



TRACKER

March - April 2020



Victim of the Virus – a stuffed python is carried away for storage at the cancelled NMK Heritage Exhibition. See p. 15.



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KMS and NMK and the Coronavirus

Like the Museum, the KMS office and the shop are physically closed for the duration, in other words until further notice, all depending on the virus and the government’s guidance and/or directions. But office staff are still working. Email: info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

Stay connected with KMS through Facebook ([@MuseumK](https://www.facebook.com/MuseumK)) Twitter ([@MuseumSociety](https://twitter.com/MuseumSociety)) and Instagram (museumsociety)

KMS Council and Staff wish you all well – stay safe, stay well.



KMS Upcoming Events

Feb – Dec 2020

By participating in KMS events, you are helping support projects of the National Museums of Kenya.

CANCELLED

Safari - May	Mountain Lodge (date to be confirmed) [Unlikely!]
KMS AGM - Wed 20 May	50 th Annual General Meeting, Ford Hall, Nairobi National Museum, 6.15pm
Day Outing – Sun 31 May	Forest Walk, Happy Valley – Kipipiri
Evening Talk – June 20th MCC	Exploring the history of ancient African Jewellery By Dr. Donna Pido Muthaiga Country Club, 7pm
Evening Talk – Wed 19 August	The Demand for Kenya's Ivory in Asia: Past & Present By Lucy Vigne Tamambo Karen Blixen Coffee Garden, 7pm
Evening Talk – Sat 22 August	The Demand for Kenya's Ivory in Asia: Past & Present By Lucy Vigne Muthaiga Country Club, 7 pm
Evening Talk – Sat 19thSept. @ MCC	TO BE FILLED
Evening Talk – Sat 10th or 17th Oct @ MCC	TO BE FILLED
Art Show 30th Oct – 1st Nov @ NMK	Annual Affordable Art Show
Evening Talk – Sat 14th or 21st Nov @MCC	TO BE FILLED

**Trips and Events – All victims of COVID-19 until further notice
so just a hint of what we had planned**

Longer Trips

Easter Trip: Tsavo East - Taveta

9-13 April, 2020

The vast open spaces of Tsavo East are very appealing. It is a 135 sq mile wilderness of rolling plains and semi-arid areas. Cutting through the park is the Galana River, fringed with doum palms. Beyond the river is the ever present 300 km long Yatta plateau. The park has a lot of game, especially huge herds of elephants, rarer animals like gerenuk, oryx lesser kudu.....and many bird species.

Umani Springs- Saturday September 19 to Monday September 21 2010

Join us on a trip to Umani Springs for a visit to the newest of the Sheldrick orphaned elephant reintegration units. Vulnerable elephants who are physically compromised are gradually reintroduced into wild herds at Umani. We can visit the orphan elephants 3 times a day: at the stockades for the early morning and late afternoon feedings, and at 11 a.m. for their mud bath.

Day trips and events

Brown's Cheese Factory, Tigon

Friday, 17 or 24 April 2020: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Brown's cheese founder was inspired by a passion for delicious, fresh, additive-free cheese. The farm was established in 1979. It lies among the beautiful tea plantations of Tigon and is run on purely biodynamic and organic principles.

CHILDREN'S DAY OUTING
NAIROBI NATIONAL MUSEUM
Saturday, 4 April 2020

Do you have kids who love art and creativity?

Sign them up for this guided, artsy-craftsy, thought provoking event which will encourage your child to explore their artistic skills and feed any passion they may already have for art and recycling.

They will also get a chance to participate in a book reading session - *Life's Little Magical Formulas*, by Zoya (the author). This amazing book also makes for a perfect gift for the young ones. Get it at a reduced cost of Ksh 950, on the day.



