

Newsletter



JULY-DECEMBER, 2024 ISSUE **NMK-HTI Newsletter**

KAULI YA MRATIBU



Katika kipindi hiki tumewahi kupiga hatua katika kukuza lugha na utamaduni wa Waswahili. Aidha tulijifunga kibwebwe kuandaa tamasha kuntu ya Siku Ya Kiswahili Duniani. Sherehe haikujumlisha tu wakenya pekee bali pia ndugu zetu kutoka Afrika Mashariki na Kati hasa kwa kuwa Taifa la Kenya ndilo lilochaguliwa kuwa wenyeji wa kuandaa sherehe hilo katika kanda ya Afrika Mashariki na Kati.

Matukio muhimu katika kuadhimisha tamasha hii ilikuwa ni pamoja na kuwepo na Aakhiri Zamaan, kikao maalum kilichounganisha wazee na vijana kwa lengo makhsusi la kuwafunza vijana kuthamini na kuuenzi utamaduni wao. Ala kuli hali kiingiacho mjini si haramu, vijana wa shule za sekondari, msingi na wa mtaani walipewa nafasi kudhihirisha talanta na ubunifu wao katika ukumbi wa maonyesho wa Swahilipot. Katu hatuwezi kuwa na jamii iliyokamilika bila kuwatambua vijana na kuwapa nafasi zao katika kuchangia mas'ala ya jamii kikamilifu. Tunapowaacha nyuma kama koti ndipo hapo jamii husambaratika na kuwa segemnege. Vijana hawa waliimba nyimbo kwa mtindo wa muziki wa rap, waliigiza, walishindana kughani na kandika mashairi, na kuonyesha mitindo ya sasa na ya kale ya mavazi yanayoambatana na utamadauni ambao hauwawakilishi tu waswahili pekee bali pia janibu mbalimbali za Afrika. Tumaizi kuwa lugha ya Kiswahili sasa si ya watu wa Afrika Mashariki tu, bali pia kinazungumzwa ulimwenguni kote. Mambo mengine yaliyonoga ni maonyesho ya vyakula, samani, vitabu, mbeja na ufunguzi rasmi uliokuwa na mbembwe nyingi.

Kama ilivyokawaida ya taasisi yetu, tulipata wanafunzi wa kigeni kutoka Chuo Kikuu cha Hankuk cha Lugha za Kigeni kutoka Korea Kusini. Wanafunzi hawa walikaa kwa siku ayami ili kujifunza lugha na utamaduni. Kuondoka kwao ilikuwa huzuni kubwa lakini pia twataraji kikundi kingine tena mwezi wa Julai mwaka wa 2025. Ushirikiano wetu na chuo hiki unalenga kufunza lugha ya Kiswahili, utafiti, kuandaa warsha na makongamano ya pamoja na walimu wa vyuo kuzuriana ili kukuza utamaduni na lugha ya Kiswahili.

Lugha ni kiungo muhimu katika jamii kinachobalighisha ujumbe na kuifanya jamii kuwa na uhai. Katika kuitambua jamii, tumeweza kujumuika na jamii ya Wajomvu, Waamu na Wachangamwe katika kuenzi lahaja na utamaduni wao. Lahaja hizi ni kitovu cha kuunda msamiati mpya wa kiswahili husuan ule ambao unafungamana na sayansi na teknolojia.

Nikikhitimisha, natoa shukrani zangu za dhati kwa Bi. Rosalid Kinyua pamoja na waliochangia jarida hili. Lau si, juhudi zao tusingeweza kulipata jarida hili kwa wakati ufaao na kwa ubora wa hali ya juu. Tukumbuke kuwa mteza kwao hutuzwa hata ikiwa ni kwa kauli njema.

Mratibu Khalid Kitito Shirika la Makavazi ya Kenya-Chuo cha turathi za Kenya

In this newsletter you will find:

Latest projects, workshops, Exhibitions, and more. Keep Reading!

Celebrating World Kiswahili Day

From July 5th to 7th, 2024, the National Museums of Kenya Heritage Training Institute transformed into a vibrant hub of cultural celebration for World Kiswahili Day. Despite the backdrop of demonstrations that initially posed challenges, the spirit of resilience prevailed as attendees gathered in large numbers to honor the richness of the Kiswahili language and its cultural heritage.

