



Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum Polynesia Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Polynesia collection, Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Collections Manager
Date Completed	2 nd December 2014
<p>There are thirty-two items from Polynesia including Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand, and Tuvalu.</p> <p>There are three items from Tuvalu collected around Niulakita island in 1957. These are an outrigger canoe model, a woven mat and a decorative fan.</p> <p>From New Zealand are two carved treasure boxes, one is a <i>waka huia</i> and the other a <i>papa hou</i> inscribed with the date July 1854. There are two greenstone ear ornaments found by a soldier in 68th Durham Light Infantry in a rifle pit on the North Island after the battle of Pukehinahina (Gate Pā) in 1864. Also from New Zealand are two bags, three baskets, and a mat or cloak of <i>Phormium tenax</i>.</p> <p>There is a carved club of wood from Samoa. Ten wooden clubs from Fiji and Tonga were acquired from Sir Seton-Steuart in 1928, the year he auctioned the contents of Touch House estate. Two Tongan clubs are intricately carved with frigate birds and human figures.</p> <p>Three fans of woven leaves, two with coconut binding on the handle, are probably from Fiji or Samoa. A skirt of shredded grass documented as Māori is more likely to be from elsewhere in the Pacific.</p>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	
(1934), <i>Catalogue of Collections in the Picture Galleries and Museum of the Smith Institute of Stirling</i> , 3 rd edition. Stirling: A Learmonth & Son	