



Detail of wax print sundress, The Bahamas, 1950s.
© Aberdeen City Council (Archives, Gallery & Museums Collection)

African and Caribbean Collections in Scottish Museums Aberdeen and North East

Aberdeen and North East

- Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums (Aberdeen City Council)
- Aberdeenshire Museums Service (Live Life Aberdeenshire)
- Elgin Museum (The Moray Society)
- Falconer Museum (Moray Council)
- University of Aberdeen Collections

Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums

Aberdeen City Council

Contact General enquiries info@aagm.co.uk
Collections enquiries AAGMcurators@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Location of collections

In storage

Aberdeen Treasure Hub
Granitehill Road
Aberdeen
AB16 7AX

Size of collections

52 African objects
6 Caribbean objects

Online collections

<https://emuseum.aberdeencity.gov.uk/collections>

Selected objects

Africa

- Chief's chair, Angola, ABDMS038350
- Power figure, Democratic Republic of the Congo, ABDMS050717

Caribbean

- 1950s wax print dress, Bahamas, ABDMS037738

History of the collection

Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums cares for collections of objects and historical records on behalf of the people of Aberdeen. Collections are recognised by UNESCO and the Scottish Government as nationally and internationally important. The service began life in the 1800s as an art gallery run by a committee and shifted focus to include industrial heritage and 'folk-life' in the 1900s. In the 1930s it came under the jurisdiction of the town council and several new museums opened in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Historically, the service has focused on the arts and local social history. Donations of non-European material were more typically given to the Marischal Museum at the University of Aberdeen.

Overview of the collection

Africa

There are three main collections of African material, mostly dating from the late 19th and 20th centuries and originating from southern and central Africa. Material from southern Africa makes up around 60% of the entire collection of African material.

The most significant collection of at least 16 items was collected by Sir Robert Williams, 1st Baronet of Park (1860-1938), a mining engineer and railway developer active in South Africa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia and Angola from the late 1800s to the late 1920s. His collection is made up of objects originating from these countries, including walking sticks, carved snakes, domestic utensils, a Songye/Lulua power figure, a Chokwe chair, comb, and staff or walking stick. One of the 'walking sticks' has a polished end much like a knobkerrie and is mounted with a plaque to commemorate Williams's mining activity at Kambove, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1911. Another walking stick of twisted wood is recorded as being made in the Amathole Mountains, South Africa by 'Nampocki'.

The most striking object in the collection is a Chokwe chair, most likely collected in the Moxico region of Angola during the construction of the Benguela railway (1902-1929). It features a laced hide seat, carved decorations and a dark black patina. The chair back is decorated with a chief or ancestor figure and geometric patterns, and the legs and stretchers depict scenes from everyday life, bats, and monkeys. Noted in the associated material section are significant collections of archival material pertaining to Williams's life in Africa.

The second group of material is around 23 items of South African beadwork, including necklaces, beaded gourds, pipes, and two carved wooden heads decorated with beads. Listed as Zulu and Mpondo, the majority were borrowed for exhibition in the 1970s and accessioned in the 1990s. An accompanying brochure suggests they were made in KwaZulu-Natal for the tourist market.

The third group of material is comprised of eight dolls reportedly made in Africa. These include part of a collection assembled by Miss Margaret Barclay, a local teacher who collected costume dolls on her travels abroad between 1925 and 1992. The collection was designed to represent different countries and includes examples recorded as 'African' and 'South African'.

Caribbean

Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums cares for a small collection of dresses and handbags made in Trinidad, Jamaica, and the Bahamas in the mid-20th century.

Five of these items belonged to American fashion editor Frances Farquharson (1903-1991) and members of her family and were collected during trips to the Caribbean in the 1950s. They include an embroidered handbag and two sundresses from 'Mademoiselle' on Bay Street, Nassau, Bahamas, and a white linen dress and matching bag embroidered with red poinsettia from Jamaica. Farquharson was fashion editor for *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar* throughout the 1930s.

The collection also contains an organza, lace and taffeta wedding dress made in 1957 by a local dressmaker in Trinidad for Miss Margaret Violet Grant from Aberdeen. She travelled to the island to marry Mr Norman Stuart who worked in the oil industry.

Associated material

Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums holds much material of note that does not fall within the scope of this review.

Africa

A significant body of material relates to Robert Williams's activity in Africa, including rock samples, wall maps, certificates, newspaper cuttings, cartoons, and correspondence from

Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902). A large photograph collection contains images of African landscapes; mining and railroad building activity; Williams with Leopold II of Belgium; 'Mwenda the son of Msiri of Katanga region'; and 'King Lewanika of [former] Barotseland' in Scotland.

Other material of note includes correspondence, sketches, and a large collection of photographs by Scottish artist James McBey (1883-1959) made during his time as Official War Artist in Egypt and later in Morocco; correspondence from Scottish missionary Mary Slessor (1848-1915); stereograms of the South African War; and colonial era numismatics from across the African continent.

Caribbean

Associated material includes technical drawings of machinery for sugar plantations on the Brampton Bryan Estate, Trelawney, Jamaica (1895); a stereogram of cocoa pickers, Jamaica (c.1900); photographs of Cuba by Scottish artist James McBey (1940); and numismatics from British Caribbean Territories, Virgin Islands, Bermuda and Barbados dating from the late 1700s to early 2000s.

Notable donors

Frances Farquharson (1903-1991)

Sir Robert Williams, 1st Baronet, of Park (1860-1938)

Areas for further research

The Robert Williams collection holds much potential for further research. Williams was mainly active in former Belgian and Portuguese colonial territories, and this offers uncommon perspectives on Scottish and European colonial history. Many of the photographs are labelled with exact locations, dates, and names. Some images depict key relationships that Williams developed with European and African leaders. Further research would provide opportunities to better understand Williams's activity in Central and Southern Africa, the potential impact this had on people and places, and the role played by others in this history.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Africa unspecified		15	
	Sir Robert Williams		Basket, carved snakes, carved wooden crocodile, dolls, walking sticks, wicker tray
Central Africa		5	
Angola	Sir Robert Williams	3	Chair, comb, walking stick/ staff
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sir Robert Williams	2	Power figure, walking stick

Southern Africa		31	
South Africa	Sir Robert Williams	31	Beadwork, carved wooden heads, dolls, fur bedspread, straining spoon, walking stick
Western Africa		1	
Nigeria	Sir Robert Williams	1	Thumb piano

