



Wooden club with plant fibre binding, Guyana.
© National Museums Scotland

African and Caribbean Collections in Scottish Museums Edinburgh and Lothians

Edinburgh and Lothians

- Museums & Galleries Edinburgh (City of Edinburgh Council)
- National Museums Scotland
- Surgeons' Hall Museums (The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh)

Museums & Galleries Edinburgh

City of Edinburgh Council

Contact museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk

Location of collections

Museum of Childhood
42 High St
Edinburgh
EH1 1TG

Museum Collections Centre
10 Broughton Market
Edinburgh
EH3 6NU

Museum of Edinburgh
142 Canongate
Edinburgh
EH8 8DD

Lauriston Castle
2A Cramond Road South
Edinburgh
EH4 5QD

Size of collections

52 African objects
2 Caribbean objects

Selected objects

Africa

- Banana leaf football, Malawi, MC874.97
- Push along wire Land Rover made by children, Malawi, MC883.97
- 'Bawo' game, Malawi, MC865.97

History of the Collection

Museums & Galleries Edinburgh cares for 220,000 objects that relate to historical and cultural life in the city of Edinburgh. They are also responsible for the care of over 200 monuments, memorials and statues. Collections span social history, literature, childhood, archaeology and fine and applied art. Many are recognised by the Scottish Government as being of national significance. Collections are on display in 13 venues across Edinburgh, with the majority stored at the Museum Collections Centre. Museums & Galleries Edinburgh began life as the city's Corporation Museum and the Council started collecting from around 1870. The original museum was housed in a room at City Chambers which was made public in 1904. What is now the Museum of Edinburgh opened in 1932, and the Museum of Childhood was established in 1955.

Overview of the collection

Africa

The majority of African objects relevant to this review are held at the Museum of Childhood. These are predominantly late 20th-century toys collected in Africa.

The majority of the collection comes from eastern Africa. The largest single collection comes from Malawi and includes toys made for and by children. Objects include 'dancing' dolls, an abacus, a 'Bee in Tree' game, a football made from banana leaf, toy guns made of wood and

wire, a Land Rover made of wire, a 'Bawo' game, and a tin whistle in the shape of a bird. The collection was donated by the family of John McCracken (1938-2017), an Edinburgh-born historian of Malawi. McCracken taught in Malawi in the early 1960s, but this collection was most likely made by his family between 1980 and 1983 during his secondment as professor of history at Chancellor College, University of Malawi.

Another significant collection contains toys made in Botswana in the mid 1990s by the Botshelo Project, a craft cooperative affiliated with NGO Skillshare International. The objects were likely produced by craftspeople in the Marulamantsi community, a San community on the northwest of Serowe village. Objects were donated by Maris Bruce, a British project volunteer, and were intended specifically for a 1997 exhibition that examined links between Scotland and Africa.

The Guthrie collection is made up of costume dolls and tourist memorabilia dating from the 1950s to 1960s and contains dolls made in Morocco, South Africa, and Egypt. The British donor designed the collection to represent different nationalities and cultural groups. Dolls are named and given fictitious biographies, some including outdated and potentially offensive stereotypes.

The social history collections also contain material relevant to this review. The most significant are objects donated by the family of Field Marshal Douglas Haig (1861-1928). Born in Edinburgh, Haig started his military career in the Anglo-Egyptian army in Sudan in 1898. He took part in the Battle of Atbara (8 April 1898) and the Battle of Omdurman (2 September 1898). Haig later served in the South African War (1899-1902). Objects directly relevant to this review include one spear head and six spears which correspondence suggests were taken by Egyptian soldiers following the conflict at Atbara and later purchased by Haig.

Other objects of interest include a piece of bark, reportedly from the tree under which Scottish missionary David Livingstone's heart is buried in Zambia, and a small gold weight in the shape of a bird that was excavated in Mali in 1903.

Caribbean

Two dolls have been identified from internal records. One doll is from Barbados and is part of the Guthrie collection of costume dolls and tourist memorabilia dating from the 1950s to 1960s. The second doll is recorded as being produced in Suriname in 1935 or earlier. The donor's family lived on a banana plantation and the doll was reportedly made for the donor's mother by a person of African descent employed by the family.

Associated material

Africa

The Lovett collection of dolls held at the Museum of Childhood has not been included in this survey because it is a long-term loan from the National Museum of Wales and undergoing review at the time of writing. Donated by Edward Lovett (1852-1933), an English folklorist with a particular interest in dolls, this collection contains around seven relevant items, including an *Akua'ba* fertility doll from Ghana and a 'spirit doll' from Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Museum of Childhood holds associated slides, posters, books, newspapers and magazines. For example, a 'View-Master' reel of stereoscopic images of South Africa (1969);

a poster of traditional toys published by the Botswana Postal Service; and a booklet titled *General Gordon's expedition to the Sudan* with ten colour pictures illustrating the Nile expedition of 1884-1885.

The Social History collections include various associated booklets, documents, photographs, and military related artefacts. The collection associated with Field Marshal Douglas Haig includes around 31 relevant items, including photographs of Haig and other British officers in Africa; a plan of the diamond fields of South Africa (1893) and rock sample; freedom scrolls presented to Haig by cities across Africa; and military uniforms, belts, badges, decorations and medal ribbons.

Other associated material in the social history collection includes a contract between the Union Boating Company of Algoa Bay, South Africa, and Newhaven Seamen (1889); photographs of the official visit of Sudanese president El Ferik Ibrahim Abboud to the Forth Road Bridge (1964); and documents belonging to Colonel Maule Horne concerning the South African War (1899-1902).

Caribbean

Associated Caribbean objects identified in internal records include a book titled *Caribbean Alphabet* (Frané Lessac, 1989) and photographs of pupils at F E Pollard Primary School in Georgetown, Guyana, titled 'Dancing with the masquerade band, our African Heritage' (undated).

Other items, including books, magazines, comics and toys, were chosen by members of the Edinburgh Caribbean Association to be displayed in the exhibition *Respect! Caribbean Life in Edinburgh* held at the Museum of Childhood in 2022-2023. Although not all these objects originate from the Caribbean, they were selected to explore what it is like to grow up in the Caribbean, what it means to be Caribbean, Caribbean links with Scotland, and how Caribbean food and music has influenced British culture.

Associated material in the wider collection includes an empty glass bottle of Lang's Jamaica Rum (date unknown) in the social history collection and a set of postage stamps from the British Virgin Islands at the Writer's Museum.

Areas for further research

The collection of late 20th-century African toys at the Museum of Childhood may be of interest to researchers concerned with the post-independence period. They highlight how Scottish presence in Botswana and Malawi continued after independence, with individuals working at universities and NGOs.

In recent years, attention has been paid to how Edinburgh residents have supported and benefited from slavery and colonialism, and how this history is physically present in the fabric of the city. Although the African and Caribbean object collections at Museums & Galleries Edinburgh are relatively small, expanding investigations to include the monuments, memorials and statues cared for by the organisation would provide new perspectives and potentially uncover more important connections between Edinburgh, Africa, and the Caribbean.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

| Region/country | Major sources | Collection size estimate | Types of material |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| Africa unspecified | | 1 | 'Fish-shaped pick' toy |
| Northern Africa | | 10 | |
| Egypt | Guthrie | 2 | Fancy dress costume, toy horse |
| Morocco | Guthrie | 1 | Doll |
| Sudan | Haig | 7 | Spear head, spears |
| Eastern Africa | | 31 | |
| Kenya | | 10 | 'Banana skin' picture, batik wall hangings, carved wooden rhinoceros, carved wooden warthog, doll, mask, 'soapstone' figurine, wooden swords |
| Madagascar | | 2 | Bird whistle, push along bird. |
| Malawi | McCracken | 17 | Abacus windmill, banana leaf football, 'Bawo' game, 'Bee in Tree' game, bows and arrows, catapult, cup, dolls, popguns, push along bird, rattle, wire Land Rover, wooden truck |
| Uganda | | 1 | Jigsaw puzzle |
| Zambia | | 1 | Piece of 'Mvula' bark from the David Livingstone tree |
| Southern Africa | | 9 | |
| Botswana | Maris Bruce | 4 | 'Mantadile' traditional carved wood toy, 'Moraka' traditional board game, 'Sefuu-Fuu' traditional wooden toy |
| South Africa | Guthrie | 5 | Car, dolls, tambourine |
| Western Africa | | 1 | |
| Mali | | 1 | Goldweight |

