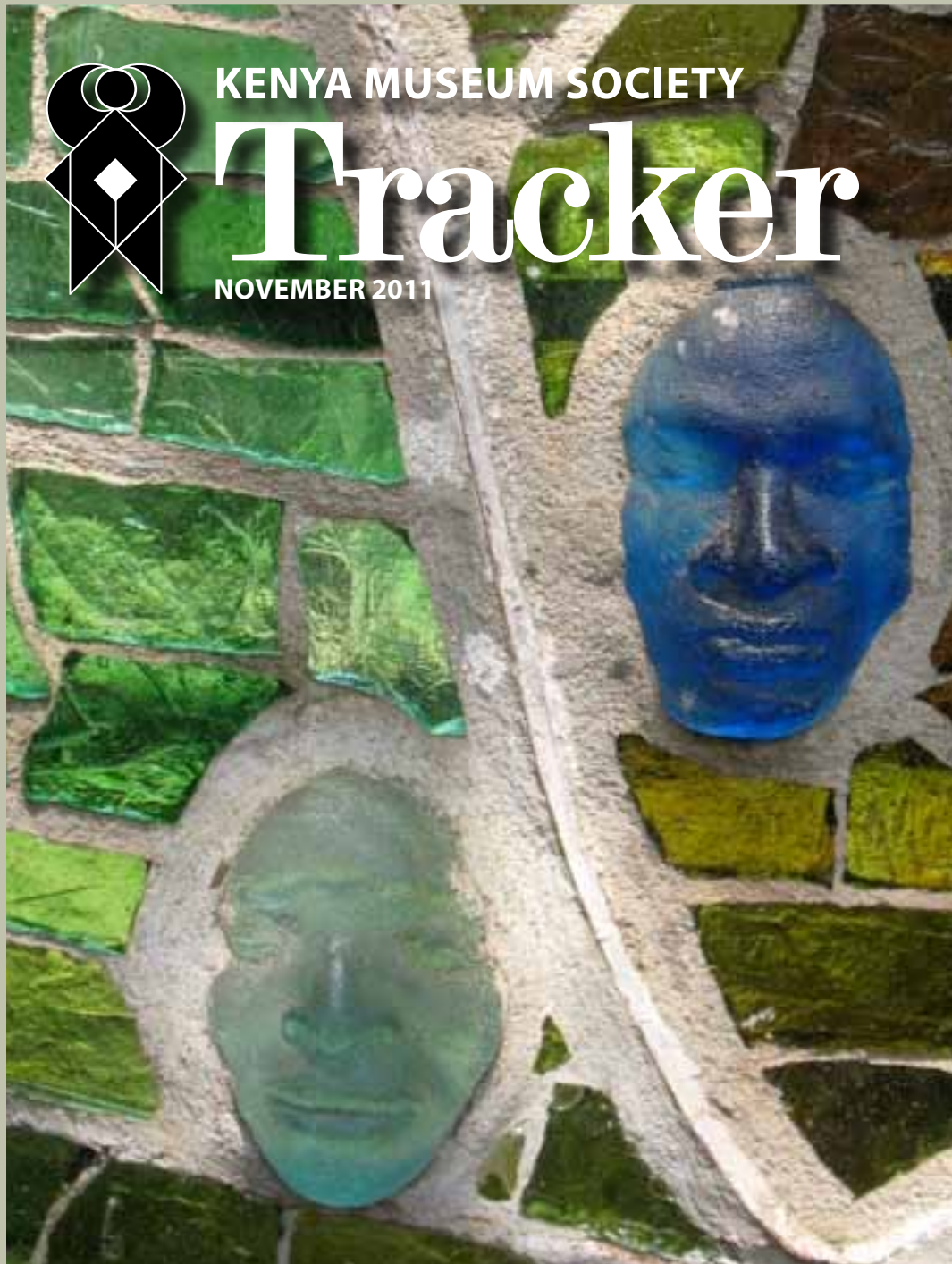




KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

Tracker

NOVEMBER 2011



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 *Kenya Museum Society*

Michael Joseph: My Story



One year after his retirement as Chief Executive Officer of Safaricom, Mr Michael Joseph will share a decade in which he lead the company to become the largest mobile-phone operator in East Africa