Kenya Museum Society and Karen Country Club

Present

**A Forest Restoration Project in Kenya: The
20-year Case History of Brackenhurst**

Wednesday, 29 April 2020
Karen Country Club - Ngong Room, 7pm

Mark Nicholson

Director, Plants for Life, Brackenhurst Botanic Garden

Mark has planted 120,000 East African trees and shrubs of over 650 species, many on the IUCN Red List



COVID
CONTINGENCY
Announcements
will be made closer
to the time in the
light of the COVID-
19 situation.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF KMS ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING WED, 20 May 2020
FROM HONORARY SECRETARY,
DR. MARLA STONE**

You are kindly asked to attend the **Annual General Meeting** of the Kenya Museum Society **Wednesday, 20 May, at 6:15 pm at the Ford Hall.** See the agenda below.

Wine, juice and bitings will be provided from 6:00 pm.

Any member who wishes to **nominate officers or other Council members** is encouraged to contact the KMS office by email or phone by **Wed, 15 April**. Self nominations are welcome, but they must be submitted in writing and seconded by the signature of another KMS full member.

Any member who wishes to submit a resolution at the Annual General Meeting must do so by sending it in writing by Wednesday, 15th April, to the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Marla Stone, via the KMS email (info@kenyamuseumociety.org).

Please **confirm your attendance or apology** on or before **Monday 18 May** by phone (020 3743808, 0724 255299 or wireless 020 2339158) or by email (info@kenyamuseumociety.org). 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 2019 AGM
3. Chairperson's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Report of KMS funded projects for NMK in 2019
6. New Business
 - a. Election of officers and other Council members
 - b. Appointment of auditor
 - c. Additional new business
7. Adjournment

Looking further ahead:



Kenya Museum Society

Presents

**THE DEMAND FOR KENYA'S IVORY IN ASIA
PAST AND PRESENT**

Lucy Vigne

Ivory Trade Researcher

WEDNESDAY, 19 August 2020

TAMAMBO KAREN BLIXEN COFFEE GARDEN

Welcome drink 6.30 pm, Talk 7.00 pm

Tickets and Reservations:

Ksh 1,500 Talk and drink

Ksh 3,500 Talk, drink and dinner

Payment Options:

- M-PESA Paybill no: 400800, Ac/No:

6571570019

- Cash



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WWW.KENYAMUSEUMSOCIETY.ORG

➤ Lucy Vigne will be speaking on the same topic at another KMS Event:
Muthaiga Country Club, August 22 7 p.m.

Booking details are as for the Tamambo event.

Accounts of Previous Events by KMS Members

Dr Richard Leakey talks all things weather

By Kari Mutu (Photos – except for the first, supplied by Dr Leakey's office - by Catalina Osorio)

The KMS calendar of evening talks 2020 began with a bang. On 19 February we held



an event where the guest speaker was Kenyan palaeoanthropologist and conservationist, Dr Richard Leakey. He spoke on *My Views on Climate Change and Trends to a Different Kenya*.

The event was held in the gardens of Tamambo Karen Blixen Restaurant. With almost 200 guests in attendance, this was one of the biggest events KMS has hosted in recent years outside of the annual Affordable Art Show. Thankfully, the rain held off and it was a pleasant evening for sitting under the large marquee where the event was organised.

A former director of the National Museums of Kenya, Dr Leakey was also one of the co-founders of the Kenya Museum Society in 1970. Currently he is a Professor of Anthropology at Stony Brook University, New York, where he also serves as the Founder and



Chair of the Turkana Basin Institute, a Kenya based research facility that studies the history of life, past climate change and origins of humans. He has become increasingly vocal about the threats to biodiversity arising from global climate change.

This was an insightful and engaging talk, peppered with lots of humour. Speaking eloquently without notes or slides, Dr Leakey raised many of the well-known angles of climate change: unseasonal weather patterns, global population growth, agricultural practices, industrial emissions, consumer habits, apathetic political will, bullying of least developed countries by powerful nations during global climate talks and more.



Leakey, 75, also challenged Kenyans to play their part, to insist on action and accountability by national authorities. He challenged individuals to play their role by reviewing their lifestyles, habits and choices, and to teach children about the environment and its value.

The ensuing question-and-answer session brought out more concern and enquiry from the audience which Dr Leakey addressed with aplomb.

