



Glasgow Museums New Zealand Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	New Zealand collection, Glasgow Museums
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Curator of World Cultures
Date Completed	25 th September 2014
<p>There are 163 items from New Zealand.</p> <p>There are eleven capes or cloaks of New Zealand flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>). Two have feathers; one is for a child (<i>kākahu</i>) and the other is a chief's cape with new Zealand pigeon and possible <i>kākā</i> feathers. There are two <i>kaitaka</i> cloaks, one from the 19th century incorporating pieces of red wool and a woven triangle border design symbolizing a fish (<i>patiki</i>). There are two rain capes and another is described as a robe with flax tags. There are three skirts (<i>piu piu</i>), the earliest acquired in 1887. There are also two belts of flax worn by men.</p> <p>A freestanding 18th century male figure (A.1948.105) carved in wood with human hair is the earliest item in the collection. The figure has eyes inlaid with shell. It was collected around 1780 by Samuel Folker, a naval officer.</p> <p>Three large carved wooden architectural posts (<i>pou whakairo</i>) were brought from New Zealand on HMS <i>Havana</i> in 1850 by Admiral John Erskine. Each features figurative carving.</p> <p>There are four 19th century wooden canoe carvings including two canoe stern posts (<i>tau rapa</i>), a canoe prow ornament (<i>tau ihu</i>), and a prow ornament from Taranaki, which would have been attached to a smaller canoe, purchased in 1878.</p> <p>In the collection are seventeen clubs of the following type: <i>mere</i>; <i>kotiate</i>; <i>taiaha</i>; <i>wahaika</i>; and <i>tewhatewha</i>. There are hand clubs in bone, wood and stone. There is also a stingray tail, apparently used as a whip, and a wooden staff.</p> <p>There are three feather boxes (<i>waka huia</i>) all acquired in the 20th century, one of which appears to have unfinished carving. One of these boxes came into the collection in 1911 with a carved wooden item described as an eel killer.</p> <p>There are ten bags of flax fibre (<i>kete</i>) and five baskets of woven flax stem. Most of these are early 20th century examples. Three of the bags have feathers attached.</p> <p>There are two <i>hei tiki</i> figures, one of wood and likely a tourist piece, and another of greenstone purchased at auction in 1898. There are four greenstone chisels from Omihi and a piece of greenstone in the shape of an axe head. There are seven stone-headed adzes and fourteen stone adze and axe heads. An axe with metal head and carved shaft with shell inlay was collected in the early 20th century.</p>	

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Other items in the collection include a carved bone decoy bird shackle and a tattooing implement.

Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.

Aldred, C (1961) 'A Tauihu and Two Taurapa', *Scottish Arts Review, Special Ethnography Issue*, 26-29

Barrow, T (1959), 'Freestanding Maori Images', in JD Freeman & WR Geddes (eds.) *Anthropology of the South Seas*. New Zealand: Thomas Avery and Sons, pp111-120 (A.1948.105)

Gathercole, P & A. Clarke (1979), *Survey of the Oceanian Collections in Museums in the United Kingdom and Ireland*. UNESCO.

Kwasnik, Elizabeth (ed.) (1994), *A Wider World: Collections of Foreign Ethnography in Scotland*. National Museums of Scotland

Lovelace, A (1992), 'The Pacific Collections at Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum', *Pacific Arts, The Journal of the Pacific Arts Association*: 19-23

Malcolm Smith, Family Archive, 'Biography of Samuel Folker', (A.1948.105)
<http://www.14november1940.com/names/folker/m15/m15maori2.html>