Regions and countries represented: Caribbean

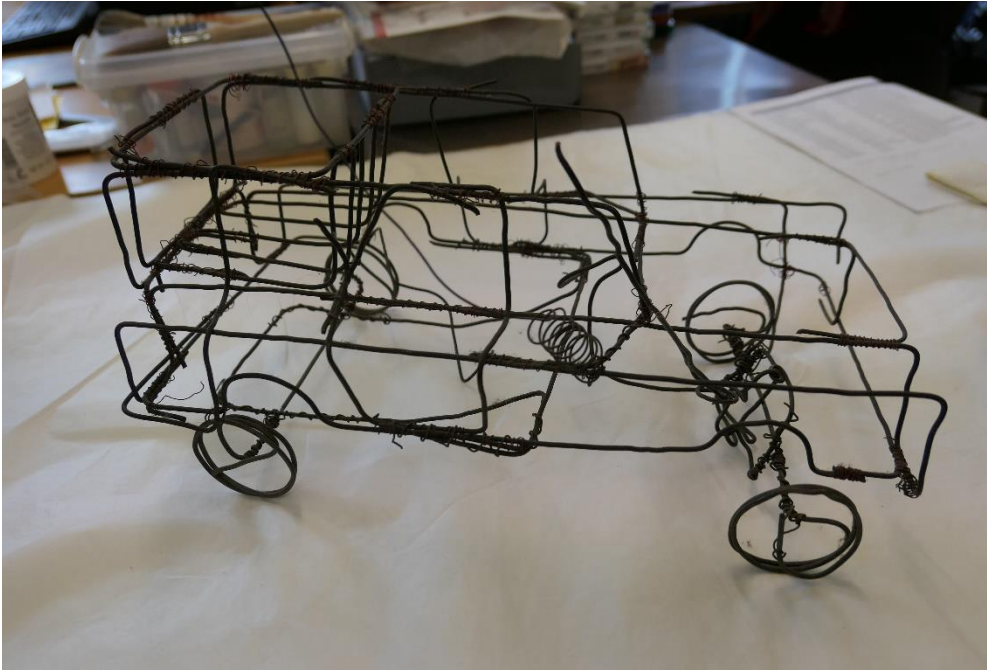
| Country | Major sources | Collection size estimate | Types of material |
|--|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Barbados | Guthrie | 1 | Doll |
| Culturally affiliated with the Caribbean region (within CARICOM) | | | |
| Suriname | | 1 | Doll |

Selected object images

Banana leaf football, Malawi, MC874.97



Push along wire Land Rover made by children, Malawi, MC883.97



'Bawo' game, Malawi, MC865.97



National Museums Scotland

Contact GACD.enquiries@nms.ac.uk

Location of collections

On display

National Museum of Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1JF

In storage

National Museums Collection Centre
242 West Granton Road
Edinburgh
EH5 1JA

Size of collections

9,093 African objects
388 Caribbean objects

Online Collections

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/search-our-collections>

Selected objects

Africa

- Raffia cut pile embroidered textiles from the Kingdom of Loango, 18th century, A.UC.629
- Textiles from the Yoruba kingdom of Ijebu, Nigeria, acquired 1790s by Captain Corran, A.716.29
- *Shango* staff from the collection of Leon Underwood, Nigeria, A.1947.26
- Central section of a three-part ivory saltcellar, West Africa, probably Sierra Leone region, 16th century, A.1956.1155
- Copper alloy figure showing a hornblower, Benin City, Nigeria, 17th-18th century, A.1985.630
- Carved wooden figure of a woman, Temne people, Sierra Leone, collected by William Fergusson, 1830s or early 1840s, A.1956.1159
- Mask of the Yoruba Gelede society, collected by Dr J W Rowland, probably at Lagos, Nigeria, early 1880s, A.1885.100

Caribbean

- Dancing headdress consisting of a cylindrical framework of split Maranta stems concealed by feathers, Guyana, A.UC.81
- Basket of flowers made of shells, Jamaica, A.1878.11.1
- Beadwork necklaces made at St Cuthbert's Mission, Guyana, 1960s, V.2022.136

- Jar of Job's tears with a label that reads 'A Token of Gratitude from the Mission Schools, Brownsville Jamaica, 1878. Thy Kingdom Come. Pray for Us', Jamaica, K.1997.981
- Stone hatchet, Saint Vincent or Saint Lucia, A.1890.79
- Anvil-shaped dark wood club with plant fibre binding around the base and shaft, Guyana, 19th century, A.1956.785
- Anvil-shaped dark wood club with curvilinear designs incised onto the front, Guyana, 19th century, A.1887.139

History of the collection

National Museums Scotland (NMS) was founded in 1854 as the Industrial Museum of Scotland (1855-1864), the first national museum outside London. The building in Chambers Street opened in 1866 as the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art (1866-1904), later renamed the Royal Scottish Museum (1904-1985). In 1985, the Royal Scottish Museum and the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (1858-1985) were formally merged to become National Museums of Scotland, renamed again in 2006 to National Museums Scotland. The Museum today is divided into four distinct departments, Science and Technology; Scottish History and Archaeology; Natural Sciences; and Global Arts, Cultures and Design. This review focuses on the collections held in the department of Global Arts, Cultures and Design, although it does include a short summary of associated material in other departments. Ancient Egyptian material has been the subject of a previous national review and is therefore not included.

The African and Caribbean collections at NMS are some of the oldest in Britain, because they come from three other Edinburgh institutions that were founded before the Industrial Museum of Scotland. On its founding in 1854, the Industrial Museum formally acquired the collections of the University of Edinburgh Museum of Natural History (c.1692) and the Royal Society of Edinburgh (c.1783). In 1956, the Royal Scottish Museum also took in selected collections from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (c.1780), with the remaining collections arriving in 1985. About 101 extant African and 18 Caribbean items from the University of Edinburgh Museum of Natural History collections are currently identified within the NMS collection, and 68 African and six Caribbean objects from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Overview of the collection

Africa

Approximately 34% of the entire African collection is from western Africa, 31% is from eastern Africa, 13% from central Africa, 9% from northern Africa, and 5% is from southern Africa. Around 7% is not currently attributed to a particular region or country. The largest collections from single countries are from Nigeria (1,954 objects), Ghana (825), Malawi (787), and Kenya (489). Around 912 objects are from Republic of the Congo or Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As a consequence of the early founding of its contributing institutions, the NMS African collections hold historically important early items, especially from central and western Africa. The highlights include rare, high-quality raffia cut pile embroidered textiles from the Kingdom of Loango, probably made in the 18th century, and elite 16th-century sculpted ivory salt cellars in different styles, made by specialist 'Sape' ivory carvers on what was then called

the 'Guinea Coast'. From an archaeological and historical point of view the collection also includes very important mid-19th century collections from Bioko Island (now Equatorial Guinea). These include plaited bead armbands (*epa*) and a medicinal or protective necklace of the Bubi ethnic groups, as well as wooden spears and arrows. Significant ceramic and jewellery collections from northern Africa are also represented among the early collections.

Over 13% of the African collection consists of diverse items of arms and armour, which were acquired by various means, but often by Scottish or British soldiers. Although they have important significance regarding African metal working technologies, they also embody histories of colonial violence and appropriation. In addition, numerous African items of great cultural and political significance were originally acquired through European colonial military exploits. These include important Ethiopian items from Maqdala (now Amba Mariam), originally taken when a British military force attacked and looted the fortress of the Emperor Tewodros in 1868. The African collections also include sacred royal artworks in copper alloys and ivory from Benin City in Nigeria, looted by a British force that attacked and took over the Edo Kingdom in 1897. Other significant collections that were acquired by force during the colonial era include the regalia of a Fante chief from Ghana, deposed by the British in about 1903, and the collections from central and eastern Africa acquired by Dr Moloney during the notorious mercenary 'Stairs Expedition' to Katanga of 1891-1892. Many significant items, especially from central Africa, that were acquired in unknown ways and purchased by the Museum from dealers and collectors may also have been originally taken under violent or oppressive colonial conditions. In particular, the valuable goldwork items purchased from R and S Garrard in 1875 are recorded as having been looted at the 'capture of Kumasi' during the so-called 'Anglo-Asante war' of 1873-1874.

