

KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY



TRACKER

September 2018



A bongo with a distant view of Mount Kenya. Photo Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy. See the article in this issue by Kari Mutu.

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Kenya Museum Society News

Trips and events

Longer Trips

Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba Reserves December 27 - January 1 (5 nights)

In this 6 day holiday season trip we shall explore the above three beautiful northern arid area parks and the country around them. These are Samburu areas and you will see a lot of pastoral people. All three reserves touch the charming slow-moving **Ewaso Nyiro River**. You will see a lot of elephants ambling along the river as well as other game. The special animals of the north are oryx, Grevy's zebra, the blue-legged Somali ostrich and gerenuk.

Our base will be **Samburu Game Lodge**. It is part of Wilderness Lodges who have correct environment policies. Samburu Game Lodge may not be the most luxurious lodge in the park but it is a small place with a delightful setting along the Ewaso Nyiro. The ambience is relaxed and the food good. There is also a swimming pool and a spa.

Programme

Day 1 Arrive at the lodge in time for lunch. In the afternoon relax or swim or pamper yourself at the spa. Evening walk along the river, watch the crocodile and enjoy sundowners at their bar near the river.

Day 2 Spend the whole day in **Samburu Reserve**. Picnic lunch. Dinner at lodge.

Day 3 Spend the whole day in **Shaba National Reserve**. It has beautiful scenery and birds of prey. We shall head east out of the park, visit Chandler's Falls, Magado Crater and the area around. We usually see a lot of game outside the park where there are several wetlands. Picnic lunch.

Day 4 We drive out of Samburu and head north to the very dramatic **Ololokwe** mountain. Those who wish to walk around the mountain can do so (the cost of the guide/armed ranger will be shared by the walkers). The rest of us will drive towards **Wamba** and explore some wetlands that I remember there. Picnic lunch.

Day 5 Spend the day in **Buffalo Springs Reserve**. Return to lodge for lunch. In the afternoon relax and prepare yourself for the jolliness of **New Year's Eve**.

Day 6 After breakfast depart for Nairobi. We shall make a short stop in Nanyuki for coffee and snacks.

Cost 56,400 pp sharing single supplement 5,300 Children below 12 sharing with two adults 32,300

Included FB for 5 days, guide fees, ranger cost in Shaba, tips

Not included coffee/snack stops, transport, guide/ranger at Ololokwe, park entry (possibly Ksh 500 – 1,000 per day)

Historic On the evening of day 2 there will be a 30 - minute talk on the life of Joy Adamson. Her last camp was in Shaba where she was finally murdered. On day 3 we shall visit the site of this camp.

This is peak holiday season. Samburu is a small lodge. They will not hold the rooms indefinitely. So I suggest you rush and book with a deposit to secure your place.

Do it today.

Weekend and Overnight Trips

Kilimandegge and Soysambu Conservancies, Lakes Naivasha and Elementaita 5 - 7 October (2 nights)

This 2- night trip is to the two lakes, Soysambu conservancy and the Naivasha area. We shall be staying in the **88 acre Kilimandegge Sanctuary**. It has plains game and hippo at night. We stay at **Joan Root's old house** which is within this sanctuary and with lovely views of Lake Naivasha. It is a charming 1930's house. The neighbouring house is equally charming and we shall be accommodated in both. All meals are taken together.

Joan and Alan Root were famous for their **nature documentaries**. It may be possible to watch a couple of them.

Programme -

Friday Depart from the museum at 7 am. Those who have their own transport and wish to go direct meet the group at **the Delamere Centre** where we shall stop for a coffee break. We then proceed to **Soysambu** which is a conservancy on the Delamere estate. It is beautiful and has a long shore line along **Lake Elementaita**, with a lot of game and water birds. If time permits we shall visit the simple family graves and see a historic statue of **Lord Delamere** which used to stand on Delamere Avenue (now Kenyatta Avenue). Picnic in Soysambu. Return to Naivasha by 4 pm. Sundowners and dinner.

Saturday After breakfast we take a boat ride on Lake Naivasha. The boat is an 8-seater so we may have two sittings. We shall see hippo and many water birds. **Lunch** back at the house. Late afternoon we visit the **Birds of Prey Trust** next door. After we continue on a walk. Dinner.

Sunday A leisurely walk in the Sanctuary. Walk along the lake shore. Swim if you wish. **Lunch.** Depart for Nairobi after lunch.

