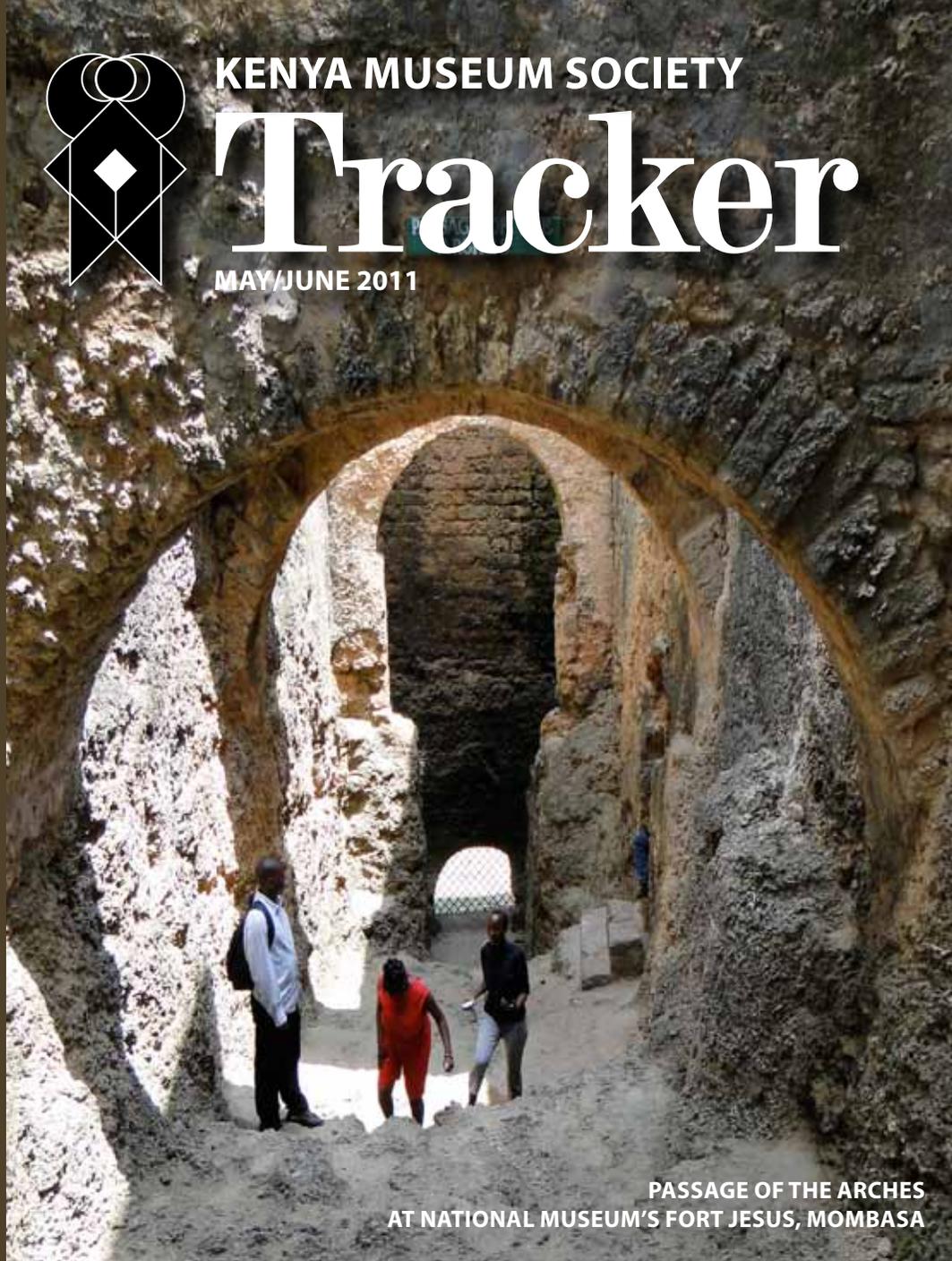




KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

Tracker

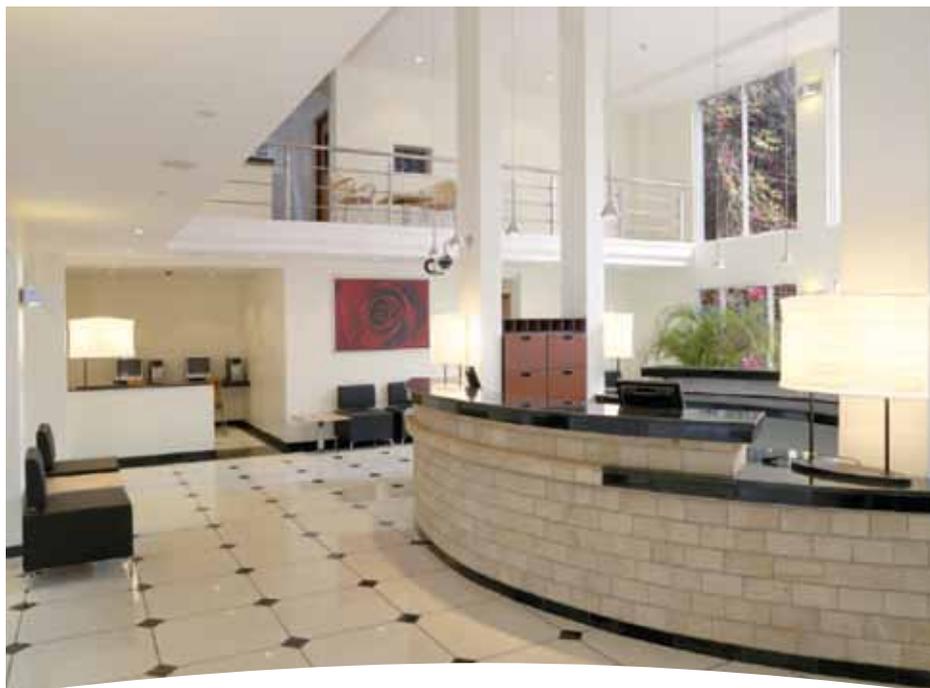
MAY/JUNE 2011



**PASSAGE OF THE ARCHES
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**Rate is for a single and double rates are higher. **The approximate dollar rate will fluctuate daily.*

Know Kenya More Course set for 31 October through 4 November



2010 KKC participants visit the ornithology lab at the Museum

The Kenya Museum Society (KMS) formally announced the dates of the 39th edition of the celebrated Know Kenya More course its Annual General Meeting. The 2011 Know Kenya More course, sponsored by Safaricom, will run from Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November in the newly refurbished Louis Leakey Auditorium and around the environs of the Nairobi National Museum.

Since 1971 the Know Kenya More course has been organised by the Kenya Museum Society as the main fundraising event to support projects of the National Museums of Kenya, providing valuable income for museums and pre-historic sites around the country. In 2010, the Kenya Museum Society

raised more than Ksh 1.3 million through the 40th Anniversary Lecture Series and other activities for the refurbishment of shelving in the world-renown Casting Department of the National Museums of Kenya. All proceeds of the 39th Course will go to the National Museums of Kenya.

The Know Kenya More course is an exciting event for all who live in and love Kenya. In 2011, the format will present three learning activities daily from 9am to 1pm, ranging from lectures, presentations and films on interesting and timely topics. To keep informed of up to date information related to Know Kenya More, please share your expression of interest with the KMS Office and follow updates on the KMS webpage (<http://www.kenyamuseumsociety.org>). A full programme will be available in September 2011.

