

KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY



TRACKER

December 2018/ January
2019



The Riyadhha Mosque in Lamu: Kenya's latest
National Monument (see p. 10)

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This seasonally appropriate picture of the Adoration of the Magi (Matthias Stom, early 1630s) with an African King among the three) is connected with an item in this edition of the *Tracker* (see p. 11). But we have put it here as a way of conveying warm Christmas Greetings to readers.

Please also note that the Museum Society Office will close for holidays from Wed 19th Dec and re-open on Wed 2nd January 2019. If you wish to renew your membership card, please visit the KMS Shop in the Nairobi National Museum. The shop will close 24th -27th Dec 2018 and on 1st Jan 2019. The Museum is open every day.

Kenya Museum Society News

Trips and events

Longer Trips (more than 2 nights)

Calving Season in Serengeti, Tanzania

23-28 February, 2019

The wildebeest migration moves out of Kenya into Tanzania in late October. This migration is exclusively dependent on the rainfall pattern. The big wildebeest herds move into the Ndutu Plains, arriving here in November/December. In February the calving season begins and an average of 8,000 calves are born daily. A lot of predators also roam the plains at the same time.

We shall spend 2 full days following the herds and camping in this area. The other three nights are spent in Mto wa Mbu. It is a nice little town. There is a camp site and pleasant cottages. On one of these days we shall visit Tarangire Park.

Cost: 115,000KShs

Included: All ground transport, all meals and camping fees for two nights in the Ndutu Plains and tips.

Not included: park fees, visas. In Mto wa Mbu you pay your own cottage or camp fee. All camping equipment is supplied.

Western Kenya- March 16-21 Save the dates!

Save the dates for a trip to Western Kenya from March 16-21. First on the list of places to visit is the newly minted World Heritage Site of Thimlich Ohinga. It was made a world heritage site in June 2018 as a site of “Outstanding Universal Value.” The dry stone walled fort is one typical of 16th century communities in the Lake Victoria region and shows the inventiveness of the inhabitants of the Lake Victoria region. Other planned highlights of the trip include Ruma National Park, the rock painting sites on Mfanango Island and more! Stay tuned for more information.

Marich Pass and Turkwell Gorge 19-22 April, 2019

The Easter trip is to this incredibly beautiful part of West Pokot. We shall visit Kapenguria museum enroute. At Marich we shall have a long walk along the Maruny River, and visit the Wei Wei Irrigation Scheme, and the local market in Tot or Ortom.

We shall also have a full day's visit to the Turkwell Gorge and the very dramatic power plant.

We shall stay at the simple but charming Marich Pass Field Studies Centre. It is strung along the Maruny River, and surrounded by bush full of birds. In the distance you see Mt Sekerr and Mt Koh.

Save the dates. More details later.

The Tugen and Cherangani hills

May 1-5

Details of this later.

Turkana 8 – 16 June

The KMS annual trip to Turkana will be in June. The exact date to be posted later. For a report by a participant in 2018 see “Our Turkana trip” by Saryoo Shah, p. 7 in the September 2018 *Tracker*.

One or two night trips

The Aberdares- February 8-10

Spend a long weekend in the Aberdare Mountains at the KWS rustic Fishing Lodges from February 8-10. The Fishing Lodges provides a quiet retreat from Nairobi with the opportunity of game drives, walks and a chance to see spectacular waterfalls, moorland scenery and diverse wildlife, including the ones who frequent the area around the Lodges. Or, you could just enjoy the quiet serene setting of the Lodge and decompress. We'll be able to hear the waterfalls from the Fishing Lodge and walk the trails to the river. The Lodges are self-catering.

We have reserved both Lodges for the weekend. They house a total of ten people. Since the price is determined by the number of people who want to go, the price could be reduced with a full complement of ten people, or if we only had enough interest to fill one Lodge.

The sooner we can confirm and pay for our reservations, the better. Please confirm your interest by email and pay as soon as possible to ensure a place. You won't be confirmed until your payment is received.

The deadline for payment is 11 January.

Indicate your food allergies, food preferences, and if you'd like to help with cooking when you sign up. Bring on your culinary skills! There is a person there who can help with clean-up.

