

THE JOSEPH AND SHEILA MURUMBI PAN AFRICAN STAMP COLLECTION

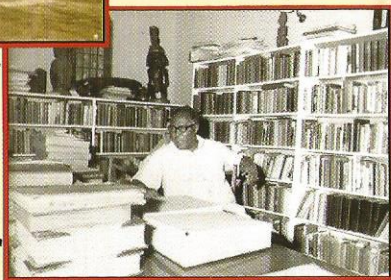
JOSEPH AND SHEILA MURUMBI were Africa's most famous private collectors and their collection of Pan African postage stamps, now on public display for the very first time, is one of the world's most notable. It was Sheila Murumbi, (then Sheila Anne Kaine), who first started collecting stamps as a young librarian living in the UK. She was introduced to collecting stamps by her first cousin, David Shenker, O.B.E. (who passed away in Australia in 2008.) It was she who interested her future husband, Joseph Murumbi, in stamp collecting, and the couple continued collecting stamps for nearly half a century. The collections include very early stamps used in Africa dating back to the mid 1800's, as well as more modern stamps from the post independence period of Africa. There is a very unusual and rare collection known as "The History and Development of East African Airmails", which traces the history of East African air mail from the very first airmail letter to arrive in East Africa (via Cairo and Khartoum) in 1927. The collection has original airmail covers from the first flights to all destinations to and from East Africa.



Sheila Murumbi (left) with Len Shenker (Son of David Shenker) and his mother Nancy.



Croydon Aerodrome, near London, early 1930's, the starting place for all flights from London to East Africa

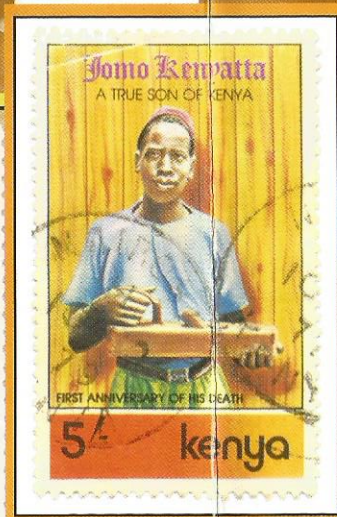


Murumbi in his Muthaiga House Library. The books are now in the Kenya National Archives.

The Murumbi Pan African postage stamp collections at the Kenya National Archives were organized and arranged by the Murumbi Trust with the direction and assistance of Ms. Pamela Howard-Reguindin, Director of the Library of Congress, US Embassy in Nairobi. Funding provided by the International Institute of Education through the Ford Foundation.



Swahili Treasures exhibition overlooking the Swahili House on the ground floor of the Murumbi Gallery.



Postage stamps from the Murumbi Pan African Stamp Collection.