Monday, 7 November 2011

Refreshments 6:15 - Doors Open 7:00

Donations:

Ksh 500 Non members

Ksh 400 Members

Ksh 200 Students

**Nairobi National Museum
Louis Leakey Auditorium**

KMS Offices: 0724 255299 or 2339158

Proceeds to fund the development of exhibitions at the National Museums of Kenya

info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

www.kenyamuseumsociety.org

 *Kenya Museum Society*

"Differing skin colours

are simply our bodies' adaptation
to varied climates and levels of
UV exposure"

Dr Nina Jablonski

*Professor of Biological Anthropology,
Department of Anthropology,
Penn State University*

Speaks on current knowledge of
human skin pigmentation

How skin color evolved as modern
humans dispersed in the last 80,000
years

How skin color affected our health
and societies in the last 500 years as
we have migrated widely and quickly
around the world.

**Nairobi National Museum
Louis Leakey Auditorium**

KMS Offices: 0724 255299 or 2339158

Wednesday, 23rd Nov 2011

Refreshments 6:15 - Doors Open 7:00

Donations:

Ksh 500 Non members

Ksh 400 Members

Ksh 200 Students

Proceeds to fund the development of exhibitions and support the Prehistory club at NMK



Lamu cultural festival

organized by the :
Lamu Cultural Promotion Group

For more information:
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Email: lamuculturalfestival@gmail.com

For Festival packages:
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24 - 27 November 2011



UPCOMING FILMS

TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2011
(WORLD AIDS DAY PROGRAM)

“Ndoto za Elibidi” (The Dreams of Elibidi)

Pre-screening Talk:

Co-Directors Nick Reding and Kamau Wa Ndung’u



The story pivots around the theme of acceptance and love as its colourful patagonists come to terms with HIV and ghetto life. Cutting back from fiction to documentary, it takes us on two parallel journeys - we watch the story, but we also watching the eyes of the ghetto audience. The film won Best African Film award at Zanzibar International Film Festival.

TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2011
(INDEPENDENCE DAY PROGRAM)

“Headlines in History”

Pre-screening Talk: Mr Wangethi Mwangi, The Nation Media Group and Ms Judy Kibinge, Director

The documentary brings to life the richness of the Kenyan story and documents the growth of the Nation Media Group which celebrates 50 years of its existence in Kenya, amid various challenges faced over the years. Won Best Documentary, Kalasha Film Awards.

Louis Leakey Auditorium, Nairobi National Museum

Refreshments 6:15, doors open 7:00

KSH 500 non-members // KSH 400 members // KSH 200 students

Know Kenya More through Film

The last Wednesday of each month, January through May, 2012. Doors open 6:45; screenings at 7 pm. Ksh 500 Non members // Ksh 400 members // Ksh 200 students

25 JANUARY 2012

A Small Act

2010. Director: Jennifer Arnold. A story of a very poor boy from Githunguri, with his education sponsored by a Swedish stranger, to become a human rights advocate at UN. Later he founds his own scholarship program to replicate the generosity he had received.

29 FEBRUARY 2012

Soul Boy

2010. Director: Hawa Essuman. Abila, a 14 year old boy who lives in Kibera, sets out on an adventurous journey to save his father's soul.

28 MARCH 2012: DOUBLE FEATURE

Kimya (Quiet)

2010. Director: Willie Owusu. The story, revolving around two people in a room, delves into the dark history of Kenya dealing with the issue of torture.

The Roadside

2009. Director: Willie Owusu. About an odd couple trying to find each other. They decide to go for a picnic to mend their relationship when the story unfolds...

25 APRIL 2012

The Captain of Nakara*

2011. Director: Bob Nyanja. Afraid of losing the woman of his dreams, a young man with a criminal record pretends to own a profitable market stall. Wearing a stolen military uniform, he succeeds in defending his rights and his happiness.

