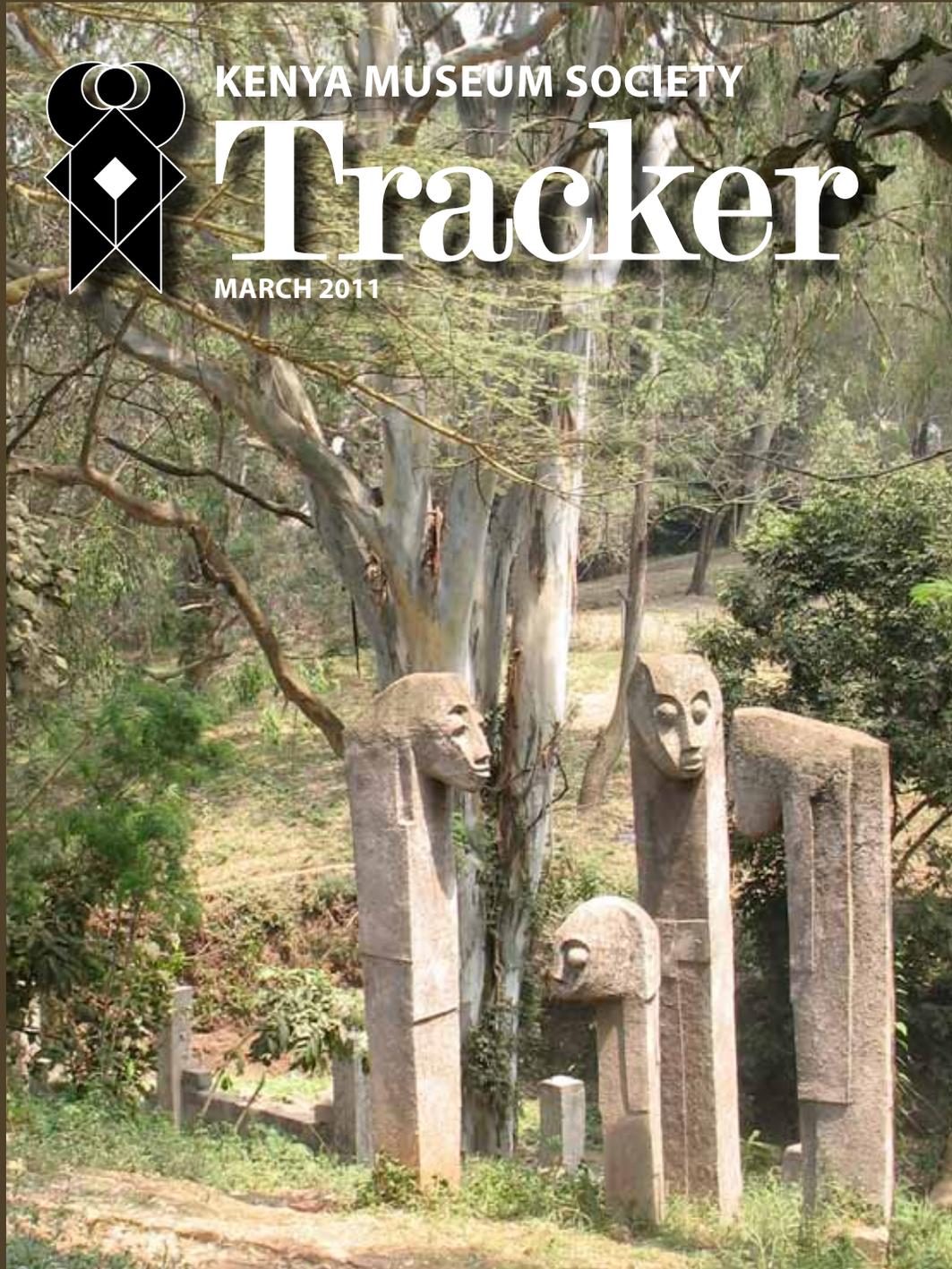




KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

Tracker

MARCH 2011



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Sasa!

