



McLean Museum and Art Gallery Papua New Guinea Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Papua New Guinea collection, McLean Museum and Art Gallery
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Curator, McLean Museum and Art Gallery
Date Completed	15 th December 2014
<p>There are 268 items from Papua New Guinea (including New Ireland, New Britain and the Admiralty Islands)</p> <p>Fourteen items are from New Ireland all of which are associated with <i>malangan</i> funerary ceremonies. There are three <i>tatanua</i> masks incorporating wickerwork, wood, trade cloth and shredded plant fibres. The collection was acquired by Captain David Swan commander of the SS Gulf of Genoa which visited the region around 1892-93. Captain Swan also collected eighteen items of body adornment attributed to New Britain. Seven armlets of shell and plant fibre, two shoulder ornaments, and two neck ornaments are described as being part of a Chief's dress. It is possible these are actually from the Admiralty Islands (Manus) as an item of dress made of barkcloth decorated with shell and glass beads, seeds and feathers, and a waistband suspended with multiple strands of beads, which are distinctively of Admiralty Islands style, were also described by Swan as 'part of a Chief's dress'. Additionally, Captain Swan gave six obsidian spears, a loom and a waistband from the Admiralty Islands.</p> <p>Seventy-four items were collected by David M Ballantine (1868-1909) who was Treasurer and Controller of Customs in the British colonial administration in New Guinea, under Sir William MacGregor (who gave a large collection to University of Aberdeen Museums). Ballantine's collection is mainly from South East New Guinea and includes body adornments, lime spatulas, stone headed clubs and ceremonial axes. Notable items include a decorated drum and two <i>musikaka</i> ornaments, one with attachments of barkcloth and feathers. From the Trobriand Islands is a spearman's shield decorated with white, black and red pigment.</p> <p>A collection of fifty artefacts are connected to the missionary Stanley Harcourt Dewdney, his wife Madeleine (nee Holmes) and their daughter Wendy Baldock. Supplemented by archival material and photographs, the collection dates from 1930s to 2005. The majority comes from the Orokolo district. There are a number of coconut shell spoons, and amulet, bilums and baskets and several coins. A breast ornament in the form of a pearl shell crescent was presented to Mrs Baldock as a child by Heao Lakore Melarekele of Lariau village.</p> <p>There is a large 21st century collection of eighty-two contemporary items including lime spatulas, bilums, carvings, body adornments and a woven mat. Some of these were obtained in Port Moresby and others were collected from the Kiriwina (Trobriand) Islands at Kabwaku village. There are a number of named makers and artists including a painting in acrylic by artist Martin Marububuna.</p>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	