Date: Friday, February 8- Sunday, February 10

Cost: 22,500 Ksh for adults

Included: Food, lodging, guide, tips. Carry a picnic lunch for Friday.

Cost excludes Park entry fees, transportation costs, lunch on Friday and Sunday.

*** Please indicate your transportation status when signing up: if you will be driving, if you can take passengers, or if you need transportation.**

Park entry fees: Citizens- 300 Ksh per day; Residents- 1,030 Ksh per day; Non-resident- \$52. Payment can be made by MPESA, VISA Card, Direct Deposits to KWS Bank Accounts at any gate, but no cash.

Museum Society Payment: MPesa Paybill- 400800, Account No-6571570019

Deadline: Until group limit is reached or by 11 January. The costs are estimated for 8 people, if there are fewer or more people the price would be adjusted downwards.

Day Outings 2019 – Details in later Trackers and emails

January – Browns' Cheese/Kiambethu Tea Farm

February – Travelling Telescope
– Jain Temple Tour Guided by Saryoo Shah

March – Behind the Scenes tour of Cultural Heritage
– Organic Farming Demonstration by Saryoo Shah

April – Scavenger Hunt at Ornithology
– Behind the Scenes tour of Archaeology & Palaeontology Sections

May – Guided City tour
– Behind the Scenes tour of Entomology Section

June – Behind the Scenes tour of Herbarium Department & Botanic Gardens

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

Account of a past KMS trip by an msafifiri

Laikipia Permaculture Centre, Nanyuki by Dr. Clara D'Cruz

Photos by Tish Newmyer

On our safari trip to the Mpala Research Ranch we passed the



Laikipia Permaculture Centre which some of us thought would be worth visiting, so we did on our return to Nairobi.

At the Centre, we were given a short briefing on permaculture farming taught to the local small scale farmers with the use of organic fertilizers and natural resources to produce food for the family and their domestic animals. We were then taken on a tour of the place by Julius our guide. First to the gift shop displaying home made products and artefacts made by women of Laikipia North. We walked through pathways in the shamba with fruit trees, trees for wood, banana plantation, flowering plants including weeds and herbal plants which attract insects and bees for pollination. We were shown open coal lined fridges which had bottles of cold juices, and a methane gas collector that collected gas generated from farm waste and piped it to the kitchen for cooking.

We saw clay ovens/kilns to preserve energy, and the vegetable garden using organic fertilizers and - most interesting - the compost toilet where a notice

instructs that 2 tbsp of sawdust and wood ash be put every time it is used. Finally we were in the small bar and restaurant where we tasted the juice/alcohol made from the cactus opuntia fruit.*

All in all, this was an interesting diversion to the trip before we drove on to the Trout Tree Restaurant for lunch.

For more on the Laikipia Permaculture Centre see <http://www.lpct.or.ke/>

You can read about their courses, their projects and their products, as well as how the centre came about (at <http://www.lpct.or.ke/how-it-all-begun>)



* For more on this project see <http://www.lpct.or.ke/opuntia-stricta>

KMS Gift Shop

Open daily 9.00am to 5.30pm

Reminder: Kenya Arts Diary 2019

Featuring works for over 70 Kenyan artists with full color photos of arts, contacts for artists as well as various galleries.

The Kenya Arts Diary is published by Kitengela Glass Research and Training Trust

Available @ Ksh 1,600

Payment can be made via M-Pesa; Paybill No. 400800 Account No. 657 157 0019.
KMS Shop is open Mon-Sun, 9am – 5pm.

Last minute Christmas shopping?



The KMS shop wishes all its customers the compliments of the season, and reminds them that if they are need of last minute gift ideas, please not to forget the shop.

Note:

The KMS Shop will be closed on Mon 24 – Thursday 27th December and 1st Jan 2019. The Shop will remain open for the other days of the holiday period.

