

Much of the official correspondence between the missionaries and the Jesuit and ecclesiastical authorities in Goa and Rome remains inaccessible to the Latin-less reader, including many scholars of Ethiopian and African studies. Particularly significant in this regard are the letters of Patriarch Mendes, who, unlike many of his peers, conducted his correspondence mostly in Latin. Mendes is a crucial figure in the early modern history of European-Ethiopian interaction. His intolerance of Ethiopian religious practices is widely believed to have contributed to the failure of the Jesuit mission. His adversity with Jews, as in the case of Solomon from Vienna, which is the central case on this paper, is just one of the examples of his critical attitude towards non-Catholics.