Cost 16,850 pp sharing or otherwise. Children below 12 pay 11,300.

Included two days FB. Guide fees at Soysambu and Naivasha, tips

Not included transport, park entry to Soysambu (adults 1,200, children 600 (citizen and resident is same) and boat ride (1,000 pp)

Carry a picnic lunch for Friday.

Book and pay now. There is limited space.

Recommended reading: 'Wildflower' by Mark Seal (about the life of Joan Root and her tragic death)

Mpala Ranch in Laikipia, November 16-18 (2 nights)

Mpala Ranch is a 50,000 swath of savanna and woodland habitat in Laikipia. It is unfenced, but defined by the catchment of 2 rivers. It has some of the most spectacular wildlife populations outside the gazetted national parks - over 6,000 elephants, Grevy's zebra, a large population of wild dogs, eland, and hippo among others.

Mpala Ranch is a biodiversity haven. In 1994 the existing ranch was converted into a Research Centre. It is funded and administered by a Trust in collaboration with Princeton University, the Smithsonian Institute, the National Museum, and Kenya Wildlife Service. It deals with conservation and management of wildlife and natural resources in unprotected areas and demonstrates that protecting wildlife does not require the exclusion of humans and the activities of their livelihoods. It hosts visiting research scientists from all over the world.

We'll have a chance to visit the historic caves on the property, do game drives, and hear presentations from resident researchers. The exact topics for the itinerary will be confirmed as we approach the travel date.

Accommodation: We will stay in the main ranch buildings. The rooms are ensuite.

Cost: 18,000 Kshs pp sharing **Included:** FB and lodging

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Not included: Transport. Please indicate transportation status when signing up: if you will be driving, if can take passengers, or if you need transportation. Van transportation can be arranged if needed.

Other: indicate if you are a vegetarian or have food allergies when signing up.

This opportunity to visit Mpala Ranch is a special privilege extended to the Kenya Museum Society

Payments: M-PESA Paybill, Business No: 400800, Account: 6571570019

Bookings: 0724 255 299, 2339158 or info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

Day trips or half day outings

Behind the scenes visit to Palaeontology & Archaeology Sections of the National Museums of Kenya Saturday 15 September 10 am – 12 pm

Palaeontology Section

This is under the Earth Sciences Department, one of the core research departments of the National Museums of Kenya. The Section is mandated to research, conserve and disseminate knowledge about Kenya's fossil heritage. The Section holds extensive and well curated collections of fossils that include the most complete record of human origins and a remarkable record of the distant ancestry of dinosaurs, mammals and reptiles; and a rich history of plant evolution and diversification. Kenya's human fossil record dates back to the last 6 million years, making Kenya indisputably the oldest record holder and truly the Cradle of Mankind. We will get a rare opportunity to view original fossils of extinct carnivores, insects, elephants, hippos, short-necked giraffe and plants, among other fossils as well as replicas of over 7 human ancestral species. It will also be an opportunity to learn some of the significant similarities and differences between chimps and humans.

Archaeology Section

The archaeological collections at NMK were obtained through professional excavation and the donations of enthusiasts since the 1920s. They consist of stone and bone artefacts, shell, pottery, faunal material as well as rock art reproductions. These collections cover all the important periods of human technological, behavioural and cultural development, from 3.3 million to 300 years ago. Collections from the Early Stone Age include the oldest artefacts in the world and reproduction of the oldest human footprints left more than 1.5 million years ago from the Turkana Basin. We will have a

demonstration on how our ancestors made and used the stone tools. The researchers will share some of the major breakthroughs in Archaeology in the last 5 years; Discovery of unique fossil hand bones and of earliest site with modified faunal remains in isolation from stone tools in the Koobi Fora region; discovery of Rock Art sites from various parts of the country including Mt. Elgon area, Mbeere and Nakuru areas and discovery of archaeological in Mt. Kenya region. The collections highlight how our ancestors interacted with and adapted different to environments to emerge with the current different civilizations resented today. This finding not only makes Kenya the cradle of humankind but also the cradle of innovation.

We shall visit these two departments, guided by palaeontologists and archaeologists for each section.

KMS Members Adult Ksh1,150, Child Ksh550;

Guests - Adult Ksh1,350, Child Ksh 700

Payment Options; Safaricom: Mpesa paybill, Business No: 400800, Account: 6571570019 Airtel Money: 0780 755 231

RSVP: 0724 255 299, 078 755 231, 2339158 or info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

Proceeds will go towards development of the Earth Sciences' various projects.