KMS achieved excellent ticket sales at this event and the funds will be channelled to support various projects of the National Museums of Kenya, which is our mandate. Council member Bonnie Donahue, who oversees the KMS gift shop at the Nairobi National Museum, had set up a desk of merchandise and saw brisk sales.

After the talk, a small group of guests stayed on to enjoy delicious meals prepared by Tamambo Restaurant.

This venue makes for a successful event, and we plan to use it in the future.

@ KMS Shop

Like the Museum in which it is situated, the KMS shop lies shuttered. We shall open it as soon as this is safe and sensible. Then you will be brought up to date on what we offer.

**Photos from a KMS Trip to Brackenhurst in February this year
(by Catalina Osorio)**





From and About the National Museums of Kenya

Exhibitions [We have left these as originally communicated in the hope that they will be available after the crisis is over and the Museum re-opens. As of now, they have all either never begun or been prematurely suspended – ed.]

New Photographic Exhibition: The Hidden Treasures of Baroness Karen Blixen

- Her Life, contribution, history and influence on the community



Nairobi National Museum, Creativity Gallery.

Up to mid-March 2020



Exhibition's focus:

- ❖ The Life of Karen
- ❖ Karen's love for the people
- ❖ The Karen Blixen Home



From Misery to Joy

A journey of endurance

A retrospective exhibition of paintings from 1949 tracing the history of contemporary art in Kenya through the art of **Asaph Ng'ethe Macua**



Have you ever experienced so much pain that death seemed a welcome relief?

Have you ever envied an animal just because it was free from physical pain?

Asaph Ng'ethe has. This 88 year old man has lived with one lung since 1959, showing that being critically ill doesn't necessarily mean that you will die or live a short life.

In spite of all this, a strong will to succeed and hard work got him to Alliance High School, Makerere University...

Macua's story is inspiring and will remind you to appreciate the gift of life more.



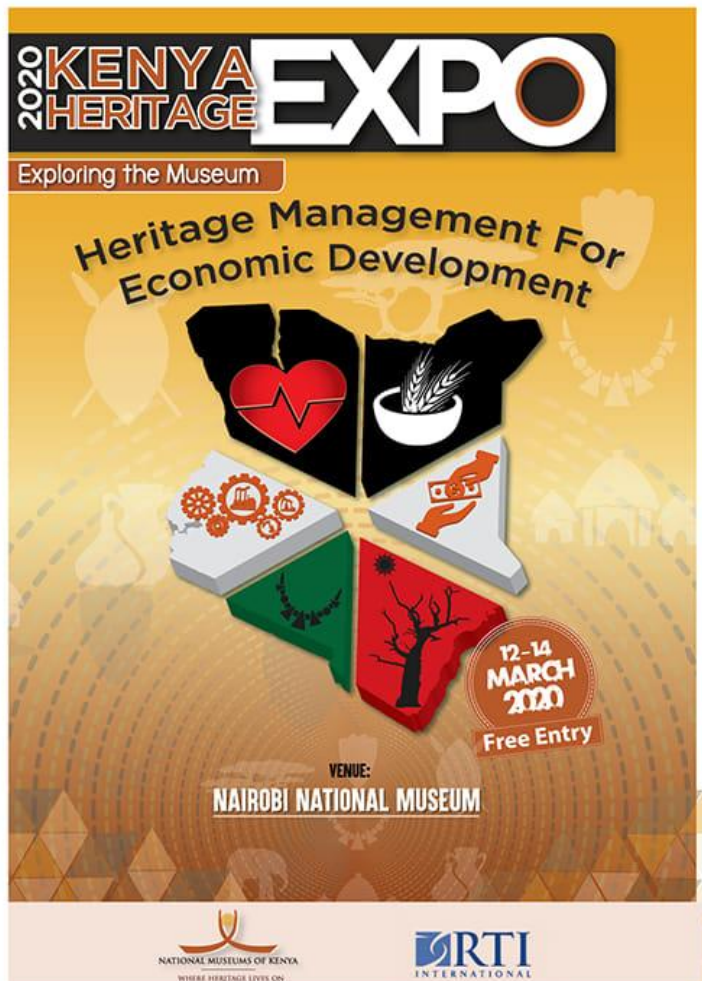
His autobiography is available at the KMS Gift Shop @Ksh 1,400

Welcome to the 7th National Museums of Kenya Science Expo

Thur-Sat, 12-14 March 2020

Nairobi National Museum

Theme: 'Heritage Management for Economic Development'



News from the Nairobi Gallery #TheNairobigallery.



