

# History of the Museum

## The Beginning of the Museum

The idea of a museum in Kenya came about on March 25th 1909, when ten people met at the house of the Lieut. Governor, F. J. Jackson, '... for the purpose of considering the formation of a Natural History Society for East Africa...'. This became the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society which now, as the East African Natural History Society, is probably the oldest society in Kenya. Part of its activities involved making scientific collections of natural history specimens, and there was an obvious need for a museum to house and exhibit these. A building was constructed near the Provincial Commissioner's Office, and consisted of a room 30 x 25 feet and one smaller office or committee room. It was ready for occupation on August 16th 1910, and was rented for Kshs. 37.50 per month.

The first curator was Mr. T. J. Anderson, the Senior Entomologist to the Agricultural Department. Specimens poured in, giving succeeding curators, Messrs Cunningham and Battiscombe, problems in accommodating and cataloguing them all. On August 29th 1910, the Governor allocated a plot of land on Kirk Road for a permanent museum. Construction of this building which was larger (70 x 30 x 20 feet), was not begun until July 1921. The Museum was officially opened by the Governor, Sir Edward Northey, in 1922. Meanwhile in May 1914, the Society had agreed to engage a full time Curator, Mr. Arthur Loveridge, but in 1922, when the Museum was officially opened the post was occupied part time by Mr. Gedye.

By 1925, the Museum was again suffering from a shortage of space so that the Society opened a fund to build an extension to be known as the Coryndon Memorial Hall in memory of the late Governor, Sir Robert Coryndon, who was a keen naturalist. Lady Coryndon donated all her husband's trophies to the

Museum. In 1925, the Acting Governor of the country also called a meeting to discuss whether a Memorial should be erected to the late Sir Robert Coryndon and this meeting too agreed that a Coryndon Memorial Hall should be erected which would form the nucleus of a larger Natural History Museum. Contributions towards the erection of the Hall were solicited from the Kenya public and friends of the late Sir Robert Coryndon outside Kenya. A Board of Trustees of the Coryndon Memorial Fund was appointed on June 21st 1928.

In 1926, the Government informed the Natural History Society that due to a New Town Planning scheme the Kirk Road Museum would have to be demolished, but that another plot would be available. The Society Committee eventually selected a site on Ainsworth Hill (now Museum Hill) where the Museum stands today.

## The Birth of the Museum

As a result of appeals sent out for the Coryndon Memorial Fund, £6,500 was raised from the Public, £3,000 was contributed by Government and £2,000 was given by the Natural History Society. The construction of the new building on the Ainsworth Hill site began in 1929. The Coryndon Memorial Museum was officially opened on September 22nd, 1930 by Sir Edward Grigg. The Natural History Society had already moved its collections into the building, and the staff included Dr. V. G. L. Van Someren as Hon. Curator, the Hon. Miss E. M. Napier as botanist and Mr. Njuguna Waderi as door-keeper.

Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, who had been working and excavating fossil material in East Africa accepted storage and work space in the new study rooms for his collections of archaeological and palaeontological specimens. Mr. Humphrey Slade was Hon. Legal Advisor to the Society and a Trustee, and he is still Hon.

Legal Advisor to the present Board of Trustees.

The next seven years, the years of world wide depression, saw large increases in the collections including mammals, birds, fish, insects, plants, ethnographic, palaeontological and geological specimens. The library increased until it contained several hundred books. Funding, however, was totally inadequate and the Society depended primarily on a band of devoted volunteers to keep the Museum functioning.

In 1937, as a result of a request from the Society, the Government appointed a committee to "inquire into the Relationship between the Coryndon Memorial Trustees and the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society, and into the conditions under which the Coryndon Memorial is maintained". This resulted firstly in the replacement of the existing trust by a new trust with a Board of Trustees, and secondly in the appointment of a Management Committee of the Museum which was set up by the Trustees in 1945. Following two years of negotiations, the assets of the East African Natural History Society, with the exception of the library, were handed over to the Board of Trustees. The library remained in the Museum.