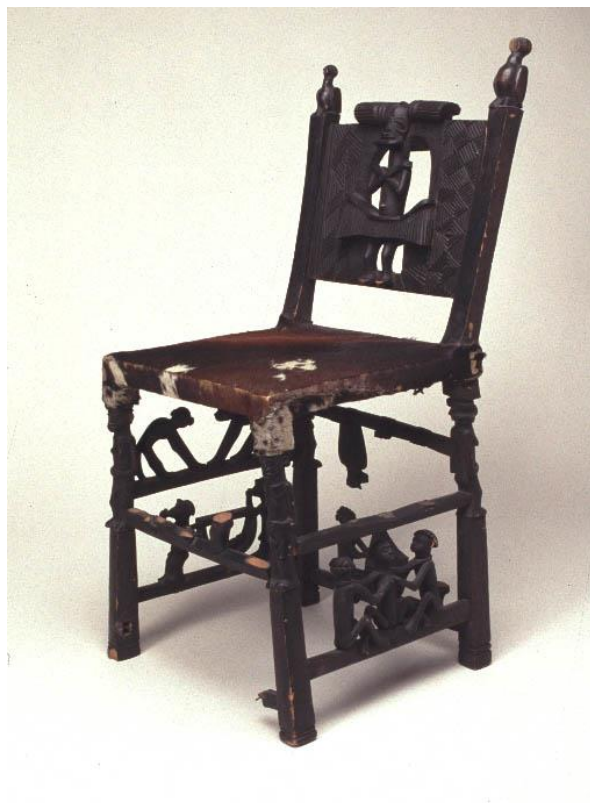
Regions and countries represented: Caribbean

Country	Major Sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
The Bahamas	Frances Farquharson	3	Bag, dresses
Jamaica	Frances Farquharson	2	Bag, dress
Trinidad and Tobago		1	Wedding dress

Selected object images

Africa

Chief's chair, Angola, ABDMS038350

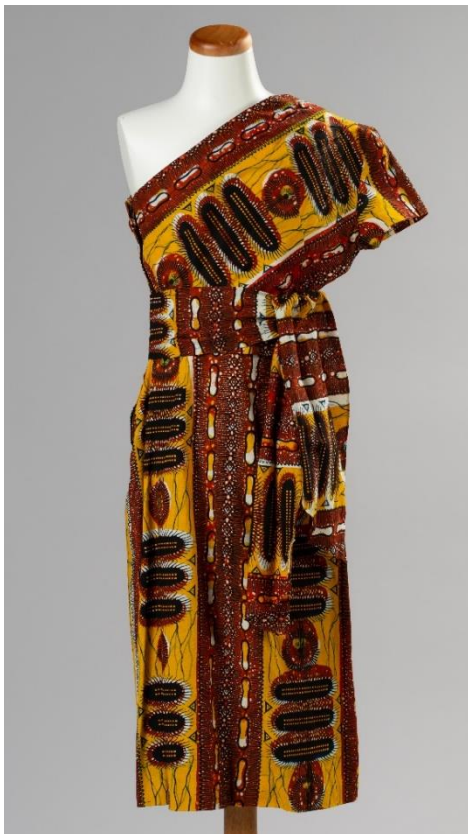


Power figure, Democratic Republic of the Congo, ABDMS050717



Caribbean

1950s wax print dress, The Bahamas, ABDMS037738



Aberdeenshire Museums Service

Live Life Aberdeenshire

Contact museums@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Location of collections

In storage

Discovery Centre
Station Road
Mintlaw
AB42 5EE

Size of collections

290 African objects
No known Caribbean objects

Online collections

<https://aberdeen-asp.adlibhosting.com/search/simple>

Selected objects

- Tunic or *jibba*, Sudan, H3783.116
- Spear, Sudan, H3783.37
- Beadwork necklace, southern Africa, F249
- Beadwork bag, southern Africa, F365
- House post or sculpture, Nigeria, NN442

History of the collection

Aberdeenshire Council Museums Service cares for over 500,000 objects and multiple museums, including Aberdeenshire Farming Museum and Banchory Museum. Significant portions of its collection are on loan to Banff Museum, Maud Railway Museum, Fordyce Joiners Workshop, and Sandhaven Meal Mill. Most objects relevant to this review are in storage at the Discovery Centre in Mintlaw. The collection is composed of many smaller collections from local museums, some of which are no longer open to the public, for example the Arbuthnot Museum in Peterhead, the Brander Museum in Huntly, and Inverurie Museum. As a result of these historic transfers, very little provenance information is available and at the time of writing staff are undertaking major work to update documentation and digitisation.

Overview of the collection

Approximately 47% of the African collection is made up of weaponry, arms and armour. The largest single collection formerly belonged to Major George Whitefield Anderson (1856-1915) and includes spears, bows, daggers, throwing axes, and clubs. Most items were collected during Anderson's military service in the Egyptian War of 1882 and the campaign to reconquer Sudan in 1896-1898. For example, leaf-shaped spears from Sudan, in one case recorded as taken from the Battlefield of Atbara (April 1898). Notable items in the Anderson collection include a tunic or *jibba*, a steel helmet, and a split-ring chainmail haubergeon, recorded as taken from amīrs of the forces of Abdullah-al-Taishi on the battlefield at Kerreri

(near Omdurman) in September 1898. Other items with noted provenance include North African flintlock muskets recorded as taken after the battle of Hafir (September 1896) and rifles recorded as taken from the battlefield of Tel El Kebir (September 1882). One object of interest is a rifle with Arabic numbers and the 'Mahdi mark' along with an Egyptian police property mark stamp, indicating that it was used by both the Sudanese and Egyptian armies. It should be noted that the Anderson collection also includes around 46 weapons and armour that were likely made in Europe but commissioned or adapted by Egyptian and Sudanese soldiers. Because it was not possible to ascertain their exact provenance or usage in the time available, they have been counted in this review under 'north Africa unspecified'.

In addition to the Anderson collection, there are many unprovenanced shields, spears, axes, clubs, quivers and arrows, mostly from northern and southern Africa. One of the only objects with a recorded donor is a Zulu war shield presented by ship Captain James Collie of Peterhead in the late 19th century. Other unprovenanced objects of note include a highly decorated shield from Ethiopia and a Maasai shield.

Northern and southern African material makes up the majority of the collection. There are around 25 items of southern African beadwork, including collars, necklaces, belts, a staff, gourds and bags. These include objects recorded as Xhosa 'nursing charms' and Zulu 'love letter' necklaces. Other items are recorded as VhaVenda and Mfengu. It is likely that many date from the 19th century, but no provenance information was available at the time of writing.

Another significant body of material is a collection of around 16 archaeological stone implements from Somalia, including spearheads, knives, scrapers and projectiles, donated by British amateur archaeologist, Heywood Walter Seton-Karr (1859-1938).

One of the most unusual objects in the collection is a carved and painted Yoruba sculpture or house post depicting three women. A partially removed historic label describes the object as a 'Goddess of Fertility' collected in former Togoland (likely referring to present day Volta region, Ghana).

Associated material

Africa

This review identified colonial era numismatics, including around 11 coins from across the African continent; a photograph of a Zulu woman (c.1885); and a telegram notifying the recipient of the Surrender of Bloemfontein by the Boers to British forces (1900).

Caribbean

An indenture from 1807, transferring legal ownership of an estate and enslaved people in Jamaica, has recently been identified in the collection. Both parties involved (Hayes and Forbes) are likely Scottish. The indenture is unaccessioned and was found in papers belonging to James Mcpherson, Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire (1927-2012). There is also one coin from Haiti, dated 1817.

