



National Museums Scotland Marquesas Islands Collection



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COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Marquesas 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	21 January 2014
<p>There are fifty-nine artefacts from the Marquesas Islands. This is the most extensive collection of Marquesan material in Scotland.</p> <p>The collection is largely from the 19th century and was acquired from various sources including Harry G Beasley, Commander Colin M Dundas, Joseph Ritson Wallace and George Darsie who was the second Scottish husband of Tahitian Princess Titaua. The range of body ornaments includes those made of human hair worn on the arms and legs and a gorget of wood and <i>abras</i> seeds. Three headdresses are of particular note. One is of cock's feathers, another of early date is made from sugar cane leaves, and the third has a crescent-shaped core covered in frigate bird feathers with some small red and green feathers. A coconut fibre sling is from Lord Daer's collection of Captain James Cook Voyage material. It is decorated with a bone ornament and grey beard hair, a highly valued material not commonly collected until mid to late 19th century.</p> <p>A number of objects are decorated with the distinctive stylised human figures including whale ivory ear ornaments, brow ornaments, clubs, and stilt steps.</p>	
<p>Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.</p>	
<p>Published collections:</p> <p>Idiens, D (1982), <i>Pacific Art in the Royal Scottish Museum</i>. Edinburgh: Royal Scottish Museum (A.UC.357; A.1895.366; A.1899.235; A.1948.475; A.1954.94; A.1954.96)</p> <p>Ivory, CS (2000), 'Revisiting Late Nineteenth Century Sculpture in Te Henua Enana, the Marquesas Islands' in Stevenson, Lee & Morin (eds.), <i>Pacific 2000: Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific</i>. Los Osos: Bearsville Press (A.1953.517)</p> <p>Hooper, S (2006), <i>Pacific Encounters: Art and Divinity in Polynesia 1760-1860</i>. London: British Museum Press. (A.UC.353)</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>	

Produced as part of *Pacific Collections in Scottish Museums: Unlocking their knowledge and potential* project 2013-2014. For full information and resources visit www.nms.ac.uk/pacific

Related publications:

Mackintosh, FJ (2011), *From the South Seas to the North Sea: the story of Princess Titaua of Tahiti*. Anstruther: Kilrenny and Anstruther Burgh Collection