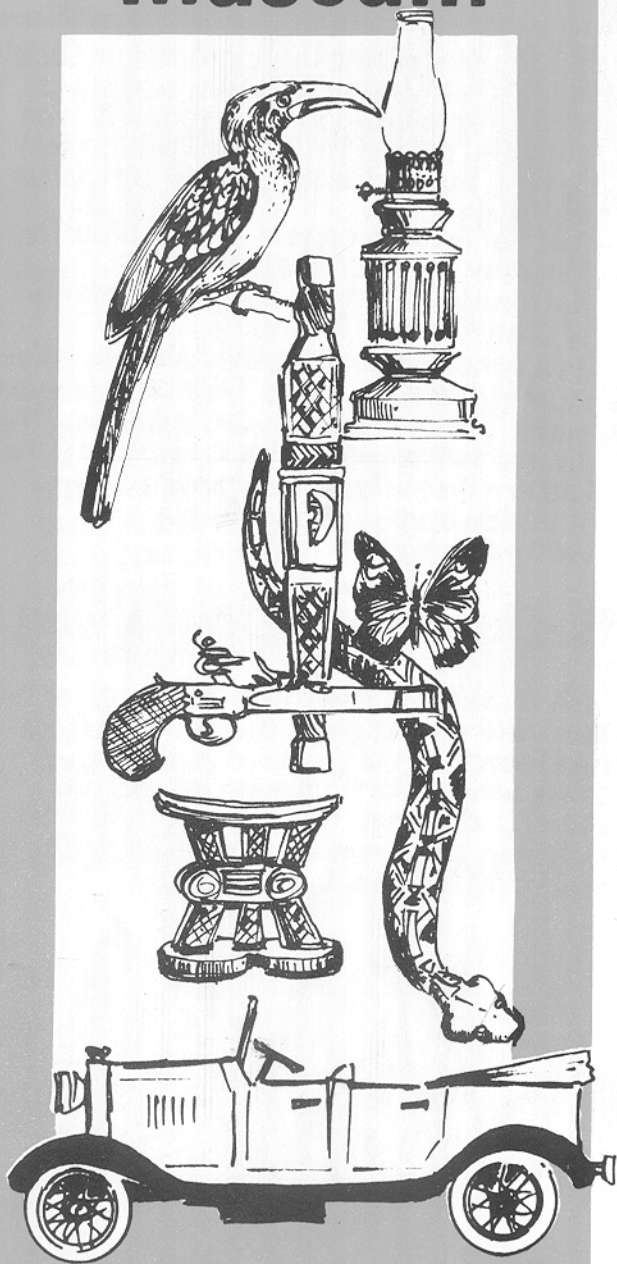


mutare museum



National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe

MUTARE MUSEUM



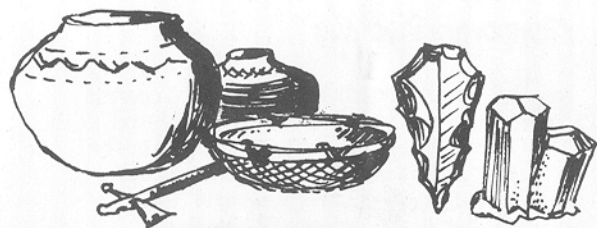
Established by the Umtali Museum Society in 1957, the Mutare Museum was first located in a wood and corrugated iron building (part of the Silver Oaks Hostel) close to the site of the present attractive building.

The latter was opened in 1964 after the Museum had become part of the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe.

As a general museum, the galleries cover many different fields. Displays of regional significance predominate, depicting the diverse natural and cultural history of the Eastern Districts of the country. of wider origin are the displays of weapons and transport.

Eastern Districts Gallery

With a regional theme this gallery gives an overview of the early history and flora and fauna of the eastern districts of Zimbabwe. Particularly attractive are five displays illustrating in realistic settings the animals found in different habitats unique to the region.



Beit Gallery

Topics covered in this gallery are the geology, archaeology and ethnology of the Eastern Region.

By means of rock and mineral specimens, maps and illustrations, the geology exhibits give an introduction to the rock formations and mineral wealth of the area.

The archaeological section covers the stone and iron ages in the region. Exhibited are artefacts from local sites, an excavated burial and illustrations of ruined stone structures. Examples of modern crafts, together with a collection of traditional headrests, snuff boxes, axes, and musical instruments, are featured in the ethnographical section.