This issue of the *Tracker* sees a handoff from editor extraordinaire Lesley Stern to the tag-team duo of Kathy Bogan and Dan Whipple.

Lesley ably and creatively handled the *Tracker* over the past two years. She is moving on to the dizzying heights of organizing the 2011 Know Kenya course, where we're sure she'll achieve great things.

Kathy and Dan are relative newcomers to Kenya from the United States, arriving in August and September, 2010, respectively. They were followed in short order by their neurotic dog and three-legged cat, both of whom find geckos amusing.

Kathy is group design editor for the Nation Media Group, where she oversees editorial design, layout and art. She comes to Kenya after 14 years at the Denver, Colorado, *Rocky Mountain News*, a 300,000-circulation daily, as well as various other professional forays into publications.

Dan is a writer and editor with 35 years of experience, covering mostly science and environment. He had a novel published in 2002, and is currently laboring over another, which no one apparently wants to publish. Yet. He currently works in Nairobi remotely as editor of the *Natural Hazards Observer*, published by the University of Colorado.

Both of us hope that editing the *Tracker* will lead us to a more intimate understanding of Kenya and East Africa. We encourage you to contact us with ideas suitable for inclusion in the *Tracker*. You can reach us at kathybogan53@gmail.com and/or dswhipple@gmail.com.



Bogan and Whipple

CORRECTION

In the February 2011 *Tracker* on pages five and seven, we used the word "humanoids" when we meant "hominids." A humanoid is something resembling a human being, perhaps a robot or Klingons in *Star Trek*. A hominid is a member of the taxonomic family Hominidae, which includes humans, chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans.

MEMBERSHIP

Please note that when using your KMS membership to gain entry to NMK Museums and archeological sites, you must also provide other identification. Corporate members using membership cards should provide their organization job identification. KMS membership is not transferable.

SAFARI REPORT

RHINO RIVER CAMP, 20 – 23 JANUARY 2011



The KMS safari-goers

Relaxed, refreshed, rejuvenated

A trip to the places where Joy and George Adamson lived and worked

by Barbara Steenstrup

Travelling with the Kenya Museum Society is always a joy. Travelling with KMS to the Rhino River Camp at the edge of the Rhino Sanctuary in Meru National Park is sheer delight.

We met as usual at Mobil Plaza at 7:15 am—or a little later—organized the luggage, strapped on the seat belts and were on our way.

Two hours later we stopped for tea and snacks at Lily Pond Cafe, a new and pleasant surprise that includes an art gallery and resident artists in Nanyuki.

SAFARI REPORT

Then two hours more via Timau to Meru National Park and finally Rhino River Camp. On the way, we saw the BIGGEST elephant my passengers and I had ever seen, as well as mother and baby white rhinos.



Rhino River Camp pool

THE CAMP

With only five luxury tents and a central gathering area with lounge and dining area, Rhino River Camp is tiny. It slips easily into the surrounding trees, vines, gurgling river, and sounds of birds and wildlife in the distance. The tents feel open to nature while shielded from insects by zippered netting.

There was no better way to wake up than with a steaming cappuccino and home made ginger biscuits and the world of nature for a bedroom. But I am getting ahead of myself.

On arrival, Mr. Andrea Maggi, the owner and manager, met us, along with his wonderful staff. After cool washcloths and cold juice, we found out just how wonderful they are. Andrea is passionate about the Meru area. He later told us he has been fascinated with Meru since he was 14, when his father brought him on a trip to Kenya from Italy. Rhino River Camp is the realization of his dream, and he makes sure that his guests share in and enjoy the dream.

Every meal was delicious: soups, salads, meat and fish—all with an Italian flair. And desserts to match. Our two breakfasts in the bush were more than we could consume. Fresh bread, including focaccia baked in the camp kitchen, tempted the waistline to grow.

Of course, we didn't just luxuriate in the camp—even though it was tempting to do so, especially with a secluded outdoor bathtub—just outside of my tent. Imagine being a couple in the bath with a glass of champagne—just imagine.

