



Dear Museum Supporters!

We hope this newsletter finds you well. As you may have noticed, we scaled back our activities at the onset of the pandemic to give our team some time to adjust. Which means it's been a while since we sent a newsletter. Sorry about that!

Now that we are waking up again, we'd like to say welcome to all our new subscribers and welcome back to all those who have been following our work for a while. While these have been a very difficult few months for everyone, we are pleased to say that we have a number of very positive and inspiring updates to share with you all.

Reuters Feature!





Museum Co-Founder, Tayiana Chao, with her grandfather, Daniel Sindiyo, in Nairobi, Kenya. Click on the image to watch the video.

Last month, we were very proud to be the focus of a feature by Reuters, who covered our work on the Mau Mau uprising and digital reconstructions of British detention camps in Kenya. The Reuters team met with our team member Chao and her grandfather, Daniel Sindiyo, in Nairobi to talk about our work and Daniel's memories of the the Emergency, including his mother's arrest and detainment in a camp.

You can read the full article and watch the accompanying video feature [here](#) or by clicking the image above. You can also find our digital resources on our website [here](#), including our digital reconstructions, oral histories, fieldwork diaries, and interactive map.

Mau Mau Oral History Archive: Gitu wa Kahengeri





In the 1950s, Gitu wa Kahengeri took an oath in support of the Mau Mau freedom movement. He was subsequently arrested along with his father and sent first to Athi River Camp and then to Takwa Detention Camp on Manda Island. In total, Gitu underwent seven years of detention and forced labour. He has been a central figure in the Mau Mau quest for justice and continues to represent veterans and victims of torture as President of the Mau Mau War Veterans Association.

Our oral history interview with Gitu is now available to watch in full on our [YouTube channel](#). You can also read a full transcript of the interview on our [website](#).

Gitu was also interviewed by Susan and Mary for our documentary Operation Legacy, co-produced with History Hit, which is available to watch via their [website](#).

New Project: Paper Trails

Our latest project [“Paper Trails”](#) platforms the exciting new directions of research into British colonialism, especially outside Britain. We are interviewing students and early career researchers for their perspectives on using colonial archives and challenging established narratives about colonialism.



In the [first interview of the series](#), MBC volunteer Emily Beswick spoke with Dr Amara Thornton, a historian specialising in the history of archaeology. The interview focused on Amara's research, process, and experience with archaeological archives.

"I want to bring out the humanity of the archives and try to populate the history of archaeology with individual experience. The more experiences, the more voices, the better."

In the [second interview of the series](#), Emily spoke with Shreya Sharma, a restorer and archivist based in Delhi. Shreya's oral history research focuses on Partition; she spoke with us about how the violence of Partition has never been forgotten, and her interest in the practice of colonial archaeology in India.

"I concluded that what was a life-changing and traumatic experience for millions of people in India was reduced to figures in British sources."



New Project: A History of Everyone Else





A History of Everyone Else was set up in 2020 by Rhianna Ilube and Meera Somji, in response to the dominant 'great men' story of British imperialism. Every month, Rhianna and Meera research a different moment in history they were never taught at school, and come back to you to share what they found out! All their episodes aim to centre those who have been sidelined from history: the resistance movements, stigmatised social groups, artists, young people and more. They've been described as "like a book club for history" - but with a decolonial lens!

We are delighted to partner with A History of Everyone Else and encourage you to join Rhianna and Meera once a month for their interactive live sessions.

HEE videos are now [up on our site](#). You can also follow them on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)!



Support Us on Patreon!



We are so grateful to all those who have supported us in recent weeks and months by signing up as Patrons. By joining our Patreon network - for as little as £5 a month! - you'll become a key supporter of our work, and help our team to continue with research, restoration, outreach and knowledge sharing! researching and restoring knowledge, creating new work, sharing untold knowledge at conferences and screening our documentary at universities, arts centres, and community spaces. With more supporters, we'll be able to meet more veterans, launch our integrated digital map, and run skills workshops in Kenya and the UK, among many other plans we have in the works!

[See more and become a Patron here!](#)

New Blog Posts: Black Lives Matter and Colston



Earlier this year, we released a statement in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and in solidarity with those protesting. You can read the full statement on our blog [here](#).

"We reject the triumphalist narrative of the British Empire. We reject the obliteration of black and brown history.

We condemn all forms of police brutality and state violence. We recognise the inextricable relation between state violence today and the colonial violence of the past. "

Upon the toppling of the statue of Edward Colston in Bristol and many more in the UK, USA, and around the world, we debunked some typical responses found in the media that lamented the fall of such statues. Read the full blog [here](#).

"People have been throwing statues into rivers for thousands of years. It is up to curators and archaeologists to try to distinguish the rubbish from the religious offerings, the disgraced emperors from the beloved ancestors."



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