The celebrations featured a diverse range of activities catering to all age groups. School competitions showcased young talents in various forms, including insha writing, poetry recitals, and creative writing contests. Notably, Mombasa Maize Millers awarded the bestperforming students in these competitions, highlighting their commitment to supporting education and encouraging youth participation



Pupils receive award from Mombasa Maize Millers for extemporary performance during the World Kiswahili Day school competition

Youth activities added excitement to the festivities, with competitions in sports like football and swimming, as well as engaging sessions in spoken word. Participants beautifully merged traditional dance and music with current and trendy Swahili music, creating a captivating blend that resonated with the audience. The Swahili Cultural Center, Fort Jesus. and SwahiliPopt Hub Foundation became focal points of excitement as both local and international guests enjoyed а livelyatmosphere filled with fun, laughter, and learning.



Football tournament at Fort Jesus Grounds during the World Kiswahili Day celebrations



An engaging spoken word artist enchants the audience, showcasing the beauty and rhythm of Kiswahili during the vibrant celebrations

Women played a crucial role in the celebrations, participating in competitions such as kukuna nazi (coconut grating), kupaaza Heena Painting, and kutwanga. A highlight of the event was the Mbeja Show on July 6th, an all-women showcase held at the Swahili Cultural Center. The event was honored by the presence of Dr. Caroline Asiimwe, the esteemed Chairlady of the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC), whose leadership and dedication to promoting Kiswahili across the East African region continue to impact positively. We were also privileged to host several delegates from the Ministry, who contributed greatly to the discussions and initiatives highlighted during the event. This event featured dance performances, fashion displays, and exhibitions of traditional Swahili cuisine, celebrating the richness of women's contributions to Swahili culture.

In addition to entertainment, meaningful discussions were held, focusing on the challenges women face and strategies to enrich Kiswahili culture among the youth. These conversations emphasized the importance of empowering women as custodians of cultural heritage.



Coconut Grating Competition



Women Kutwanga Competition during the 2024 Swahili Day Celebrations at NMK-HTI



Heena Painting

The Aakhiri Zamani segment was a particular highlight, bringing together various cultural performances including Qaswida, poetry recitals, and engaging showcases of Swahili dance and music. This segment fostered an atmosphere of solidarity and cultural exchange, showcasing the depth and diversity of the Swahili language and its associated traditions.



Swahili Scholars discussing the significance of Kiswahili Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, local vendors were invited to exhibit and sell their products at the Swahilipot grounds and the NMK-HTI grounds. This exhibition provided a platform for local artisans and entrepreneurs to showcase their crafts and culinary delights, while strengthening community engagement. The presence of these vendors enhanced the overall experience, allowing attendees to support local businesses while enjoying the festivities.



Food Exhibition



An exhibitor showcasing some of the herbal medicine



Entertainment during the 2024 World Kiswahili Day Celebrations

The success of World Kiswahili Day 2024 was bolstered by generous sponsorship from local entities, including Mombasa Maize Millers, the Mombasa County Government, and the Swahilipot Hub, Alliance Francais, among others. Their support underscored the community's commitment to preserving and promoting Kiswahili culture, reinforcing the language's role as a unifying force within the region.

World Kiswahili Day 2024 was not just a celebration; it was a powerful statement of resilience and unity amidst challenges. It highlighted the importance of cultural pride and the ongoing effort to keep the Kiswahili language and its traditions alive for future generations. As the festivities came to a close, attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and connection to their cultural roots, eager to share the beauty of Kiswahili with the world

Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Successful Swahili Language and Culture Training at the National Museums of Kenya

From July 15 to July 27, 2024, the National Museums of Kenya Heritage Training Institute (NMK-HTI) hosted the Wanati Program, welcoming students from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies for an immersive training experience in Swahili language and culture. The two-week program provided a comprehensive introduction, focusing on foundational language skills such as greetings, introductions, and basic communication, while progressively advancing to more complex topics like telling time, discussing dates, and describing clothing.

Upon their arrival in Nairobi, students were warmly received by Professor James Michira and traveled to Mombasa via the Standard Gauge Railway. After settling into their accommodations, they began their learning journey with a placement examination to assess their proficiency in Swahili. The curriculum started with lessons on Swahili sounds and pronunciations, alongside an exploration of cultural elements, including singing games and role plays to practice polite greetings, particularly those used with elders.

