



University of Aberdeen Museums New Zealand Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	New Zealand collection, Aberdeen University Museums
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
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Date Completed	26 th August 2014
<p>There are 116 items from New Zealand.</p> <p>There are six cloaks of woven New Zealand flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>), three of which have coloured wool decoration. One of the cloaks is thought to be 18th century due to the dyes and another collected before 1823 has a pattern of alternating stripes with a triangular patterned border. One of the cloaks was owned by a Māori chief and presented by him to the Countess of Kintore when travelling by canoe on Wanganui River, New Zealand, 1890 (ABDUA: 4082). Also of flax is a 20th century skirt and a piece possibly collected as a weaving sample by Lord and Lady Stonehaven. Lord Stonehaven was Governor of Australia in 1925-31.</p> <p>The collection includes a <i>hei tiki</i> carving in greenstone on a flax cord with bird bone toggle (ABDUA: 4034). It came to the museum in 1823 from Christopher W Nockells who travelled the Pacific in 1816-23.</p> <p>Nockells also donated three of four treasure boxes. These are finely carved with stone tools and there is evidence of red pigment on the carvings. The fourth box has some pearl shell inlay for the eyes of two figures forming the handles. Another early item from Nockells is a carved flute (<i>putorino</i>) with flax binding. This is one of two flutes. Other items of carved wood include a door lintel (<i>pare</i>) from a Māori <i>marae</i> (ABDUA: 4162), a digging stick step, and a walking stick (<i>tokotoko</i>).</p> <p>There are ten bags (<i>kete</i>), six of which were collected in 1893. There are five large flax mats, two with a red wool fringe and the other three with multi-coloured wool.</p> <p>The collection contains nineteen weapons including six hand clubs (<i>patu</i>), three of which are of whale bone. There are six wooden <i>taiaha</i> clubs dating from the 18th to mid-19th century. Two are decorated with dog hair and feathers.</p> <p>There is a pair of boar's tusks mounted on green velvet ribbon and acquired from Professor Sir Alexander Ogston who obtained the item from Dr Frank Ogston of Dunedin in the late 19th century, but may have originated from elsewhere in the Pacific.</p> <p>In 2007 nine tattooed heads collected in the early 19th century were repatriated to Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand.</p>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	
<p>Michie, C (1887), <i>Catalogue of Antiquities in the Archaeological Museum of King's College, University of Aberdeen</i> (ABDUA:4019; ABDUA:4026; ABDUA:4028; ABDUA:4033; ABDUA:4034; ABDUA:4079; ABDUA:4148</p> <p>Ogston, A (1884-1929), <i>Stereoscopic Photographs of Collection of Ethnological Objects,</i></p>	

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weapons, and other Curiosities, MS Marischal Museum, Vol.1, p11 (ABDUA:4125; ABDUA:4126; ABDUA:4127; ABDUA:4128; ABDUA:4129) Vol 2, p28 (ABDUA:39266), Vol. 3, p28 (ABDUA:4106)

Reid, RW (1912), *Illustrated Catalogue of the Anthropological Museum, University of Aberdeen* (ABDUA: 4016; ABDUA:4019; ABDUA:4020; ABDUA:4021; ABDUA:4026; ABDUA:4027; ABDUA:4028; ABDUA:4030; ABDUA:4033; ABDUA:4034; ABDUA:4043; ABDUA:4044; ABDUA:4045; ABDUA:4046; ABDUA:4047; ABDUA:4054; ABDUA:4055; ABDUA:4075; ABDUA:4076; ABDUA:4077; ABDUA:4078; ABDUA:4079; ABDUA:4081; ABDUA:4088; ABDUA:4089; ABDUA:4090; ABDUA:4093; ABDUA:4114; ABDUA:4145; ABDUA:4147; ABDUA:4148; ABDUA:4150; ABDUA:4158)

Reid, R W, (1912), *Catalogue of Specimens deposited by William Macgregor in the Anthropological Museum, Marischal College, University of Aberdeen, 1899-1909* (ABDUA:4030; ABDUA:4094)

Barrow, T (1969), *Māori Wood Sculpture of New Zealand*. Fig.125 (ABDUA:4162)

Hunt, C (1981), *Shark Tooth & Stone Blade: Pacific Island Art from the University of Aberdeen*. University of Aberdeen (ABDUA:4162; ABDUA:4019; ABDUA:4020 ABDUA:4021; ABDUA:4026; ABDUA:4028; ABDUA:4033; ABDUA:4034; ABDUA:4035; ABDUA:4079; ABDUA:4080; ABDUA:4158)

Hunt, C, (1990), 'Taonga Maori in Aberdeen University', Paper delivered at Taonga Māori Conference (ABDUA:4148)

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