THE GAME DRIVES

On the game drives, it felt as if we had the park to ourselves. We rarely met another vehicle and never a gaggle of vehicles staring at one poor animal.

There were lots of animals. Some of the less common were the reticulated giraffe, gerenuk, lesser kudu, hartebeest, a juvenile black mamba and a black stork, a long crested eagle. We also saw rhinos of both kinds and lots of elephants,

SAFARI REPORT



Gerenuk Aaron Logan/Lightmatter.net / via Wikimedia Commons



Long-crested eagle D. Gordon E. Robertson / via Wikimedia Commons

although we did not see our BIGGEST elephant of the first day again.

Outside of the park, we saw perhaps 200 camels being herded from Wajir to the market in Athi River. It too was quite a sight.

Every evening a bush baby visited us during sundowners. Although I have heard bush babies in my garden for years, it was the first time I had actually seen one in person. So for me, the bush baby was also less common. We did not see lions although we understand that there are some in the park.

Since we were in the land of Joy Adamson, one of our morning drives was to her lion Elsa's grave, 69 kilometres from Rhino River Camp. The setting was a surprise, completely different from that surrounding the camp, more raw and definitely more arid—at least during our visit. There are no signs to Elsa's grave. We found it based on Andrea's directions to our guide Benson.

It is a worthy landmark, and deserves a few guideposts along the way. Andrea told us that he had donated the plaque, which is in German (the mother tongue of Joy Adamson), and its English translation on the large stone that marks the grave. We reverently took photos, admired the surroundings and had our bush breakfast at a respectful distance from the site. At the camp, there are several books about Joy and about the history of the area.

Many thanks to Narinder, who does an amazing job of finding and organizing trips off the beaten path and to all the travelling companions on this safari and to Andrea and his staff.

I know I will be back, and I am ready for the next adventure to Shaba and Joy's camp.

UPCOMING SAFARIS



March 18-20

Chyulu Hills

The Chyulu Hills are among Kenya's youngest and most beautiful ranges. The Chyulu Hills Sanctuary belongs to the local Masai. There are lovely walks and some game at the foothills of the range. Loitokitok is quite a historic town. Mt Kilimanjaro looms over the scene. It can be one of the best places in Kenya to see the legendary mountain.

We shall have a flycamp set up for us high up in the hills, from there we should get mesmerising views of Mt Kilimanjaro. In Loitokitok we stay at a simple but charming hotel.

PROGRAMME

Friday, March 18—Depart Nairobi at 7 a.m. in time for reach the Chyulus for lunch. Guided afternoon walk. Sundowners and dinner in camp.

Saturday, March 19—Early morning walk. Breakfast. Depart for Loitokitok. Lunch at the hotel. Afternoon walk to a waterfall. In town we'll visit the cafe where Hemingway used to pop in for whisky. Chat with the son of the late owner. Dinner at the hotel.

Sunday, March 20—Drive further towards

the mountain. We'll go as far as the Tanzanian border at Rongai for beautiful views of Mawenzi Peak. We'll try to get lunch at one of the lodges outside Amboseli before returning to Nairobi.

Cost: Ksh 9,600 per person sharing; Single room supplement Ksh 1,000

Included: Full board in the Chyulus, guided walk. FB in Loitokitok.

Not included: transportation; conservancy fee (about Ksh 2,000 per person); Sunday lunch.

Hotels and lodges usually demand that bookings be paid in advance. So all trips must be filled and paid for two weeks prior to departure. Consequently refunds stemming from cancellations after payment are not possible. However if you can find someone to take your place and assume the payment, your money will be refunded. KMS trips are for members only. One-month memberships are available for Ksh 500.

April 20-26

Tana River Delta

The Easter holiday trip will be to the Tana River Delta. This unspoiled wilderness is a paradise. There are several plans to "develop" the area, so here's a chance to enjoy it before it's "improved."