Notable donors

George Whitefield Anderson (1856-1915)
Heywood Walter Seton-Karr (1859 -1938)

Areas for further research

At present most of the collection is unprovenanced and would benefit from further research. This will be aided by documentation and digitisation work currently being undertaken. If historic accession registers are located, individual objects and their histories can be further explored, and a fuller picture of the entire collection may emerge. One example where this would be particularly useful is the Yoruba sculpture which features a partially removed historic label recording that the object was donated by 'Dr. Re [...]'. If the full name could be identified in historic records this might yield insights into exact provenance. Researchers should note that letters preceding accession numbers correspond with originating museums/collections. For example, accession numbers beginning with 'I' formerly belonged to Inverurie Museum; 'B' Banff; 'P' Peterhead; 'H' Huntly; and 'F' Fraserburgh.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Africa unspecified		79	
			Arrows, bottle, bows, bracelet, domestic utensils, drumstick, flywhisks, gourd vessels, letter opener, mace, manilla, metal water pot, purse, skull cap, spearheads, spears, staff, stone implements, swords, throwing axes, tobacco pipes, whips
Northern Africa		92	
Northern Africa unspecified	George Whitefield Anderson	67	Bayonets, blunderbusses, bracelets, camel rein, cartridge belt, chainmail, coffee pots, container, dagger, domestic utensils, fencing foils, helmet, horse furniture, muskets, pistols, rifles, sabres, swords, tobacco pouch, water jugs
Sudan	George Whitefield Anderson	25	Arrows, knives, Koranic amulet, quivers, spears, tunic
Eastern Africa		19	
Eastern Africa unspecified		1	Shield
Ethiopia		2	Shields
Somalia	Heywood Walter Seton-Karr	16	Chert core, chert projectile, chert scraper, flint knife, flint spearhead, Neolithic and

			prehistoric stone implements
Central Africa		1	
Democratic Republic of the Congo		1	Sword
Southern Africa		69	
Southern Africa unspecified	Captain Mathieson Captain James Collie	67	Beadwork bag, beadwork belt, beadwork, beadwork necklace, clubs, domestic utensils, knee ornament, knobkerrie, leg band, shields, skin bag, snuff container, snuff spoon, spear, staff, throwing axe, tobacco pipe
Lesotho		1	Sweat scraper
Namibia		1	Axe
Western Africa		30	
Western Africa unspecified		15	Body ornaments, domestic utensils
Ghana		10	Asante gold weights
Nigeria		5	Domestic utensils, knife, Koranic amulet, leather bag, Yoruba figure

Selected object images

Tunic or *jebba*, Sudan, H3783.116



Spear, Sudan, H3783.37



Beadwork necklace, South Africa, F249



Beadwork bag, South Africa, F365



House post or sculpture, Nigeria, NN442



Elgin Museum

The Moray Society

Contact curator@elginmuseum.org.uk

Location of collections

Elgin Museum
1 High Street
Elgin
IV30 1EQ

Size of collections

212 African objects
No known Caribbean objects

Selected objects

- Hausa trousers, Ghana, ELGNM:1837.10
- Weight and spoon from gold weighing set, Ghana, ELGNM:1839.2.2.3 + ELGNM:1839.2.1
- Shield, Democratic Republic of the Congo, ELGNM:1887.12
- Ceremonial knife, Democratic Republic of the Congo, ELGNM:1887.19
- Ivory horn, Democratic Republic of the Congo, ELGNM:1842.2
- Prayer scroll, Ethiopia, ELGNM:1978.1555

History of the collection

Elgin Museum opened in 1843, making it Scotland's oldest independent museum. It was originally founded by the Elgin and Morayshire Scientific Association, which was established in 1836. The building was purpose-built, and extensions were added in 1896 and 1921. The museum underwent major refurbishments between 1988 and 1990, and redesigns in 2003. Today the museum holds around 36,000 objects and is owned and managed by The Moray Society. Collections include material described as ethnographic, natural history, costume and textiles, art, archaeology, fossils, and local history. Some of the earliest accessions of African material date from the late 1830s and were probably part of the Elgin and Morayshire Scientific Association's collections before the museum opened. Museum records suggest that much non-European material was deaccessioned or sold in the 1950s.

Overview of the collection

According to internal records at the time of writing, around 28% of the African collection is not currently attributed to a country or region. Approximately 19% of the entire collection is attributed to eastern Africa, 16% to central Africa, 14% to northern Africa, 11% to western Africa and 10% to southern Africa.

Some of the most significant objects come from Ghana. These include a pair of trousers (ELGNM:1837.10) that were donated to the Museum in 1837 by the son of Colonel Grant, a former Governor of Sierra Leone. The trousers are Hausa style but were obtained in Ghana,

most likely during a so-called punitive expedition led by Grant against the Asante in 1824, following their defeat of Sir Charles McCarthy. They are notable because they were taken during a conflict that marked the beginning of decades of Anglo-Asante wars, and because they highlight Hausa trade networks spanning west Africa at this time. Elgin Museum also holds an Asante gold weighing set, a zoomorphic gold weight (ELGNM:1839.2.1) and a lock, donated in 1839 by William Topp (1807-1877), secretary to Governor George Maclean of Cape Coast Castle.

The largest collection of material attributed to a single country comes from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Of note is material donated by James Brown Eddie in 1887, including ceremonial knives (ELGNM:1887.19), shields (ELGNM:1887.12) and spoons. Records suggest that Eddie was a missionary from Elgin and based at Boyoma Falls, formerly known as Stanley Falls. One of the earliest accessions is an ivory horn (ELGNM:1842.2), recorded as coming from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and donated in 1842 by Lieutenant W J Cooper of the Royal Navy.

The collection contains several objects that appear to have been taken during episodes of colonial warfare. For example, a Sudanese soldier's knife recorded as being taken during the Battle of El Teb (February 1884) and a Zulu staff taken during the South African War (1899-1902). These objects were donated by the legatee of collector John Brander of the New Zealand Loan Company, who originally came from Elgin. Several other objects, including shields, drums and pottery, are attributed to William Gordon Cumming. Cumming was active in the so-called Anglo-Zulu War (Battle of Ulundi, 1879), Anglo-Egyptian War (1882), and Mahdist War (1884-1885). The Museum also holds an item described as a 'slave yoke' that is recorded as being taken in central Africa by Captain Walter Gordon Cumming when serving under Sir Harry Johnston during an expedition to suppress the trade of enslaved people. Historical records suggest that several spears from the Battle of Isandlwana (South Africa, 1879) were donated, but these have not yet been identified. This review identified a bronze bell from Benin City, Nigeria. The finish and style suggest that its production postdates the notorious 1897 sacking of Benin City by British forces. The collection includes a 19th-century prayer scroll (ELGNM:1978.1555) from Ethiopia that was reportedly owned by Haile Selassie (Emperor of Ethiopia 1930-1974).

Associated material

The Museum also holds a collection of natural history specimens, including bird eggs and tusks from Kenya, Sudan, and Sierra Leone; a small numismatics collection dating from 1790 to 1959, including coins and banknotes from Egypt, Morocco, former British South and West Africa, Nigeria, and Kenya; a collection of glass lantern slides dating from 1889 to 1920, including scenes from Algeria and Morocco; a collar made of broderie anglaise reportedly associated with David Livingstone (1813-1873); military medals from the South African War and Battle of Tel El Kebir; early 20th-century colonial literature and pamphlets; and an explosive shell taken from the Battle of Isandlwana, South Africa (1879).