30 MAY 2012

Monica Wangu Wamwere—The Unbroken Spirit

2010. Director: Jane Murago Munene. Indefatigable efforts of Mama Koigi, mother of human rights activist and politician Koigi wa Wamwere, who was detained as a political prisoner.

22 December – January 2, 2012

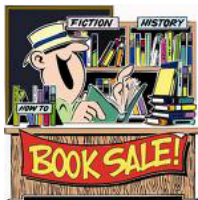
Lake Turkana

There will be a KMS trip to the Museum site at Koobi Fora on the northern shores of Lake Turkana over Christmas. This trip comes under “expeditions” which means that all bookings and payments have to be done one month before the trip starts. Details will be posted through email and will also be available at the Know Kenya More course.

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

KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY SHOP

We are one month away till Christmas so come by to the shop and see what we have in stock for you.



Thank you for supporting KMS.

Kenya Museum Society would like to thank all the donors who contributed to this year's Second Hand Book Sale. We extend our gratitude for your support of the goals of Kenya Museum Society in raising funds for development of exhibitions at the National Museums of Kenya.

Koinonia
Education
Centre

Peace Child

Guest Artist: MC Hey-z
19th November 2011
First Show: 1:00PM
Second Show: 4:00PM
Louis Leakey Auditorium
National Museum of Kenya
Museum Hill.
Entrance Fee: 500/=



We are pleased to announce that the children of Koinonia education Center will be staging a Musical Concert on the 19th of November at the Louis Leakey Auditorium in the National Museum (Museum Hill) to help raise funds to purchase a school bus.

We invite you to sponsor the event, tell your friends about us, as well as attend the concert,

KOINONIA EDUCATION CENTRE

P.O. BOX 772-00621

NAIROBI

TEL; (+254) 0710 334 525 / (+254) 0734 155 829

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11 OCTOBER 2011 EVENING PROGRAM

WATER IN AFRICA – SOURCE OF CONFLICT OR CO-OPERATION?



‘Something that leads to cooperation more than confrontation’

Water alone has seldom led to conflict

By Dan Whipple, Tracker Editor

As the world population approaches seven billion, global resources are being spread thinner. One of these resources, water, is taking a lead position as a potential source of conflict among nations. But advocate Rupert Watson, a director of the Dispute Resolution Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, says water distribution also has the potential to be a source of cooperation, not conflict.

In 1995, Ismail Serageldin, chairman of the World Bank’s Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, made an often-quoted statement: “If the wars of this century were fought over oil, the wars of the next century will be fought over water.”

But Watson says, “I’m here to try to persuade you that this is a cliché. I would like to think of water ore as something that leads to cooperation more than confrontation.” There is a great deal of scaremongering around.

“Everybody wants to think there’s going to be conflict over water, and there

are some local skirmishes over water,” he says. “But the last water war—if we’re talking about a war that was between states—was actually 2,500 BCE in Mesopotamia. Since then, there has not been a war exclusively over water.”

Water is sometimes one component of several involved in sparking a conflict.

A question is whether the new modern pressures from skyrocketing population, climate change, and rising living standards have changed the water equation. There is still no absolute shortage of fresh water, Watson says. The issue is not one of supply but of distribution.

There are several modern tension points that could conceivably turn into “water wars.” Israel and Palestine seem willing to fight about almost anything. Water is a component of the India-Pakistan conflict. Egypt gets 97 percent of its water from outside its boundaries, primarily from the Nile, which has 11 independent nations in its watershed.

One of the potentially most serious water disputes has been the disappearance of Lake Chad, once a vast inland sea covering parts of four nations—Niger, Chad, Nigeria, and Cameroon in West Africa. Between 1963 and 2001, the lake virtually disappeared. There is no longer any part of Lake Chad within the boundaries of Niger or Nigeria. People who lived in those countries along the margins of the lake have often followed its boundaries as it shrank. This kind of mass migration has the potential for serious conflict, though there has been little so far.

“It’s been a miracle that there hasn’t been a lot more conflict than there has been,” Watson says.