In 1940, Dr. V. G. L. van Someren resigned as Director and Curator of the Museum after 27 years association. He was succeeded by Dr. L. S. B. Leakey. Museum activities were much reduced during the following four years of world war.

## Post War Progress 1945-1968

During the years 1945 until 1968, the Museum continued to expand but was constantly hampered by lack of funds. In 1945 the main sections of the Museum included the herbarium, ornithology, entomology, mammology, and ethnography, and the building consisted of the central section of the present Museum, the Coryndon Memorial Hall.

### Museum Extensions

A number of extensions were made to the Museum, mostly through the setting up of special funds. The first was to the library in 1947 with £500 pounds from the War Memorial Fund. In 1949 an appeal fund was launched to raise £60,000 for major extensions; construction of these extensions commenced in 1950 when the fund had reached 612,739/-. The extensions were completed in 1952 and included five new halls for exhibits providing an increase in space more than double the size of the original Museum. Sir Evelyn Baring officially opened the new wing in 1953. The new Halls included the Aga Khan Hall built by funds donated by the Aga Khan; this was made the Hall of Man and exhibited modern man and his culture, prehistoric man and a life size reproduction of the Cheke Rock Shelter in Tanzania carrying some 348 prehistoric paintings. The Ghandi Hall built by funds raised by the Hindu Community, exhibited minerals and other geological specimens, and a palaeontological exhibit. The Botanical Hall displayed paintings by Joy Adamson, and above this was an exhibit on insects. The Churchill Hall which was only partly completed, exhibited special habitat groups, marine and fresh water fish, and some reptiles. The large quantity of specimens preserved in spirit was stored in the spacious vaults below the new wings.

### Staff Housing

In 1955 a block of junior staff houses was erected on museum land and a piece of land was obtained at Makadara for more staff houses. These were built in 1956 and 1957.

### Museum Departments

Through the years the Museum departments collected numerous specimens and several collections were donated. In 1946, Mr. J. G. Williams was engaged as taxidermist and ornithologist; he remained with the Museum until he retired in October 1965. During this time he made numerous collecting trips and built up an impressive display of birds. Mr. A. D. Forbes-Watson was appointed Ornithologist in March 1966. During 1967-8, Mr. Forbes-Watson spent several months on loan

to the IUCN Mount Nimba Committee where many ornithological collections were made. Also an important collection of Indian Ocean Birds was made by Mr. I.S.C. Parker for the Museum, and the Museum received on loan the types of many species of birds described by Lieut. Col. H. F. Stoneham, the late Director of the Stoneham Museum in Kitale.

The mammal collection grew under a number of different curators, and the reptiles and amphibians were also included in this section. Mr. C. Ionides donated many specimens. Mr. A. Duff Mackay was appointed mammalogist in the period 1963-4 and at this time rooms became available in the Museum basement for part of the mammal collection.

Dr. R. H. Carcasson took the post of entomologist in 1956 and until he took over as Acting Director of the Museum in 1961, he did much to enlarge the insect collections. In 1959 he made a 5,000 mile collecting safari through the Belgian Congo (Zaire) to Zambia, and in the same year bequests of important collections came from Mr. R. Saunders (Butterflies) and Mr. Townsend of some 10,000 bred moths. In May 1968 Mr. T. E. Jackson of Kitale died and his collection of butterflies, some 50,000 specimens from all over Africa, was bequeathed to the Museum.

In 1949 a new section of conchology was started with an important collection of specimens from Prof. Hale Carpenter. Specimens continued to be added until 1966, when Dr. Verdcourt, the Hon. Curator, returned to the United Kingdom and the collection then remained in storage.

The ethnographic collections grew, much of the time being under the Honorary Curatorship of Mrs. Jean Brown.

In 1954, Dr. S. Hitchen's mineral collection which had been on show in the Museum since 1945, was purchased.