Early collecting for the Industrial Museum of Scotland after its foundation in 1854 brought in a disparate collection of utilitarian, household, and other artefacts, intended to exemplify 'native' African 'decorative' and 'industrial' arts, and this seems to have been a theme of much subsequent collecting. The relatively large collection from modern day Malawi (close to 800 objects), and the preponderance of Scottish missionary donors responsible for gifting and selling them to the Museum in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, speaks to the lasting legacy of the relationships that David Livingstone (1813-1873) established in the region and the following that he attracted from Scotland. In western Africa, a similar centre of missionary collecting focused on the Calabar mission in south-eastern Nigeria that was substantially built up by the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland missionary, Hope Waddell, and others, including Mary Slessor from 1876. Known contributors to the NMS African collection, who served as Calabar Mission missionaries, include Zerub Baillie and his brothers Andrew and John, Archibald Hewan, Mary Slessor, Rev Alexander Robb, and Halbert Dalgleish.

Rich early 20th-century collections from the Congo region, and especially the upper Congo River, are strong in items of clothing and body adornment, probably reflecting the interests of the Scottish missionaries who collected them. However, the numerous acquisitions made by the missionaries, of highly valued items of personal status and adornment, cannot be detached from the broader context of the severe economic stresses caused by the brutal impoverishment of central Africans under the regime of Leopold II's 'Congo Free State' and its Belgian successor regime.

By far the largest collection (about 2,000 objects) comes from Nigeria with a wide variety of object types represented from at least 25 ethnic groups. However, Hausa objects, mostly from northern Nigeria, amount to almost a quarter of the Nigerian collection. In addition to

the collection from Benin City mentioned above, and the Efik and Ekoi items from south-eastern Nigeria, the Yoruba and Hausa textile and clothing collection from western and northern Nigeria are large and important. There are also significant textile collections from Mali, Ghana and eastern Africa.

The Sierra Leone collection includes masks from the women's Sande initiation society as well as a series of historically important initiation society 'medicine' figures in wood and another series of soapstone *nomoli* figures, primarily unearthed during agricultural or mining works.

NMS holds a significant collection of musical instruments from many African countries, but with a focus on Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda. The instrument collection is complemented by a collection of LP records and sound recordings sold and bequeathed by the American-born ethnomusicologist Jean Jenkins.

Acquisitions for the African collections over recent decades have had an emphasis on textiles from eastern, western, and southern Africa. These build on a rich textile assemblage that includes pieces acquired from across the continent, exemplifying a wide variety of technologies and material techniques. Acquisitions in recent years have focused particularly on commemorative cloth from several African countries which give dynamic expression to more recent political and religious identities and institutional affiliations.

Notable sources

Notable early donors who are significant in the context of Scottish colonial histories and legacies include a significant number of doctors, doctor missionaries, and doctor soldiers who were alumni of the University of Edinburgh. For example, Sir James McGrigor (1771-1858), a physician, military surgeon and botanist, who donated western African and South African items to the Museum in 1826. Dr William Fergusson (1795-1846), who in 1813 was the first person of African descent to graduate from the University of Edinburgh, served as a colonial surgeon in Sierra Leone and was appointed Governor of the Colony of Sierra Leone in 1845. He donated an important early figure from Sierra Leone to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Dr J W Rowland, a colonial surgeon in western Africa, made an early collection of culturally important religious items from Nigeria, which he donated to the Museum in 1885 and 1890.

Notable Scottish missionary collectors who worked in eastern and central Africa include David Livingstone, who donated five items to the African collections. Livingstone had met George Wilson, who became director of the Scottish Industrial Museum (1855-1859), while studying chemistry in London in 1838. Several Scottish missionaries and missionary doctors followed in Livingstone's wake to work in what is now Malawi and neighbouring regions, including the Rev Alexander Hetherwick (1860-1939), a Church of Scotland missionary who donated a collection of 125 objects from Malawi in 1889. Neil Macvicar (1871-1949) established a hospital at Blantyre in Malawi in 1896 and the collection his sister donated to the Museum includes numerous examples of late 19th-century beadwork and personal adornment from Malawi. Mr and Mrs Malcolm Moffat, who opened a mission station in 1906 at Chitambo near the place of Livingstone's death, also contributed to the eastern African collections.

Adam Darling Purves worked for the London Missionary Society in central Africa in the 1890s. A total of 359 objects, collected by Purves from Congo, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia, were either sold to the Museum by Purves or donated by his daughter, Isobel

Common, and Mrs G Innes. Rev James Moon worked for the Regions Beyond Missionary Union at the Balolo Mission in Leopold II's 'Congo Free State'/ Belgian Congo, from 1907 to 1910 and from 1913 to 1916. The Museum holds over 260 objects from his collecting activities. The collection is complemented by a collection of 'ethnographic' photographs taken by friends of Moon in places in which he worked.

Collectors associated with the Calabar Mission in southeastern Nigeria include Dr Archibald Hewan (1832-83), who presented around 40 objects to the Industrial Museum in 1859. Hewan was born in Jamaica and grew up on the Hampden sugar plantation. He travelled to Scotland at the age of 19, with the help of the Scottish Missionary Society, to train as a doctor. In 1855 he travelled to Calabar to work as the medical missionary surgeon for the Old Calabar Mission. The Museum also received objects in 1859 from the Edinburgh missionary Rev Zerub Baillie (1831-1865), who went to Calabar in 1856 and returned to Edinburgh in 1859. A small group of objects were also registered from the Calabar Mission founder, Rev Hugh Goldie (1815-1895), whose publication *Calabar and its Mission* (1890) provides descriptions and observations related to the objects. In 1868, another group of Calabar mission related objects were presented by Rev Alexander Robb, while Halbert Dalgleish, a trainer at the Hope Waddell Training Institution in Calabar, sold an item to the Museum in 1897.

NMS holds notable Northern Nigerian collections from Dr R E Miller, a science teacher at Kaduna College, who collected a full range of Hausa material culture with particular emphasis on tools, objects of everyday life, and clothing.

The sister of Dr Joseph Moloney, Miss L Lovat-Fraser, sold a total of 84 objects to NMS that were acquired by Dr Moloney during his participation in the 1891-1892 mercenary 'Stairs expedition' that resulted in the killing of King M'siri and the seizure of his territory in Katanga, Central Africa, for the Belgian King Leopold II. Moloney's collection at NMS includes a figurative staff that M'siri had carried, along with various other items from Kantanga, Malawi and Tanzania.

Notable collections from western and central Africa were presented by Olive MacLeod (1880-1936), a member of the Scottish aristocracy. MacLeod spent from August 1910 to May 1911 travelling through western and central Africa with a botanical, zoological and anthropological survey expedition led by Amaury Talbot and his wife Dorothy. The expedition covered about 2,500 miles. MacLeod published an account of her trip in 1912 titled *Chiefs and Cities of Central Africa*. In addition to the donations she made to NMS, artefacts from her expedition went to the British Museum, the Liverpool Museum, the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, and this review has identified material at the Watt Institution in Greenock.

Over 100 African objects, many Nigerian, were purchased by NMS from Harriet Astley (née Corran) in 1861, including items associated with Scottish explorers, the Lander brothers and John Duncan. Astley was the daughter of Captain Corran, a Liverpool ship captain who participated in the transatlantic trade of enslaved people, and a few items are documented as having been acquired by Corran during the period before abolition.

NMS purchased Somali and Kenyan objects from the Secretary of the Kenya Empire Exhibition Committee of the British Empire Exhibition of 1924 and 1925 (A.1925.794-816). This exhibition, held at Wembley Park, London, included displays of 'Nigerian craftsmen at work' and an African Village 'occupied by Hausas, Yorubas, Fantis, Mendes and other races.'

The African performers who inhabited these living dioramas may have worn or used some Somali and Kenyan artefacts among their props.

NMS has at least seven works from the collection of Leon Underwood (1890-1975), a British artist who engaged with the 'primitivist' movement (eg A.1947.26). He was a friend to museum curators and a collector of African art who contributed to the re-evaluation of African 'ethnographic specimens' as 'art' according to a universal notion of sculpture. William F C Ohly (1883-1955), an artist and art dealer, also sold a variety of items to the Museum, principally from Sierra Leone and Zambia.