How to book for trips

To book for any KMS event, please contact us on;

0724 255 299 / 0780 755 231 / 020 2339158

info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

Proceeds from KMS events go to support the National Museums of Kenya



Kenya Museum Society and Muthaiga Country Club

Communities and Wildlife Ecosystems *Conundrum or Opportunity?*

Join us for a conversation with environmental expert Colin Church who has a wealth of experience from many years of involvement in conservation in East Africa.



Colin Church, OBE

Board member of the Mara Elephant Project (MEP), Big Life Kenya in the Amboseli wider ecosystem and the marine charity – Ocean Soul Foundation.

As Chairman of Rhino Ark Management Committee, he oversaw the completion of the 400 km electrified fence that now surrounds the 2000 km Aberdare Conservation Area (ACA) and the startup of the fencing of Mt Kenya in 2012. Both are vital water catchment areas for the country, encompassing indigenous forest, national park bordered by farming communities for millions of people.

Saturday, 29 September 2018 | 7PM | Muthaiga Country Club



Bitings & Bar 6:30pm, Talk 7:00 pm

Cost: Ksh 3,300 Canapes, Talk and Dinner, Child (7-12 yrs) Ksh 2,600

Ksh 1,500 Canapes and Talk only, Child (7-12 yrs) Ksh 900

Bookings: 0724 255299, 2339158 or info@kenyamuseumociety.org

M-PESA PayBill Business no: 400800, Account no: 6571570019

Past KMS Events

From an Msafiri: Our Turkana trip by Saryoo Shah (Photos by author)



On 24th August, 9 of us, Members of the Kenya Museum Society, left for our trip at 8.30 am, in land cruisers, 2 carrying us and one our luggage, tents, food etc. We reached Nanyuki at noon and picked up 5 more members at Nanyuki Airport. We had our lunch at Angiri Camp which is near Mt. Kenya Safari Club.

Reaching Isiolo, we realized that the hotel there was not ideal, so continued to Archer's Post, 44kms further on. We reached the campsite run by Umoja Women's Group. After settling in, the group had time for sundowners on Ewaso Nyiro River. Some stayed in bandas and some set up their tents. The three helpers

who were traveling with us prepared our dinner.

The next day after breakfast we left for South Horr at 8.30. We passed Wamba, and then Mt. Olokwe in the Mathews Range. We had our lunch at foot of Ndoto Mountain Range. While waiting for lunch to be set up, one of our members, Nestor, took out his drone to take the view of the area around us.

On the way to South Horr we saw a female ostrich with lots of chicks. After reaching South Horr, a small village at the foot of Mt. Nyiru, we settled into our bandas. These had very basic facilities. Ours did not have electric light in the bathroom, but had water, and the beds were comfortable. This area is very arid and can become very hot,

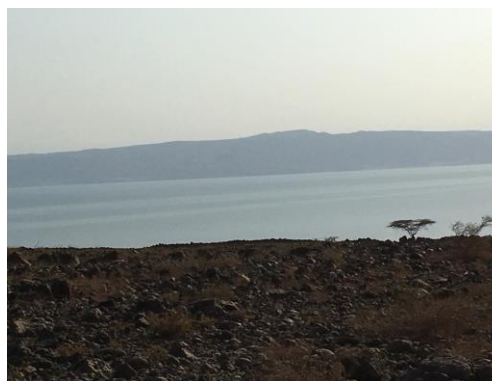


but luck was on our side and sleeping with just a bed sheet was comfortable enough.



and gave them a chance to take our pictures. Also admired the toothbrush plant (called Esokon in Turkana language, [*Salvadora Persica*]), the sticks of which local people for cleaning their teeth.* Also saw lots of camels coming to drink water from a spring. After lunch it was time for resting and in the evening for sundowners on the dried river bed by the camp fire.

Our 5 star breakfast consisted of pawpaw, melon, honeydew melon, cornflakes, Weetabix, followed by omelette, sausages, toast, fried bananas, mushrooms, tea, coffee, and hot chocolate. Breakfast over, we all proceeded to take a long walk along the river Ewaso Nyiro. We stopped at various places talking to little boys who were fascinated by our cameras,



On 27th we headed for Loyangalani. En route we saw miles of structure which is supposed to be the largest power plant, the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project, which is supposed to inject 310 megawatts into the National Grid.