Associated Caribbean natural history material includes a collection of molluscs and coral.

Notable donors

James Brown Eddie (dates unknown)
William Topp of Ashgrove (1807-1877)

Areas for further research

Staff and volunteers have been undertaking research and auditing to match objects with historical records and the museum also holds records of all the material that has been deaccessioned, which may provide relevant information for current collections.

The museum holds correspondence from James Brown Eddie that may shed light on how objects were collected. It is possible that he was involved with the American Baptist Mission or part of the Congo-Balolo Mission, a British Baptist missionary society that was active in the present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo from 1889 to 1915.

The collection currently contains several South African objects attributed to General Gordon. This may refer to the high-profile British Army Major-General Charles George Gordon who is known for campaigns in Egypt and Sudan. Gordon does not appear to have been active in South Africa, however, so further research is required.

Miss Pirie donated a diverse collection from across the continent in 1939, including a paddle from Nigeria, a necklace from Ghana, and clubs and a staff from South Africa. Pirie was the niece of Professor Reid at the University of Aberdeen and the objects all came from his personal collection. Additional information about these objects could potentially be identified through archival research at the University of Aberdeen.

Records note that several carved figures and masks were sold to 'Mr Webster of London' in 1955. Sold objects include a 'Witch Doctors Face Mask' from Nigeria, and a wooden 'Idol' from 'Opobo, West Coast of Africa'. This may refer to Kenneth Athol Webster (1906-1967), a collector and dealer who is better known for his interest in Oceanic material. This highlights how dealers of 'ethnographic' material obtained objects from local and regional museums in the mid-20th century and reflects the increasing market value of non-European 'artworks' at this time.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Africa unspecified		61	
	Dr George Gordon Esq MD RN [Royal Navy] (HMS <i>Pandora</i>). Miss Grisel Haig. Arthur Hay. Sir William Gordon Cumming Bart. Therese Sophie Levack.		Armlet, arrow, barkcloth, beadwork, billhook, bowl, bracelet, charm, clay bust, dagger decorated tusks, drums, drumstick, figurine, hat, headrest, ivory crocodile, pottery, snuff bottle, spear, spoon, strainer, whip
Northern Africa		29	
Northern Africa unspecified		9	Basketry, pottery, spoons
Algeria	Mrs Gordon Duff. Sir William Gordon Cumming Bart.	3	Pottery, spur

Egypt	Sir William Gordon Cumming Bart	7	Donkey chains, flywhisk, hat, pot stand, pottery, skirt
Morocco	Major G Boyd Anderson	4	Pottery, plaque, funnel
Sudan	Miss Holloway	4	Knife, flywhisk, pipe, spearhead
Tunisia	John Brander/Miss Holloway. Sir William Gordon Cumming Bart.	2	Knife, pottery
Eastern Africa		41	
Eastern Africa unspecified		6	Spearhead, spoons, water bottle,
Ethiopia		2	Manuscripts/prayer scrolls
Mozambique	Mrs Therese Sophie Levack	1	'Bride trunk'
Somalia		17	Neolithic and Palaeolithic flint tools
United Republic of Tanzania	Miss Dressler. Therese Sophie Levack	13	Bottle, bowl, comb, cup, currency, hat, ladle, necklace, spoon
Zimbabwe	Mrs C L Gordon	2	Headrest, pipe
Central Africa		35	
Central Africa unspecified	Sir William Gordon Cumming Bart	1	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	James Brown Eddie. R Stollery. Mrs Therese Sophie Levack. Lt W J Cooper RN	34	Knives, pestle, shields, spoons. Carved ivory objects: armlet, bracelet, fork, horn, necklace, rattle, spoon
Southern Africa		21	
Botswana	Mr Leith	1	Giraffe hair hat
South Africa	John Brander/Miss Holloway. Miss Pirie. Mr Seregi De Vesselitsky. Mrs Geddie Winchester. Mrs Muir. Sir William Gordon Cumming Bart. General Gordon	20	Basket, clubs, cup, knobkerrie, pipes, spoon, shields, staff, staff/walking stick, thumb piano
Western Africa		25	
Western Africa unspecified	Miss Pirie	1	Crown
Ghana	Miss Pirie Mr William Topp	6	Asante trousers, gold weighing set, goldweight, lock, necklace, pipe
Niger	Miss Hay	1	Bell

Nigeria	Miss Pirie. Sir William Gordon Cumming Bart/ Karen Andreasen	17	Carved figure, carved heads, cosmetic bottle, drum, fan, gourd, manilla, necklace, paddle, quiver and arrows, robes, sword
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Selected object images

Hausa trousers, Ghana, ELGNM:1837.10



Weight and spoon from gold weighing set, Ghana, ELGNM:1839.2.2.3 + ELGNM:1839.2.1



Shield, Democratic Republic of the Congo, ELGNM:1887.12



Ceremonial knife, Democratic Republic of the Congo, ELGNM:1887.19



Ivory horn, Democratic Republic of the Congo, ELGNM:1842.2



Prayer scroll, Ethiopia, ELGNM:1978.1555



Falconer Museum Moray Council

The Falconer Museum has been closed to the public since 2019

Contact museums@moray.gov.uk

Location of collections

Falconer Museum
Tolbooth Street
Forres
Moray
IV36 1PH

Size of collections

30 African objects
No known Caribbean objects

History of the collection

The Falconer Museum was founded in 1871 and named after locally-born brothers, Alexander Falconer (1797-1856), a merchant in Calcutta, and Hugh Falconer (1808-1865), a prominent figure in the scientific community who also spent time in India. Alexander bequeathed £1,000 for the establishment of a public museum in Forres. The Museum was acquired by Moray Council in 1979 and has been closed to the public since 2019. During this review it was not possible to gain access to the collection. This summary is based on database information shared by Moray Council. It has not been possible to identify significant objects from the information available.

Overview of the collection

Current records suggest that the Falconer Museum holds 30 objects originating from Africa, excluding numismatic, ancient Egyptian, and natural history collections. According to these records, around 24% of the African collection is not currently attributed to a country or region. Around 4% of the entire collection is attributed to eastern Africa, 26% to central Africa, 7% to northern Africa, and 4% to southern Africa. Accession dates range from 1873 to 1988.

Much of the collection was donated by members of the Gordon-Cumming family, Scottish aristocrats based at Altyre. Of note are objects associated with William Alexander Gordon Gordon-Cumming (1848-1930), a soldier who served in South Africa, Egypt and Sudan. His uncle, Roualeyn Gordon-Cumming (1820-1866), made five hunting trips to southern Africa between 1844 and 1849. Objects donated by these individuals include shields, a spade, a drum, and a scabbard. Also of note are two spears listed as Malagasy from Madagascar, donated by a Mr W Mackenzie and accessioned in 1875.

Associated material

The Falconer Museum holds a numismatics collection from Egypt, South Africa and Tunisia. The African zoology collection includes antelope, molluscs and eggs.

Notable donors

Anne Pitcairn Gordon-Cumming of Altyre (d.1888)
Constance Frederica Gordon-Cumming (1837-1924)
Roualeyn Gordon-Cumming (1820-1866)
William Alexander Gordon Gordon-Cumming (1848-1930)

Areas for further research

Material from the Gordon-Cumming family could be researched according to their known movements in Africa. In particular, Roualeyn Gordon-Cumming described his activities in *Five Years of a Hunter's Life in the Far Interior of South Africa* (London, 1850).