NMS received objects from the various distributions of Wellcome Historical Medical Museum collections, conducted via the British Museum by the Wellcome trustees following the death of Sir Henry Wellcome (1853-1936). Diverse African items, including some from Benin City, were received from distributions in 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953. African items from Harry Beasley's 'Cranmore Museum', including some from Benin City, were also presented to NMS by Irene Beasley in 1947, 1948 and 1952.

Caribbean

Approximately 64% of the entire Caribbean collection is from Guyana, 10% is from Belize, 8% from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 7% from Barbados and 2% from Trinidad and Tobago. Representing less than 2% each are collections from Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia.

The Caribbean collections, cared for by the Department of Global Arts, Cultures and Design at NMS, contain early material brought back to Scotland by missionaries, plantation owners, government officials, and their families. As a result of the transfer of early collections from the University of Edinburgh Museum of Natural History and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the Museum today cares for a small but significant collection of historically important early items. While most of this early collection consists of weapons or tools, it also includes a dancing headdress (A.UC.81) and two items of early basketry (A.UC.82 and A.UC.97) from Guyana. The early collections also include biocultural collections; a box of arnatto seeds from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines used to make red dye (A.UC.80) and a glass jar of plant roots used as a fish poison from Guyana (A.1884.82.160).

From the collections of the Industrial Museum of Scotland is a descriptive catalogue containing 38 specimens of barkcloth collected by Captain Cook during his three voyages in the Pacific (A.1074), which includes a sample of Jamaican lacebark, *lagetta lagetto*, showing an earlier stage of fibre processing. Compiled at the request of Alexander Shaw in 1787, around 68 of the catalogues have been identified in museum collections around the world, but it is believed around 80-100 were produced. Several catalogues, including that held by NMS, contain a sample of Jamaican lacebark not part of the barkcloth collections compiled during the three Cook voyages. The lacebark may have come from a larger piece purchased at the sale in 1786 of the Portland Museum collection owned by the Duchess Dowager of Portland (Margaret Cavendish Bentinck).

Guyana has the highest representation with 249 objects. Of the 34 weapons from Guyana, 18 are flared quadrilateral wooden clubs known as *macana*, each inscribed with individual curvilinear and anthropomorphic designs on the shaft. Some also still include their original fibre binding around the handle, including an early example transferred from the National

Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (A.1956.785). Another club (A.1887.139), purchased from the dealer A Dowell, has been identified as a particularly good example of the diamond and curl club form.

Approximately 35% of the Caribbean collection are tools and weapons, with 30% making up pottery fragments excavated on archaeological sites. Significant material includes 108 potsherds donated in 1925 by Sir Everard im Thurn (A.1925.139-246). The potsherds were excavated at Enmore Plantation in Demerara, Guyana, a sugar plantation owned by the Porter family. The find was reported by Rashleigh Porter, owner of the plantation. The material was exhibited in the 1885 British Guiana and West Indian Exhibition, where it is thought that im Thurn may have acquired it.

Twenty-nine objects came to NMS via international and colonial exhibitions, which sought to exhibit the economic potential of the colonies through their raw materials as well as depicting the material culture of the indigenous peoples of the region. Objects were purchased from the 1862 International Exhibition and the 1884 Forestry Exhibition. Out of 29 objects, 23 are from Guyana with the remainder from Trinidad and Tobago. This reflects Scotland's colonial interests in the Caribbean region at that time.

A small number of objects have known associations with mission work in the region. A group of seven objects were collected by a Rev W Ritchie, who was based in Demerara, Guyana, and donated to the Museum in 1897. They include material culture from Macusi peoples as well as objects that may have been used by Ritchie himself, such as a knife, ruler and mallet. Another missionary, Rev J Campbell who was based in Jamaica, sold an ornamental basket of flowers made from shells and mounted onto a presentation board to the Museum in 1878 (A.1878.11.1). The Museum acquired a basket and spray of flowers from the Bahamas made from shell work in 1865 (A.1865.82.1 and A.1865.3-6) and a bouquet of flowers made from bird feathers and including several beetle specimens, broadly provenanced to the Caribbean, purchased from Monsieur Carchon in Paris (T.1867.33.1). These unusual objects, which reflect a Victorian fascination with the natural world, require more research. A jar of Job's tears, bearing the label 'A Token of Gratitude from the Mission Schools, Brownsville Jamaica, 1878. Thy Kingdom Come. Pray for Us' was purchased by the Museum in 1997 (K.1997.981). Collections donated to NMS in 2022 by Barbara Evans and her husband John Evans, who worked as a cartographic surveyor for the British Government, include beadwork necklaces made for sale to tourists at St Cuthbert's Mission, Guyana, in the 1960s (V.2022.136-138).

Notable donors/collectors

Thomas Graham Briggs (1833-1887) was a Barbadian-born collector of Caribbean antiquities in the 19th century. Briggs inherited the Farley Hill estate in Barbados and later owned Stony Grove, Old Manor and Round Hill in Nevis. Briggs collected shell implements and stone tools from Black Barbadians. After his death his collections were dispersed by his family amongst the British Museum, NMS and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge. The collections held by NMS were purchased from Briggs' nephew Charles Kenrick Gibbons in 1890.

Sir Everard im Thurn (1852-1932) was an anthropologist, archaeologist, traveller and colonial official. He was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh and curator of the British Guiana Museum from 1877 to 1882, moving to become a government agent from 1891 to 1899. He donated 108 Carib potsherds which were excavated at Enmore Plantation and a group of 20 glass plate negatives (currently unregistered) depicting indigenous peoples of

Guyana. Lady Alice Janet Chalmers (1857-1941) was the wife of Scottish-born Sir David Chambers, Chief Justice of British Guiana from 1878 to 1893 who served in the Colony of Jamaica in 1894. She donated a small collection of weapons, personal ornaments and clothing made by indigenous peoples in Guyana to the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art in 1896, and the Royal Scottish Museum in 1932.

Edmund Knight Taylor, a property owner at Brandons, St Michael, Barbados, excavated objects on his property, including pottery and shell tools. Most of the material found is now in the Barbados Museum. In 1895 he donated 11 objects to the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art, including a photograph depicting the excavation. The photograph is no longer held by NMS. A small collection of domestic utensils from Guyana were donated in 1963 by the family of Sir Gordon Lethem (1886-1962), an Edinburgh-born colonial administrator who was Governor of former British Guiana in the 1940s.

Associated material

The departments of Global Arts, Cultures and Design; Science and Technology; and Scottish History and Archaeology hold associated material that may be of interest to researchers.

Africa

Global Arts, Cultures and Design holds 71 coins from African countries and the collection of Jean Jenkins, an American-born ethnomusicologist and former musical instrument curator at the Horniman Museum. Jenkins sold and bequeathed a large collection of LP records, slides, and musical sound recordings collected primarily in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana from the 1960s to the 1980s. These African music-related collections form one part of a diverse collection of indigenous instruments and recordings from many parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East that NMS acquired from her collection. The Jean Jenkins audio collection includes 95 LP records and some 2,860 audio tape recordings. The audio tape recordings have been digitised and are accessible to researchers as digital audio files. The audio archive is complemented by a large collection of field photographs in slide form, of which 436 have been digitised and are downloadable via the Axiell database. There is considerable potential for further research on this audio archive. Records and instruments have been included in the object totals of this review, but digitised sound recordings and photographs have not.

Science and Technology holds around 60 objects associated with Africa, including geological specimens, maps, model canoes and boats, metrological instruments, microscope slides, and material from public health campaigns.

Scottish History and Archaeology has approximately 985 objects associated with Africa, including currency; military medals and colonial dress uniform; photographs, letters and diaries related to military service in Africa; and a commemorative wooden cross associated with David Livingstone. Of note are an Ethiopian drinking horn taken from the camp of the Governor of Samen, Ayto Tesfos Ethiopia, 1771; a horn cup of Ethiopian origin, said to have belonged to Emperor Tewodros II and taken at the looting of Maqdala, 1868; a gourd of Asante origin, taken during the so-called Third Anglo-Asante War, 1873-1874, Ghana; a drum of Asante origin, taken during the Third Anglo-Asante War, 1873-4, Ghana. These objects are included in the report of the 2017-2021 research project *Baggage and Belonging: Military Collections and the British Empire, 1750-1900*.