After lunch and a little rest we proceeded to the Desert Museum,

* Its beneficial qualities are set out in an article in *The Saudi Journal for Dental Research* see <https://tinyurl.com/toothtree>. It is also called meswak and is used in Meswak toothpaste! – ed.

where we met the Curator, Andrew Orguba, who showed us around We stayed on for a long time admiring Lake Turkana until it was dark.



The following morning, we had to leave early to go and see the lava flows. There are Mt. Kulal and Mt. Marsabit in North Horr Hills. There are some rock engravings around the mountains and some of our group managed to climb the rocky place to see them. The whole of that area once would have been full of volcanoes. The Mt. Kulal volcano must have been so forceful that it has split the crater and formed a massive gorge.

In Loyangalani, there are many doum palms or gingerbread trees (*Hyphaene thebaica*), and they look very lush and pretty. After enjoying 2 days at Loyangalani, we left for North Horr. As we entered Kalacha town we saw about 600-700 camels making their way to drink water. There are lots of springs in that area. Also saw many chestnut bellied sand grouse and white crowned starlings.

We stayed in the tents in Chalbi Desert the next night. The meat-eaters were served with fresh goat meat which Mukhtar our service provider had bought from North Horr. Skies in those areas are very clear and we could see all the stars.



Leaving that windy place behind, we reached Marsabit late, without stopping en route for lunch. We settled in the newly built accommodation which was invaded by some strange insects which were adamant on occupying the rooms and bathrooms. No matter how many times one swept the floor to get rid of them they were back in hordes the next minute.

The next day was spent exploring the crater Lake Paradise in the Marsabit forest. We saw lots of baboons, buffaloes, and kudu. There was abundant variety of birds, too. We saw superb starlings, crane, red lobbed coots, Egyptian geese, kestrel, goliath heron, grey heron and black headed heron.



We had hoped to see the elephants but were unlucky. Those of you who have seen Ahmed the Elephant's skeleton might like to know that Ahmed was from Marsabit. It had the longest tusks and so was protected by armed guards day and night.



During this trip I realized how these tribes in Turkana region survive. It's very arid and vegetables are scarce. Our service provider for this trip were very organized: hats off to Mukhtar, his team of Arif, Ali, Franco, Shangan and Yukobeth! The cooks provided enough to feed all of us very well. Of course, Franco and Shangan had to work extra hard to pack and unpack chairs, tables, cutlery, crockery, water, drinks and food wherever we stopped en route to have our lunch.

As all good things must come to an end, we departed from Marsabit for Nairobi on Sunday, 2nd September.

Bongo - Flagship Species of the High Forests Kari Mutu (Photos: Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy)

August 2018 the KMS hosted an evening talk at the Muthaiga Country Club titled *Saving Mountain Bongo from Going Extinct*. It was delivered by guest speaker Donald Bunge, wildlife and operations manager at the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy. He spoke about the status of bongos and efforts, both local and international, to revitalize their populations.



The eastern or mountain bongos are Africa's largest forest antelope. They are only found in the highland forests of Kenya. The other bongo species is the western or lowland bongo found in Central and West Africa.

Eastern mountain bongo are classified as critically endangered on the IUCN's Red List of threatened species. Less than 100 bongos are thought to live wild in the forests of Mt Kenya, the Aberdares and some parts of the Mau Forest Complex. In the past they were also found in the Cherangani Hills and Mt Elgon. Yet their plight receives little national or international attention compared to elephants, rhino and lion.



These handsome, russet coloured antelopes with long white stripes and thick twisted horn browse in the dense overgrowth. Over the last 40 years bongo have fallen victim to bush meat trapping, hunting using dogs, disease and loss of habitat from human incursion into the forests.

Bunge explained that it is almost impossible to see bongo in the wild today. They are very

reclusive and are mostly active at night. Scouts from the Bongo Surveillance Project who work in Mt Kenya, Aberdares and the Mau, monitor wild bongo using camera traps, droppings and hoof tracks.

In the 1970s, thirteen bongos were taken to various zoological parks in the United States to help grow the population. There are now over 500 bongos in America and another 220 in zoos and parks in Europe, Asia, Australia and the Middle East.

The Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC) and animal orphanage is a non-profit wildlife conservation organisation and is the only bongo breeding facility In Kenya. The breeding programme was started in 2004 and the conservancy is now home to 72

bongos. The orphanage is open daily to visitors and attracts many school children because of its wildlife education programme.