For more information please contact The Kenya Museum Society, Nairobi National Museum, Museum Hill, Nairobi
020 374 3808, 0724 255 299, 020 233 9158
info@kenyamuseumsociety.org
www.kenyamuseumsociety.org



SAFARI REPORT

CHYULU HILLS AND LOITOKITOK, MARCH 2011

Glorious mud

Downpours follow a full moon over fly camp in the Chyulus making a cross-country trek into unexpected adventure



Everyone had a mountaineering tent in the grasses.



Tea and sundowners.



SAFARI REPORT

CHYULU HILLS AND LOITOKITOK, MARCH 2011



An afternoon hike in the hills offered quiet and lovely views, but Kilimanjaro never revealed itself. This is the scene from the trail looking toward Amboseli; flycamp is in the middle.

SAFARI REPORT

CHYULU HILLS AND LOITOKITOK, MARCH 2011

Our drive across the plains on Saturday morning halted at the first of many soft spots.

Kudos to Colin, who engineered with the Range Rover, our escape time and again. Toll: At least three tow ropes.



SAFARI REPORT

CHYULU HILLS AND LOITOKITOK, MARCH 2011



Shoes became superfluous. We picked up three Maasai headed for a Lions Club meeting on the way; then, at the last bog-down—within sight of the tarmac—hired six or seven more to get out.

In Loitokitok we stayed at the Kibo Slopes Cottages, driving into town to see the site of the bar where Ernest Hemingway would drink when he ran out of whiskey at his camp down the road. The son of the inn owner still has the table where his dad and the author would trade stories.

The exertions of the day and another night's deluge literally dampened enthusiasm for trekking far from the tarmac and most of us headed back to Nairobi after Sunday morning breakfast.

SAFARI REPORT

TSAVO EAST, APRIL 2011

Tsavo Easter

The KMS April safari yields three days of relaxation, hundreds of elephants and a chance to see the rare hirola

At right: Narinder sorts out the KWS rangers after a wait at the gate. The two accompanied us to the northern part of the park, which sees little traffic.



The pool at Ashnil Lodge overlooks a grassy place where elephants gathered morning and evening.



Above: Morning light on the reservoir by the lodge.

Left: A torrent of muddy water surges through the granite canyon at Lugards Falls.

SAFARI REPORT

TSAVO EAST, APRIL 2011

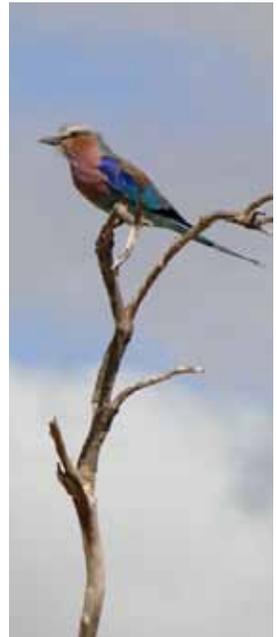


Wildlife near the lodge in the late afternoon.



Above: A pair of ground hornbills get in an argument, ignored by the guinea fowl.

At right: A lavender roller.



In the KMS Shop

Karibu to the new Shop Manager – John Mmbono – previously at Ramoma Gallery Store and Banana Box. Come in and say hi to John and the rest of the Shop team: Loise and Brenda.



Come in and stock up before the summer holidays, whether at home or abroad.

I'm going on a trip and in my suitcase I am going to put.....

- 1) Shuka (a Masai game like checkers) that's perfect for the wait in departure lounges
- 2) A mug for grannie that says "Someone In Kenya Loves Me"
- 3) A novel to read for myself and "How Zebra Got His Stripes" and other tales as told by Nick Greaves for the toto
- 4) A beautiful necklace to wear with my summer outfit (which one will I choose?)
- 5) Some soapstone gifts for friends and family



TUGEN HILLS, MAY 2011

Hardy hikers meet things that fly

An amble to a waterfall—small and close or large and far?—gets serious as KMS safari-goers keep their eyes on

What? Spend a long weekend with the Kenya Museum Society at a place that doesn't even warrant a mention in the Rough Guide? Bright and early (with my fingernail marks all the way to the car) we headed off to the first RV with Narinder, a petrol station outside Naivasha. A big group, 21 strong.