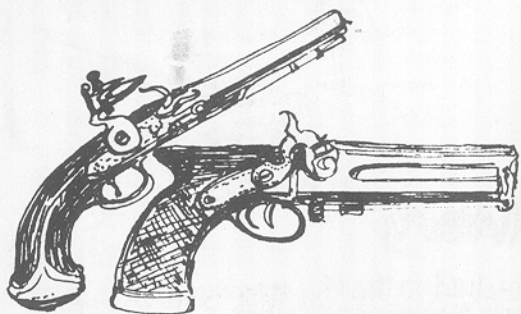
Mezzanine Gallery

The Mezzanine Gallery features a series of attractive dioramas showing a selection of the birds, mammals, reptiles & amphibians of the country in their natural surroundings. These are complemented by several exhibits of live snakes and fishes.

Extending into the Beit Gallery is a section dealing with insects, including a working Beehive where the fascinating behavior of these insects may be observed.

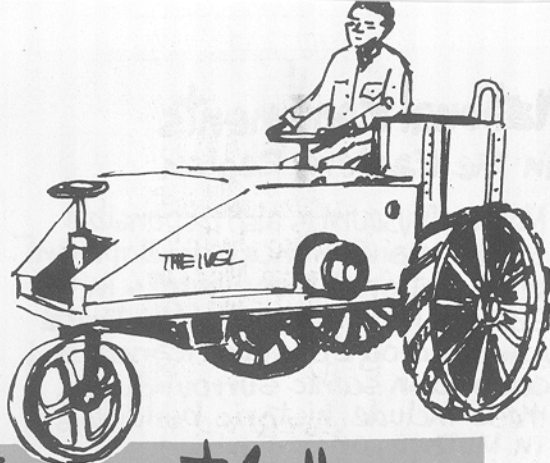


Boulthbee Gallery



This Gallery is named after the first Hon. Curator of the Museum, Capt. E.F. Boulthbee, whose magnificent collection of Pistols brought out from England, formed the nucleus of the present Firearms and Edged Weapons collection.

Acknowledged as one of the finest of its type in Southern Africa, this collection encompasses firearms, swords, and bayonets from all parts of the world, spanning over three centuries.

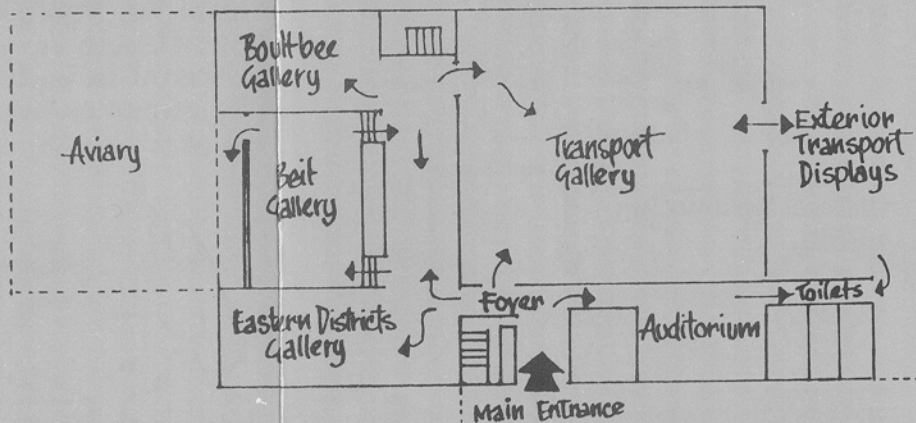


Transport Gallery

The history of land transport is the principle theme of this gallery. On display are animal drawn transport, vintage and later motor vehicles, plus two locomotive engines.