Bunge explained some of the challenges of raising captive bongo include the high cost of upkeep, veterinary care, and nutritional requirements most of which consists of commercial animal feed. Very little financial support is received from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) or the state so the burden falls onto the organisation.

For the long-term MKWC would like to see some of their bongo returned to the forests. In 2003, 18 bongos from zoos in the United States were repatriated to MKWC with the intention of rewilding them. All of them succumbed to Theileria, a tick-borne illness common in African bovid, although a few lived long enough to breed.

Like many captive wild animals, bongos do not respond well to artificial insemination so natural breeding is essential. MKWC hoping to create a 1,000 acre fenced sanctuary in the Mt Kenya forest. Here, a select group of healthy, genetically diverse bongos will be transferred for rehabilitation under nearly wild conditions with minimal human contact. It is expected that the second or third generation of new bongos would be completely adapted to wild living.

Bunge is a founding National Bongo Task Force which KWS, the Kenya and other wildlife The Task Force has master plan for returning their original forest master plan has been the making and awaits launching by KWS.



member of the Conservation includes the Forestry Service stakeholders. completed a bongo back to habitats. The several years in official

Gorillas in the Midst of War + Visit to Osteology August 18th 2018



The absorbed audience

After an entertaining account, focussing mainly on their involvement with the Mountain Gorilla Project in Rwanda by Prof. John E Cooper and Dr Margaret E Cooper, the audience was able to go behind the Museum scenes to visit the Osteology Department. The Museum Society recently gave a major grant to the department, particularly for shelving to enable it to both store and display its collection more effectively.

The Society Chair, Pat Jentz, presents a souvenir to the speakers



The Osteology Department has over 13,000 skeletons. You may have seen a few in the recent Whispering Bones exhibition at the National Museum. But, as with all its other items, only a small proportion can be on public display.

The storage area is thus a fascinating treasure trove of the beautiful, the slightly spooky and the surprising. Visitors were shown gorilla and human bones for comparison with one of our closest relatives. They were shown how female and male pelvises and (more surprising) skulls differ.



In Osteology

KMS Gift Shop*

Open daily 9.00am to 5.30pm

Shop at the KMS Shop, and enjoy great discounts!

The shop is undergoing refurbishment! Repainting, a new “Kids section” some reorganization. When all is done in a few weeks there will be an opening (or-reopening) event.

But meanwhile the shop is open and operating as usual as the changes are carried out.

And the shop has some new merchandise, including:



Tissue holders



Clutch bags



Kiddie shoes

* There will be a major item on the shop next month. Apologies – this is a repeat of last month.

KMS ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE AFFORDABLE ART SHOW: ONLY SIX WEEKS OR SO AWAY

(photos from last year's show)

Plans continue for the upcoming Affordable Art Show from 26-28 October at the Nairobi National Museum. Eighty artists have signed up already

book



We have received sponsorship from Safaricom, CBA Bank, St Austin's Service Centre, Sarova Hotels and Kevian Kenya as well as the NMK.



KEVIAN KENYA LIMITED



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Art Show Committee is calling for volunteers, a crucial element for the success of the show. The schedule for volunteer roles is as follows:

Art Submission Day

Wednesday, 17 Oct 2018, 8:45am-4:30pm

Receiving art and data entry duties

Hanging the Art

Wednesday and Thursday, 24-25 Oct, 8:45am-4:00pm

Friday, 26 Oct, 10:00am-4:00pm, working in 4 hour shifts

Labelling and hanging art

Opening Party

Friday 26 October, 5:00pm – 10:00pm

Various duties including decorate before the show, signage, take surveys of the attendees, assist art buyers and man the information desk at the entry

Weekend Art Show Days

Saturday and Sunday 27-28 October

Assisting and surveying the attendees and buyers, working in 4 hour shifts

Unsold Art Collection by Artists: Monday 29 October

Help artists identify and check out their unsold art

Conduct survey of artists (must speak Swahili)

Send your choice of job, day and time, with their name, email and phone number to info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

Looking for Sponsors for the Affordable Art Show

Dear KMS Members,

This year's **Affordable Art Show** will happen Friday-Sunday, 26-28 Oct. This is the flagship fundraising activity for KMS that offers about 315 pieces of art ranging in price from Ksh 4,000-99,000 by about 190 artists of wide ranging ages and experience. There is a fun opening party on Friday night from 6-9pm in the beautiful courtyard behind the Louis Leakey Auditorium. The show then continues on Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4pm.

