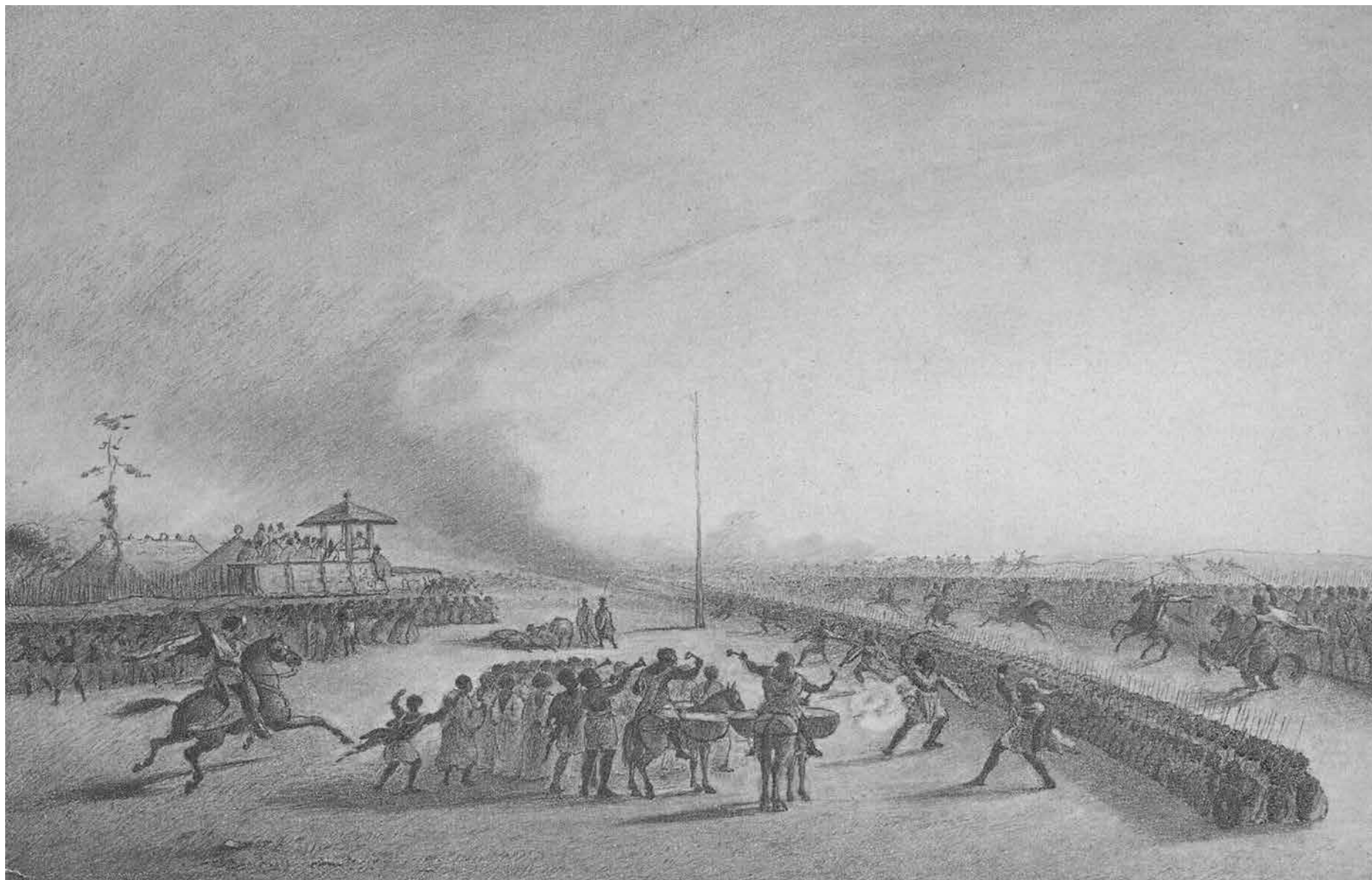
Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Royal banquet at Easter in the royal chamber*





Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Departure of the army into the field*