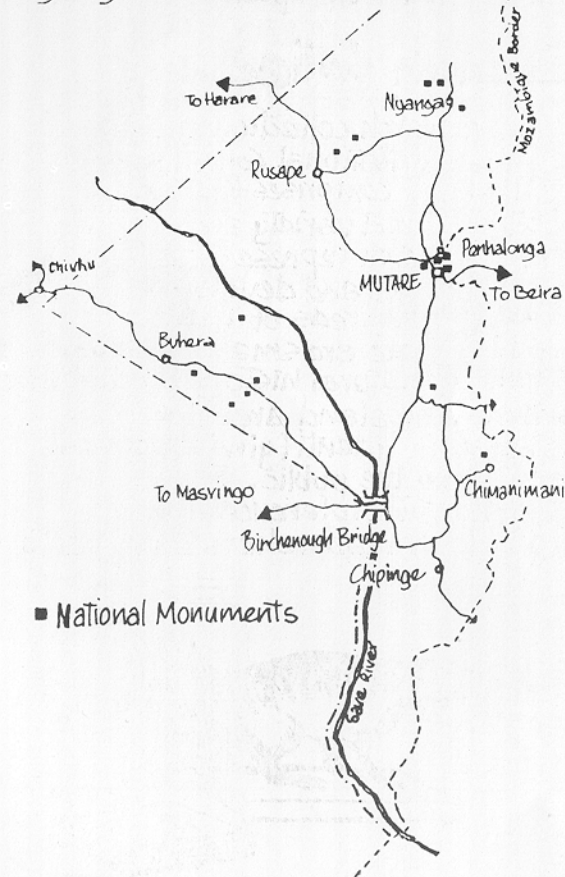
There is also a small collection of early tractors which includes a 1903 Ivel, the first motorised tractor imported into Zimbabwe, and apparently the second oldest tractor still in existence anywhere. Outside the Museum is a massive Bow MacLachlan traction engine dating from 1896.

Floor plan of the Display Galleries

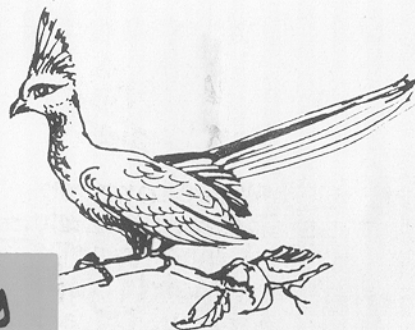


National Monuments in the Eastern Region

Mutare Museum is also responsible for the maintenance & development of all National Monuments in the Eastern Region. Mainly of historical & archaeological significance and often set in scenic surroundings, these include historic buildings in Mutare, ancient stone fortifications & structures in the Nyanga, Rusape & Buhera districts and cave paintings near Rusape and Muromo. Worth special mention is the re-constructed "pit village" in Nyanga National Park.



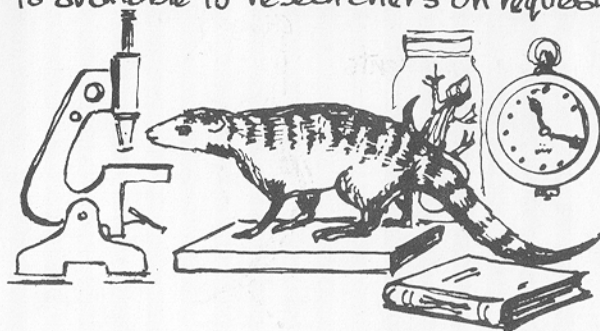
Aviary



Attached to the Museum building is a large Aviary containing a wide variety of indigenous birds. With access through the Beit Gallery, the birds are viewed from a balcony situated actually within the aviary, so that their plumage, habits and behaviour may be studied at close range. Of particular note are the sunbirds, which are fed on an artificial nectar solution from special dispensers.

Research Collections

The main research collection at Mutare Museum is the National Collection of Antiquities. This comprises historical artefacts of a great variety and world wide origin which represent technological changes and development over many hundreds of years. In addition there are small reference collections of natural history specimens from the Manicaland area for assistance in identifying specimens brought in by the public. A comprehensive reference library is available to researchers on request.



Temporary Displays

Numerous temporary displays of a diverse nature and drawn from both local and international sources are staged each year. In this respect, Mutare Museum enjoys a special arrangement with the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, permitting access to their exhibitions.

Utopia House Museum

Built in 1897, but restored and re-furnished to depict the 1910-20 period, Utopia is typical of the modest home-steads established by early European settlers throughout the country. A separate brochure giving further details is available.

Education Service

The Museum operates an Education Service to cater especially for organised visits by school pupils & other groups. Educational parties may visit the Museum free of charge, providing prior arrangement has been made.

MUSCA

Operating under the auspices of the Museum, the Mutare Museum Scientific and Cultural Association is an Umbrella organisation of affiliated club & societies whose aims are the promotion & maintenance of scientific & cultural activities in the region. A monthly newsletter, MUSCAN is published by the association.

The Museum is open to the public from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily.
(Except Good Friday & Christmas Day)
Admission - Adults 20¢, children 5¢.
Pre-school children admitted free but must be accompanied by an adult.



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