For additional information about these trips, contact the KMS office at 374 3808; 233 9158; 374 2131/2/3/4 ext 2311; 0724 255 299; or info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

SIBILOI PARK, 23 DECEMBER 2010

A landscape transformed

The Maralals dry out, the game herds vanish

By D.A.S. Kraft

On 23 December, 2010, we went with the Kenya Museum Society to Loiyangalani and Koobi Fora. For me it was a nostalgic trip. We had driven this way many times—in 1973, 1974, 1979, 1987, 1991, 1996. I was curious to see what had changed.

It was a shocking experience. Even in 1996, the Maralal Mountains had dense forest, with lots of elephants and buffalo, huge trees and many small streams. There had been water everywhere. Now it was a rock desert, eroded, empty, dry.

But my disappointment had actually set in earlier. Between Rumuruti and Maralal had been big swamps: Ewaso, Narok, Sukuta Naibor and Sukuta Marmar. These had been full of hippos, buffalo, waterbuck and so on. Now the areas were dry. The Maralals were dry and bare, with no wildlife at all.

Driving towards the Marti Plains, every single stream had dried up. In 1974, on the plains we saw over 1,000 common and Grevy's zebras, along with giraffes, Grant's gazelles and cheetahs. At Tipaten Dam, there had always been elephants and giraffes. After Baragoi, below Mt. Kitokolwas, there was still a water dam. We had always camped there, surrounded by zebras, gazelles, hartebeest and at night by roaring lions.

All these animals have now vanished from the area.

Coming down to South Horr, there had always been lots of water, with elephants, buffalo and giraffes everywhere. Now there was no water, and no game.

In the dry riverbeds before Lake Turkana, we had always seen Grevy's zebras, elephants and many kori bustards. When we camped there, we would hear lions roaring at night. I always slept in the car, our guests in the tents.

From Loiyangalani to Karsa Gate (Sibilo Park) we saw only domesticated animals.

In Sibilo we finally saw some game: ostriches, common zebra, topi, oryx, a few Grant's gazelles, gerenuks, here and there some guinea fowl. But as soon as they heard the car, they ran for their lives. What does that tell us?

On the way back the same scenario. A beautiful landscape, but nothing left of the big herds which once lived there.

Loiyangalani Cultural Festival

June 2011 (tentative)

Loiyangalani, a small town at the southern tip of Lake Turkana, is tentatively planning its cultural festival in June of 2011 under the auspices of the National Museums of Kenya and the German Embassy. The museum is planning a multi-day event for this celebration.

Travelers will depart from Nairobi on the first day and arrive in Maralal for an overnight stop. The following day, they'll visit Kenyatta House in Maralal, where Jomo Kenyatta was detained in 1961 prior to his eventual release and assumption of the presidency of the new nation of Kenya. Then the travelers will move on to Loiyangalani, after a stop in Baragoi for lunch.

On day three, in Loiyangalani, visitors will be able to see the Desert Museum or take in the rock art. A trip to the nearby village of El Molo will be organized. There will also be swimming in the lake, four-by-four desert races, camels races and boat races.

The Wajir Desert Museum

Opening soon

The Wajir Desert Museum, the newest addition to the National Museums of Kenya, will open soon. While an official date has not been set, the opening should be within the next two months.

The Kenya Museum Society provided grant money for the purchase of the audiovisual and television equipment for the new facility.

Opening festivities will include a full day of activities. There will be remarks from prominent officials, including National Museums of Kenya Director General Dr. Idle Farah, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of State for National Heritage and Culture Dr. Jacob ole Miaron and Minister of State for National Heritage and Culture Hon. William ole Ntimama.

In the afternoon, tours of historical sites in the area will be offered, including British and Italian war bunkers, homes built by Italian prisoners, the old court house and Quarey Wells.

The day will end with sundowners and a bush dinner at Yahut Dam.

We'll offer more information when the dates are finalized.

Annual General Meeting

Monday, 18 April 2011, 5:30 pm.

Louis Leakey Auditorium

Members will visit the casting department, a recipient of Kenya Museum Society grants awards, at 5.45 pm.