Regions and countries represented – Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Africa unspecified		11	
	Mr J H Murray. Roualeyn Gordon-Cumming. James Peterkin. Miss C F Gordon-Cumming.		Axe, bow, daggers, spears, headrest, shield, walking stick
Northern Africa		3	
Algeria	A P Gordon-Cumming	1	Pottery flask
Egypt	Lady A P Gordon-Cumming	1	Pottery cup
Sudan		1	Sword
Eastern Africa		2	
Madagascar	Mr W Mackenzie	2	Spears
Central Africa		12	
Central Africa unspecified	William Gordon-Cumming	10	Drum, scabbard, shield, spade
Democratic Republic of the Congo		2	Sheath, dagger
Southern Africa		2	
South Africa	Mr J Gillan John Green	2	Spears

University of Aberdeen Collections

Contact museums@abdn.ac.uk

Location of collections

University of Aberdeen
Museum Collections Centre
Marischal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1YS

Size of collections

3,247+ African objects
66 Caribbean objects

Online collections

<https://calm.abdn.ac.uk/museums/>

Selected objects

Africa

- Ogboni drum, Nigeria, ABDUA:5993
- Stool and figure by Lamidi Fakeye, Nigeria, ABDUA:58812 + 58813
- Yoruba house post, Nigeria, ABDUA:6555
- Stool from Kumasi, Ghana, ABDUA:7260
- Ox hide shield covered with purple velvet and ornamental brass designs, Ethiopia, ABDUA:59241
- Dolls, Angola, ABDUA:7085 + ABDUA:7093
- Woven vegetable fibre skirt, Republic of Congo, ABDUA:7375

Caribbean

- Quartzite axe blade, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, ABDUA:8446
- Canoe paddle and detail, Guyana, ABDUA:25936
- 'Boar teeth' necklace, Guyana, ABDUA:8836
- Dyed grass basket, Guyana, ABDUA:8896

History of the collection

The University of Aberdeen was formed in 1860 with the merger of King's College (founded 1495) and Marischal College (founded 1593). Given this long history, it is possible that parts of the collection are some of the earliest in Scotland. However, in 1912, Professor of Anatomy and Honorary Curator, Robert W Reid, suggested that most of the non-European material entered the University collections from around 1800. From this point, 'ethnographic' material, including objects from Africa and the Caribbean, were displayed in various University buildings. In 1907, this material was brought together in the Marischal Museum

adjoining the Mitchell Hall. Known as the Anthropological Museum, displays were designed to illustrate 'the habits, customs and culture of the different races of Man' and were arranged according to a geographical schema. The Marischal Museum closed to the public in 2008 and, at the time of writing, operates as a collection centre, including stores and a conservation lab.

Overview of the collection

Africa

Eastern African objects represent the largest percentage of the African collections at around 37%, followed by southern Africa (26%), western Africa (23%), central Africa (7%), northern Africa (2%) and 5% unidentified. The majority were donated to the University by staff, students, alumni, associated individuals, and local families. Much like other museums across Scotland, three major provenance strands are evident with objects obtained through various examples of colonial conflict, colonial careers (particularly engineering and medicine) and missionary activity.

Eastern Africa

At the time of writing, most of the east African material with provenance information available is recorded as coming from 'Ethiopia/ Sudan/ Somalia' and was acquired by John Lawrence Baird of Urie, 1st Viscount Stonehaven (1874-1941), who served in East Africa as a British diplomat around the turn of the 20th century. The collection is diverse and includes swords, clubs, knives, daggers, food vessels and water bottles, musical instruments, headrests, personal ornaments, and processional crosses made of brass. Objects of note include two velvet cloaks and a shield reportedly associated with Menelik II (Emperor of Ethiopia, 1889-1913) with whom Baird would have come into contact. Another object of interest, not associated with Baird, is an Ethiopian prayer scroll.

Other notable east African material includes objects recorded as originating from Uganda and Kenya that were donated by individuals involved in the building of the Uganda railway in the 1890s. The two major donors were Major General Sir James Ronald Leslie Macdonald (1862-1927) and Dr Ian Rose (also known as John Alexander Rose in University records). Macdonald was born in Aberdeen and worked for the Imperial British East Africa Company, surveying the railway route from 1891 to 1892. Ian Rose was a medical doctor and alumni of the University of Aberdeen who worked on the Uganda railway construction in the late 1890s. In total there are over 100 objects (excluding human remains and photographs) attributed to Rose and Macdonald which could be researched further. Objects recorded as Ugandan include musical instruments, shields, stools, barkcloth, spears, and domestic utensils. Material recorded as Kenyan includes an antelope skin cape with beads, ostrich feather headdresses/ brow and face pieces, chain ear ornaments, necklets, whips, and spears.

Southern Africa

South African material represents the largest collection from any single country. More research is required into these extensive holdings, but it is likely that a high proportion of the weapons, body ornaments and utilitarian items were taken during, or as a result of, colonial conflicts in the region towards the end of the 1800s. A collection of 19 spears, for example, is recorded as 'belonging to Zulu chief. Battlefield of Gurghilevo, Ulundi'. The Battle of Ulundi took place at the Zulu capital of Ulundi (Zulu: oNdini) on 4 July 1879 and was the last major

battle of the so-called Anglo-Zulu War. One headrest is recorded as a 'Zulu Pillow brought home during Boer War 1899-1902'. Even where no note is made to provenance, some named donors have clear military affiliations, such as Corporal George Ogilvie and Lt Col William Lachlan Forbes. The Ogston catalogue may provide further research leads. One entry lists 'eighteen beadwork articles', including neck ornaments, waistbands, snuff calabashes, and pouches, 'presented' by Robert Welsh and coming from Umtata/Mthatha in the present-day Eastern Cape province.

Western Africa

Nigerian material represents the second largest collection from any single country and is currently undergoing major auditing work. Notable material includes objects donated by Sir William MacGregor (1846-1919), governor of former Lagos Colony from 1899 to 1904, including dance rattles, amulets, belts, fans, decorated gourd calabashes, flywhisks, medical equipment, knives, and daggers and spears. Of this collection, objects recorded as 'axes used as charms by Shango priests' and a carved Yoruba stool and house post would particularly benefit from further research.

Other notable parts of the Nigerian collection include material donated by Sir Charles Stuart Burnett (1882-1945) who was active in the West African Frontier Force in Nigeria from 1904. In 1906, Burnett took part in so-called punitive expeditions in Northern Nigeria, accounts of which are held in the museum archive. Objects of note attributed to Burnett include a drum from an Ogboni house carved in the style of Osi Ekiti, and an Emir's ornate tin staff from Hadejia that was potentially taken by force.

More contemporary Nigerian material includes a Yoruba stool and figure carvings by Lamidi and Akin Fakeye. Part of a renowned multigenerational group of Yoruba sculptors active in the mid-20th century, Fakeye was apprenticed at the Oye Ekiti workshop, based in a Roman Catholic mission.