About or at the National Museums of Kenya



Events and Exhibitions

Shujaa Stories: A Digital Art Exhibition Through 400 Years of Our Pre-Colonial Legends

Creativity Gallery, Nairobi National Museum



Learn More About The Shujaa Stories Exhibition

Every year we set aside one day to celebrate our heroes and legends through Mashujaa Day. This year, we have extended this one day event to a 3 month digital art exhibition that will take our audiences through a journey of over 400 years of Kenya's legends before 1920s.

This colourful, captivating and intriguing exhibition will be of particular interest to the younger generation as the artwork is set to bring out the legends' magical and superhero qualities.

In the course of the 3 months interesting, engaging and educational public programs will be planned around the exhibition



KMS Council member Kari Mutu wrote about the Shujaa exhibition in the *East African* of December 15-16. This page is extracted from that article, which you can read in full online.*

Featuring prominently are legends such as warrior Lwanda Magere who was believed to have superhuman strength, and the magician leader Gor Mahia, both of the Luo community of southwestern Kenya.

The Maasai brothers Senteu and Batian are also featured not only for their bravery but the power struggle to succeed their legendary father, chief Mbatian.

Heroines, Galavu chose to illustrate are Mekatilili wa Menza, a pre-Independence leader of the Giriama community from the Coast, and Wangu wa Makeri, the only Kikuyu woman appointed headman by the colonial government.

Shown as an alluring beauty in a white skirt and bare midriff is Syetune, a warrior of the Kamba people.

Freedom fighter Moraa wa Ng'iti of the Kisii people is drawn seated between two leopards in an imposing pose.

But more interesting are the lesser known figures such as an orphan boy called Mukite wa Nameme who became a celebrated military leader who united the western Kenya Bukusu clans in the mid-19th century; and also from the colonial period in Somalia is Mohamed Abdullah, the "mad mullah," an Islamic rebel of the early 20th century.

Tatu Creatives chose to present the characters in contemporary art styles. They are depicted in warrior-like poses, with rippling muscles, puffed out chests, legs spread-eagled and shoulders thrown back.

They carry weapons and staff, although one or two of them have swords with European-style cross guards. Some are holding swirling balls of light and orbs of mist while other are reminiscent of characters in the Marvel comic book series.

"The idea was to create content that captures local heroes and bring them out in a superhero way," says Galavu.

Shujaa will show at other national museums in the country. The team is working on comic and story books based on the lives of the featured heroes and heroines.

* <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/magazine/Kenyan-legends-shown-as-superheroes/434746-4896058-ytdwk8z/index.html>

THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE ACT (NO. 6 OF 2006)

DECLARATION OF MONUMENT

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 25 (1) (b) of the National Museums and Heritage Act, the Cabinet Secretary for Sports and Heritage declares the open space specified in the Schedule, which he considers to be of historical interest, to be a National Monument within the meaning of the Act.

Any objection to the declaration shall be lodged with the Cabinet Secretary within sixty (60) days from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE

RIYADHA MOSQUE AND GROUNDS

A new National Monument

Earlier this year a new national monument was designated (see the Gazette notice). Monuments are a matter for the national government under the Constitution, and the National Museums of Kenya are the responsible authority.

Clearly no objections were raised and recently at the Nairobi National Museum a launch was held of the Strategic Plan for the mosque.

NTV described the mosque as “one of the most influential, Islamic teaching institutions in the Swahili world”.

The Riyadhha mosque Health and Welfare Services Group^{*} gives an account of the mosque’s history. Its construction started in 1892 C.E. “The fact that it has played a major role in the dissemination of knowledge and propagation of Islam has made it a landmark historical institute in the whole of East Africa.” In 1889 with the help of friends, Habib Swaleh had earlier built a temporary wooden structure which was used as place for teaching his students and for prayers. Later, with assistance from Muslims of the Hadhramaut (Yemen) it strengthened its teaching and also became a mosque.

It has been expanded several times, in 1901 and in 1947 when the son of Habib Swaleh, Sayyid Aidarus, expanded it and built the famous Green Dome (see cover of this *Tracker*). The Mosque was renovated again in 2008 C.E and the original interior mosque was expanded making it necessary to shift the Mihrab from its original position. The original Mihrab has been maintained for historical purposes.