At the heart of the capital city of Kenya there lies this national monument and museum, (former Office of the Provincial Commissioner). You will find it on the corner of Uhuru Highway and Kenyatta Avenue (beside Nyayo House).

Open to all, every day, 8am to 5:30pm, including holidays. Admission: 150/100 for citizens, 600/400 for residents and 1000/500 for non-residents (and free for KMS members).

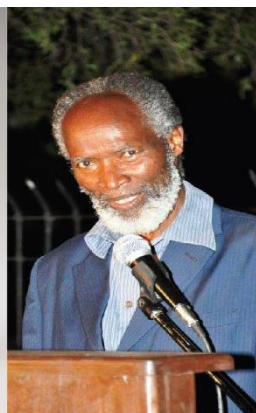
Event & New Exhibitions

- This year's **International Monument Day** will be marked on **14 April**. [See page 19 - ed]
- **The Legendary Artists of Tanzania**
Exhibition continues up to **June 15th 2020**
- **The Wizard of Kenya Stone Sculpture**
By **Elkana Ongesa**


THE WIZARD OF KENYA STONE SCULPTURE
From a long line of Kenyan soap stone carvers
ELKANA ONGESA
Press conference and reception March 15th 2020
2:30 pm – 5:30pm
And
THE LEGENDARY ARTISTS OF TANZANIA
Exhibition continues
March 15th – June 15th 2020
The Nairobi Gallery
at
The Old PC's Office next to Nyayo House
beside Kenyatta Avenue
Private Entry and ample free parking
open daily 8.30am - 5.30pm



Sculpture by elkana Ongesa African Heritage opening exhibition 1973.



Born in
1944,

Elkana Ongesa comes from a long line of traditional stone carvers from Kisii, in Southwestern Kenya. He was the first in his family to combine his innate skills with the broadening influence of training in Fine Arts at Makerere University in Kampala and the University of Nairobi, where he completed his landmark post graduate thesis on stone carving in East Africa. **Now his sculptures grace many public spaces around the world, including the United Nations Headquarters in New York City; the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris; Coca-Cola in Atlanta, Georgia; Caltex in Houston, Texas; and Changchun City in China.**

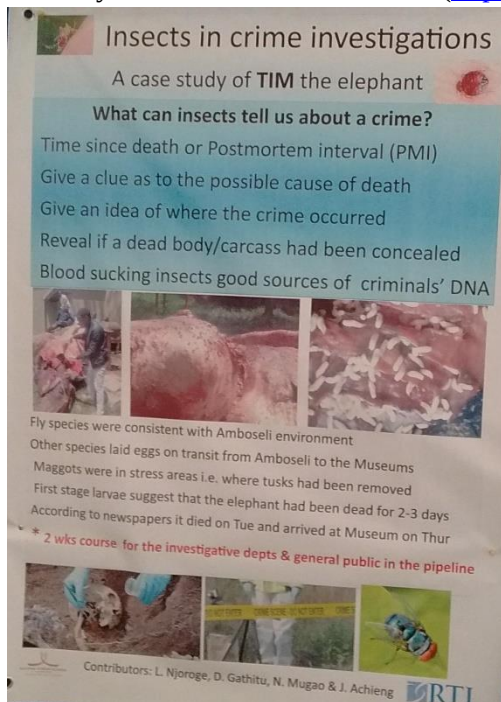
Elkana's first major exhibition was the opening exhibition of African Heritage on Kenyatta Avenue in 1973. The Director of UNESCO, Amadou M'Bow, was so impressed by Elkana's sculpture of a bird that he saw at Joe Murumbi's house in Muthaiga (which is now in the Murumbi Gallery at the Kenya National Archives) that he asked Murumbi to ask Elkana to create a similar sculpture for the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. In 1978, the Kenyan government made a special gift to UNESCO of a remarkable giant bird sculpture by Elkana. Before his death in 1990, Murumbi asked Elkana to sculpt a statue for his gravesite.