As an example of how people in traditional communities have dealt with water conflict, Watson cites the Fulani people, West African pastoralists, deal with the issue. They move their animals based on the forage available, and are very dependent on getting water wherever they go.

They usually find a small well, which can only water a few cows at a time. This limits the amount of stock that can be watered. While the animals are being watered, people sit around and talk, discussing the issues that are important to them, including the distribution of water. In this way, water—although often in relatively short supply—becomes a source of cooperation among these people.

Sometimes the central government moves in to provide more water, which has a curious cascade of effects. People can water their stock more quickly and can have more of them, which can put pressure on the forage. In addition, it often destroys this somewhat leisurely cooperative environment. Finally, the additional water may make lands that were previously unsuitable for farming attractive for that, driving out the wandering pastoralists.

The history of international uses of water have so far fallen more on the cooperative side of the ledger than the conflict side. But it will be important in the future, he says, to think of water management as a series of basins, of watersheds, rather than pieces of artificially created international boundaries.

Watson spoke at an event sponsored by the Kenya Museum Society at the Louis Leakey Auditorium on October 11, 2011.

THROUGH NOVEMBER: KANGA STORIES AT NAIROBI GALLERY

Telling tales through textiles

Kenya's favorite fabric has something to say

By Kathy Bogan, Tracker Editor



They embellish designer fashions, hang from washlines, wrap the waists of women in the markets. The patterns might show ships, cutlery, peacocks, flowers or politicians. There's one for Pope John Paul's 1995 visit to Nairobi, for the passing of Tanzanian president Joseph Nyerere, for Barack Obama's election.

They are kangas, "the cloth that reveals," and dozens of them are on display at the Nairobi Gallery through the end of the month, along with stories about their history, their cultural significance, their aesthetics and their role in people's everyday lives.

Some say the kanga originated from Persia and the Far East, coming to East Africa via trade routes in the 1500s. The name "kanga" is from the Swahili word for guinea fowl, whose spotted

feathers seemed to be reflected in the early patterns of the fabric—typically red and black.

East Africans embraced the kanga enthusiastically, adapting its use and design to fit local custom.

In the late 1800s, Swahili proverbs began being printed on the panels, first in Arab script, switching to Roman script a few years later. The wearer of the kanga might choose her design for its message—and wear it to let the neighbors know what she was thinking. As such, the kanga could be "a newspaper, a gossip column, or a love poem," according to the exhibit. Or maybe a bumper sticker.

Or not—perhaps the wearer would select it for its color or pattern, regardless of message.

Kanga design features a border with a central image or pattern, the Swahili saying framed between the two. They are typically sold in panels of two. Most include some form of paisleys—comma-like shapes—representing cashew nuts or mangoes.

The *kisutu*, a subset of kanga design, skips the border and includes an overall pattern with imagery of crosses, tangerines, knives and fish. In some communities this is the wedding kanga, given to brides to ward off evil (hence the knife).

“Kanga Stories” runs through November, held over at the Nairobi Gallery for several months.



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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



Peoples of Kenya by Joy Adamson

Born in Austria, Joy Adamson lived in Kenya for 42 years until her death in 1980. She was very brilliant in her observations of nature, people and animals. Though not a professional painter, she soon learnt to sketch and paint with the encouragement of her second husband Peter Balley.

Her botanical paintings and ethnic portraits are equally fascinating. She undertook a vast project to paint portraits of various ethnic groups in their traditional wear and ornaments. For this she travelled all over Kenya starting in 1945. She did 600 watercolor portraits, representing 54 groups. The collection was presented to the Nairobi Museum (then Coryndon Museum) by the government where it hung until 2006. Some of her paintings hang in State House.

In 1967 Joy wrote the "Peoples of Kenya". She selected her preferred portraits for reproduction in this book. There are altogether 32 color plates and numerous black and white ones. The book is also informative of the Kenya of that time as she takes us to various places and tells us of the things she encountered.

In 2003 the Kenya Museum Society had the book reprinted with a grant from the governments of Austria and Finland. This book will make an ideal gift. It is on sale in the Museum shop together with some prints of her paintings.

Peoples of Kenya @ Ksh 2800

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