The Endangered Archives Programme of the British Museum describes a project that digitised most of a collection of manuscripts held at the mosque, thus enabling their contents to be preserved, and research to be done on the content of the teaching at the mosque.^{*}

^{*} http://www.riyadhahealth.org/history_of_riyadha_mosque.html

^{*} <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP466>. Anyone with a specialist interest in the preservation of documents, or in the transmission of Islamic learning in East Africa might be interested in Anne K. Bang, “Localising Islamic knowledge: acquisition and copying of the Riyadhha

THE WORLD OF MUSEUMS

Sweden

The **National Museum**^{*} was recently re-opened after being closed for several years. Visiting very soon after the re-opening, we found it crowded, especially with the grey-haired (it was a school and work day, after all). The museum is as much an art gallery as a museum, with a beautifully displayed collection of paintings, many, as the museum disarmingly says, the spoils of war.

Like many Swedish museums, it has an excellent restaurant, And also like many/most, entry, except for some special exhibitions, is free.

The museum has recently made images of over 3000 of its paintings on Wikimedia[†] including the Adoration of the Magi reproduced on page 1 of this *Tracker* issue.

The **Middle Eastern Museum** (*Medelhavsmuseet*) is situated near the Royal Opera, and boasts a popular restaurant called the Baghdad. Among its regular exhibits is an excellent small section on ancient Egypt, including a fascinating CT scan of a mummy.

When we visited, it had an exhibition on Cyprus, including the collection of statues shown in the photograph. The museum describes it: In the centre of the exhibition is the sacred cult site of Ayia Irini. Visitors to the exhibition enter a large display case where they are met by close to 1,000 terracotta figures arranged in a semicircle around a sacred stone. The arrangement of the votive figures aims to recreate the way in which they were found by the Swedish archaeologists.



Ethiopia

Mosque manuscript collection in Lamu, Kenya” in Maja Kominko, ed., *From Dust to Digital Ten Years of the Endangered Archives Programme* (<https://www.openbookpublishers.com/resources/9781783740628/5.Bang.pdf>).

^{*} <https://www.nationalmuseum.se>

[†] <https://tinyurl.com/WikiNatMus>

Kenya and Ethiopia have a sort of friendly rivalry over the cradle of mankind. Kenya's National Museum has the Turkana Boy, while the one in Addis Ababa has Lucy and the even older Selam (a 3 year old girl from 3.3. million years? See right). Rather like the Kenyan palaeontology section, that in the Addis Museum has been the evident recipient of foreign support in presenting its collection, and explaining its significance to the world.



In the rest of the museum there is a floor of ethnographic collection: tools, clothes, ornaments etc from Ethiopia's "nations, nationalities and peoples" to quote its constitution.

Unfortunately there is virtually no descriptive or explanatory material, not even in Amharic, let alone English. There is a floor of Ethiopian art, modern and older. And a floor containing regalia from the imperial period, including the enormous throne of the diminutive Emperor, Haile Selassie.



Entry to the museum set us back the exorbitant sum of 10Birr each or not more than 40 US cents.

Insiders Insight: A tale of two museums* (Compiled by [@PeterDoerrie](#))

Two museums (re)opened last week, one in Dakar, Senegal, and one in the Belgian city of Tervuren. Belgium's Africa Museum reopened after five years of renovations, which aimed to transform its exhibition from one of blatant pro-colonial propaganda to a collection that critically explores especially Belgium's colonial project in the DR Congo, which has gone down in history as one of the most brutal colonial regimes.

Many of the artefacts from before the renovation remain, including stuffed animals, stolen Congolese art and the statue of an European missionary with an African boy clutching his robes and a plaque reading "Belgium brings civilisation to the Congo".

The new exhibition has added contemporary art by African sculptors and has rearranged the exhibits to contextualise the artefacts in the terms of current issues facing the DRC and the African diaspora in Belgium. The museum officially wants to educate Belgians about their colonial past, which many have little knowledge of.

But critics say that these steps are insufficient, especially as long as African art that has been stolen by Europeans remains in the museum.