Elkana selected a huge black and white granite boulder from Lukenya which he formed into the image of a monumental "Bird of Peace Emerging from the Stone of Despair" that echoes a Martin Luther King speech. When the Murumbi Peace Memorial was opened by US Ambassador Michael Ranneberger, Elkana was once again asked to create a unique work, this time for the US Embassy in Kenya. His magnificent 30 ton granite sculpture "Dancing Birds" now stands at the entrance to the embassy in Gigiri. Elkana continues to organize and participate in many international symposiums on stone sculpture, including a recent one held near Tabaka in South Western Kenya, called "Stones that Talk" which drew participants from all parts of the world.



Museum News

The NMK Museums in Nairobi and elsewhere have all been closed since Mid-February. The website is still online (<https://www.museums.or.ke/>).



and the justice system.

And the other, since the first day was just winding up, can be a symbol of the fate of the entire enterprise – a python is put away - for how long? (See the cover of this issue.)

We also went to the Nairobi Gallery, which is always a pleasure. And we met the sculptor Elkana Ongesa (see above) who gave us a wonderful tour of his exhibition. Most of the exhibits are in the gallery that contains Nigerian works of art (from African Heritage, I believe). Here he is with one of his pieces:

Victims of the Virus:

The Museum laid on a three-day exhibition – the 7th Heritage Exhibition, with the theme “Heritage Management for Economic Development”. It included displays on how the various activities of the museum, especially research, interlink with development, broadly defined. In other words, how they are useful to society more widely. Half-way through the period, on that Friday 13th March, the exhibition was closed. Such a pity for all the staff who had put in a lot of effort preparing for this event. Your editor had gone, with a visitor, and intended to go back for longer, but was thwarted. She took only two photos: one of an exhibit that was of particular interest to her – on the relationship between the museum



The World of Museums

The International Day for Monuments and Sites

Following up the reference to the “International Monument Day (above) your editor went to the website of ICOMOS* (International Council on Monuments and Sites). This said that the 2020 (April 18th) theme is ‘**Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility**’?

“The theme for ‘*Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility*’, reflects the global context of heritage as part of cultural identity at a time of rapid population shift, conflict, and environmental uncertainty. The theme recognises that heritage – whether places, landscapes, practices, or collections – are frequently connected with and valued by multiple and diverse groups and communities. At its core, the overarching theme is concerned with the relationships between cultures or cultural groups and their collective responsibility for the care and safeguarding of the significant attributes, meanings, and values of heritage.”

In view of the Virus “ICOMOS invites you to celebrate 18 April related to the **Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility** theme, with the aim of raising awareness of its values and conservation. Possible activities include virtual conferences and round tables, webinars, online lectures, poster presentations, livestreamed interviews, press releases, round tables, visits to heritage properties, heritage walks, social media campaigns, etc.”

In response, let me first recall that the Museum has a long list of gazetted monuments on its website at <http://www.museums.or.ke/594-2/>.

And maybe it is most liberating to be reminded of a natural rather than a man-made site: Kit Mikayi (The Stone of the First Wife) – in Kisumu County. According to the *Standard*, ‘The locals of nearby Seme village consider the stone a sacred place to hold prayers whenever the village is troubled’. May they not have cause to visit it soon.



* <https://www.icomos.org/en/focus/18-april-international-day-for-monuments-and-sites#>

A Women's History Museum for the US?

In February the US House of Representatives passed a Bill supporting a National Women's History Museum. This has yet to go to the Senate. And funding does not yet exist.*

India asks Oxford museum to return 'stolen' bronze statue†



The Indian government has asked the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to return a 15th-century bronze idol that was apparently stolen from a temple in the 1960s.