An uneventful drive over the hills and a beautiful spot overlooking Lake Baringo for a picnic lunch with a chance to guess nationalities by seeing how “organised” the picnics were!

We stopped at the Chebloch Gorge to see how a broad river can cram itself into a three-meter-wide gorge. Then we had a look at the crocodiles beside the river. Finally, on to Sego Safari Lodge. Much banter about the size of the jacuzzi in each room and the standard of champagne in the mini bar—but it was clean and obviously popular since a billion flying ants decided to join us for dinner. A long awaited swim in the pool proved unpopular due to the colour of the pool water. The other inhabitants were some winged and insect-like creatures, and some who kept many awake all night long with their croaking!

The following morning, some headed out for an early bird walk – those whose only birding involved the Famous Grouse chose to stay in bed!

And for the key event: Drive to a location in the Tugen Hills, amble for a couple of kilometres to a waterfall, then take a forest walk. To use a military expression—no plan survives the first contact. The last part of the drive made the crosscountry Rhino Charge look like a school run (nothing macho about the multi-national blokes showing off their driving skills).



SAFARI REPORT

TUGEN HILLS, MAY 2011



We could see the waterfall. It was either very small and quite close, or very big and a long way away. It was huge, so it was far. Some decided to quit early, some went for a couple of hours, but the majority stayed the distance and reached the falls. The youngest and the “most mature” raced each other—score one for the aged—and the rest of us were spared the sight of the younger stripping down to underpants for a shower. It was hard, it was even a bit dangerous in places, the “track” wasn’t there and had to be cut with pangas by some bemused villagers (this was not a tourist route), but by god it

was fun!

The return was quite hard on the knees for some. The total time was about 5 hours. And then the silly bit. Scott and I—within sight of the cars and on a track with a small cliff and a steep slope above—heard a cow bell, then a crashing sound through the trees above. Scott thought, “Boulder?” reversing fast. I was just trying to work out, “Why is a boulder ringing a bell?” when, with a moo and a thud, a cow appeared out of the sky a few feet in front of us! (If it had hit us, imagine the obituary!

“Daisy” eventually came round and staggered to her feet, but I fear the locals saw good chakula on the menu.

We all survived—we had another slightly unmemorable meal followed by a more memorable session discussing previously unseen birds, virtually impassable trails and flying cows. Most of the group on returning to Nairobi stopped for a civilised lunch at Sunbird Lodge.

Will & Mel

Donate books for the 2011 Second Hand Book Sale

Dates for this year’s Second Hand Book Sale will be on 2nd and 3rd September 2011.

Kenya Museum Society welcomes donation of used books, tapes, DVDs, children’s books and games, magazines and dictionaries

Kindly drop your donation to KMS office. We are open from 9 to 5 pm

You can also drop your donations at KMS shop located inside the Nairobi National Museum, open Monday to Sunday from 9.30 am to 5 pm.

EVENING PROGRAM, APRIL 13, 2011

Community, conservation join to rejuvenate the Karura Forest

Since 2007 Friends of Karura Forest has worked with residents to transform a former danger zone into a natural and recreational reserve fully within city limits

By Dan Whipple

Cooperation from the local community is essential in the protection of threatened lands like Nairobi's Karura Forest, says Alice Macaire, whose locally based efforts to protect the forest have led to its rejuvenation.



Alice Macaire of Friends of the Karura Forest and Charity Munyasia, a Kenya forest official.

The Friends of Karura Forest conservation effort was begun in 2007, building on earlier effort by Professor Wangari Maathai, who originally rescued the forest from development. Nine hundred hectares of the forest have now been enclosed by an electric fence, and 29 rangers and scouts have been trained and patrol the area full-time.