One of our sponsors pulled out of the show quite late and we are lacking Ksh 150,000 sponsorship for a budget of about Ksh 600,000.

Would you consider becoming a sponsor at any amount over Ksh 2,000?

If you act quickly (before 15 Sept) you can join Safaricom, Central Bank of Africa and St. Austin's as a major sponsor of Ksh 100,000 or more and get your logo on all our publicity, plus several other benefits. For a donation of Ksh 5,000 to 25,000 you will get a mention in our show catalog (or remain anonymous if you prefer) and 2 free tickets for the Friday night opening party.

Please consider this request. Just contact the KMS Office to make your contribution. Thank you!

Marla Stone, Honorary Secretary and Art Show Coordinator
Kenya Museum Society

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank you for your generous contributions of books for the KMS annual Second Hand Sale event. It was indeed a great success. The few remaining books were donated to TICA and Hyrax Hill Museum, who will distribute them to schools that they support. All funds raised from the sale will be used to fund various projects of the National Museums of Kenya.

We really appreciate your continued support

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A Note on KMS membership

PLEASE NOTE: When using your KMS membership to gain entry to NMK Museums, Sites & Monuments, you must also provide other identification, your Identity Card, Passport or Driving Licence.

Those using business membership cards should provide their organization's job identification. KMS membership card is not transferable.

If you give your card to another individual, the Kenya Museum Society will revoke your membership card with immediate effect.

➤ Information about membership and an application form can be found at the end of the *Tracker*.

About or at the National Museums of Kenya

Why Not Advertise in the Kenya Museum Society's Monthly Newsletter *Tracker*?

Kenya Museum Society (KMS) is a nonprofit organization formed in 1970 to support and promote the National Museums of Kenya (NMK), the custodian of Kenya's natural and cultural heritage. NMK manages three World Heritage Sites, 22 museums and over 100 sites and monuments across Kenya.

We publish a newsletter every month to keep our members informed about KMS and NMK Activities

WHY ADVERTISE WITH US?

Readership:

- 480 KMS Members, both Kenyan and expatriate, many of whom are interested in travel and outdoor activities
- National Museums of Kenya staff (800 staff members)
- Embassies and diplomatic missions
- Various members of the tourism sector

For Rates and conditions: see pp. 20-21 near the end of this issue

Events and Exhibitions



NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA
 WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON
 AND
THE MURJABI TRUST
 PRESENT

September 9 - December 8, 2018
at the Nairobi Gallery

OPENING CEREMONY: September 9 at 2pm
by AMB. Amina C. Mohamed, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for Education

Pioneer Women of the Arts

Nine women from East Africa, have remarkable stories to tell. Each has taken a different path to achieve her place in the world of art. Each has been acclaimed for her unique struggle.



JOY ADAMSON - Known to millions through her books and a TV series on *Eliza the Lioness*, Joy was a self-taught, talented painter of flowers and fish. She proved she was just as interested in people. She will be remembered for her portraits of peoples in their traditional dress. Most of her paintings now hang in the National Museums of Kenya or in State Houses.



MARGARET TROWELL - All artists in East Africa owe a debt to this pioneer artist and teacher whose motto was "Art for Life's sake" and "to make it plain that art is of the people and natural to the people". Among her many accomplishments were six books, numerous exhibitions by art students in East Africa and abroad and an art school that became the best in the region and perhaps all of Africa. Cover of Trowell's first book on African arts & crafts (1937)



ROSEMARY KARUGA - Born of a Ugandan father and Kenyan mother, Karuga was the first woman to attend the prestigious Makerere University School of Fine Arts. Now at 90 years of age, she can look back on a career of firsts, having exhibited her works with the leading artists of the continent.



MAGDALENE OUNDO - Oundo's ethereal clay vessels stand on their own without equal. Having been given an OBE by the Queen of England for service to arts, she has chosen at this time in her life to lend her pattern touch to making monumental glass installations. She now holds the highest position in international arts of any East African as Chancellor of the University of Creative Arts in the UK.



ROBIN ANDERSON - Co-founder of the leading contemporary art gallery in East Africa in 1968, Gallery Watawa, the late Robin Anderson is famous for her elegant "bark" on silk depicting Kenyan peoples and wildlife. Gallery Watawa brought a platform for serious contemporary art in East Africa with recurrent exhibitions by leading artists.