The Indian high commission in London said a formal request for restitution of the statue of Saint Tirumankai Alvar was made last Friday. The move comes after the Ashmolean informed the high commission last December of new research that questioned the provenance of the sculpture, which was bought by the museum from Sotheby's auction house in London in 1967.

An independent scholar found a 1957 photograph in the French Institute of Pondichéry, which appeared to depict the same idol in the temple of Sri Soundarrajaperumal, in a village near Kumbakonam in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. That

sculpture was stolen in the early 1960s.

The sculpture, which is almost one metre tall, depicts Tirumankai Alvar, one of the Tamil poet-saints of south India, holding a sword and shield. The venerated saint, who lived in the 8th or 9th century, was a chieftain, a military commander, and a bandit before converting to the Vaishnava tradition of Hinduism.

Rahul Nangare, the first secretary of the Indian high commission in London, said it had received a report from police in Tamil Nadu that “unambiguously shows that the original idol has been stolen and replaced with a fake one, and that the stolen idol is the same one that is presently with the Ashmolean”.

He thanked the Ashmolean for taking proactive steps to alert the high commission and expressed hope that “other museums would follow the example in dealing with suspected stolen pieces of our cultural heritage”.

* See <https://www.womenshistory.org/>.

† *Guardian* Feb 21, 2020.

Will Europe's museums rise to the challenge of decolonisation? Dan Hicks*

Anthropology museums –holding “world culture” collections – first developed in Europe, especially Germany and Britain, in the late 19th century. They were designed to realise these exoticising time-warps. In these places, the racist ideologies that sought to justify and naturalise European imperialism were institutionalised, helping create the idea of a distinction between “primitive art” and “civilisation”. Today the colonial mindset of European anthropology museums is being questioned and rethought.

Last year, the 15 nations of the Economic Community of West African States agreed an action plan for the return of African cultural property, and in February 2020 13 African heads of state convened as part of a new strategic group to champion 2021 as a Year of Culture for Africa, and “to speed up the return of cultural assets”. African institutions are reimagining museums not as an endpoint but as an ongoing, living process.

This new African thinking challenges Europe to look at itself through its own “unfinished” anthropology museums. Foremost is the question of cultural restitution and the return of sacred, royal and culturally iconic artworks and material culture taken under colonialism. ... Last November, the sabre of Omar Saidou Tall, seized as a trophy of war in 1893, was returned from Paris to Dakar. New legislation to make this return permanent, along with the return to Benin of 26 statues looted by Col Alfred Dodds during the sacking of the royal palace of Abomey in 1892, is expected soon. In Germany too, returns of human remains and cultural property – including the Stone Cross of Cape Cross and the Witbooi Bible taken during the Ovaherero and Nama genocide of 1904-8, when some 100,000 people were slaughtered – are taking place from Berlin and Stuttgart to Namibia.

Times are changing for Europe's “world culture” museums. How can they participate in this global present, rather than just representing some old colonial vision? ... It is time to reimagine museums as sites of conscience – unique public spaces for understanding, remembering and addressing the legacies of empire and enduring cultural infrastructure of “race science” – for the restitution of knowledge and memory as well as of property.

A one-way passage from India: Hackney Museum explores fate of colonial ayahs

The Guardian[†] carried an item about Indian ayahs...

* *Guardian* March 7 2020 (extracts)

† March 1 2020.



Eight decades after the ayah system petered out with the collapse of Britain's empire, an event at Hackney Museum in east London hopes to focus attention once again on these women, and a chapter of Britain's colonial and migrant history that has been all but forgotten.

The initiative behind the event was launched by Farhanah Mamoojee, a 28-year-old from east London who, after hearing a passing mention of the subject on a documentary, was surprised to discover that she lived close to a building that had once served as a hostel for destitute ayahs. The Ayahs' Home was established in east London in the 19th century by concerned philanthropists, and two buildings in which it was

housed still stand in Hackney.

Mamoojee applied to English Heritage for blue plaque recognition (her application has been shortlisted and is under consideration), "but I thought, it can't just be me. There must be other people who want to learn about this."

