



Glasgow Museums Fiji Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

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| Title of the Collection | Fiji collection, Glasgow Museums |
| Author(s) | Eve Haddow |
| Curator responsible for collection (if different from author) | Curator of World Cultures |
| Date Completed | 12 th August 2014 |
| <p>There are 184 items from Fiji.</p> <p>The collection dates from the late 19th to mid-20th century, the earliest donation being from Mr Hugh Brackenridge in 1874 of four clubs, a fan a piece of barkcloth (<i>masi</i>) and a fishhook. There are eleven pieces of barkcloth (<i>masi</i>) in total in the collection and four 19th century wooden barkcloth beaters.</p> <p>The collection includes forty-five wooden clubs, one of which is recorded as having been in the family of Chief Cakobau for 200 years (1889.77.b). Other items categorised as arms and armour include nineteen arrows, one quiver, and seven barbed wooden spears.</p> <p>Three composite headrests in the collection are formed of wood and a fourth of bamboo on wooden legs. There are two examples of a presentation tooth (<i>tabua</i>) and four neck ornaments of split whale teeth.</p> <p>A collection of seventy-eight artefacts was acquired from Dr Alex Skottowe of Helensburgh (recorded on the museum database as Skoltowe) who was a district medical officer at Navua, Fiji, 1886-92. The collection includes sixteen items from Kadavau, three from Bau, twenty-six from Vitu Levu, and six from Ovalau. There is a large wooden kava bowl with cup and three wooden oil dishes. Skottowe also donated a large woven mat from Rotuma.</p> | |
| <p>Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.</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> <p>Lovelace, A (1992), 'The Pacific Collections at Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum', <i>Pacific Arts, The Journal of the Pacific Arts Association</i>: 19-23</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