This brings us to the Museum of Black Civilisations in Dakar. First conceived by poet, academic and Senegal's first President Léopold Sédar Senghor, but opened 17 years after his death, it displays artefacts ranging from prehistoric relics to modern African art and considers cultural developments across Africa, and African diasporas.



Apart from Senghor, the Senegalese intellectual Cheikh Anta Diop has to be counted among the influences of this new institution. Both Diop and Senghor, despite being bitter political rivals, contributed to a post-colonial and fundamentally new conception of African identity and pan-African culture. The new museum reflects these thoughts better than any European

institution could.

The project is especially important in the context of the current debate around the repatriation of African art, as it solves one of the practical arguments of opponents of the idea, namely: where should the artefacts be put? The Senegalese government has already demanded the repatriation of all art illegally removed from Senegal itself and

* Copied from <https://africanarguments.org/2018/12/11/insiders-insight-tale-two-museums/>

the Museum has offered to house artefacts from other countries, to make them accessible to African audiences.

TRACKER ADVERTISING RATES

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SIZE	MEMBERS	NON MEMBERS	MEMBERS	NON MEMBERS
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Inside full page	Ksh 2,500	Ksh 3,000	Ksh 9,000	Ksh 9,000
Half page	Ksh 1,000	Ksh 1,500	Ksh 5,000	Ksh 5,500
Quarter page	Ksh 700	Ksh 800	Ksh 3,000	Ksh 3,500

	ONLINE		CLASSIFIED LISTINGS		
SIZE	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	WORDS	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
Back page	Ksh 4,000	Ksh4,500	Up to 25	Ksh 250	Ksh 350
Inside full page	Ksh 3,000	Ksh 3,500	25 to 50	Ksh 500	Ksh 550
Half page	Ksh 2,000	Ksh 2,500			
Quarter page	Ksh 1,000	Ksh 1,500			

CONDITIONS:

1. This service is available to ALL.
2. No advertisements will be taken over the phone. They must be emailed to or dropped at the KMS office during office hours with payment.
3. All adverts should be in PDF format
4. Deadline for the following month's Tracker is the 2nd Tuesday of the current month.
5. All responses to an advert should be made directly to the person advertising. KMS is unable to serve as a go between concerning any transactions.
6. KMS does not take responsibility for the accuracy of description of advertised goods and services.

KMS: Tel: 0724 255299/2339158 OR info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

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.

Become a KMS member and enjoy:

- o Free entry to all National and regional Museums, prehistoric sites and monuments in Kenya
- o Bird walk with Nature Kenya at Ksh 200, reduced rates on tree walks with FoNA, day and weekend outings, evening lectures, films and other programs for members
- o Entry to the Ololua Nature Trail at half price
- o Monthly newsletter ***Tracker*** to keep you abreast of KMS and Museum activities
- o Email updates on KMS and Museum activities
- o Annual magazine ***Kenya Past and Present***
- o 5% discount on books in the KMS Shop at Nairobi National Museum
- o Free borrowing privileges at KMS library
- o Free reading privileges at Nature Kenya/NMK library
- o Reduced advertising rates in the Tracker & Kenya Past and Present

Single resident	KSH 1,750	One membership card
Family resident	Ksh 2,500	Including children below 18 Yrs
Students (Kenyan Resident)	Ksh 300	One membership card
Up Country (New Category)	Ksh 1,200	One membership card
Non Resident	USD 50	One card
Visitors (valid for one month only)	Ksh 800	One membership card
Business Membership (Kenya)	Ksh 6,000	Eight membership cards

KMS Membership Registration Form

Please use BLOCK letters

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Prof (please circle)

Family Name _____

First Name _____ Spouse _____

Names of Children (under 18): _____

P.O. Box _____ Code: _____

Tel: Home _____ Office: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

NEW MEMBER/RENEWING MEMBER (please circle)

Please send *Tracker* by EMAIL/POST (please circle)

(Below for Office Use Only)

Receipt No: _____ *Date* _____

Membership Nos: _____

Amt. Paid _____ *Cash/Mpesa/Visa/Cheque* _____

Cheque No: _____ *Bank:* _____

Processed by _____ *Added to Database by* _____