



National Museums Scotland Hawaiian Islands Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Hawaiian Islands collection, National Museums Scotland
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Principal Curator, Oceania, Americas and Africa
Date Completed	7 February 2014
<p>The Hawaiian Islands collection comprises ninety-eight objects.</p> <p>Most items were collected in the late 18th and early 19th century. Fifty-one objects were transferred from the University of Edinburgh collection in 1854. Eight objects were collected on Captain James Cook's third voyage (1776-9) and are therefore among the earliest material from the Hawaiian Islands in museums.</p> <p>Thirty-two artefacts are status objects which include feather cloaks and capes, chief's helmets, <i>lei niho palaoa</i> neck ornaments, boar tusk arm ornaments and fly whisks. The three figures are <i>Akua ka'ai</i>, sacred carvings representing ancestral deities (A.UC.384; A.1891.26; A.1950.230). Of particular significance is the cloak associated with Kamehameha II (A.1948.274).</p> <p>There are twenty-eight pieces of barkcloth, (<i>kapa</i>). These include two collected on Cook's third voyage and eight collected by Captain Frederick Beechey on his voyage on HMS <i>Blossom</i> which visited the Hawaiian Islands in 1826-27. Additionally the museum houses three of Alexander Shaw's books of Polynesian barkcloth collected by Captain Cook which include samples of <i>kapa</i> from the Hawaiian Islands.</p> <p>National Museums Scotland holds the largest collection of Hawaiian material in Scotland. The Hunterian Museum at University of Glasgow also holds a smaller but no less significant collection including early voyage material.</p>	
<p>Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.</p>	
<p>Edge-Partington, J (1890, 1895, 1898), <i>'An album of the weapons, tools, ornaments of dress etc. of the Natives of the Pacific Islands'</i> II: 33, No 3. (1890, 1895, 1898) Manchester (A.UC.384, A.1891.26)</p> <p>Cox, JN & W. Davenport, (1974) <i>'Hawaiian Sculpture'</i>, Hawaii University Press: Honolulu (A.UC.384, A.1891.26, A.1950.230)</p> <p>Adrienne L. Kaeppler, Christian Kaufman and Douglas Newton (1993) <i>'L'Art Oceanien'</i> Paris, Citadelles & Mazenod (A.UC.380, A.1950.230)</p> <p>Hooper, S. (2006), <i>Pacific Encounters: Art and Divinity in Polynesia 1760-1860</i>. British Museum Press: London (A.UC.406, A.UC.384, A.1950.230)</p> <p>Kaeppler, AL (2010), <i>Hawaiian Featherwork: Catalogue Raisonné of pre-1900 Feathered-God images, Cloaks, Capes, Helmets</i>. (A.UC.368, A.UC.381, A.UC.380, A.1948.274, A.1954.83)</p> <p>Musee de l'Homme (1972), <i>La Decouverte de la Polynesie</i>. Paris: Musee de l'Homme. (A.UC.384)</p>	

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Arbeit, W (2011), *Links to the Past: The Work of Early Hawaiian Artisans*. University of Hawaii Press: Honolulu (A.UC.369, A.UC.380, A.1954.83, A.1924.174, A.1907.303, A.UC.400 A, A.UC.400C, A.1956.1019, A.L.357.10)

Stourton, J & C. Sebag-Montefiore (2012), *The British as Art Collector: From the Tudors to the Past*. Scala Publishers: London (A.1950.230)

Hali: Carpet, Textile and Islamic Art, Issue 148 (September-October) 2006, (A.UC.406)

Kaepler, AL et al. (2009), *James Cook and the Exploration of the Pacific*. London: Thames & Hudson (A.UC.370, A.1956.1019)

Kaepler, AL (1978), *Artificial Curiosities: Being an Exposition of Native Manufactures Collected on the Three Pacific Voyages of Captain James Cook, R. N.* Honolulu: Bishop Museum Press (A.1895.341; A.1950.230; A.1956.1018+A; A.1956.1019)

Barrow, T (1972), *Art and Life in Polynesia*. London: AH & AW. Reed (A.UC.384)

Wardwell, A (1967), *The Sculpture of Polynesia*. Chicago: Art Institute Chicago (A.UC.384)

Emory, KP (1938), 'Hawaii God Sticks', *Ethnologia Cranmorensis*, 3 (A.1950.230)

Force, T & Force, M (1968), *Art and Artefacts of the 18th Century: Objects in the Leverian Museum as painted by Sarah Stone*. Honolulu: Bishop Museum Press (A.1950.230)

Idiens, D (1982), *Pacific Art in the Royal Scottish Museum*. Edinburgh: Royal Scottish Museum (A.UC.384, A.1891.26, A.1950.230, A.UC.380, A.UC.406, A.1977.239)

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

Related publications:

Beechey, F W (1831), *Narrative of a Voyage to the Pacific and Beering's Strait: To Co-operate with the Polar Expeditions : Performed in His Majesty's Ship Blossom, Under the Command of Captain F.W. Beechey, R.N. ... in the Years 1825,26,27,28*. London: Henry Colburn and Richard Bentley

Gough, BM (1973), *The Pacific and Arctic with Beechey: The journal of Lieutenant George Peard of HMS 'Blossom' 1825-1828*. Cambridge University Press