



Glasgow Museums Tonga Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Tonga collection, Glasgow Museums
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Curator of World Cultures
Date Completed	31 st July 2014
<p>There are forty items from Tonga.</p> <p>The collection dates largely from the 19th century and acquisitions of Tongan material are among some of the earliest in the Pacific collection. Three items were collected by Reverend George Turner of the London Missionary Society who was based in Vanuatu for ten months before working in Samoa for nineteen years. The Turner collection is the earliest ethnographic acquisition by Glasgow Museums, in 1870. The three artefacts are two axe heads and a cord of plaited coconut fibre.</p> <p>Previously attributed to New Caledonia is a <i>maka feke</i> type fishing lure of shell and stone created to resemble a water rat. This lure acquired in 1896 has a metal umbrella spoke used as part of a local repair and may have been collected in New Caledonia.</p> <p>Twenty-nine items in the Tongan collection were acquired from Archibald Kennedy, the 3rd Marquis of Ailsa, in 1876. These include four items of dress worn during dance or ceremonial occasions. Three are waist mats (<i>ta'ovala kiekie</i>) made from a specific type of pandanus leaf (<i>loukie</i>, or <i>kie</i>). There is also a waist mat of a specific type named <i>manafau</i>, usually made of bark of hibiscus (<i>fau</i>) trees, but this example is of coconut fibres (<i>kafa</i>) and dyed black.</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>Kwasnik, Elizabeth (ed.) (1994), <i>A Wider World: Collections of Foreign Ethnography in Scotland</i>. National Museums of Scotland</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>	