Eventually she reached Rozina Visram, a now-retired historian who moved to the UK from Zanzibar in the 1970s and began researching ayahs after she too became intrigued by brief passing mentions of often nameless Indian childcare workers. She remains the acknowledged authority on the subject. Though the women – up to 140 of whom are thought to have come to Britain every year – were extremely isolated and vulnerable, they were not only victims, notes Visram. "You can imagine how resilient they were. Enterprising, adventurous." One ayah, Minnie Green, took her abusive employers to court and won. Another, Mrs Anthony Pareira, is recorded as making the months-long voyage between India and Britain 54 times, choosing to make a career out of onboard childcare.

At Sing Sing, a museum going in down the hall from inmates*

Busting out of Sing Sing has been a dream of inmates since cell doors started clanging shut along the Hudson River in the 1820s. Now there's a plan to usher visitors inside the high walls well known in the past to gangsters, Hollywood stars and prisoners condemned to the electric chair.

A museum just beyond the maximum-security prison's watch towers is being planned with a unique feature: a 300-foot-long (91 meters) corridor connecting to the roofless ruins of the original 19th century cell block inside the walls. Museum-goers will stand at the site of the first cramped cells at this prison "up the river" from New York City and learn about life in the Big House.

* ABC News March 18 2020

“It’s so much more than just barbed wire and stone walls,” said Sean Pica, who was released from the Sing Sing Correctional Facility in 2002. “For those of us that lived in these prisons to know that time will be captured, the history will be told, is exciting — for the good and for the bad.” Pica is a board member of the not-for-profit group planning to open the Sing Sing Prison Museum in 2025. Visitors will learn about incarceration in America and about a lockup that looms large culturally.

British Museum says metal detectorists found 1,311 treasures last year*

An astonishingly well-preserved medieval brooch featuring what could be dragon and dog decorations is among a record number of objects discovered last year by the nation’s army of metal detectorists. The British Museum on Tuesday announced that 1,311 finds which are defined as treasure had been found by members of the public across England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2019.

They also included an iron age drinking set, a solid gold bronze age arm ring and a coin which helps tell the story of Carausius, a usurper emperor who in 286AD broke Britain away from Europe, in an adventure which ended badly.

Michael Lewis, the head of the British Museum’s portable antiquities scheme, said the 1,100-year-old brooch discovered in Norfolk was a particularly striking and rare discovery. “It is an amazing example of Anglo-Saxon art of the period,” he said. “When the finder found it the reaction was, is this old? It could be something more modern which was inspired by the past. Your gut reaction might be that it was Victorian.” The brooch has a distinctive stylised Anglo-Saxon decoration called Trewhiddle. It features plant motifs, geometric design and animal art which seems to include boar, dragons and dog-like creatures.

Museums in the time of COVID-19

You need not be totally cut-off from museums. Even the Nairobi National Museum has a video tour on its website (see above). And apparently there are “2,500 world-class museums and galleries that are now offering virtual tours and online collections”; this is on <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>. Various sites have made their own selections of some worth visiting, e.g.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/ten-museums-you-can-virtually-visit-180974443/>

<https://hyperallergic.com/547919/2500-virtual-museum-tours-google-arts-culture/>

* *Guardian* March 17 2020

*With the coronavirus shutdown, smaller heritage sites such as the Mary Rose face a fight for survival**

The Mary Rose is a true British icon: the flagship of King Henry VIII, sunk dramatically while fighting a massive French invasion. The Mary Rose combines life and death, drama and human endeavour, personal and professional stories, to create an immersive presentation of Tudor life at all levels of society in a purpose-built museum in Portsmouth, on England's south coast.



The Mary Rose is preserved by an independent UK charity that receives no government or public funding to help with running costs.

The Biggest Art Show of the Year Has Been Thrown Into Darkness†

It was supposed to be the biggest show of the year. More than 70,000 people bought tickets to the Scuderie del Quirinale Museum's (Rome) Raphael show, which was to celebrate the 500-year centennial of the artist's death with more than 200 works of art.

People around the world booked bucket-list trips to see the exhibition. The museum advertised heavily—billboards and banners and posters went up around the city—and when it opened on March 5, the international press reviewed it breathlessly.