At a gathering sponsored by the Kenya Museum Society, Macaire presented a film and talk about the efforts of the group to protect the forest, which is near

the Muthaiga area of Nairobi. She credited much of the success to the support of the local people living in the adjacent Huruma slum for their support and the eventual success of the project.

Prior to the conservation efforts, Karura had acquired a reputation as dangerous spot. Muggings, robbery and violence were common. At one point, said Kenya forest official Charity Munyasia, they were averaging one dead body discovered there per fortnight. Munyasia was an essential, enthusiastic supporter of the conservation efforts.

To overcome these security threats, the Friends of Karura met with the residents in Huruma at a church in the slum. "A lot of people, predominantly men, shuffled in very ragged clothes, terribly yellow eyes, which I understand now is a result of drinking a lot of changaa to stop your hunger pangs," said Macaire in the

EVENTS

film. "Very desperate."

When the group asked the residents about whether they would agree to having the forest fence, "to my amazement, they basically were for it."

One of the community workers who was holding the meeting asked those in attendance if they knew the people doing the attacking in the forest. The men said they did.

She asked, "Are they predominantly from your community?" and they said they were.

Macaire continued, describing the situation: "The community worker asked, 'Are they all from your community?' and they said, 'yes' ... and then there was this moment, you could feel this question coming, 'Is everyone who's doing the attacking in this room?'"

"There was a pause, then someone said, 'We're pretty well all here.'"

Wildlife includes

bush baby, bushbuck, bush pig, civet, dik dik, duiker, epauletted bat, genet and porcupine.

"One of the men stood and asked, 'Am I a better man if I attack someone in the forest, steal their mobile phone, sell it and feed my children? Or am I better man if I go to bed at night listening to my children crying themselves to sleep because they have no food?'"

"Another youth jumped to his feet and said, 'Please, please, find me employment. It's very frightening attacking people in the forest.'"

From then on, the group was able to work with the community, providing some employment, setting rules for gathering wood and feed within the forest, and other benefits. They were aided especially by some dedicated local conservationists, including John Chege and Charity Munyasia, to fence some of the area and open it for public visits.

More than 3,000 people visited the forest in the first month after the fence and gates opened, and 2,000 the following month. The group has ambitious plans for improvements that will make the visitor experience even better.

The forest contains a three-tiered waterfall, three rivers, bamboo groves and more 50 kilometers of hiking trails. There are also caves of historic interest from the time of the Mau Mau rebellion. Wildlife includes bush baby, bushbuck, bush pig, civet, dik dik, duiker, epauletted bat, genet and porcupine. Conservationists are considering reintroduction of the colobus monkey, which was once populous there, but has been eliminated from the area.

The forest is one of the largest gazetted forests in the world located entirely within city limits. There is a tiered fee for entering the forest.

Macaire spoke at the KMS event held at the Louis Leakey Auditorium on Wednesday, 13 April, 2011.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT



KMS members tour the casting department before the annual general meeting

2010 Know Kenya funds complete casting department shelving project

All officers re-elected to current positions in 2011

The annual general meeting of the Kenya Museum Society this year began with a tour of the museum casting department, which has been the recipient of a KMS grant to replace the wooden shelving in the department with durable gray steel shelves. One of the two storage rooms has had the shelving replaced, and the other is due to get them soon.

The tour was conducted by museum staffer Gabriel Muya, who showed several casts and molds, explaining how they were created.

At the general meeting, KMS Chair Pat Jentz said that the **financial success of the 2010 Know Kenya Course** had enabled KMS to fully fund the Casting Department's shelves. The grant to the department was Ksh 1.3 million.

Jentz also said that the KMS relationship with the museum has changed somewhat. The museum has requested that the society move away from grant-based funding to full **project-based funding**. Under this new direction, KMS provided the audiovisual equipment for the new Wajir Museum, which opened this month.