In October 2021, the University of Aberdeen repatriated a bronze head depicting an Oba of Benin that was looted in 1897. The University has reported to Digital Benin and the Nigerian National Commission for Museums and Monuments that one potentially looted object remains in the collection. This is an iron hanging lamp, recorded as coming from the 'King's Kraal', although the exact provenance remains unclear. Internal records list an additional ten objects from Benin city that were donated by Dane Marsh in 2011. Marsh studied in Aberdeen and worked as a Forestry Officer in West Africa from 1949 to 1966. Previous reviews of this material suggest that its production postdates the notorious 1897 sacking of Benin City by British forces.

The majority of the Ghanaian collection was donated by Dr F W Moir who was reportedly a member of the West African Medical corps and active across Ghana around the turn of the 20th century (records state 1905-1906). Material includes 68 gold weights, ceremonial paddles, medical equipment, domestic utensils, archaeological material, dance rattles, and aprons. The collection also contains a carved wooden Asante stool that is recorded as coming from Kumasi. This may be connected to British plundering of the Asante capital Kumasi (1874), but further research is required to determine likely provenance details.

Central Africa

The majority of central African material originates from Angola and Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Angolan collection is almost exclusively from English anthropologists Diana and Antoinette Powell-Cotton. The sisters undertook their first trip to Angola in 1936 to

document the lives, traditions and customs of local people, which they believed to be under threat from European colonisation. The collection of material that they donated to the University of Aberdeen in 1942 includes domestic utensils, personal ornaments, and a notable collection of 'dolls' made of dried maize cobs and decorated with clay, textiles and beads.

Material from the Democratic Republic of the Congo reflects missionary activity in the region. Most was donated by Rev Arthur Billington of the American Baptist Mission Union. Billington had a station at Tshumbiri-Bwemba in former Haut-Congo Province and had probably been in the region since the 1880s. His collection was presented to the University around 1909-1912 and includes *Nkisi* figures and charms, cut pile raffia textiles, tobacco pipes, domestic utensils, basketry, axes and knives. Less is known about Rev Frank Innes, who gave a small collection including two 'figures' (probably *Nkisi* figures) and a sample of rope made from tree bark. Correspondence in a supplementary folder suggests his donation arrived before 1933.

Northern Africa

Much of the north African collection is made up of arms, armour and associated objects which were probably acquired during colonial wars, such as the Anglo-Egyptian and Egyptian-Sudanese wars of the 1880s and 1890s. Material includes weapons, utilitarian items and clothing and Koranic charms attributed to the specific battles of Omdurman, Tel el Kebir, Sonakin, and Tamai. The collection includes two tunics or *jibbas* which were most likely taken from high-ranking Sudanese emirs or generals, although no information on this is recorded, and more unusual cloth caps that were probably worn underneath metal helmets. The collection also contains suits, helmets and shirts of chainmail armour that are listed as Sudanese but were collected in Northern Nigeria by Charles Burnett in 1906.

Caribbean

74% of the Caribbean collection is made up of Guyanese objects, which are mainly weapons, basketry and personal ornaments. A collection of 31 arrows represents nearly half of the material. There are two types of arrows recorded: one made of bamboo and poisoned with curare; the second made from grass flower shoots with decorated wood heads tipped with tail spines of stingray. There are 16 items of basketry, including sieves, 'pillows', and rattles, some of which appear to be miniature versions of domestic and utilitarian objects. There are around five necklaces made of different materials, including one of blue beads, two of 'boar teeth', and two of black wooden beads. The 'boar teeth' necklaces, along with two cups containing poison for arrows and two boxes of poison tipped arrows, are recorded as being presented by Alexander Stuart in 1827 and/ or 1887.

Material from Belize represents the second largest collection of Caribbean material and the ten objects appear to be excavated archaeological material. These include two shards of a large pottery object or vessel showing human faces, which historical records list as 'Maya sculpture' from former British Honduras. There is also a 'grey ware amulet' or 'figurine' and a 'clay whistle in human form'. The only objects with clear provenance at the time of writing are two eccentric flints, a flint axe and two spearheads, recorded as being taken from a 'mound near Rio Hondo, [former] British Honduras' and donated by a Dr Keyt in 1902.

Other objects of interest include stone axes from Saint Vincent donated by Sir William MacGregor in 1920; two balls of dye, most probably annatto dye from Guyana and listed as

used for body painting; and lacebark specimens donated by Mr Alexander Thomson (no date).

Associated material

Africa

Archival collections include albums of photographs donated by John Lawrence Baird, 1st Viscount Stonehaven; a collection of photographs, notebooks and albums, written and photographed from 1944 to 1945 in Ghana, Nigeria and Morocco by Lt Col A C Stevenson; 22 photographs of people and sites in Uganda from Dr Ian Rose; five images of Morocco in the 1950s by/donated by H H Kynett.

The University also holds military badges and buttons from South Africa, 1900-1902.

Caribbean

Archival collections include seven pictures of Havana made in 1944 by/donated by H H Kynett; an album of pen and ink drawings of scenes from Trinidad, Seychelles, Mauritius and an album containing photographs of Trinidad, Fiji, Seychelles, Canada, probably made by Arthur Charles Hamilton-Gordon, 1st Baron Stanmore.

Other material includes ten coins from Jamaica; a commemoration medal '100 years of annexation of Trinidad to British Empire'; and a 'Jamaica Militia' badge.

Notable donors

John Lawrence Baird of Urie, 1st Viscount Stonehaven (1874-1941)

Sir Charles Stuart Burnett (1882-1945)

Sir William MacGregor (1846-1919)

Major General Sir James Ronald Leslie Macdonald (1862-1927)

Antoinette Powell-Cotton (1915-1997)

Diana Powell-Cotton (1908-1986)

Areas for further research

Africa

Since this survey was conducted, major auditing and rehousing work has continued and further research based on up-to-date records would be beneficial.

The University holds supplementary folders, diaries, documents and photograph albums related to the life of John Lawrence Baird of Urie, 1st Viscount Stonehaven (1874-1941), which may be useful to researchers interested in the East African objects that he acquired. These include photograph albums titled '1903 The Butter's Expedition'; '1904 Mullah Campaign'; '1900-1903 Somali Land'; '1899 Upper Nile'; 'East Africa 1903 - Abyssinia-Borana'; 'Zeila to Lake Tsana 1899-1900'; '1899-1901 Upper Nile'; 20 photographs of people, sites, soldiers, taken in Sudan and Egypt; and 82 photographs of people, scenery, hunting, sites in Ethiopia.

Information about objects from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, donated by Arthur Billington, may be mentioned in Billington's correspondence which is held in the American Baptist Historical Society archives at Mercer University Libraries. Some of this material is digitised and letters appear to recount details of his activity.

The construction of the Uganda railway was a significant event that linked the interiors of Uganda and Kenya with the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa in Kenya. Researching Ugandan and Kenyan objects collected by James Macdonald and Ian Rose during construction would provide a unique perspective on this history. It should be noted that Ian Rose also took human remains from the region, detailed below.

Relationships between Sir William Macgregor and figures of authority in Nigeria may be worth investigating further. In 1904, Macgregor reportedly invited the Alake of Abeokuta to Aberdeen. Around the same time, he donated beadwork items to the British Museum that he had confiscated from the Elepe of Epe. These were loaned to the University of Aberdeen in the mid-1980s for exhibition.