Students engaged in a variety of enriching activities throughout the program. They learned about Swahili family structures and practiced using the present tense and negation in discussions about family members. Traditional Swahili dance was introduced, with students participating in sessions focused on Kirumbizi and Goma dance styles. Cultural excursions were also integral to their experience, including a guided tour of Fort Jesus, where they explored the historical significance of the site, and a fullday excursion to Shimoni Slave Caves and Wasini Island, which deepened their understanding of the region's history.



Excursion at Wasini Island



At Shimoni Slave Caves



Students engaging in Cultural Dances

In the second week, the program advanced to practical language applications, starting with telling time and discussing dates. Students participated in a Swahili cuisine workshop, where they learned to prepare traditional dishes such as Mahamri and Chapati. They also explored clothing and colors through role plays set in various contexts, including weddings and market scenarios. A visit to a local mosque allowed students to engage in discussions about cultural and religious practices, adhering to appropriate dress codes.



Students learning to prepare Swahili Dishes



Students at the Mosque

The curriculum included health-related vocabulary, with students describing body parts and ailments through role plays and songs. They practiced shopping and bargaining in a simulated market environment, culminating in a field trip to McKinnon Market where they could apply their language skills in real-life situations. The program concluded with evaluations of their language and cultural understanding, alongside а second cooking workshop focused on traditional dishes like Pilau and Tamarind Juice.



Students During a tour to Vasco da Gama Pillar



During a Class session led by Coordinator Khalid and Saadu Hashim



Students practicing reading some of the Swahili books available at the Coast resource Center at NMK-HTI



Group photo of students and NMK-HTI staff on the final day of the program

Overall, the Wanati Program effectively combined language instruction with cultural immersion, equipping students with practical Swahili skills and a profound appreciation for Kenya's rich heritage. This transformative experience fostered a deeper connection to Swahili culture, leaving participants inspired and motivated to continue their language learning journey.



During a field trip to McKinnon Market A final excursion to Gede Ruins, Malindi, and the Vasco da Gama Pillar provided students with an in-depth cultural and historical experience



Tour to Gede Ruins

Workshops and Trainings

Professional Development Workshop



From July 30 to August 3, 2024, Pwani University in Kilifi County hosted a pivotal Professional Development Workshop, organized in collaboration with the Centre for African Studies and the Department of World Language & Culture (DWLC) at Howard University, Washington DC. This week-long event aimed to enhance the skills of Kiswahili language educators, with Mr. Khalid Kitito and Ms. Saadu Hashim from the National Museums of Kenya Heritage Training Institute (NMKHTI) participating as representatives.

The workshop gathered 25 educators and postgraduate students from eight universities across Kenya, focusing on innovative teaching methodologies. The esteemed facilitators from Howard University, including Prof. Leonard Muaka and Prof. Esther Mukewa Lisanza, led discussions on Backward Curriculum Design and its application in teaching Kiswahili as a foreign language.

Participants engaged in micro-teaching sessions, interactive discussions, and the exploration of technology-enhanced teaching tools. Major themes included:

- Backward Curriculum Design
- Teacher Effectiveness in Language Learning (TELL)

- Sociocultural Theory
- Standard-based Instruction
- Technology in Language Teaching

The workshop emphasized practical application, allowing participants to develop teaching tools and practice lessons that were critiqued by their peers. Assignments completed in the evenings were shared for collaborative learning, creating a dynamic and interactive environment.

At the conclusion of the workshop, certificates of completion were awarded, and resources such as PowerPoint presentations and teaching session recordings were shared among participants for ongoing reference.

This workshop was a unique opportunity for Kiswahili language trainers to network and collaborate, marking the first of its kind in Kenya. It fostered discussions on current teaching practices and future collaborations, helping educators align their approaches with global standards.

The insights gained from the experts at Howard University, particularly on the ACTFL and Backward Curriculum Design, are expected to significantly enhance the teaching and assessment methods employed at NMKHTI. The incorporation of technology in language education was also a key takeaway, with tools like Quizlet, Edpuzzle, and AI resources introduced as valuable assets for modern teaching.