The meeting will start at 6.00 pm. Wine, juice and bitings will be provided.

Any member who wishes to nominate officers or other council members is encouraged to contact the KMS office by email or telephone.

Any member who wishes to submit a resolution to the Annual General Meeting must send it in writing by 31 March to the Secretary, Dr. Marla Stone, via the KMS email (info@kenyamuseumsociety.org).

Please **confirm your attendance on or before Friday, 15th April** by email (info@kenyamuseumsociety.org) or phone (020 3743808, 0724 255299, or wireless 020 2339158).

If your membership has lapsed or will soon lapse you may renew prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Though all categories of members are encouraged to attend, only paid-up members, exclusive of student members, visitor members, NMK special category members and KMS staff, will be able to vote on any issues.

The agenda for the AGM will be as follows:

1. Opening of Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes of 2010 AGM
3. Chairperson's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. New Business
 - a. Election of officers and other Council members
 - b. Appointment of auditor
 - c. Additional new business
6. Adjournment

Please mark your calendar now to attend. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS



TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2011
International Women's Day

Africa Rising

A highly acclaimed film supporting the end of femal genital mutilation. Introductory talk by Ms. Judith Okal, Advocate, Federation of Women Lawyers

Entry fee: Ksh500; students, Ksh200

Time: Refreshments at 6.00 pm

Doors open: 7.00 pm, Louis Leakey Auditorium



TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2011
World Water Day

Pumzi

Celebrate World Water day by seeing award-winning film director Wanuri Kahiu's vision of life without water

Entry fee: Ksh500; students, Ksh200

Time: Refreshments at 6.00 pm

Doors open: 7.00 pm, Louis Leakey Auditorium



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Thanks to everyone who responded to the Evening Program questionnaire.

We'll carefully consider your recommendations as we plan future events, including the Know Kenya Course 2011. We urge you to forward additional thoughts and suggestions to info@kenyamuseumsociety.org. We always welcome your input.

We're looking forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming Evening Programs on March 8 and March 22.

ACTIVITIES



MORNING BIRD WALKS

Every Wednesday morning at 8:45
These three to 3.5 hour walks are organized by Nature Kenya. Participants meet at the upper Museum carpark off Kipande Road. Members who have books or binoculars they no longer use are urged to donate them to Nature Kenya.

Cost: Ksh 200 per person; Free to KMS members

For more information, please contact tel: 2725471/0727 300933

Email: office@naturekenya.org

SUNDAY BIRD WATCH OUTING

Every third Sunday of each month
Meet in the upper staff carpark off Kipande Road at 9:00 a.m. Bring binoculars, water and a picnic lunch.

For more information contact tel: 3749957/3746090

Email: office@naturekenya.org

NGONG ROAD FOREST WALKS

The Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust nature walks are held on the first and third Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the stairs leading to the restaurant at the race course.

For more information contact Simon Ng'ang'a at tel: 0729840715

Email: office@ngongforestsanctuary.com

MORNING TREE WALK

Every last Monday and every second Saturday of each month.

The walks, which start at 9:30 a.m., focus on trees and shrubs. They are offered by Friends of the Nairobi Arboretum (FONA) Participants meet at the FONA tree centre. A hat, drink and tree books are recommended equipment.

Cost: Ksh 100 per person; free for Nature Kenya and FONA members.

For more information contact tel: 3749957/3746090

Email: fona@naturekenya.org



Volunteer to be a sustainability officer

The International Council of African Museums (AFRICOM) is a membership based international nongovernmental organization registered by the Government of Kenya. The secretariat is located in the capital city, Nairobi.

It is an association for museums, heritage professionals and stakeholders committed to safeguarding, conserving, and sharing African heritage resources through resource mobilization, advocacy, support of capacity building efforts, networking and raising awareness to achieve a rich vibrant heritage in Africa.

In order for AFRICOM to achieve its strategic direction and goals, it is seeking to engage a volunteer to work as Sustainability Officer based at its Nairobi office.

