

Aqoon yahannadu wixii ay ka yidhaahdeen buuggan

2012 was the 40th anniversary year of the official writing system for Somali and was celebrated in many places. Prior to the adoption of the script, there had been a large number of systems for writing the language. This present volume includes a very useful and exhaustive overview of these writing systems and concentrates on one in particular.

The presentation of the Arabic-based Somali writing system of Sh. Maxamed Cabdi Makaahiil was originally printed in India and is reproduced here along with Somali translation. It includes a description of the system and a selection of writings using it such as proverbs and letters. The author, Cabdiraxmaan C. Faarax 'Barwaaqo', also interviewed living relatives of Sh. Maxamed which adds further insight into the context of the writing system and its development. There is also an Arabic *qasiido* by Sh. Maxamed which has not been published before.

This is an important contribution to Somali studies and will be of interest more widely to scholars concerned with the use of Arabic script for writing other languages in Africa and the wider world.

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Eraygu hadduu yahay mid aan qornayn wuxuu halis u yahay inuu maalin uun dhinto. Afafkii aan qornayn ee muddo dheer ka hor lagu hadli jiray badankood waa la illoobay ee war lagama hayo xikmaddii ay salka u ahaayeen. Qaarka kalana, inkastoo loo haysto afaf mayd ah, haddana waa la garanayaa, maadaama loo yeelay faro u gaar ah oo badbaadiyay. Baahida loo qabo in la dhowro, lana badbaadiyo af-Soomaaliga ee murti aan la soo koobi karini ay ku dhisan tahay waxaa garaneyey culimo badan oo isku taxallujiyey in ay u abuuraan far ku habboon. Waxay ahaayeen halyeeyo mudan in la barto magacyadooda, lana ogaado sooyaalkoodii iyo dhibaatooyinkii ay soo mareen. Buugga la yidhaah-do “Far Tasawdey” ee uu ka qoray Cabdiraxmaan C. Faarax “Barqaaqo” waa mahadnaq kal iyo laab ah oo aynu ugu celineyno wixii ay ku kordhiyeen horumarinta afka, hiddaha iyo dhaqanka Soomaaliyeed. Rag waa raggii hore, hadalna waa intuu yidhi.

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Moosko, dalka Ruushka.