### Department of Osteology

The Osteology Department was begun in 1965 at the instigation of Dr. L. S. B. Leakey. It was intended to build up a good collection of modern skeletons to be used for comparative purposes. In November 1965, construction of a building was begun with funds from the Wenner Gren Foundation. The building was opened in June 1966. In addition

a small building was erected on a plot at Tigoni to serve as a Boiling Centre. Under Mrs. J. Arment the Department ran so successfully that by 1967 the building was already full. Funds were then raised from the Rockefeller Foundation for an extension and this was begun immediately. The new wing also included a photographic laboratory and additional office space. In one year, 1967-68, over 2,000 skeletons were cleaned and catalogued, ranging from elephants, to bats, birds and frogs.

### The Herbarium

During 1948 it was proposed that the Museum Herbarium form the base of the new E.A. Community Herbarium. In 1950, when the botanical sheets numbered 16,972, the collections were moved to the new East African Agriculture and Research Organisation (EAFRO) building in the Museum grounds. The collections had been built up through the years, largely through the efforts of Dr. Bally who joined the Museum in 1938, and is still with the Herbarium today in an honorary capacity.

### The Snake Park

In 1958, the plot of land in front of the Museum and down to the Nairobi River, was transferred to the Museum Trustees for the development of Botanical Gardens and to exhibit live snakes. This idea was developed further in 1959, when money was made available for a combined Snake Park and Snake Study Centre surrounded by a Botanical Garden. By the end of 1960, the Snake Park was almost completed using half of the funds made available by the War Memorial Committee. The other half was used for a special Garden and Memorial Gateway which was formally opened in July 1962. The Snake Park was opened to the public in January 1961 with Mr. Jonathan Leakey in charge until November 1961. The Snake Park was taken over by Mr. C. Webb in 1962, and when Mr. Webb died in 1964, Mr. J. O. P. Ashe took over.

Through the years snakes were collected and displayed, many being donated by Mr. C. Ionides. In 1967-8 further improvements to the Snake Park were made with a handsome donation from the Attorney General, the Hon. Mr. Charles Njonjo.

### The Schools Liaison Service

This service was started in the beginning of 1963, with Mrs. A. B. Isaac and Mr. Taliwawa Musao in charge. A very generous grant from the Ford Foundation covered the initial expenditure and the running costs for three years. Plans were developed for a lecture hall and a demonstration laboratory for the use of school children. The lecture hall was financed by the Ford Foundation and completed in 1964. In 1965-6, the service all but ceased due to lack of financial support. Mr. Taliwawa left and Mrs. Sutton continued on a part time basis. The following year, 1966-7 the service was forced to close down through lack of funds. In February 1968 it reopened with a grant from the Government Education Department. Miss A. Evans was Education Officer for the Museum.

### The Centre for Prehistory and Palaeontology

The Centre for Prehistory and Palaeontology was formed during the period 1962-3 with Dr. L. S. B. Leakey as Honorary Director. The Archaeological and Palaeontological collections were moved to a building next to the Herbarium, vacated by the Desert Locust Survey Organisation. The Centre was under the control of the Museum Trustees and financed by generous grants from the Ford Foundation, the U.S.A. National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, and the Wenner Gren Foundation.

The administration of the prehistoric sites of Olorgesailie and Kariandusi was taken over by the Centre from the National Parks of Kenya, together with an annual grant of £1,000 for their maintenance and a land rover previously used by the warden of the sites. These sites later incorporated field museums; one was also set up at Hyrax Hill, near Nakuru during 1965-6.

The Fejos laboratory named after the late Director of the Wenner Gren Foundation was opened by his widow, Mrs. Lita Osmundsen. A second laboratory was made available through funds from the National Geographic Society, and the building was opened in February 1966 by the Society's Vice President, Dr. Melvyn Payne in the presence of Mr. Mbiu Koinange, the Minister for Education.

