

Veterinary Health Certificate for Exportation of an Ethiopian Wolf from Asmara, 1964
 By **Graham C. Scott**

I recently reexamined this document (Figure 1) which has been in my collection for many years. It is a Veterinary Health Certificate for shipment of a four month old male wolf from Asmara to France via Addis Ababa and Djibouti, in 1964 (Gregorian calendar). It has several interesting features and raises several questions.

The document is signed by Dr. Domenico Corrado, Veterinary Officer, and by the Mayor of Asmara, Kentiba Haregot Abbai. Both gentlemen are listed in the Asmara 1965 Official List¹ as:

ASMARA MUNICIPALITY
 H.E. Deg. Haregot Abbai Mayor

VETERINARY DIRECTORATE
 Dr. Corrado Domenico Laboratorist A.V. Res. Ins.

The wolf is being exported from Asmara via Gibouti (*Côte Française des Somalis*) to France by the Owner and Importer, who is listed as Robin Gerard Jean Louis in Asmara. I have assumed that the final destination appears to be France. I have also assumed that the Owner is a Monsieur Robin and not an Import/Export Company named for four partners. A web search did find a listing for a Monsieur G.J.L Robin born June 1936 in France, but no other information.



Figure 2: Seal of the Veterinary Directorate, Municipality of Asmara.

Revenue Stamps

The document has two stamps affixed and cancelled with a 16 Sept 1964 handstamp. The stamp inscribed *Segnatasse* has been described (Figure 3), but not the *Pleading Hands* label (Figure 4)².



Figure 3: Segnatasse stamp (RR Listing A51/53)

1959-64 (recorded usage). Municipal building, inscribed *MUNICIPIO DI ASMARA SEGNATASSE*:

- A51. E\$0.20 mauve
- A52. E\$0.50 scarlet
- A53. E\$1 bright blue

Although these stamps are inscribed *Segnatasse*, which usually means Postage Due, they were used on revenue documents. No examples are known on postal covers². Recorded usage: April 1959 - February 1960 (A51), September 1964 (A53).

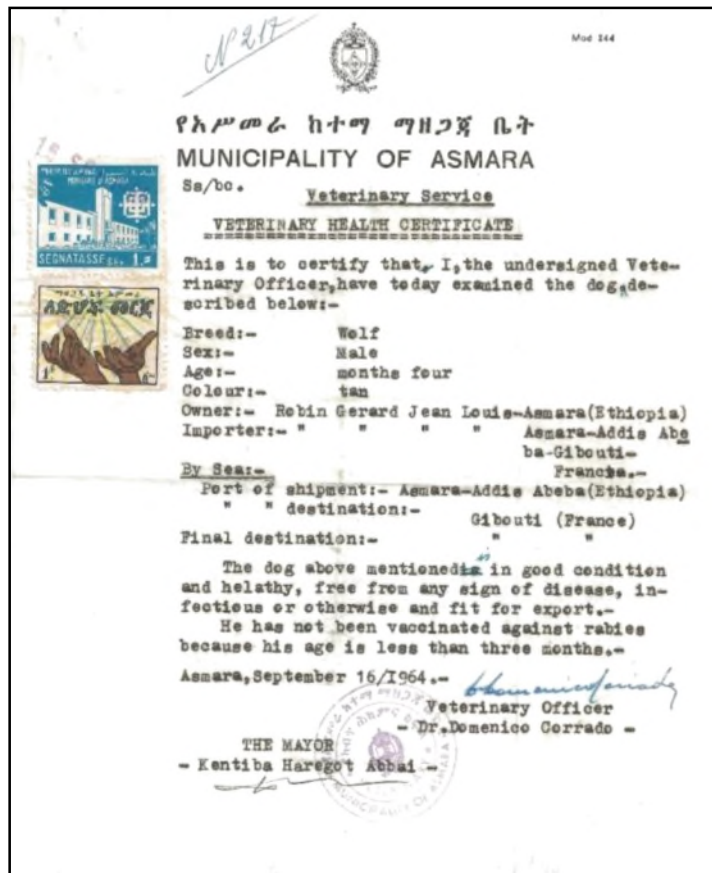


Figure 1 : Veterinary Health Certificate.

Pleading Hands. Inscribed:

“Municipality of Asmara Relief Center for Destitutes”³”

in Amharic. A61. ES1 blue, yellow, black and brown. This stamp is a charity stamp and not a known revenue stamp and is only known used in combination with A53 on this September 1964 document.

Other such labels have not yet been identified.