Now the galleries of the Scuderie are silent and dark, says Mario De Simoni, the president of Ales SpA, the organization that runs the museum.

Normally, museums are loathe to loan paintings and drawings by Raphael for fear they will be damaged in transit; when a single painting by the artist travels, it's newsworthy. In 2006, for instance, when the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York reassembled the seven panels of an altarpiece painted by Raphael and disassembled in the 17th century, the museum turned the occasion into a three month-

* *Art Newspaper* March 20 2020 By the chief Executive of the Mary Rose Trust Helen Bonser-Wilton

† <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-20/the-biggest-art-show-of-the-year-has-been-thrown-into-darkness>

long, stand-alone exhibition. A further example was provided by the 12 tapestries Raphael created for the Sistine Chapel; in February, the series was put on view in the chapel for the first time since the 1500s—in an exhibition that lasted only a week.

The Scuderie’s show, in other words, is without precedent. The exhibition contains more than 100 of Raphael’s paintings and drawings, many loaned by the Uffizi Galleries in Florence. One, a portrait of Pope Leo X from about 1517 was so delicate—and deemed so precious—that its trip from Florence to Rome caused the entirety of the Uffizi’s scientific advisory committee to quit in protest. “It’s a matter of principle,” the members said in a statement.

*Van Gogh painting stolen from Dutch museum closed by coronavirus**

Thieves stole a Vincent van Gogh painting from a Dutch museum closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, its director announced on Monday. The Dutch master’s 1884 work *Lentetuin*, or *Spring Garden*, was taken from the Singer Laren Museum, located in a town 30km from Amsterdam.

“I am extremely pissed off that this happened. This is a huge blow,” museum director [Jan Rudolph de Lorm](#) said [in a press conference streamed on YouTube](#). “Art is for enjoyment and comfort, especially in this difficult time.”



Visitors wearing protective masks at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. SETH WENIG/ AP/ SHUTTER-STOCK

* *Irish Times* March 30 2020 <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/europe/van-gogh-painting-stolen-from-dutch-museum-closed-by-coronavirus-1.4215937>.

Kenya Museum Society's Mission, Benefits and 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 seven World Heritage sites, twenty 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:

- Free entry to all NMK managed museums, prehistoric sites and monuments
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- KMS day and weekend outings, evening lectures, films and other programmes
- Entry to the Ololua Nature Trail at half price
- *Tracker* magazine (10 months a year) to keep you abreast of KMS and Museum news and activities
- Email updates on KMS and Museum activities
- Annual magazine *Kenya Past and Present*
- 5% discount on books on the KMS shop at the Nairobi National Museum
- Free borrowing of books from KMS library
- Free reading privileges at Nature Kenya/NMK library
- Reduced advertising rates in the *Tracker* and *Kenya Past and Present*

Single resident	KShs 1,750	One membership card
Resident family	KShs 2,500	Including children below 18
Students (Kenya resident_	KShs 300	One membership card
Up country	KShs 1,200	One membership card
Non resident	US\$ 50	One membership card
Visitors (valid one month)	KShs 800	One membership card
Business membership (Kenya)	KShs 6,000	Eight membership cards

Contacts: info@kenyamuseumsociety.org OR 0724 255299

www.kenyamuseumsociety.org

To join: submit this form to the KMS office, the museum shop or at an event, or go online at <https://www.kenyamuseumsociety.org/kms-membership/> and pay by Mpesa.

KMS Membership Registration Form

Please use BLOCK letters

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

Type of membership: Single resident/ resident family/Kenya resident student/up-country/non-resident/visitor(one month)/business (Kenya) (*please circle one*)

Family name.....

First/given name

Name of spouse (for family membership)

Name/s of child/ren (under 18) for family membership:

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P O Box with Code Email address

Tel Home..... Mobile

NEW MEMBER/RENEWING MEMBER (please circle one)

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

Below for office use only:

Receipt No. Date

Membership No.

Amount paidCash/Mpesa/Visa/Cheque (circle one)

Cheque No. Bank.....

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