### Research in Prehistory

Prior to 1945, Dr. L. S. B. Leakey had been working at a number of sites including Olorgesailie. In 1947 the British-Kenya Miocene Research Expedition, with Prof. le Gros Clark as Director and Drs. L. S. B. Leakey and D. G. MacInnes in the field, arose out of the Pan African Congress held in Nairobi that year. The Expedition was organised by the Royal Society and financed by the Kenya Government and Mr. C. W. Boise. Work was carried out initially at Songhor and Rusinga and later at other sites and islands near Rusinga. In 1948, Dr. Mary Leakey found the greater part of the cranium and complete lower jaw of a specimen of *Procounsul africanus* on Rusinga Island. Several fossil fruits, seeds and insects were collected from Mfangano. In 1954, Dr. D. G. MacInnes resigned from the Museum to take up an appointment in Britain.

In 1959 the Fort Ternan site was discovered by Mr. F. Wicker. This site has produced thousands of fossil specimens including specimens of *Ramapithecus (Kenyaipithecus) wickeri* first found in 1961.

Between 1955-1959 the Leakey's spent much time at Olduvai and were eventually rewarded in 1959 with the discovery of the almost complete cranium of *Zinjanthropus* on an excavated living floor. This discovery for the first time turned world attention to East Africa as a centre of research into man's origins.

In 1961-2 Dr. L. S. B. Leakey resigned as Curator of the Museum so that he could devote his attention to work at Olduvai.

During 1963, Richard Leakey attempted to get to some possible sites near Lake Natron from Olduvai, but the attempt failed. Later by crossing the lake from Shombole the venture was successful and within a few days Mr. Kamoya Kimeu had discovered an almost complete mandible of a robust australopithecine, the same species as *Zinjanthropus*. In 1966-7 Richard Leakey excavated a magnificent fossil elephant in the Baringo area and brought it down to the Museum where it is still on exhibit in the Prehistory Gallery.

### Museum Publications

Funds for the publication of the "Museum Occasional Papers" which

had begun in 1945 were found insufficient by 1961. Arrangements were then made with the East Africa Natural History Society to publish a joint journal known as the "Journal of the East Africa Natural History Society and Coryndon Museum".

### Conferences

In 1947 the first Pan African Congress on Prehistory was arranged by Dr. L. S. B. Leakey. This brought Kenya and Nairobi great prominence in the world's scientific and lay press. Sixty six delegates from twenty six countries attended the Congress.

In 1957, a conference of Curators of Museums throughout Africa was held in the Coryndon Memorial Museum and proved a great success.

### Change of Name

In keeping with the new status of the country, the Coryndon Memorial Museum became The National Museum in 1964. His Excellency the Right Honourable Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, graciously consented to become Patron. The Mammal Hall which formed the core of the original building and had been built by funds in dedication to the memory of Sir Robert Coryndon, became known as the Coryndon Memorial Hall.

### The New Decade

The years 1968-1978 saw enormous expansion in the National Museum. In 1968, the Museum held under its administration, the main Museum with eleven members of staff, the National Museum School Liaison Service with one member of staff and the Centre for Prehistory which administered the three prehistoric sites, Olorgesailie, Kariandusi and Hyrax Hill but which was funded largely from overseas. The Director of the Museum had a typewriter but no secretary! During the following ten years the government grant for recurrent expenditure to the National Museum has increased from £17,000 in 1968 to £362,860 plus an additional £207,030 development grant in 1978, and the Museum system has expanded into the complex organisation described in the following pages.



In September, 1968, Dr. R. H. Carcasson resigned as Director and Mr. R. E. Leakey, who had been acting as Honorary Director of the Centre of Prehistory and Palaeontology, was appointed Administrative Director. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Sir Ferdinand Cavendish Bentick who had served since 1939 retired in 1970, and Prof. T. R. Odhiambo took his place.

