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This presentation explores the historical case study of Canadian Lucien Matte, who in 1945 was invited by Emperor Haile Selassie to collaborate on the establishment of post-secondary education in Ethiopia. With access to the Canadian Jesuit archives, we used critical historical and discourse analysis to assess the letters written to and from Matte to determine the context and nature of this Canadian-Ethiopian collaboration in education. As our work demonstrates, the study of relationship making in historical cross-national contexts offers empirical and critical insights to inform future global health education partnership planning. The examination of Matte and Emperor Haile Selassie's relationship revealed an educational endeavour marked with the ongoing effects of colonial assumptions and offered indications of what contributes to successful international collaboration.