



Glasgow Museums Solomon Islands Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Solomon Islands collection, Glasgow Museums
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Curator of World Cultures
Date Completed	28 th August 2014
<p>There are 210 items from the Solomon Islands (including the North Solomon Islands).</p> <p>Twenty-four items in this large collection were collected by Reverend George K Moir of the Melanesian Mission based in the Solomon Islands, largely on Guadalcanal, 1908-15. Moir's collection includes: a shield of woven cane; a belt of shell money; a finely carved bone spearhead with bamboo cover; a piece of indigo barkcloth; and a cap style headdress of shredded plant fibre which Moir describes as a 'wig or <i>vasuvasu</i>'.</p> <p>Another shield of woven cane was acquired in 1920. There are a total of thirteen wooden clubs as well as 105 arrows and twenty-two spears. The majority of spears and arrows are from Bougainville. Also from Bougainville are two 19th century palm leaf mats with some leaves coloured red and a decorated dance paddle. There are four pigmented ceremonial wooden paddles from Buka Island, and a wooden dance club with no specific provenance. Attributed to the Santa Cruz Islands are eight arrows, six spears and a woven bag collected by Dr Alex Skottowe (name appears as Skoltowe on museum database) who was a district medical officer at Navua, Fiji, 1886-92. Also from Santa Cruz is a 19th century fishing float for catching flying fish (A.1963.18.b[duplicate.1]) and two further woven bags.</p> <p>There is a large feast bowl of wood inlaid with pearl shell and featuring two carved figures at either end, acquired from the auction of the collection of sculptor Jacob Epstein. There are two 20th century canoe prow carvings from Munda, Roviana Lagoon, New Georgia island. There is also a carved male figure in wood.</p> <p>There is a pendant of whale ivory marked 'Solomon Isds 1891' acquired through the dispersal of the Wellcome collection in 1951. Also from Wellcome are two shell valuables (<i>barava</i>) and an armguard of twisted vine. Also in the collection are five bamboo lime boxes, four of which are mid-19th century and the fifth is from Santa Cruz islands.</p>	
<p>Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.</p>	
<p>Gathercole, P & A. Clarke (1979), <i>Survey of the Oceanian Collections in Museums in the United Kingdom and Ireland</i>. UNESCO</p> <p>Lovelace, A (1992), 'The Pacific Collections at Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum', <i>Pacific Arts, The Journal of the Pacific Arts Association</i>: 19-23</p> <p>Kwasnik, Elizabeth (ed.) (1994), <i>A Wider World: Collections of Foreign Ethnography in</i></p>	

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Scotland. National Museums of Scotland

Stanley, N (1994), 'Recording Island Melanesia: The Significance of the Melanesian Mission in Museum Records' *Pacific Arts*, No. 9/10 (July 1994), pp. 25-41 (A.1947.15.I.1)