The Museum policy developed during this period concerned four main aspects:-(1) the educational role of the museum in developing museum exhibits within a broad educational programme, and in providing services to schools, colleges, and other institutions, (2) the development of the regional museums in areas of high population density which would extend museum services with exhibits and special programmes to people who would not otherwise have access to these facilities, (3) to provide basic scientific services in the fields of reference, taxonomic study, and identification, and to house scientific materials essential to these services, and (4) the development of international institutes in which Kenyans would actively participate but which would primarily serve as international centres of excellence, and would benefit from overseas financial support and scientific collaboration.

## Nairobi Museum

### Department of Education

Under Mrs. A. J. Faden, the sole Member of staff in 1968, the Education Department developed a series of programmes for schools including subjects of topical as well as scientific interest. In 1969, the first teacher's course was organized and the first publications produced. In 1971 the Frankfurt Zoological Society donated funds for the purchase of a mobile film unit. The popularity of the services resulted in fast expansion of the Department, which is now one of the most active in the Museum complex, providing assistance to numerous schools as well as advising the Regional Museums. The Department runs a continuous series of lectures, films, tours and courses, both at the Museum and at schools and colleges. The education activities of the Museum are of prime importance. Mr. M. Thomason took over from Mrs. A. J. Faden until Mrs. L. Ndegwa took over as Head of Depart-

ment in December 1973. The Department moved into the house next to the Snake Park in 1977.

Through the years the Education Department has worked closely with the Wild Life Clubs in the organisation of their regular seminars.

### Department of Casting

The casting programme was initially developed on a non-profit making basis, but in January 1971 it became commercial. Mr. K. Mweu and Mr. S. Kasinga went to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., for a short course in casting techniques, sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Later the Wenner Gren Foundation sponsored Mr. Kasinga on a second trip to the U.S.A. to learn the latest techniques employed by the Foundation. The success of the Department is due to the skill of the staff who produce the high quality casts which are now on display in many museums around the world, and which are used as teaching aids in many schools, universities and colleges.

### Department of Photography

This department was founded when darkroom facilities became available on completion of the new Osteology building in 1969. Initially the department was run by a Peace Corps volunteer, Mr. R. Beatty. It was subsequently taken over by the present head of department, Mr. Peter Kimitta. UNESCO donated the darkroom equipment.

### Department of Exhibits and Workshops

The department was established to take over the responsibilities of cabinet making, setting up exhibits and general maintenance. It has had to expand to cater for the needs of the growing Museum organisation.

Mr. E. Gitonga took over from Mr. M. Tippett as Chief Technician in 1972. Both members of staff spent time at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. and visited other American Museums in 1971, on grants from the Ford Foundation. Mr. Gitonga travelled again to the States in 1973 for a six months study visit to the Museum of Science in Boston.

The Department organised a special exhibit in 1973 to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Kenya's Independence. It was opened by the

Vice President, the Hon. Daniel arap Moi. A special exhibit was also sent to Lagos for the 2nd. World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture in February 1977. It was entitled, "Africa, the birthplace of man".

### Library

The Library has been jointly held by the National Museum and the East Africa Natural History Society since 1938 when it was transferred to the Museum. In January 1976, Miss Priscilla Allen retired, and a full time librarian, Miss Bella Madara, was appointed.

### Accounts Division

In 1968, there was no full time accountant employed by the Museum, although Mr. S. J. Vyas was accountant for the Centre of Prehistory and Palaeontology. With the increase in the Museum personnel and Departments, the Accounts Division, which serves the entire Museum complex, has become one of the most important in the Museum, and now includes a staff of seventeen. Mr. A. Bholim joined the staff as Chief Accountant in April 1976.

In 1969, the Museum developed a small kiosk for the sale of ethnographic items, books and postcards. This proved successful and is an added attraction as well as providing additional revenue.

### Natural Sciences Division

The Natural Sciences Division includes the department of Mammals, Ornithology, Entomology and Herpetology. Osteology was taken over from the Centre for Prehistory in 1971 and developed as a sub-department of Mammals. After the opening of the International Louis Leakey Memorial Institute for African Prehistory (TILLMIAP) much of the collection was moved into the TILLMIAP building.