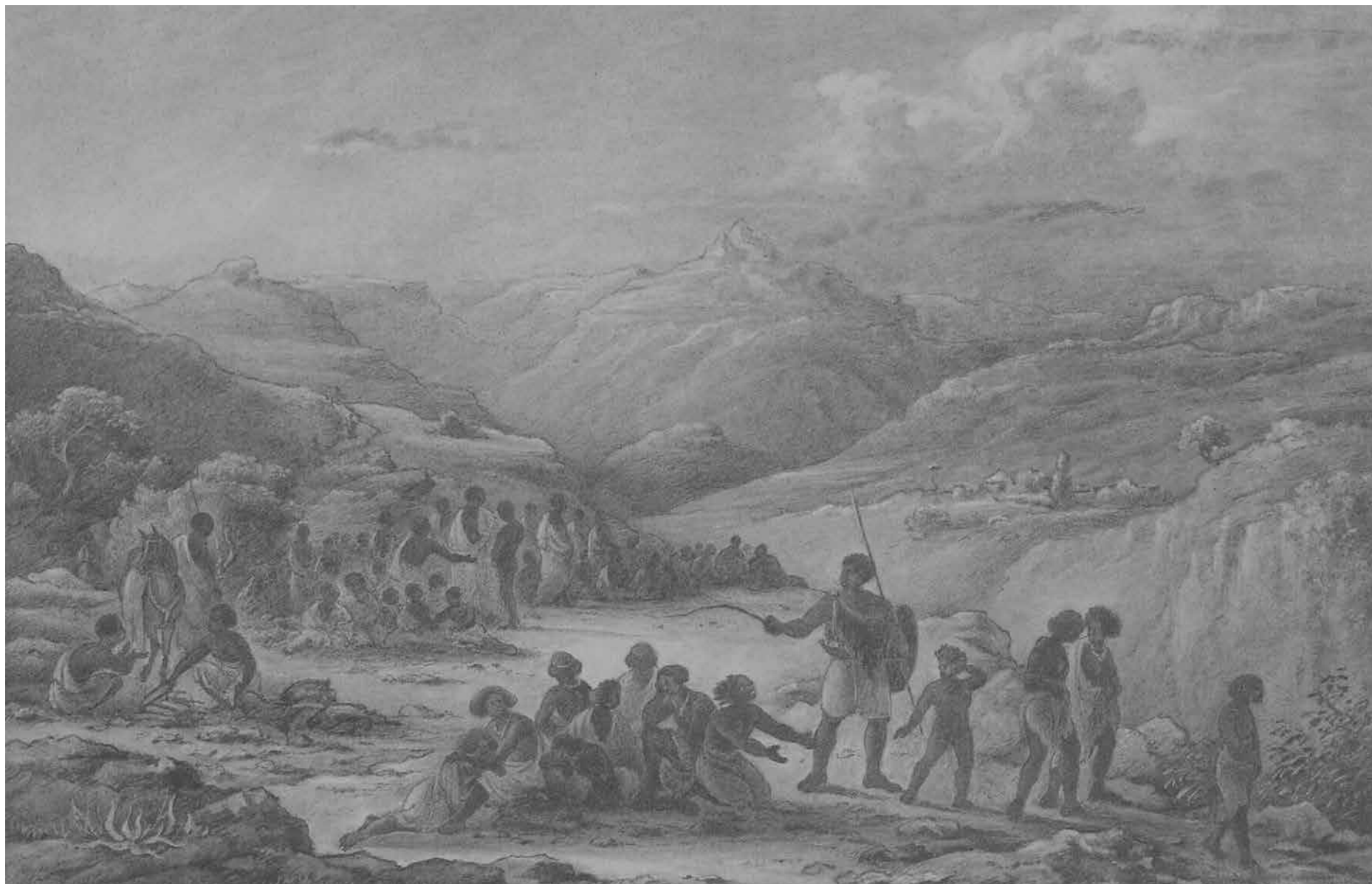




Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Review at Debre Berhan*



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Johannes Martin Bernatz, *The volcanoes Abida and Aiulla with a Beduin camp*



Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Valley of the Mount Tschakka*





Johannes Martin Bernatz, *Wood of Aferbaine and view of Ankobar from the north*