NMK-HTI Khalid Kitito and Saadu Hashim at the Professional Development Workshop in Kilifi

• ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines

The Workshop was not only a significant learning experience but also a catalyst for improving Kiswahili language instruction across institutions. The collaborative spirit and knowledge sharing established during this event promise to enrich the teaching landscape for Kiswahili as a foreign language in Kenya.

As NMK-HTI continues to refine its educational strategies, the impact of this workshop will resonate, ensuring that learners experience meaningful and successful language acquisition

Entrepreneurship Training

From August 18th to September 20th, our learners participated in a dynamic virtual entrepreneurship training program organized by YEPI in collaboration with Swahili Pot Hub. This initiative aimed to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge to navigate the world of entrepreneurship effectively.

We are proud to announce that the first cohort of this program has successfully graduated! Each participant received a certificate recognizing their hard work and commitment to learning. This training not only enhanced their entrepreneurial skills but also empowered them to pursue their business aspirations with confidence.

Mentorship Program

In addition to the entrepreneurship training, our Mentorship Program came to a conclusion in October. This initiative has proven to be invaluable for our learners, providing them with personalized guidance and support that has significantly contributed to their personal and professional growth.

As a testament to their dedication and participation, all mentees received certificates upon completion of the program. We are excited to announce plans for launching two additional cohorts of the mentorship program in the near future, expanding opportunities for more learners to benefit from this enriching experience.

Both the Entrepreneurship Training and Mentorship Program reflect NMK-HTI's commitment to fostering a culture of learning, growth, and innovation.

Exhibitions

Youth International Day Walk and Exhibition

On August 11th, our institution proudly participated in the Youth International Day Walk and Exhibition, an event that provided a fantastic opportunity to connect with the youth community. This initiative not only celebrated the vibrant energy of young people but also allowed us to showcase our ongoing efforts and initiatives.



Khadija Ridhwan NMK-HTI Fashion design instructor accompanied by one of the students display some of the products during the International Youth Day Exhibition

The day began with a spirited walk starting from Mapembeni (Tusks) and concluded at the Swahili Pot Hub. Our team was enthusiastic and engaged, representing our institution and its commitment to youth empowerment.

At the exhibition, sponsored by Swahili Pot Hub, we showcased a selection of products from our Tailoring and Fashion Design program. This platform enabled us to highlight the creativity and skill of our learners while connecting with various youth organizations. The exhibition fostered valuable networking opportunities that can lead to future collaborations and partnerships. Engaging directly with the community allowed us to better understand their needs and aspirations, reinforcing our mission to serve and support the youth.

Foto Mtaani Exhibition

On September 27, 2024, the Alliance Française de Mombasa proudly hosted the inaugural Foto Mtaani Exhibition, a vibrant showcase of Mombasa's emerging photography talent. The event was attended by Saadu Hashim(NMK-HTI) and Mr. Khalid Kitito, Head Coordinator of the National Museums of Kenya Heritage Training Institute (NMK-HTI), representing our institute at this significant cultural event.

The Foto Mtaani Exhibition marked the culmination of a unique residency program led by Jamaican-French photographer Ms. Marina Burnel.



Khalid Kitito and Saadu Hashim at the Foto Mtaani Exhibition

Over the course of ten days, Ms. Burnel mentored ten talented young photographers from Mombasa, guiding them through the streets of the old town to capture the city's rich cultural tapestry and stunning visuals.

The exhibition displayed an array of compelling photographs that highlighted the beauty and diversity of Mombasa, offering fresh perspectives on its cultural wealth. Attendees were treated to a stunning visual narrative that showcased the unique character of one of Africa's most photogenic cities.

Madam Saadu and Mr. Kitito's presence at the exhibition underscored NMK-HTI's commitment to supporting local arts and culture. He engaged with the photographers and other attendees, emphasizing the importance of nurturing

Pwani Innovation week Exhibition

The Pwani Innovation Week, organized by Swahili Pot Hub, took place from October 14th to 18th, 2024, at NMK Park, bringing together innovators, creatives, and leaders for a dynamic week dedicated to technological advancements and networking opportunities. With the theme "The Pwani We Desire: Youth, Culture, Peace, and Innovation in the Decade of Action," the event showcased a vibrant array of projects and ideas aimed at fostering collaboration and creativity across various sectors.