### Department of Mammals

Mr. I. R. Aggundey joined the department as Curator in 1971. The collections were moved into the upper storey of the new building behind the Museum in 1972, and rearranged in a series of new storage cabinets.

### Department of Ornithology

The ornithology collections were moved from the main building into new study rooms in 1970, and the



collections were rearranged in the new space. The ornithologist's reference list allowing visitors to quickly find any species in the collection, proved so popular that in 1971, it was produced as a mimeographed "Skeleton Checklist of East African Birds". Mr. G. R. Cunningham van Someren took over as curator in June 1976.

#### **Department of Entomology**

The Entomology department was without a curator until 1969 when Mr. M. P. Clifton filled the position. With the removal of the Ornithological collection to new premises, the Entomological collection was able to expand into the much needed vacated space.

#### **Department of Herpetology**

This department was developed under the curatorship of Mr. A. Duff Mackay. It initially incorporated specimens of amphibians and reptiles in spirit, previously scattered in different parts of the Museum, and subsequently added to extensively. The specimens were first housed in the Museum basement, but in 1972, they were moved into the new building where they had 1½ kilometres of shelving.

The Herpetology Department was also involved in the accessioning and curating of a growing collection of fish. A contribution from the UNDP/NARAD pelagic fish survey of the Arabian Gulf of a large valuable collection of marine fish, together with further material received from the EAMFRO museum in Zanzibar formed the beginning of this collection. While there is no marine department in the Museum, it is clear that this should be developed and should probably be situated in Mombasa, where many of the specimens are presently stored. Negotiations are in progress towards the acquisition of suitable land for the erection of a laboratory and storage facility. A start was also made on building up collections of fresh water fish.

#### **Ethnography Division**

In 1972, the Ethnography Department, still under Mrs. Jean Brown, agreed that rather than having two collections, the University and Museum should join forces and maintain one single collection in the new building. All the specimens

catalogued are the property of the Museum Trustees of Kenya. The department was developed to get an overall picture of what material culture exists in Kenya, and as well as building up the collection of ethnographic items, collections of films, colour slides and black and white photographs were also made. In June 1974, Mr. S. M. Seba, became Curator of the Division after spending six months in Denmark on a museology course.

#### **Inland Museums, Monuments and Sites**

##### **Inland Museums**

Kitale was the first of the inland regional museums to be developed. The Stoneham Museum Trustees constructed the building for the new museum and this was handed over to the Museum Trustees of Kenya together with the collections of the late Col. H. Stoneham. Mrs. Linda Donley, a Peace Corps volunteer was the first Curator. The museum was formally opened in June 1975 by the Chairman of the Board, Prof. T. R. Odhiambo. Mr. Alfred Cheutich, the present curator, joined the staff in 1975.

The museum's exhibits are mainly concerned with the local people and depict aspects of their history, culture and traditions, but there are also more general exhibits on pre-history. There is an active education section which organises programmes for schools, a library, a crafts shop, and a nature trail which runs through the small nature reserve behind the museum.

The Kitale Museum Advisory Committee was formed in February 1974 to advise and assist the curator in running the Museum. The committee is made up of local leaders who meet once a month.

The second inland regional museum was at Meru. It was officially opened in May 1976 by the Hon. P. Rurumban, the Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Social Services. Mr. G. M. Kirigia is Curator. In 1977, UNESCO sponsored Mr. Kirigia to take a course in museology in Nigeria. Like the Kitale Museum, the Museum Curator is assisted and advised by a committee of local leaders. The museum exhibits include natural history, culture, and more recently aspects of traditional and modern bee-keeping. The museum

also gives lectures and shows films to local school children both at the museum and in schools.

The Kisumu Museum is still being developed. Construction of the buildings has had to be rescheduled and phased. The first unit was completed in March 1977 and exhibits are now being prepared. It is hoped that the Museum will be open to the public in the near future.