GERALDINE ROBERTS - A lifetime experience as a painter and University Lecturer in Fine Arts including Makerere University and Kenyatta University. She is always pushing the boundaries of what paint, colour and new materials can achieve and exploring the world to bring her inevitable style to her creations as well as generating income generating activities for artists and others.



YVONNE WAIYE - Co-founder of the leading gallery of East Africa, Gallery Watawa, with artists Robin Anderson and David Hest. Her wildlife and wildlife paintings populate hotels and public buildings throughout East Africa and have gained her an international following and reputation synonymous with the safari style of the region.



THERESA MUSOKE - One of the first women to obtain a degree from Makerere University, her distinctive works of monumental wildlife in a moody mixture of abstract bark and oil paintings have won great acclaim. She has also taught art at Makerere and other leading institutions of art in East Africa.



NAMI CROZE - Croze has brought another dimension to the art of the region, with her stained glass windows and recycled glass objects. Her monumental works appear in public spaces like the courtyard and entry of the National Museums of Kenya, and her glass objects are a delight for those living in East Africa and beyond.

Museum *Art*

Afro - Cubism Journey# 1

Sculpted by Robin
Okeyo Mbera

Forming part of The
Mutuma Marangu
Sculpture Collection

18 August to 9th September
2018

**CREATIVITY
GALLERY**

**NAIROBI
NATIONAL MUSEUM**

ROBIN O. MBERA
**AFRO-
CUBISM**
JOURNEY #1



First time on public view!

This exhibition has been extended to 30 September

Kikulacho

Nairobi

Remains, Waste & Metonymy III At the National Museum

September 3 to 30



Kikulacho Nairobi brings together a diversity of thinkers, artists and cultural producers in an artistic process which seeks to absorb, engage with and reflect upon people's complex relationships with, and experiences of food and the "stuff" of food.

Kikulacho Nairobi explores the ways that food in all its diversity of material forms, practices, meanings, symbolic association and values has, and continues to form and give shape to multiple, contradictory, sensorial experiences of and insights into urban living.

Using a central unifying theme, this exhibition considers the ephemeral and material significance of food: the multiple functions and interplay between food, performance, ritual and identity; the spaces of food production, distribution and consumption, and the multiplicity of physical, social and political networks and relations in which food is embedded.

[For some more background see <https://www.biea.ac.uk/nairobi/becoming/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/catalogue-FINAL.pdf>]



World Heritage Site News

Better News about Lamu

In the last *Tracker* we included some rather depressing news about Lamu. More recently *The Star* (August 17th) reported that “..., a meeting convened by the County government of Lamu in coordination with stakeholders from the departments of tourism, trade and culture on Thursday agreed that minimizing and restricting boda boda operations in the Lamu Archipelago would serve to preserve the old time while at the same time allowing the operators to pursue their livelihoods.

The town currently holds at least 200 boda boda operators.

Speaking in Lamu town on Thursday, County Tourism Executive But the county government reaffirmed its determination to keep them out of the centre of the town, but trying not to kill their business.

From the Guardian (UK) August 20th 2018): “Kenya burial site shows community spirit of herders 5,000 years ago” by Jason Burke*

Herders in east Africa 5,000 years ago lived in peaceful communities that shunned social hierarchies, communicated intensively and worked together to build massive cemeteries, new research by archaeologists has revealed.



Work by a team of US-based experts on a remote site near Lake Turkana in Kenya contradicts long-standing beliefs about the origins of the first civilisations. It suggests that early communities did not inevitably develop powerful elites or compete violently

* Another piece of shameless plagiarism by your editor.

for scarce resources, but may have worked together to overcome challenges instead.

The study, led by Elisabeth Hildebrand, an associate professor of anthropology at Stony Brook University, New York, is based on more than a decade of work in the northwest of Kenya at the “Lothagam North pillar site”, a communal cemetery constructed and used over a period of several centuries between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago. The archaeologists discovered a platform 30 metres (90 feet) in diameter marked by megaliths. It had a large cavity in its centre where the remains of at least 580 individuals had been placed close together. Researchers studying the early history of agricultural societies believe large groups of people built permanent monuments to reinforce identities based on a sense of shared history, ideals and culture. This allowed communities to grow in size beyond immediate family or the relatively small number of individuals well known to one another, leading to greater specialisation, technological advances and prosperity.