Caribbean

There are 19 coins and three postage stamps in the Americas section of Global Arts, Cultures and Design. Seven silverware objects are cared for by the European Decorative Arts section of Global Arts, Cultures and Design. The collections of audio-visual material are small with three recordings of Afro-Cuban religious ceremonies made by Jean Jenkins in the Americas section of Global Arts, Cultures and Design. Sir Everard im Thurn also donated a group of 20 glass plate negatives (currently unregistered) depicting indigenous peoples of Guyana.

Science and Technology holds around 20 objects associated with the Caribbean, including samples of 'products' such as wood, fruit, nuts, seeds and cotton, geological specimens, lantern slides, microscope slides and maps.

Scottish History and Archaeology has approximately 264 objects associated with the Caribbean, including around 58 items of silverware, currency, military medals and buttons, engravings and letters.

Notable donors

Africa

Harriet Astley (née Corran) (dates unknown), Harriet Astley and Liverpool Dealers

Rev Zerub Baillie (1831-1865)

Dr William Fergusson (1795-1846)

Rev Hugh Goldie (1815-1895)

Rev Alexander Hetherwick (1860-1939)

Dr Archibald Hewan (1832-1883)

Miss L Lovat-Fraser, sister of Dr Joseph A Moloney (1857-1896)

Neil Macvicar (1871-1949)

Dr R E Miller (dates unknown)

Rev James Moon (dates unknown)

Sir James McGrigor 1st Baronet (1771-1858)

Adam Darling Purves (1865-1901)

William F C Ohly (1883-1955)

Dr J W Rowland (dates unknown)

Olive Temple (née MacLeod) (1880-1936)

Leon Underwood (1890-1975)

Caribbean

Thomas Graham Briggs (1833-1887)

Lady Alice Janet Chalmers (1857-1941)

Lady Kate Lethem, relative of Sir Gordon Lethem (1886-1962),

Edmund Knight Taylor (dates unknown)

Sir Everard im Thurn (1852-1932)

Areas for further research

Africa

The early African collections from the first half of the 19th century would benefit from in-depth research.

Significant research has been conducted on Scottish missionary collectors' contributions to western science, but far less has been done on their relationships to colonial as well as African authorities and how their interests may have been served by wider colonial contexts and resulting political and economic conditions in the locations in which they worked. This is an area for further research in the field of colonial histories and legacies.

Dr William Fergusson and Dr Archibald Hewan are notable early donors that merit further research. After the abolition of the slave trade in the early 19th century, persistent paternalistic attitudes and racist ideas about Africans' special resistance to tropical afflictions accounted for a number of Jamaicans with Scottish connections, including Fergusson and Hewan, being trained for colonial medical and missionary roles in Africa. Although they served as agents of Empire, and contributors to colonial 'knowledge gathering' institutions, they also developed critiques of the way European colonialism was pursued in Africa. The links and networks they established with African groups and with decision makers and campaigning groups in the UK, enabled them to influence the course and expressions of colonialism in Africa. Fergusson, for example, sought to deracialise colonial medical knowledge in Sierra Leone and Hewan pursued botanical and medical studies and promoted better health services for Africans in southeast Nigeria. In 1888 and 1890 another Edinburgh medic, William Rowland (colonial surgeon, Lagos, Nigeria), donated Nigerian items to the NMS collection. However, his significance for further research relates to the fact that he was to disagree with Fergusson's earlier work and thus helped to reaffirm the racialization of colonial medical knowledge.

Items in the collection from Harriet Astley, originally collected by Captain Corran, have important historical significance and represent an area for further research. In addition to the Ijebu textile collected in 1790 (A.716.29), the items A.716.34 & A.716.52 from the south-eastern Nigerian town of Bonny are also noteworthy and are documented as having belonged to the king and queen of Bonny. The Ibani Ijaw town of Bonny was the economic and political centre of the Niger Delta during the greater part of the 18th and 19th centuries. The royal 'House of Pepple', which reigned from the 18th to the 19th centuries, oversaw the transition from the trade of enslaved people to the trade in palm oil and other 'legitimate' commodities, in collaboration with former Liverpool slave-trading firms, after abolition in 1807.

Caribbean

The whole Caribbean collection requires further detailed research. Of particular interest are the collections brought together by Thomas Briggs and Edmund Knight Taylor, the collections from Guyana, the 18 objects transferred from the University of Edinburgh Museum of Natural History, and the unregistered collection of 20 glass plate negatives from Guyana donated by Sir Everard im Thurn.

Human remains

NMS hold partial sets of skeletal human remains of up to 13 individuals that are identified as originating from Africa. Twelve of these people have specific countries or regions of origin recorded: Botswana (one person); Central Africa (two people); Kenya (one person); Mozambique (one person); Nigeria (6 people); and South Africa (one person). One remaining individual is recorded as African, with no additional information available. NMS also holds skeletal and mummified human remains of 18 individuals from Ancient Egypt.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

| Region/country | Major sources | Collection size estimate | Types of material |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| Africa unspecified | | 631 | |
| Northern Africa | | 860 | |
| Algeria | J F S A Curle J Jenkins E L Nassos G F Lawrence Victoria and Albert Museum | 100 | Ceramics, jewellery, LP records, textiles and clothing, toys, weapons |
| Egypt | Arab Art Museum, Cairo Dr J I Murray H Wallis | 392 | Amulets, baskets, ceramics including archaeological fragments, dolls, jewellery, LP records, musical instruments, pipe heads, religious furniture, screen prints, textiles and clothing, weaving equipment, writing equipment |
| Libya | | 4 | Textiles |
| Morocco | T C Archer Capt J H Brooks Sir J H D Hay E L Nassos | 244 | Baskets, ceramics, horse trappings, LP records, musical instruments, textiles and clothing, weapons |
| Sudan | Lt C A Osborne | 90 | Basketry, body ornaments, charms, 'dolls', household items, musical instruments, textiles and clothing, weapons |
| Tunisia | H Astley. Bethnal Green Museum. J Jenkins. | 30 | Ceramics, jewellery, lithographs, musical instruments, textiles and clothing |
| Eastern Africa | | 2,866 | |
| Burundi | J Jenkins | 3 | Basket, LP record, musical instrument |
| Eritrea | J Welstead | 25 | Basketry, ceramics, cosmetics, household items, musical instruments, textiles and clothing |
| Ethiopia | W Collie Lt Col A T Curle Col W J Holt J Jenkins Sir W Mackenzie | 168 | Basketry, body care items and ornaments, currency items, headpieces, leatherwork, LP records, musical instruments, |

