



# Perth Museum & Art Gallery Fiji Collection



# COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

<b>Title of the Collection</b>	Fiji collection, Perth Museum & Art Gallery
<b>Author(s)</b>	Eve Haddow
<b>Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)</b>	History Officer, Perth and Kinross Council
<b>Date Completed</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2014
<p>There are fifty-five artefacts from Fiji.</p> <p>The collection largely dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are twenty-three clubs, seven of which are of the shorter type for throwing. The others are of the following Fijian styles: <i>culacula</i>, <i>waka</i>, <i>tokokia</i>, <i>vunikau</i>, <i>gugu</i>, <i>gata</i>, and <i>bowai</i>. Sir Windham Carmichael-Anstruther donated four of these with a neck ornament of split whale teeth in 1935. Five clubs were included in Mr John Melville-Gray's extensive bequest of 1946 and another five clubs were donated in 1885 by local collector William Moncrieffe. A club donated in 1921 was brought to Scotland by the donor's grandfather David Pitblado (b.1806).</p> <p>The largest acquisition of Fijian material came from John H Dixon in 1917 (10 items). As well as two pieces of patterned barkcloth (<i>masi</i>), Dixon gave a woman's skirt (<i>liku</i>), a shell waist belt, and a wooden bowl with two coconut cups for use in drinking kava. Dixon also donated a headrest of wood with four feet carved with the words '<i>mere mere</i>' and '<i>rupeni</i>', and a woven mat of pandanus leaves from Rotuma.</p> <p>A circular piece of barkcloth with painted geometric pattern was donated in 1918 by Mrs A Gibbon Thomson, also attributed to Rotuma. The tools and utensils category includes a roller of bamboo for printing lines onto barkcloth. The collection includes a man's wig of bleached human hair attached to a woven palm leaf base which would be worn by a man of status. There are also two pendants of boar tusk.</p>	
<p>Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.</p>	
<p>Published collections: Idiens, D (nd), <i>Perth Museum &amp; Art Gallery Catalogue of the Ethnographic Collection: Oceania, America, Africa</i>. Perth.</p> <p>Idiens, D (1990), 'The Pacific Collections in Perth Museum and Art Gallery', in <i>Pacific Arts</i> no.'s 1 &amp; 2 (January/July 1990), pp58-59.</p> <p>Related Publications: Gathercole, P &amp; A. Clarke (eds) (1979), <i>Survey of Oceania Collections in Museum in the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic</i>. Paris: UNESCO</p>	