Three projects are under consideration for this year: phase 3 of the Louis Leakey Auditorium construction, which would add a back stage area; the

EVENTS

renovation of the aquarium; and the opening of a gallery for the display of Joy Adamson's paintings.

One challenge that the museum and KMS have faced is that the **road construction around the museum has reduced attendance**. Many people think the museum is closed. This has in turn reduced receipts both at the museum itself and in the KMS shop. The shop has actually shown improved profitability, although sales and total receipts are lower because of the museum attendance issues.

Treasurer Peter Brice presented a financial report showing the society with a Ksh 1.6 million **surplus** for nine-month period ending 31 December 2010. The nine month accounting was necessary because of a change in the fiscal year accounting period.

All of the current KMS **officers** were re-elected to their positions. They are: Chair Pat Jentz; Vice Chair Susan Linnee; Hon Secretary Marla Stone; Hon Treasurer Peter Brice; Weekend Outings Narinder Heyer; Day Outings Swati Kaushik; PR and Marketing Kathleen Vaughn; Evening Programs Yukio Uehara; and Shop Committee Liliana Bryant.

The dates for the **Know Kenya Course in 2011** have been set for 31 October to 4 November. There will be three sessions in the morning each day, but no afternoon sessions.



Upcoming KMS Safaris

Watch for more detailed information in your e-mail or contact the KMS office for more information.

**August 26 – 28
MAASAI MARA – RIVERSIDE**

**September 2 – 4
SIRIMON BANDAS, MT. KENYA**

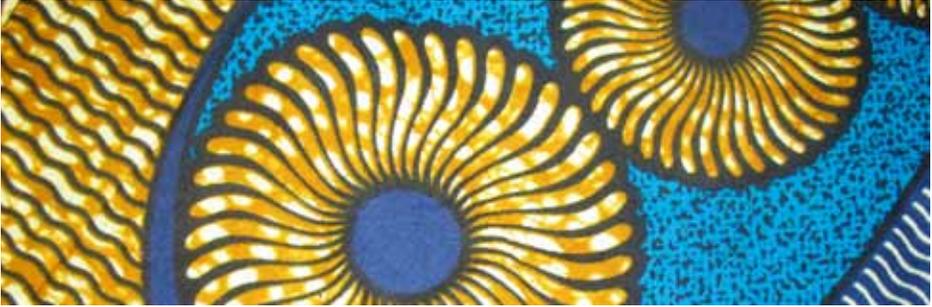
**September 22 – 28 (3 nights)
KOITOBOS HOUSE & KAPKURO BANDAS – MT. ELGON**

**October 10 – 15
NGURUNIT, NORTHERN KENYA – CAMEL SAFARI**

**November
KERIO VALLEY – MARICH PARK**

**December
LAKE TURKANA – KOOBI FORA - ILERET**

ACTIVITIES



MORNING BIRD WALKS

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

Cost: Ksh 200 per person; Free to KMS members

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

Email: office@naturekenya.org

SUNDAY BIRD WATCH OUTING

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

For more information contact tel: 3749957/3746090

Email: office@naturekenya.org

NGONG ROAD FOREST WALKS

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

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

Email: office@ngongforestsanctuary.com

MORNING TREE WALK

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

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

For more information contact tel: 3749957/3746090

Email: fona@naturekenya.org

MEMBERSHIP

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

KMS Membership Registration Form

Please use BLOCK letters

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

First Name _____ Spouse _____

Names of children (under 18) _____

P.O. Box _____ Code _____ City _____

Tel: Home _____ Office _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

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

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

Membership Rates

(Please circle one)

Resident: Family Ksh 1,700

Individual Ksh 1,200

Student Ksh 300

Non-resident US\$ 50

Corporate (Kenya) Ksh 15,000

(For office use only)

Family name: _____

Receipt no: _____ Date: _____

Type of membership: _____ Nos: _____

Amt. paid: _____ Cash/Cheque _____

Cheque no: _____ Bank: _____

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