| | | | |
|------------|--|-----|---|
| | Dr P W R Petrie Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh | | paintings and manuscripts, religious jewellery and metalwork, religious medallion, textiles and clothing, weapons and fetters |
| Kenya | E J Brown. Dr R W Felkin. P B Handyside. C W Hobley. C M G Johnston. H H Ramsay-Fairfax. Col W G H T, Secretary of Kenya Empire Exhibition Committee. | 489 | Amulets, blacksmith's equipment, body care items and ornaments, ceramics, fire sticks, fishing equipment, household items, musical instruments, pipes, snuff paraphernalia, textiles and clothing, weapons |
| Madagascar | H Astley. W Burns Thomson. Rev W Deans Cowan. J Jenkins. Miss J E Ronald. National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. University of Edinburgh. | 125 | Basketry, commemorative sculpture, household objects, LP records, models, musical instruments, pipes, scales and weights, snuff paraphernalia, textiles and clothing, tools, weapons |
| Malawi | Miss S Beck P G Boyle Rev A Hetherwick Dr R Laws Dr D Livingstone Miss MacVicar Dr Moloney A D Purves Rev T C Young Mrs T C Young S Worden | 787 | Basketry, beads, body ornaments, ceramics, headrests, household items, medical paraphernalia, musical instruments, snuff paraphernalia and pipes, staffs, stamps, textiles and clothing, tools, weapons and hunting equipment, wooden figures |
| Mozambique | Rev I Forbes Dr J Kirk Dr D Livingstone | 160 | Basketry, body ornaments, ceramics, clothing and textiles, headrests, mask, models of household objects, musical instruments, pipes, tools, weapons |
| Rwanda | Mrs A Smythe J Giblin W D Webster | 17 | Baskets, musical instrument |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----|---|
| Seychelles | C Trotter | 2 | Basketry |
| Somalia | Miss Blair. Lt Col A T Curl. Mr & Mrs D F Edminson. F G Fenton & Sons. J Jenkins. National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. Secretary, Kenya Empire Exhibition Committee. Secretariat, British Somaliland. | 239 | Basketry, body ornaments, camel trappings, clothing and textiles, headrests, household items, musical instruments, spoons, stone tools, tools, weapons and shields |
| South Sudan | Dr R W Felkin C Gross Dr D J Guthrie Dr A Mactier Pirrie | 198 | Amulets, body ornaments, combs, fire sticks, leatherwork, musical instruments, pipes, trap, weapons, wooden figure |
| Uganda | Dr R W Felkin. Mrs A H C Hanbury-Tracy. Jose Hendo C W Hobley CMG Johnston J Jenkins Mrs Scott Dr Van Someren [Alur Lyre] Dr A Wilson | 177 | Barkcloth and barkcloth beaters, basketry, body ornaments, ceramics, clothing and textiles, face masks, game, headrests, household items, model canoe, musical instruments, pipes and tobacco items, staffs, stone figures, weapons and tools |
| United Republic of Tanzania | A D Purves I Common J Jenkins A Lawson Rev T C Young | 238 | Basketry, body ornaments, ceramics, household objects, musical instruments, pipes, staffs, textiles and clothing, tools, weapons, weaving equipment |
| Zambia | P N R Cave-Browne A D Purves I Common Chilala Habeenzu Mrs Innes Rev Moffat W F C Ohly W O Oldman D W I Piggott P Van Velsen | 117 | Basketry, body ornaments, currency items, household items, mask, musical instruments, staffs, textiles and clothing, tools and weapons, wooden figures, wooden vessels |
| Zimbabwe | J Ballantyne Rev I Forbes | 121 | Body ornaments, ceramics, divining instruments, |

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| | W D Webster Surgeon-Major W Johnstone, National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland | | headrests, household items, musical instruments, snuff paraphernalia and pipes, textiles and clothing (including barkcloth), toys and models, weapons and tools |
| Central Africa | | 1,136 | |
| Angola | Gallery Menist NV Mrs I M Beasley KJ Hewett Ltd S G Fenton Ltd Wellcome Museum W T Wilson | 20 | Amulets, baskets, ceremonial staffs, combs, masks, net slings, seat, weapons and tools |
| Cameroon | J I C B Austin H Astley (Liverpool) W Cross (Liverpool) F Ferguson K J Hewett Ltd J Jenkins M Kirwan H E Rogers (Liverpool) E T Uldall JFG Umlauff J Salmons A Taylor W D Webster | 65 | Ceramic pipeheads and lamps, hats, raphia bags and textiles, LP records, looms, musical instruments, staffs, stools, weapons, wooden figures and masks |
| Chad | A Lawson O Temple | 27 | Brass bracelets, fishing net, head armour, milk pots, musical instruments |
| Republic of the Congo and Democratic Republic of the Congo | W Cross (Liverpool). Hon M W Elphinstone. SG Fenton & Sons Ltd. J Jenkins Sir H H Johnston Rev D Livingstone Dr Moloney Rev J Moon Capt J Moon Rev F Oldrieve Mrs Payne A D Purves Rev J L Roger W J Steedman Mrs Templeton | 912 | Baskets, body ornaments, ceramic vessels, ceremonial staffs, combs, currency items, divination apparatus, fish traps, Loango carved ivory tusks, musical instruments, power objects, stone tools, textiles and clothing (including barkcloth), weaponry and tools, wooden masks and figures, wooden stools and headrests, wooden vessels |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|------------|--|
| | University of Edinburgh W D Webster Mrs Webster Wellcome Museum | | |
| Equatorial Guinea | Astley Collection (Liverpool). W Cross (Liverpool). Dr W F Daniell. Dr A Hewan. H E Rogers (Liverpool). University Collection | 20 | Bubi Plaited beadwork, Fang beaded headpieces, wooden spears and arrows |
| Gabon | H Gibson Capt D Munro W D Webster | 92 | Ceramic pipe bowls, currency items, ivory body ornaments, musical instruments, raphia textile, weapons and ceremonial knives, wooden masks and figures |
| Southern Africa | | 457 | |
| Botswana | Rev H Calderwood J Garrow W Johnstone | 47 | Body ornaments, eggshell vessel, flywhisk, tools, weapons |
| Eswatini | D Forbes Sir P B Handyside | 20 | Ceramic vessels, body ornaments, dress, headrests, snuff apparatus, stone pipe bowls, tools, |
| Lesotho | A B Balfour A Fullarton | 43 | Amulets, bead masks, body ornaments, ceramics, dolls, sewing equipment, snuff paraphernalia, tools |
| Namibia | W Cross (Liverpool) H E Rogers (Liverpool) J F G Umlauff | 8 | Daggers, body ornament, spears |
| South Africa | Mrs H Astley. Mrs Baggaley. Rev H Calderwood. W Campbell. Cape Colony Commission (Paris Exhibition 1867). R Dennis. A Fullarton. Rev A Hetherwick. D Lindsay Carnegie. | 339 | Basketry (including wire weaving), beadwork and body ornaments, clothing and textiles, eggshell beads and water vessels, glass beads, ceramics (and shards), leatherwork, pipes and snuff paraphernalia, staffs, stone digging stick weights, stone implements, weapons (including hunting), wooden utensils |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|---|
| | Dr D Livingstone. National Museum Of Antiquities of Scotland. Col FAV Thurburn. University of Edinburgh. W D Webster. Dr E Ward. | | |
| Western Africa | | 3,143 | |
| Benin | H Astley Distington Museum Major W Birrell- Gray | 27 | Basketry, brass genre figures, ceremonial weapons, studio sculpture, wooden masks and figures |
| Burkina Faso | The Berkeley Galleries Frida Craft Stores | 2 | Mask, textile |
| Côte d'Ivoire | S B Burney J Jenkins Wellcome Museum | 31 | LP records, masks and wooden figures, musical instruments, textiles and clothing, vessels |
| Gambia | H Astley. Crown Agents for the Colonies. Commander C M Dundas. J Jenkins. | 44 | Amulets, donkey bit, household utensils, leatherwork, LP records, musical instruments, religious manuscripts, saddle frame, tally sticks, tools, weapons, weaving equipment and textiles, writing boards |
| Ghana | A Aranow. H Astley. H Balfour. G Bonavia. Dr O S Browne. E B Cunynghame. Mrs A Davidson- Houston. Rev I Forbes. P B Handyside. G M Hunter. Ms J Igoe. J Jenkins. G F Lawrence. Major D Lindsay Carnegie. Dr A MacPherson. Mrs Millar. | 825 | Adinkra stamps, amulets, baskets, beads, brass vessels, ceramics and pottery shards, clothing and sandals, coffin, combs, flags, gold ornaments and jewellery, gold weights, household items, leatherwork, LP records, masquerade costume and material samples, memorial figures, metal figures, model stools, musical instruments, pipe heads, scoops and scales, staffs, stone tools, stools, textiles, weapons, wooden figures |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------|--|
| | K Nicklin & J Salmons. W O Oldman. R and S Garrard, Rowland Ward Ltd, A C Russell. L Underwood. Prof H Walton. W D Webster. Mrs Webster. Wellcome Museum. | | |
| Guinea/ Guinea-Bissau | J Jenkins | 1 | LP record |
| Liberia | H Astley S Burney G F Lawrence Mrs E Mason Crown Agents for the Colonies | 16 | Ceramics, ceremonial sword, leatherwork, masks, paddle, snuff mill, textile, wooden figures |
| Mali | The Berkeley Galleries. S Brett-Smith. Crown Agents for the Colonies. B E Evans. Frida Craft Stores. P Goldman. J Jenkins. Dr A MacPherson. H E Rogers. University of Edinburgh. S Worden. Adama Yanogue. | 50 | Body ornaments (including goldwork), door locks, hats, horse trappings, leatherwork, LP record, masquerade headdresses, paddle, textile dyeing samples, textiles and clothing, wooden figures, wooden vessels |
| Mauritania | J Jenkins | 1 | LP record |
| Niger | O Temple J Jenkins | 21 | Body ornaments, household items, LP record, musical instruments |
| Nigeria | H Astley. Rev Z Baillie. Mrs I M Beasley. S Burney. W Campbell. J Clark. W Cross. A Dickson. Exhibition Commissioner, Nigerian Section, | 1,954 | Basketry, beads, body ornaments, brassware, bronze and brass commemorative altar figures, cast brass bells, ceramics, charms and divination equipment, commemorative ivory, currency items, equid trappings, games, gourd vessels, household objects, leatherwork, masks, musical instruments, |

| | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|---|
| | <p>British Empire Exhibition. Lady Fraser of Tullybelton. F G Fenton & Sons. F A Fleming. F Gillespie. Gordon Reece Gallery. Sir P B Handyside. A Hewan. D Idiens. Inverclyde District Council. J Jenkins. G F Lawrence. Mary Slessor Foundation. Prof E Mbamali. E McConchie. J S G McJannet. J B I Mackay. McLean Museum Greenock. Dr R Miller. National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. Capt H L Norton-Trail. W Oliphant. Mrs J Olaore. P Oyelola. W Renwick. Rev A Robb. Dr J W Rowland. Mrs E T Uldall. L Underwood. Capt L H T Sloan. O M Temple. J R G Watters. W D Webster. Wellcome Museum.</p> | | <p>religious texts and writing boards, screenprints, textiles and clothing, tools, weapons, wooden boxes and panels, wooden figures</p> |
| Senegal | University of Edinburgh | 9 | Textile, weapons |
| Sierra Leone | <p>Major J S Bisset. Crown Agents for the Colonies. W Campbell. Lt A C H Duke.</p> | 137 | <p>Bags & textiles, baskets, body ornaments, clothing, combs, currency items, games, household utensils, ivory salt cellars, leather work, masks and figures,</p> |

| | | | |
|------|---|----|--|
| | J S Fenton. Mrs M Fenton. W Ferguson. Sir P B Handyside. J Hartley-Duff. Dr W A Hart. G M Hunter. J Jenkins. R Kerr (RSM). Dr J Kirk. G O Marke. National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. E J F Ohly. R Ritchie. H E Rogers (Liverpool). J A Tobin (Liverpool). Wellcome Museum. | | medical paraphernalia, musical instruments, shoes, snuff paraphernalia, staffs, stone sculpture, weapons |
| Togo | Dr A MacPherson | 25 | Household items, musical instruments, textiles, weapons |

Regions and countries represented: Caribbean

| Country | Major Sources | Collection size estimate | Types of material |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Caribbean unspecified | | 2 | Ornamental feather work |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Thomas Graham Briggs. Dr George Edmund Piez. Barbara and John Evans. | 6 | Domestic utensils, clothing and accessories, tools, vessels, weapons |
| The Bahamas | Science and Art Department, Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art | 5 | Ornamental shell work |
| Barbados | Thomas Graham Briggs. Edmund Knight Taylor. C Harper Bourne. Miss Boulton. Miss K Pennycook. | 29 | Tools, vessels |

| | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--|
| | National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. | | |
| Dominica | Dr Normal Willison Simmonds | 1 | Finger trap |
| Dominican Republic | David Forbes | 1 | Pottery |
| Jamaica | David Deuchar Rev J Brunton J Campbell The British Museum | 4 | Barkcloth sample, decorative art, plant material, tools |
| Haiti | Mrs Reid. William Downing Webster. | 5 | Tools |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | Thomas Graham Briggs | 7 | Personal ornament, tools |
| Saint Lucia | | 2 | Tools |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Thomas Graham Briggs. University of Edinburgh Museum of Natural History. J W Forrest. Miss Brown. Dr Alexander. Charles Stephen. The British Museum. | 30 (9 are possibly Saint Lucia) | Plant dye, tools |
| Trinidad and Tobago | International Exhibition 1862. Dr Normal Willison Simmonds. | 8 | Basketry, fan, textile, vessel, weapon |
| Culturally affiliated with the Caribbean region (within CARICOM) | | | |
| Belize | Herbert T Grant. Captain Morgan. Robert and Marianne Huber. National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. R C O'Hara. Dr Smith Osborne Browne. | 40 | Ceramics, clothing and textiles, musical instrument, personal ornaments, weapons |
| Guyana | Sir Everard im Thurn. Crown Agent for the Colonies. University of Edinburgh Museum of Natural History. Lady Janet Alice Chalmers. | 248 | Clothing and accessories, domestic utensils, fans, fish trap, model boat, musical instruments, plant materials, potsherds, weapons, whip |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>Barbara and John Evans. International Exhibition 1862. Lady Kate Lethem. A Dowell. Harriet Astley. Andrew Gordon. Mrs Baggaley. Dr George William Balfour. William Campbell. J Dickson. John Alexander Elphinstone, 17th Lord Elphinstone. R Ferguson. Gall and Inglis. Gilbert Macintyre Hunter. John Stewart Hepburn. E Howden. James Stewart. Sheila and Hugh Kilpatrick. Mrs Dalgleish. Mrs I M Lyon. Mrs Kerr. Mrs Reid. National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. Rev W B Ritchie. S G Fenton and Sons. Sim Collection. J C Stevens. Professor Thomas Stewart Traill. Rev W B Ritchie. W Campbell. W Johnson. Mrs Webster. William Downing Webster. Wellcome Historical Medical Museum.</p> | | |
|--|--|--|--|

Published Information

Africa

Ainsworth, Rachel and Sarah Worden (2015). 'Jean Jenkins, Music and the 1976 World of Islam Festival'. *Journal of Museum Ethnography* No 28: 184-197.

Idiens, D (1980). African Art at the Royal Scottish Museum, *African Arts* 13, No 3: 34-37.

Idiens, Dale (1981). *The Hausa of Northern Nigeria: a catalogue of the R. E. Miller collection and others*. Edinburgh: Royal Scottish Museum Studies.

Idiens, D (1986). New Benin Discoveries in Scotland, *African Arts* 14 (4): 52-53.

Idiens, D (1991). 'African Collections in Edinburgh and Perth'. *Journal of Museum Ethnography* No 3: 31-41.

Lidchi, Henrietta and Stuart Allan, eds (2022). *Dividing the Spoils: Perspectives on Military Collections and the British Empire*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Plankensteiner, Barbara (2007). *Benin: Kings and Rituals*. Gent: Snoeck.

Watson Jones, Alexandra (2024). *British Collecting in Ethiopia, 1769 to 1972: Travellers, Military Expeditions, Museums and Royal Gifting*. PhD thesis, University of St Andrews.

Willet, F, Ben Torsney and Mark Ritchie (1994). 'Composition and Style: An Examination of Benin 'Bronze' heads'. *African Arts* 27, No.3, Memorial to William Fagg, July 1994: 60-67 and 102.

Worden, S (2010). 'Clothing and Identity: How can museum collections of Hausa textiles contribute to understanding the notion of Hausa Identity?' A Haour and B Rossi (eds). *Being and Becoming Hausa: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Leiden: Brill.

Worden, S (ed) (2012). *David Livingstone: Man, Myth and Legacy*. Edinburgh: National Museums Scotland Enterprises Ltd.

Worden, Sarah (2015). 'Livingstone's Loom', Malawi'. In K Jacobs, C Knowles and C Wingfield (eds). *Trophies, relics and curios? Missionary heritage from Africa and the Pacific*. Leiden: Sidestone Press: 51-56.

Worden, S (2015). 'Chitenje: The Production and Use of Printed Cotton Cloth in Malawi'. *Textile Society of America 2014 Biennial Symposium Proceedings: New Directions: Examining the Past, Creating the Future*. Los Angeles, California, September 10-14, 2014.

Worden, S (2016). 'Tradition and Transition: The changing fortunes of barkcloth in Uganda'. *Textile Society of America 2016 Biennial Symposium Proceedings: Crosscurrents: Land, Labor and the Port*. Savannah, Georgia, October 18-23, 2016.

Worden, S (2018). 'Printed Commemorative cloth in Malawi'. In J B Eicher and D H Ross (eds). *Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion Vol 1: Africa*: 490-495.

Worden, S and G N Swinney (2013). Exhibiting Livingstone: A Life and Legacy on Display. *Scottish Geographical Journal* 129 (3-04): 258-76.