Job requirements

The applicant should hold relevant qualifications and experience. Working knowledge of museums and French will be additional advantages. Non-Kenyans are also encouraged to apply.

Reporting to the Executive Director, the applicant's duties will involve the following:

- Formulate a programmatic fundraising strategy derived from the AFRICOM strategic plan
- Designing proposals for funding purposes and progress reports
- Identity new AFRICOM merchandise for marketing
- Identification and approaching of new funding partners
- Build relationships with potential and existing funders and explore possibilities of upgrading donors into funders
- Fundraising for specific programmes as instructed by the executive director
- Broadening funding base for AFRICOM
- Identifying income generating opportunities for AFRICOM
- Appropriate data capturing and recording funding status

Please send your letter of interest and resume to secretariat@africom.museum to start immediately.

Francis Awinda, Information Officer

KMS Membership Registration Form

Please use BLOCK letters

Mr./Ms/Mrs/Dr/ Family Name _____

First Name _____ Spouse _____

Names of children (under 18) _____

P.O. Box _____ Code _____ City _____

Tel: Home _____ Office _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

I am a NEW/RENEWING member (please circle one)

I prefer to receive the *Tracker* by EMAIL/POST (please circle one)

Membership Rates

(Please circle one)

Resident: Family Ksh 1,700

Individual Ksh 1,200

Student Ksh 300

Non-resident US\$ 50

Corporate (Kenya) Ksh 15,000

(For office use only)

Family name: _____

Receipt no: _____ Date: _____

Type of membership: _____ Nos: _____

Amt. paid: _____ Cash/Cheque _____

Cheque no: _____ Bank: _____

Posted/Collected date: _____ Added to database by: _____

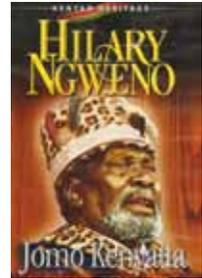
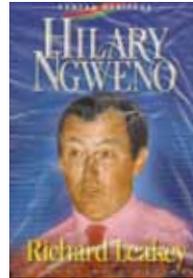
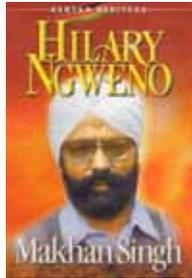
Time Magazine selects Fairview Hotel as the place to stay in Nairobi



Most of the international chain hotels in Nairobi manage to be both shoddy and extortionate. Independent and family-run, the Fairview is half the price of the competition (with rooms from \$130) and several times as good... The gardens, the pool and the breakfasts are huge, the wi-fi is fast and free and the staff among the friendliest and most efficient in Africa. All this, plus a classy brasserie and wine bar and some of the best sushi in the city. 

Time Magazine, 22nd March 2010. Pg 55

Kenya Heritage DVDs at the shop



These are documentaries featuring the lives and times of men and women who made a major contribution to Kenya's history.

There were the freedom fighters like the founding president, Jomo Kenyatta and his Kapenguria colleagues, as well as other nationalists who shaped the destiny of their country in many ways—Tom Mboya, Oginga Odinga and James Gichuru, among others.

There were women, too, who played their part in making Kenya a nation—Charity Ngilu, Wangari Maathai and Muthoni Likimani, among others.

There were rebels who fought, and sometimes paid with their lives, to keep the dream of freedom, justice and equality alive—Pio Gama Pinto, Jean-Marie Seroney and Robert Ouko, among others.

There were intellectuals and academics—Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Maurice Otunga.

There were Kenyans of European and Asian origin who also made their mark—Achhroo Kapila, Carey Francis, Richard Leakey and Geoffrey Griffins and others.

Prices vary depending upon the DVD series, from Ksh 700-1100

We want your feedback!

We hope you'll take a moment to answer ...

The Kenya Museum Society wants to increase the fundraising potential of our Shop at the Nairobi National Museum. We're asking for your input.

* About how many times did you come to the Shop at the Nairobi National Museum in 2010?

* What type of items did you purchase?

* What would you like to see available at the Shop?

Please send your responses to the KMS office.