



Glasgow Museums Vanuatu Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Vanuatu collection, Glasgow Museums
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Curator of World Cultures
Date Completed	24 th September 2014
<p>There are 305 items from Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides).</p> <p>The majority of artefacts in this large collection are connected to Presbyterian missionaries who were resident on the islands in the 19th and early 20th centuries.</p> <p>193 items are from Reverend James Hay Lawrie (recorded as Laurie on museum database) who was on Aneityum, the southernmost island, from 1879-96. There is also a Lawrie collection at National Museums Scotland. He collected largely from current Tafea, Shefa and Malampa provinces. In his collection are fifty-eight items of clothing and personal ornaments including pearl shell pendants from Futuna, pendants of whale ivory and of stone, necklaces of cut conus shell, and turtle shell earrings. There are three pieces of barkcloth, two are decorated pieces from Erromango and one, from Efate, is brown in colour with a fringed edge bordered with black and geometric pattern and has a white feather attached. There are eleven women's skirts: four from Aneityum; four from Ambrim; and three from Erromango. There are two plumes of hawk feathers from Tanna associated with the <i>toka</i> ceremony. A sacred stone used for fishing charms (<i>nelcou</i>) comes from Aneityum. A similar stone is in the collection at National Museums Scotland. Also from Aneityum is a sleeping mat. Lawrie collected twelve complete baskets as well as a set illustrating basket making. There are eighteen other baskets in the Vanuatu collection.</p> <p>There is a rare purse of spider web from Malekula. This was collected by Reverend Thomas Watt Leggatt, a missionary on Malekula 1887-1905. There are seventy-one items associated with Rev Watt Leggatt including a woven waist mat, two pig killing clubs, a ceremonial mask with attached spider web from Malekula, two sacred stones from Malekula, and four wooden clubs. There is a tree fern grade figure from Malekula associated with a named chief who gave it to Leggatt around 1890. This material came through S J Baker in 1916 and Mrs McGavin in 1945.</p> <p>Ten items were collected by Reverend J Bruce Cosh, who was based on Efate for a short time in the 1860s, including a bible in Efate language. A neck or waist ornament from Aneityum (A.1965.33.ab) was purchased from the sale of Dr Thomas Grierson's museum in Thornhill, Dumfriesshire. It is thought to have been acquired from Reverend John Inglis, the first missionary for the Scottish Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu in 1852. It is listed in Dr Grierson's 1894 catalogue.</p> <p>There are two ceremonial over-modelled skulls, one dating from the 19th century.</p> <p>The arms and armour category includes sixty-five arrows (some of which may be for</p>	

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hunting), nine spears, and twenty-two clubs.

Associated Archives:

An album of photos taken by Reverend James Hay Lawrie is at National Library of Scotland (Acc.7548/F/19). Further albums are held by the State Library of New South Wales, Australia, and the Bishop Museum, Hawai'i.

Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.

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

Lovelace, A (1992), 'The Pacific Collections at Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum', *Pacific Arts, The Journal of the Pacific Arts Association*: 19-23