NMK-HTI Products during the Pwani Innovation Weeek



HE. Governor Abdullswammad Sherif Nassir visits the NMK-HTI exhibition table during Pwani Innovation week.

NMK-HTI proudly exhibited its initiatives in supporting creatives, particularly through its fashion and design courses. By participating in Pwani Innovation Week, NMK-HTI reaffirmed its commitment to empowering youth and promoting cultural dialogue through innovation. The event served as a platform for sharing knowledge, inspiring change, and exploring new possibilities within the creative landscape, highlighting the essential role of culture and technology in shaping a better future for the region.

Preserving Culture and Swahili Heritage in Mombasa: Insights from KBC Interview

In an enlightening interview on 11th October, 2024 with Khalid, the NMK-HTI Coordinator, and Amira Mswelem, the significance of preserving Swahili culture and traditions was highlighted. The discussion by Fahima Ramadhan from KBC delved into the importance of cultural conservation and the impact of modern influences on traditional practices.Khalid emphasized that culture is fundamental to our identity. "Preserving our culture is about maintaining the essence of who we are," he stated, highlighting that it provides a sense of belonging and continuity. Amira echoed this sentiment, noting that culture has a unique ability to unite people, bridging gaps and fostering a sense of community.When asked whether culture brings more benefits or harm, Amira articulated that, fundamentally, culture acts as a unifying force. She pointed out that parents play a crucial role in leading by example, particularly in instilling values related to the Swahili code of dressing in their children.



From the left Mrs. Amira Mswelem, Khalid Kitito(Coordinator,NMK-HTI) and Ms. Fahima Ramadhan (KBC) during the interview on Preserving Culture and Heritage

This practice not only preserves traditions but also strengthens family bonds and cultural pride.

The conversation then shifted to technology and its effects on the preservation of Swahili culture. Khalid shared insights on traditional cooking methods, noting that preparing meals in clay pots is believed to be healthier, as these pots absorb toxins in ways that metal vessels cannot. He cautioned that modern conveniences like fans and air conditioning may not be as beneficial to our bodies as traditional practices, such as the Swahili kipepeo.

Amira added that traditional medicine is another area where cultural practices have proven advantageous. Scientific studies support the efficacy of many traditional remedies, which often come with fewer side effects than their modern counterparts.

The impact of social media on culture was a pivotal topic in the discussion. Khalid articulated that while social media can pose challenges to cultural preservation, it also holds significant potential for education and promotion. He noted that the NMK-HTI has leveraged social media to raise awareness about Swahili culture, facilitating a platform for artisans, such as those specializing in henna painting, to market their skills. This has not only fostered cultural pride but has also encouraged tourism in the region.

The interview with Khalid and Amira highlighted the vital role of cultural preservation in Mombasa, underlining the responsibilities of individuals, families, and communities. As technology and social media continue to shape our world, it is essential to find a balance that honors our rich traditions while embracing modern advancements. By fostering a deeper understanding of our cultural heritage, we can ensure that the Swahili identity remains vibrant for generations to come.

Cultural Festivals

The National Museums of Kenya - Heritage and Tourism Institute (NMK-HTI) remains dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Kenya's diverse communities. Over the past month, the institute has been actively involved in several cultural festivals, working closely with local communities to celebrate and safeguard their unique traditions. From the vibrant Wajomvu Cultural Festival to the spirited Wachangamwe Festival and the iconic Lamu Cultural Festival, NMK-HTI has demonstrated its commitment to cultural preservation through participation, active collaboration. and celebration.

Wajomvu Cultural Festival – 27th October 2024

The Wajomvu Cultural Festival was a significant event held in the heart of the Jomvu community, organized by the Jomvu Kuu Self-Help Group. As part of its mission to preserve the cultural heritage of the Jomvu community, NMK-HTI played an integral role in the celebration. Among the highlights of the festival were a Swahili Henna Painting Competition, a Swahili Food Display, an exhibition of Pots and Handicrafts, and an unforgettable showcase of traditional dances.

These activities not only celebrated the rich cultural traditions of the Jomvu people but also provided an opportunity for the community to connect with their heritage in a meaningful way. NMK-HTI staff attended the festival, joining the celebrations and furthering the institute's goal of fostering collaboration between cultural institutions and local communities.