However, the Lothagam cemetery was constructed by mobile pastoralists – or nomads – and contains no evidence for the existence of social hierarchies. Human remains were tightly packed and their arrangement did not suggest any ranking or social priority. Men, women and even small children were buried with elaborate personal ornaments, for example. “When agrarian societies started to develop, hierarchies started to develop too. Some people became more powerful and disparities in wealth and health and social circumstances emerged.

So the big question is: Did the same thing happen in pastoral societies?” said Hildebrand. “Lothagam North pillar site is the earliest known monumental site in eastern Africa ... built by the region’s first herders ... and gives us solid evidence that these pastoralists did indeed follow a different trajectory of social change. People came together in large numbers, probably expending blood, sweat and tears to build these large structures, but we have no evidence for hierarchy or social difference.”

The discovery will prompt researchers to reexamine similar examples elsewhere in Africa and on other continents. It challenges established ideas on how and why large groups of people come together to form complex societies.

In eastern Africa, pastoralism remained dominant as a means of gaining sufficient food long after communities in Mesopotamia, Egypt, parts of south Asia and what is now modern China had begun to practice organised agriculture on a large scale. The exact role played by monuments such as the Lothagam North site is unclear, but they may have served as a place for people to meet, renew social ties and

exchange vitally important information. This would have been particularly important to a population that had become increasingly dispersed as they sought food for themselves and fodder for cattle, goats and donkeys over an increasingly large area. Lothagam North's architects seemed to have faced highly uncertain environments as rainfall decreased and Lake Turkana receded, possibly leading to economic and social instability.

Yet the burial of even small children with ornaments indicates that "every one in the society was valued", said Kate Grillo, the codirector of the excavations. "This was a supposedly terrible period, with much harder environmental conditions than earlier periods, but instead of the conflict you would expect we are seeing larger and tighter social networks," Grillo, an assistant professor at the University of Florida, told the Guardian. "There are lessons here for us today."

Early work at the site was arduous, with archaeologists camping in temperatures reaching upwards of 43C (110F). More recently, the Turkana Basin Institute, founded by famous paleoanthropologist and conservationist Richard Leakey, has provided logistic assistance.

Significant study has been carried out on similar sites on the eastern side of Lake Turkana but not on what were once its western shores. Earlier studies had indicated that megaliths had been brought some distance but it was not understood that the pillars marked big cemeteries. Northwestern Kenya is a major source of fossil and archaeological evidence for all stages of human development.

Scientists believe every living human shares DNA inherited from a common ancestral population believed to have lived in or within a few hundred miles of the Turkana Basin 60,000-70,000 years ago. It is unclear what happened to the herder communities that built the pillars and cemetery. The use of the cemetery ended suddenly, but apparently in a deliberate and organised way. The herders made tens of thousands of trips to fill it up and cap it with stones. "We don't know why or what happened next," Grillo said.

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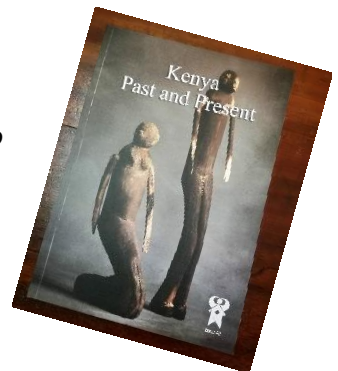
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Kenya Museum Society

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Reminder

New Issue (45) of Kenya Past & Present is available for collection from the KMS Office/Shop. **Please note:**
Family, Single and Business memberships are entitled to a free copy of the magazine.



Kenya Museum Society's Mission, Benefits & Annual Rates

Kenya Museum Society is a non-profit members' organization founded in 1970. Our mission is to support and promote the National Museums of Kenya, the custodian of Kenya's natural and cultural heritage that manages six World Heritage Sites, twenty-two museums and over a hundred sites and monuments across the country.

Membership

By supporting KMS with your membership, you are helping to preserve and promote Kenyan history, culture and artifacts. At the same time you'll have fun learning about Kenya in the company of people who enjoy the same interests as you.

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- Monthly newsletter *Tracker* to keep you abreast of KMS and Museum activities
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- Annual magazine *Kenya Past and Present*
- 5% discount on books in the KMS Shop at Nairobi National Museum
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