##### **Inland Monuments and Sites**

In 1969, all monuments and pre-historic sites came under the responsibility of the Museum Trustees. While the Museum actively cares for Fort Ternan, Maralal, Songhor, Koobi Fora, Hyrax Hill, Kariandusi and Olorgesailie by maintaining permanent staff at the sites, there are a large number of additional inland sites which should be given protection and made available for visits by the public. The administration of the sites is a matter for concern since adequate protection and conservation is expensive and cash returns are few.

Repairs to buildings and improvements to the Museum have been carried out at Kariandusi, while extensive rebuilding and repairs have been undertaken at Olorgesailie. Olorgesailie has become increasingly popular as a result of the paved road surface put in by the Magadi Soda Company.

Mr. Kamoya Kimeu took over the administration of the inland Pre-historic sites in 1977.

##### **Coastal Museums, Monuments and Sites**

This Division of the Museum organisation has grown enormously in the last ten years. The administration is now carried out from Fort Jesus under the Head of the Division, Mr. Omar Bwana.

##### **Coastal Museums**

Early in 1969, the Government transferred the responsibility for Fort Jesus and all Coastal monuments and sites to the Museum Trustees. These were formerly under the protection of the National Parks Trustees. The Fort was initially put under the direction of Mr. J. Kirkman until 1972, when Mr. N. Mudoga took over as Curator. Mr. H. Sassoon replaced N. Mudoga in September 1973. Mr. Omar Bwana became Head of Coastal Museums, Monuments and Sites in 1976 after

## National Museum of Kenya

completing a one year course in Europe and U.S.A. sponsored by the British Council, UNESCO and SIDA. The course was on various methods of running museums and on the preservation of cultural heritage, and included visits to museums in Britain, Sweden, Italy and the States.

Fort Jesus, a 16th Century Portuguese Fort is itself a National Monument and includes a museum displaying many aspects of the coast's history and culture. Visitors may tour the fort, which has a long battle scarred history.

In 1976, Dr. D. Frey and Mr. R. Piercy, both underwater archaeologists from the American Institute of Nautical Archaeology carried out a survey of the wreck of the Santa Antonio de Tanna, a Portuguese 42-gun frigate sunk in front of the fort in 1697, to see if it would justify a full scale excavation. In the following years, for several months annually, excavations have been continued and a number of archaeological items have been recovered.

The Lamu Museum which was opened to the public in December 1971, was developed under the curatorship of Mr. J. de V. Allen, and later of Mr. Omar Bwana. The present curator Mr. Ali Abubakar took over in 1976. The Museum displays many aspects of local culture, traditions and crafts. Preservation of the Museum's local monuments and sites is also directed from the Museum. Takwa an ancient 17th Century settlement on Manda Island is being excavated by Dr. T. Wilson, and is open to the public. Visitors are taken in parties to sites and monuments on neighbouring islands in the Museum boat.

### Coastal Monuments and Sites

The Kenya coast is dotted with numerous ancient monuments; some consist of isolated mosques or pillars, while others include larger settlements. Care of these rapidly deteriorating monuments presents a major problem. Several surveys have been carried out in order to identify and study the problems connected with their preservation and conservation. Mr. Barrows, a UNESCO consultant, spent six weeks in 1975 on such a survey visiting nearly 50 historical sites, while Mr. Peter Waitete of the Survey Department frequently visits the coast. More recently, Dr. T. Wilson has carried out an extensive survey of coastal monuments and sites

and compiled a detailed report on the state of preservation of each, and what attention each requires.

A number of sites are open to the public. The most important, Gedi, a 15th Century Arab-African settlement, was transferred to the Museum Trustees in January 1969. Jumba la Mtwana was excavated and subsequently opened to the public in 1973.