Caribbean

The whole collection would benefit from further research and a visual survey of stores may yield more finds. Guyanese canoe paddles, for example, were identified by museum staff during this review.

Pieces of lacebark donated by Mr Alexander Thomson (no date) carry a historic label that reads 'Lace Tree, West Indies, W. H. Pickering'. It is possible that these are associated with William Henry Pickering (1858-1938), an American astronomer who spent much of his later life at his private observatory in Jamaica.

Items from Guyana are potentially associated with Alexander Stewart (1811-1879) who was attorney and manager of a plantation called Lusignan, near Georgetown, Guyana. Stewart died in Edinburgh.

Dr Keyt, who donated two eccentric flints, a flint axe and two spearheads from former British Honduras in 1902, was possibly Dr Frederic Keyt (b.1866). Keyt studied in Aberdeen and was Colonial Surgeon and District Commissioner in present day Belize from 1892 to 1902.

Human remains and casts

Africa

The University of Aberdeen holds partial sets of skeletal human remains of up to 23 individuals that are identified as originating from Africa. One is recorded as 'likely African' and 22 have specific countries or regions of origin listed: Uganda (ten or 12 people, two unidentified); Madagascar (one person); Somalia (one person); South Africa (six people); Malawi (one person); east Africa (one person). All entered the University between 1870 and 1923. The collection also contains a display box of filed teeth from Africa, most likely Mozambique, accessioned around 1911-1914.

The collection also contains a plaster model of two Khoesan individuals, moulded from life by D Brucciani & Co (London) in 1851. The object was commissioned and donated by John Struthers (1823-1899), Professor of Anatomy at the University of Aberdeen. Struthers reported that the two individuals had been performing at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh. Surgeons' Hall Museums in Edinburgh holds a cast from the same mould.

Caribbean

The University of Aberdeen holds one partial set of skeletal human remains labelled 'Carib, S. America' which was accessioned in 1896.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Africa unspecified		165	
	Mrs Henry Steven. Sir William MacGregor. Dr John McPherson. N Grahame. Sydney, Viscountess Stonehaven. J Sutter. Hassani. General Sir James R L MacDonald. Mr G Davidson, Aberdeen. Miss A N Clark. Mr P L Shanks. Mackintosh Collection. Grant Bey Collection. Lt Col Adler, Brechin. Mr W A Sutherland. Miss Ronald. Lady Sybil Burnett.		Armour, beadwork, camel furniture, ceramics, clothing and textiles, 'doll', domestic utensils, fan, figures, flywhisk, footwear, gourd vessels, headrest, medical equipment, musical instrument, painted ostrich egg, personal hygiene instruments, personal ornaments, snuff box, stool, traditional medicine equipment, walking sticks, weapons
Northern Africa		79	
Northern Africa unspecified	David Randall-Maclver. J C Henderson Trustees. Captain J B Fergusson. Wilson Collection.	11	Ceramics, domestic utensils, textiles and clothing, weapons and armour
Algeria	Countess of Kintore. J C Henderson Trustees. Grant Bey Collection.	7	Dress items, jewellery, musical instruments
Sudan	Ethel Keith-Falconer. Sydney Viscountess Stonehaven. Sydney, Charlotte Montagu, Countess of Kintore. Professor Sir Alexander Ogston. Lady Sibyl Burnett.	60	Baskets, domestic utensils, dress items, horse furniture, jewellery, musical instruments, religious amulets, textiles and clothing, weapons and armour

	Dr Grant Bey Collection. Captain J B Fergusson. R W Troup. Dr Robert Wilson.		
Tunisia	Professor Sir Alexander Ogston	1	Purse
Eastern Africa		1,179	
Eastern Africa unspecified	Dr John McPherson. Mr Donald A Fraser. Rev F A Innes. Lt Col John Robb (representatives of).	593	Arms/weapons, domestic utensils, flywhisks, footwear, jewellery, musical instruments, smoking utensils, walking sticks
Djibouti	Lt Col J Robb	1	Basket
Ethiopia	John Lawrence Baird of Urie, 1st Viscount Stonehaven, given by his wife Ethel Sydney Keith-Falconer, Viscountess Stonehaven. Charlotte Montagu, Countess of Kintore, the mother of Ethel Sydney Keith- Falconer, Viscountess Stonehaven.	64	Clothing and textiles, domestic utensils, headrest, horse furniture, jewellery, musical instruments, religious metalwork
Ethiopia/ Sudan/ Somalia	John Lawrence Baird of Urie, 1st Viscount Stonehaven, given by his wife Ethel Sydney Keith-Falconer, Viscountess Stonehaven. Countess of Kintore, Keith-hall, Aberdeenshire (mother of Ethel Sydney Keith- Falconer, Viscountess Stonehaven).	58	Jewellery/personal ornaments, horse furniture, weapons and armour
Kenya	Dr Ian Rose. Lt Col J Robb. General Sir James R L MacDonald.	79	Armour, beadwork, clothing and textiles, divining equipment, ostrich feather headdresses, personal

	Professor Sir Alexander Ogston. Dr Grant Bey. Dr G E Turner. Dr J R Levack. W H A Jamieson. Dr S Grant. J Foster.		ornaments, snuff box, weapons, whips
Kenya/ Uganda/ Tanzania	Lt Col J Robb	20	Arms/weapons, domestic utensils, personal ornaments
Madagascar	Miss P E Pirie	7	Caps, combs, sandals, snuffboxes
Malawi	Rev Alexander Hetherwick. Dr Alexander Reith. Dr Laws. Rev F A Innes. Mr Alexander Carnegie Ross. Dr Alexander Brown. Dr G A Turner. Mrs W Angus. Marischal College, Aberdeen.	179	Animal models, armour, ceremonial clubs, combs, domestic utensils, headrests, mats, musical instruments, nets, personal ornaments, snuff boxes, walking sticks, weapons and tools, whips
Mozambique	J J Simpson. Dr G A Turner. Dr William Cruickshank. J A Barclay.	43	Baskets, domestic utensils, headrest, Koran stand, musical instruments, personal ornaments (ring necklet, belt), weapons (spears, bows, arrows, knives, club)
Seychelles	Professor Sir Alexander Ogston	1	Plant material
Somalia	Dr I Rose. John Lawrence Baird of Urie, 1st Viscount Stonehaven given by his wife Ethel Sydney Keith-Falconer, Viscountess Stonehaven. Mr Seton-Karr. R Skeffington Smyth. Mr Alexander Thomson.	29	Domestic utensils, flint implements, weapons and armour
Uganda	Dr Ian Rose. General Sir James R L MacDonald. Professor J Craig.	28	Arms and armour, barkcloth, domestic utensils, musical