Worden, S and L Richardson (2018). 'Communicating through cloth: From Malawi to Scotland, inspiring creative content in contemporary textile design across cultures'. *Journal of Museum Ethnography* No 31: 129–148.

Caribbean

Idiens, Dale (1984). *Ethnographic Boat Models in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh: A catalogue of Traditional Watercraft from Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Americas*. Edinburgh: Royal Scottish Museum.

Im Thurn, Everard. 'Exhibition Committee, 1885. British Guiana and West Indian Exhibition, 1885'. *Timehri* 4.

Kerr, Donald (2015). *Census of Alexander Shaw's Catalogue of the Different Specimens of Cloth Collected in the Three Voyages of Captain Cook to the Southern Hemisphere, 1787*. Dunedin: University of Otago.

Thornton, Amara (2021). *Thomas Graham Briggs: Collecting the Caribbean*.
<https://collections.reading.ac.uk/2021/11/04/thomas-graham-briggs-collecting-the-caribbean/>

Selected object images

Africa

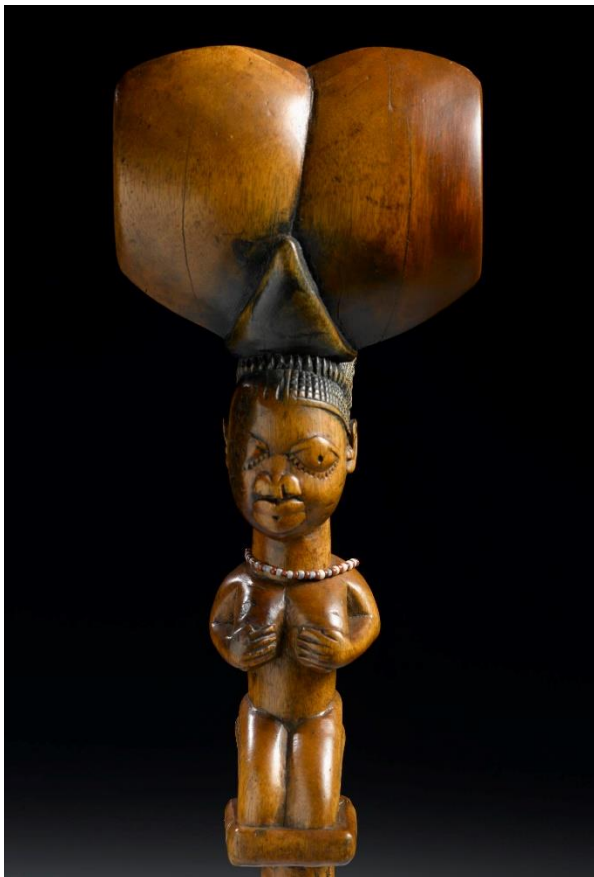
Raffia cut pile embroidered textiles from the Kingdom of Loango, 18th century, A.UC.629



Textiles from the Yoruba kingdom of Ijebu, Nigeria, acquired 1790s by Captain Corran, A.716.29



Shango staff from the collection of Leon Underwood, Nigeria, A.1947.26



Central section of a three-part ivory saltcellar, showing four armed Portuguese figures, West Africa, probably Sierra Leone region, 16th century, A.1956.1155



Copper alloy figure showing a hornblower, West Africa, Nigeria, Edo State, Benin City, 17th-18th century, A.1985.630



Carved wooden figure of a woman collected by William Fergusson 1830s or early 1840s, Temne people, Sierra Leone, West Africa, A.1956.1159



Mask of the Yoruba Gelede society, collected by Dr J W Rowland, probably at Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa, early 1880s, A.1885.100



Caribbean

Dancing headdress consisting of a cylindrical framework of split Maranta stems concealed by feathers, Guyana, A.UC.81



Basket of flowers made of shells, from Rev J Campbell, Jamaica, A.1878.11.1



Beadwork necklaces made at St Cuthbert's Mission, Guyana, 1960s, V.2022.136



Jar of Job's tears with a label that reads 'A Token of Gratitude from the Mission Schools, Brownsville Jamaica, 1878. Thy Kingdom Come. Pray for Us', Jamaica, K.1997.981



Stone hatchet, Saint Vincent or Saint Lucia, A.1890.79



Anvil-shaped dark wood club with plant fibre binding around the base and shaft, Guyana, 19th century, A.1956.785



Anvil-shaped dark wood club with curvilinear designs incised onto the front, Guyana, 19th century, A.1887.139



Surgeons' Hall Museums

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Contact museum@rcsed.ac.uk

Location of collections

Surgeons' Hall Museums
The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9DW

Size of collections

2 African objects
No known Caribbean objects

Online Collections

<https://museum.rcsed.ac.uk/the-collection/search-the-museum-collections-adlib>

Selected objects

- Traditional healer equipment, Zimbabwe, HC.Z.4.3
- Gourd used for enemata, Ghana or Sierra Leone, HC.Z.5.6

History of the collection

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, founded in 1505, established the museum as a teaching collection for students of medicine. The collections grew significantly from 1699 and expanded in the 1800s to include the collections of surgeons and anatomists, Sir Charles Bell and John Barclay. The Museum, in which the collections still reside today, was opened to the public in 1832, making it one of the oldest in Scotland still in its original location. Surgeons' Hall Museums includes the Wohl Pathology Museum, the History of Surgery and Dentistry Museum and Body Voyager Galleries. The Museum houses one of the most comprehensive historical medical collections in Scotland, detailing Scotland's prominent role in the development of medicine throughout history, both in the UK and worldwide.

Overview of the collection

Surgeons' Hall Museums holds two objects of African origin that come under the remit of this review. These are a collection of traditional healer equipment, recorded as a 'Witchcraft Outfit', from present day Zimbabwe, and a gourd used for auto-administration of enemata from Sierra Leone or Ghana.

The traditional healer equipment was presented to Scottish otolaryngologist and historian of medicine, Dr Douglas Guthrie (1885-1975), by the former National Museum of Southern Rhodesia. According to the object records, the material belonged to an individual named 'Nyamadinya' of the Sena people, who died at Bulawayo in 1949. The collection includes horns and tortoiseshells filled with medicine, a belt made of iguana skin, a gourd with red

seed decoration used for treating ear problems, a corked gourd filled with oil, a comb and knife, a carved root, and a piece of wood wrapped in a wire. The collection also contains bones used for divination, including two of possible human origin, which are included in the human remains section of this report.

Associated material

Associated documents include a map of Africa that belonged to Denis Parsons Burkitt (1911-1993), an Irish surgeon who spent time in present day Kenya and Somalia during the Second World War, later settling in Kampala, Uganda.

The Museum also holds a cast of the left humerus of Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who, some years before his death, had his arm broken by a lion and the fracture remained ununited.

Notable donors

Douglas James Guthrie (1885-1975)

Areas for further research

The Museum holds historic catalogues and object history files which may contain further information on relevant collections. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh contains College and Museum minute books which may document individual acquisitions and donors.

Human remains

Surgeons' Hall Museums holds partial sets of skeletal human remains from up to 12 individuals that are identified as originating from Africa. Five of these people have specific countries of origin recorded. They came from Nigeria, Ghana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Tanzania. Two are associated with the traditional healer equipment (HC.Z.4.3) and are potentially from present day Zimbabwe. Five remaining individuals are recorded as African, with no additional information available. Additionally, the Pathology collections hold tissue samples from 13 people that are identified as originating from Africa. One is recorded as African, with no additional information available. Twelve have specific countries of origin recorded: Liberia (one person), Togo (one person), Ghana (one person), Democratic Republic of the Congo (one person), Tanzania (four people) and Sierra Leone (four people).

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. The University of Aberdeen holds a cast from the same mould.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

| Region/country | Major sources | Collection size estimate | Types of material |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Eastern Africa | | 1 | |
| Zimbabwe | Douglas James Guthrie | 1 | Traditional healer equipment |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Western Africa | | 1 | |
| Western Africa unspecified | G M Hunter | 1 | Gourd medical instrument |

Selected object images

A gourd with red seed decoration used for treating ear problems, one part from a collection of traditional healer equipment, Zimbabwe, HC.Z.4.3



A corked gourd filled with oil, one part from a collection of traditional healer equipment, Zimbabwe, HC.Z.4.3