Figure 4: Pleading Hands label (RR listing: A61)

Simien Fox

The Ethiopian Wolf^{4,6}, *Canis Simensis*, is a distinct species of the genus *Canis*. It has also been called the Simien or Simenian Fox. It is confined entirely to the Ethiopian Highlands, where the species is restricted to a few mountain ranges³. A medium-sized canid, some 14-20kg in weight, with long and slender legs, seemingly suitable for coursing in open country, and a long muzzle with small well-spaced teeth adapted to feeding on rodents. Ethiopian wolves have soft and short pelage of a distinctive bright tawny rufous color, with a dense whitish underfur. The throat, chest, a band around the ventral part of the neck, the underparts and inside of limbs are white, with the outline between the red coat and the white markings sharp and well defined. The ears are pointed and broad, their dorsal surface red fringed with long white hairs growing inward from the edge. The tail is a thick black brush with the proximal third white underneath.

**Ethiopia:
Simien Fox
(Wolf)
Issues⁷**

1975	Wild Animals (Scott #731-735)		20 ¢ Simien Wolf (Scott 733)	Fig 5
1987	Simien Fox (Scott #1178-1184)		<i>First Simien Fox Issue</i>	Fig 6
1988	Simien Fox overprint World Aids Day (Scott #1234-1237)	Scott #1178-1184 overprinted "WORLD AIDS DAY"		Fig7
1994	Simien Fox (Scott #1372 A-J)		<i>Second Simien Fox Issue:</i> Rough perforation, poor quality printing. dated "1991"	Fig 8
1994	Simien Fox (Scott # 1393 A-T)		<i>Third Simien Fox Issue:</i> Sharp impressions; dated "1993"	Fig 9
1994	Simien Fox, UNFPA 50th Anniversary (Scott #1393 U-X)	Scott 1393 set overprinted UNFPA		Fig 11
1994	Simien Fox, African Development Bank 30th Anniversary (Scott 1396 A-D)	Scott 1393 set overprinted ADB		Fig 12

Ethiopian wolves live in discrete and cohesive social packs of up to 20 adults that communally share and defend an exclusive territory. They forage and feed alone on small prey, contradicting the general trend in carnivores for grouping and cooperative hunting.

Ethiopian wolves are Africa's most endangered carnivore species, and the rarest canid species in the world. Fewer than 500 individuals survive in six isolated mountain enclaves above 3,000m. There is no evidence of them ever been kept in captivity⁵.

Simien Fox on Ethiopian Stamps

The Simien Fox has been featured on Ethiopian postage stamps on several occasions⁷, but not since 1994.



Figure 5: Simien Wolf (Scott 733)



Figure 7: Simien Wolf "WORLD AIDS DAY" Overprint

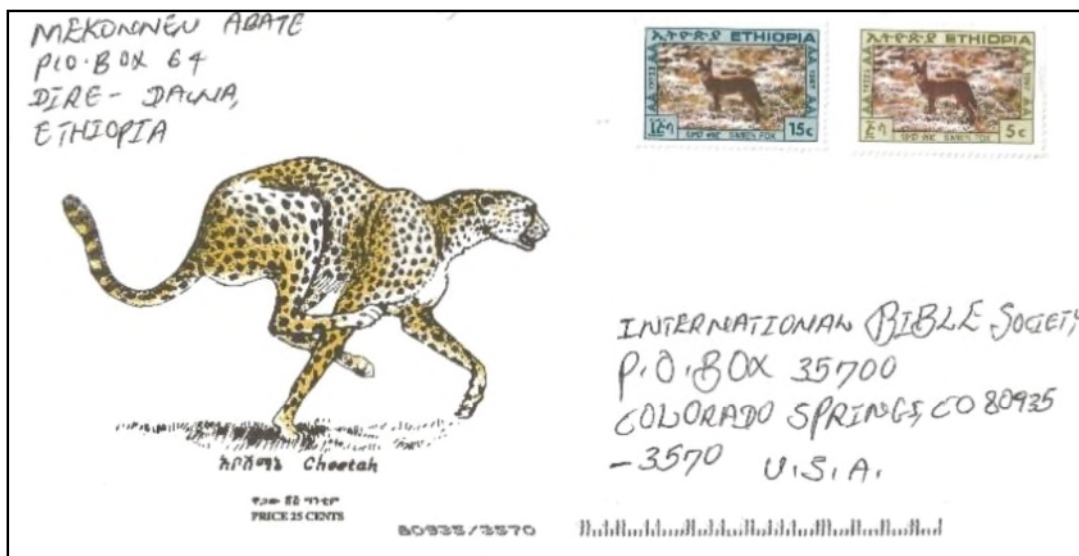


Figure 6 : Ethiopia Postal Service Envelope (S22)⁸⁻¹¹ with First Simien Fox issue (Scott 1178 &1180)