	Dr John McPherson. Major Milne. General C J Robertson. Ogston Collection. Lt Col J Robb. Mr A G Nicol Smith.		instruments, pottery, walking sticks, stools
United Republic of Tanzania	Dr E Henriques. Sir William MacGregor.	9	Domestic utensils, musical instruments, personal ornaments, weapons
Zambia	Mrs Archibald Reith. Dr Alexander Brown. A J Wolhuter. Rev F A Innes. Mr Alexander Carnegie Ross.	36	Baskets, body ornaments, domestic utensils, musical instruments, tobacco pipe, tools, weapons
Zimbabwe	Mr Charles Murray. Mr W A Sutherland. Mrs Angus.	32	Axe, bag, club, daggers, domestic utensils, flywhisk, footwear, musical instruments, personal ornaments, snuff container, tobacco pipe
Central Africa		239	
Central Africa unspecified	Mr Alexander Carnegie Ross. Rev F A Innes. Mrs Archibald Reith.	3	Daggers, rope
Angola	Misses D & A Powell- Cotton	122	Body ornaments, ceremonial dress, ceremonial items, children's toys, 'dolls', domestic utensils and tools, hair ornaments, pigment, poison, scent, snuff boxes, weapons
Cameroon	Dr Robert Wilson Trust Fund	1	Stool
Chad	Major P H G Powell- Cotton	1	Lip plug
Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of the Congo	Rev A Billington. Rev F A Innes. Misses D & A Powell- Cotton. Sr William McGregor. J M H MacLeod. Ogston Collection. Trustees of late T J C.Henderson.	112	Armour, baskets, ceremonial weapons, domestic utensils, dye, footwear, headrest, local currency, metal body ornaments, model house musical instruments, power figures, textiles and clothing, tobacco pipes, weapons, wood samples

	Miss M F Michie. Curator, Glenesk Museum.		
Southern Africa		829	
Southern Africa unspecified	Dr G A Turner. Dr Alexander Brown. Lt Col J Robb. Charles Alford Murray. Rev F A Innes.	206	Armour, domestic utensils, musical instruments, personal ornaments, snuff box
Eswatini	Mr F Singer. Dr G E Turner.	2	Counting device, headrest
Lesotho	C W Morrison	5	Personal ornaments, pottery
Namibia	Misses D & A Powell- Cotton	4	Anklet, headdress, necklace, scent
South Africa	Professor Sir Alexander Ogston. Mr A W E Marr. F W Moir. H Y Miller. David Caston. Miss E Pirie. Dr G E Turner. Dr G A Turner. Rev Mr Thom. Lt Col W Lachlan Forbes. Dr van Niekirk. Dr Mehliiss Reitfontein. Miss E Pirie. Mr George Ogilvie. Mr Charles Murray, Alford, Aberdeenshire. Miss B J Morrison. Sydney, Charlotte Montagu, Countess of Kintore. A W E G Marr. Mrs Lawrence. George Johnston. A Hill. Mr Peter Harvey, Aberdeen. D Fordyce. A Cormack, Stoneywood School. A M Beggs.	612	Armour, beadwork (aprons; ornaments for neck, wrist, arm, ankle, leg; belts, bags, gourds), clothing and textiles, clubs/staff, divining kits, 'doll', domestic utensils (dishes, milk pots, calabash vessels, strainers), flywhisks, hair ornaments, headdresses, headrests, horse furniture, musical instruments, painted ostrich egg, personal ornaments (metal, shell, beads), rattles, snuff boxes, stone tools, tobacco pipe, tools, walking stick weapons (spears, axes, ammunition belts, gun), whips

	Lyn Borchard. Mrs M Campbell, Stonehaven. Mr Alexander Carnegie Ross.		
Western Africa		756	
Western Africa unspecified	Sr James McGrigor. Mr Irvine. F W Moir. M A Morris. Ogston Collection. Mrs Hugh Ross. E W Wood Mason.	90	Clothing and textiles, domestic utensils, footwear, local currency, mask, musical instruments, religious amulets, weapons, wooden figures
Benin	Sir William MacGregor	2	Axes
Côte d'Ivoire	F W Moir	1	Canoe
Gambia	Rev F A Innes	3	Flywhisks, harp
Ghana	Dr F W Moir. Sir William MacGregor. Professor Sir Alexander Ogston. Dane E M Marsh. Miss J Gordon. Mr Emmanuel Asibey, Ghana. Mrs Barron.	167	Beads, calabash vessels, ceramics, ceremonial dress, clothing and textiles, domestic utensils, fishing equipment, footwear, gold weighing equipment, medical instruments, musical instruments, paddles, religious writing board, snuff box, stone axe heads, stool, weapons, wooden figures
Guinea and Guinea-Bissau	Sibyl Burnett, Lady Leys	3	Box, charm, skirt
Nigeria	Sir Charles Burnett. Sir William MacGregor. Dane E M Marsh. Dr J G Copland, Africa. Dr F W Moir. Professor Sir Alexander Ogston. Professor Robert W Reid. Christ's College, Aberdeen. Dr. Robert Wilson Trust Fund. Prof and Mrs T A I Gill, Ife University. Miss J Gordon.	422	Basketry, beads, bronze and brass commemorative altar figures, charms and amulets, clothing and textiles, currency items, dance costumes, domestic utensils, fans, flywhisk, footwear, gourd vessels, horse furniture, leatherwork, masks, medical instruments, musical instruments, paddles, religious texts, staffs, stool, weapons, whips, wooden figures, wooden panels

	J C Henderson, Trustees. George Johnston. Dr J Pickles, South Africa. Mrs Hugh Ross. Rev A G Somerville, Nigeria.		
Senegal	Sir James McGregor	22	Harp, arrows
Sierra Leone	Sir James McGrigor. Mr F S Maxwell Esq BA. R M Johnston, Aberdeen. Mrs Hugh Ross. E W Mason Wood. F W Moir. D M Spring.	46	Body ornaments, clothing and textiles, combs, game board, leatherwork, masks, musical instruments, weapons, whip, wooden figure

Regions and countries represented: Caribbean

Country	Major sources/donors	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Caribbean unidentified	Mr Alexander Thomson. Mrs Peter, Rubislaw Den	2	Jug, lacebark specimens
Jamaica		1	Razor strop
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Sir William Macgregor	4	Stone axe heads
Culturally affiliated with the Caribbean region (within CARICOM)			
Belize	William Alexander Robertson Dr Keyt	10	Axe heads, ceramic figurine, clay whistle, flint tools, pot sherds, spear heads, stone axe heads
Guyana	Sir William Stokes, Dublin Alexander Stuart	49	Basketry, canoe paddles, domestic utensils, dyes, necklaces, poison, rattles, weapons (clubs, arrows)

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Selected object images

Africa

Ogboni drum, Nigeria, ABDUA:5993



Stool and Figure by Lamidi Fakeye, Nigeria, ABDUA:58812 + 58813



Yoruba house post, Nigeria, ABDUA:6555



Stool from Kumasi, Ghana, ABDUA:7260



Ox hide shield covered with purple velvet and ornamental brass designs, Ethiopia, ABDUA:59241



Dolls, Angola, ABDUA:7085 + ABDUA:7093



Woven vegetable fibre skirt, Republic of Congo, ABDUA:7375



Caribbean

Quartzite axe blade, St Vincent and the Grenadines, ABDUA:8446



Canoe paddle and detail, Guyana, ABDUA:25936



'Boar teeth' necklace, Guyana, ABDUA:8836



Dyed grass basket, Guyana, ABDUA:8896