The event was an inspiring reminder of the importance of preserving cultural practices, and NMK-HTI is proud to have been part of such a significant occasion.



NMK-HTI staff at the Jomvu Cultural Festival

Wachangamwe Cultural Festival – 16th November 2024

On 16th November 2024, NMK-HTI took part in the Wachangamwe Cultural Festival, an event dedicated to celebrating the culture and heritage of the Wachangamwe community. Represented by Coordinator Khalid Kitito, NMK-HTI was part of this vibrant festival, which brought together members of the community to honor their traditions and cultural expressions. This festival was an excellent opportunity for NMK-HTI to continue its mission of cultural engagement, offering a platform to learn more about the distinct practices, music, dances, and arts of the Wachangamwe people. The event demonstrated the importance of cultural festivals in strengthening community identity and fostering pride in local heritage.







Lamu Cultural Festival –28th Nov-30th November 2024

The Lamu Cultural Festival is one of Kenya's most celebrated cultural events, designed to showcase the Swahili heritage and promote the preservation of the Lamu people's culture. This year, NMK-HTI was represented by Sadu Hashim and Khalid Kitito, who joined in the festivities that included dhow races, donkey races, henna painting, a bao competition, and traditional local dances and music.Held amidst the stunning coastal backdrop of Lamu, the festival was a colorful and lively celebration of the region's unique traditions. From the exciting dhow race to the cultural performances, the event offered a rich sensory experience for all attendees. The participation of NMK-HTI in this festival further underscored the institute's role in preserving and promoting the cultural vibrancy of the Swahili coast.







PICTORIAL



NMK HR Director during a courtesy call to NMK-HTI on 19th September 2024



Royal Junior Academy Mombasa visiting the Children's Library at the Resource Center



NMK-HTI staff led by coordinator, Khalid Kitito receive a printer presented by Ms. Eileen (NMK) on 17th Oct, 2024



November 4 2024 ,Coordinator Khalid meeting with Mahmud Noor mentor Swahili pot, and Wajomvu committee to discuss ways to market pots and energy saving jikos.



8/11/2024-Meeting on development of Home Craft Centers in Mombasa chaired by Mohammaed (GDI) In attendance were official from Mombasa county department of Education and Vocational Training , representatives from NMK-HTI and Swahilipot Hub.



Madam Saadu Hashim presents gift items made by NMK-HTI students to H.E. Nasra Salim Al Hashmi new Omani Ambassador in Kenya during her tour to Fort Jesus on. With her, Mr. Athman Hussein(Keeper Coast Region), Ms. FatmaTwahir(Principal Curator, Fort Jesus)Mr. Abdulmajid Igombo (Education Officer, Fort Jesus)



November 10 2024-In collaborative with Nienzi ningali Hai NMK-HTI organized Mashairi festival in recognition of Zuhura's contribution in mashairi and taarab at Mazrui hall, Swahilipot.



Khalid(NMK-HTI), Joyce (NMK HQ) and Mr. Mwenje, curator Lamu Museums at takwa ruins on 29/11/2024



On November 30th, Saadu Hashim, Coordinator & Training Manager at NMK-HTI, joined Lamu Curator Mr. Mohd Mwenje in welcoming H.E. Nasra AlHashmi, the new Omani Ambassador to Kenya, for a tour of the Lamu Museum.



Madam Saadu Hashim and Ms. Joyce from NMK HQ welcoming Mr. Dennis Sainte-Marie, Head of Cooperation & Cultural Affairs at the French Embassy in Kenya, to Lamu Museum.



On December 2nd, Saadu Hashim, Coordinator & Training Manager at NMK-HTI, and Madam Sauda, Coordinator of the American Corner, came together to share their expertise in managing fashion design and tailoring training programs.



3/12/2024-NMK-HTI Coordinator Khalid Kitito and Raphael Igombo Education Officer(Fort Jesus) meeting with Dr. Mutawakil Abdellatif Elfadin, Chairman, Global Languages Village, Malaysia at coordinator's office to discuss possible collaboration for starting Arabic language classes at NMK-HTI

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NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

WHERE HERETAGE-LIVES ON "