### Institutes of the National Museum

Prior to 1972, the Museum Trustees had agreed on a policy to develop scientific institutes within the Museum system which would provide for strong Kenyan participation and initiative in international scientific programmes where substantial finance is required from a variety of foreign sources. Scientific collaboration with individuals and institutions on a worldwide basis is of vital importance with many direct benefits to the National Museums and Kenya as a whole. After the death of Louis Leakey in October 1972, the Board agreed that it was fitting that the first of these institutes should be a Memorial to him. The International Louis Leakey Memorial Institute (TILLMIAP) was therefore established in his honour, for his outstanding investigations of the origin of man at sites in East Africa which are famous throughout the world. The second of the institutes, now being developed, is the Institute of Primate Research (IPR).

### TILLMIAP

In 1972, the Centre for Prehistory and Palaeontology lost its autonomy and became departments of Archaeology and Palaeontology in the Museum. Mrs. Margaret Leakey took over the accessioning and rearranging of the palaeontological specimens, which at the time had no systematic records. With the growing collections of fossils pouring into the museum from East Rudolf (now Lake Turkana) and other sites, it was impossible to find adequate safe storage space for the valuable collections. In 1973, the Museum Trustees sanctioned an international drive to raise funds to offset the capital costs of construction of the new TILLMIAP building and construction work began in February 1975. The total cost of the building and furniture totalled about £1.5 million. Prof. B. A. Ogot was appointed the first Director in July 1977. The

building was officially opened by the Minister of foreign Affairs the Hon. Muniyua Waiyaki in September 1977. The opening was followed by the 8th Pan African Congress which was attended by over 400 delegates.

TILLMIAP is under the overall supervision of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum but has its own Director, its own Management Board to advise on day to day management, and its own International Advisory Council to assist the Board of Trustees in its international relations and to advise it on Institute Programmes. An International Foundation to promote and support the work of the Institute was established in December 1977 with its headquarters at the Royal Swedish Academy in Stockholm.

### IPR

In 1958 Dr. L. S. B. Leakey began a research centre for the study of primates in East Africa. The Centre developed a large collection of live monkeys but was constantly hampered by lack of funds. After Dr. Louis Leakey's death in October 1972, the Research Centre was taken over by the Museum Trustees, who planned to develop it as an institute of the National Museum. Close cooperation with the Oregon Regional Primate Centre and with the University of Nairobi have been important in developing the initial stages of the Institute under IPR's Director Dr. J. Else.

### Associated projects and organisations

Several associated projects and organisations have been developed and directed with the administrative help of the National Museum. One of the most important of these is the Wild Life Clubs of Kenya (WCK) which began in 1968 under the leadership of Ms. Sandy Price. The concept of the Wild Life Clubs was originally to develop an awareness of the importance of Kenya's wildlife in the younger generation in schools throughout the country. Members are encouraged to form their own clubs and are advised on projects and the organisation of suitable activities. Each term a newsletter is circulated which largely includes contributions from members themselves. The WCK headquarters are at the National Museum

and the administration is directed from the Museum.

This organisation has proved immensely successful and now has a membership of over 715 schools amounting to 35,000 children, as well as 450 associated members who have left school but still wish to be involved.

Another project associated with the National Museum is the Koobi Fora Research project. This began in 1968 as an exploratory expedition to the North East shores of Lake Rudolf (now Lake Turkana) and has since grown to a large multidisciplin-

ary, multinational project. Over 160 fossil specimens of early man and numerous artefacts have been recovered from the area which is now well known internationally both in scientific circles as well as to laymen. Over 100 scientific papers on the work at East Turkana have already been published.

In 1973 an international workshop-symposium was held at the Museum sponsored by the Wenner Gren Foundation and the National Geographic Society, to discuss the research being carried out in the Lake Turkana Basin. The workshop included dis-

cussion at the Museum and in the field, and resulted in a publication of the contribution of the fifty scientists participating.

Dr. Mary Leakey has also continued to base her work in the Museum although most of her time is spent at Olduvai Gorge and at Laetoli in Tanzania. The work at East Turkana, Olduvai Gorge and Laetoli, has focused world attention on East Africa as a centre for studies on early man.



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**REPORT FOR 1977-1979**

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