



Detail of raffia textile, Democratic Republic of the Congo.
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African and Caribbean Collections in Scottish Museums Highlands and Islands

Highlands and Islands

- Inverness Museum and Art Gallery (High Life Highland)
- Nairn Museum
- Shetland Museum and Archives (Shetland Amenity Trust)
- Stromness Museum (Orkney Natural History Society)
- Tain & District Museum
- West Highland Museum (West Highland Museum Trust)

Inverness Museum and Art Gallery

High Life Highland

Contact inverness.museum@highlifehighland.com

Location of collections

Inverness Museum and Art Gallery
Castle Wynd
Inverness
IV2 3EB

Size of collections

5 African objects
No known Caribbean objects

Selected objects

- Mandinka dress sword, West Africa, 1985.011

History of the collection

Inverness Museum and Art Gallery is managed by registered charity High Life Highland on behalf of The Highland Council. Inverness Museum started life as part of the Northern Institution for the Promotion of Science and Literature in 1825. Its first premises displayed early collections including social history and natural science specimens. The Institution held its final meeting in 1835 and over the next 40 years the museum collections were moved to the Inverness Royal Academy and then to the Town Hall. In 1876 the Inverness Scientific Society and Field Club took responsibility for the remaining museum collection and a permanent site was sought. Money was raised by public subscription and a new building was completed in 1881. This was cleared for redevelopment in 1963, and the current museum, gallery and library complex was built in its place. Records suggest that most of the non-European collections were transferred to National Museums Scotland in the 1960s.

Overview of the collection

Due to the transfer in the 1960s, very little relevant material remains. Five African items have been identified that were donated in recent decades. These include three spear heads and a Nigerian loop dagger that were found behind a slab at the former Marine Hotel in Rosemarkie in 2015. The most significant object in the collection is a Mandinka horseman's sword, possibly from the Gambia, donated by Mrs Reid of Edinburgh in 1985. The sword is a 'dress sword' and would have been worn as a symbol of high status by wealthy or high-ranking Mandinka men. It doesn't feature a hand guard and would not have been used in combat. The blades of Mandinka dress swords were typically imported French cavalry sabres, reflecting networks of European colonial influence in West Africa. These swords are recognisable by the intricate dyed and woven leatherwork on the scabbard and straps, which represent a strong culture of dyed, tooled and plaited leatherwork in much of West Africa.

Associated material

Africa

The collection contains examples of 'African blackwood' used for bagpipes, mineral samples from South Africa, photographs of Cape Town Highlanders and South African scenery, and colonial era numismatics from South Africa, West Africa, Mombasa, and Zanzibar. The collection also contains a miniature portrait in bronze of Ranavalona III, last Queen of Madagascar (1861-1917). France annexed Madagascar in January 1896 and abolished the monarchy and exiled Ranavalona to Algeria in 1897. She made several trips to France where she was received by high society and was popular with the French public. It is likely that this portrait was produced in the early 1900s during her first trips to Europe.

Caribbean

This review has identified a shoulder-belt plate for VI West Indies Regiment, 1795-1817 (made in London, 1795), and a gilded button of the Jamaica Militia. The archival collections contain papers related to the Inglis family who were involved in the trade of enslaved people in St Vincent and the ownership and management of plantations in Demerara and Berbice (Guyana) from the mid 1700s. The archives also hold the 1814 will and testament of Susanne Kerr, a free woman of mixed race from St Vincent who had four children with George Inglis (1764-1847), all of whom were brought to Inverness to be educated. For more information, see David Alston, 'A Forgotten Diaspora: The Children of Enslaved and "Free Coloured" Women and Highland Scots in Guyana Before Emancipation'. *Northern Scotland* 6, no 1 (1 May 2015): 49–69.

Areas for further research

The donor of the Mandinka dress sword also gifted military items, including a belt plate from an officer of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders or 79th Regiment of Foot, and a belt plate from the 3rd (Dundee Highland) Volunteer Battalion, Black Watch. Records suggest the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders were in active service in West Africa, supplying men for the so-called 'Ashanti Campaign' in 1873. Further research into the donor and military connections may shed more light on the provenance of the dress sword.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Africa unspecified		3	Spear heads
Western Africa		2	
Western Africa unspecified	Mrs Reid	1	Mandinka dress sword
Nigeria		1	Loop dagger

Selected object images

Mandinka dress sword, West Africa, 1985.011



Nairn Museum

Contact Manager@nairnmuseum.co.uk

Location of collections

Nairn Museum
Viewfield House
Viewfield Drive
Nairn
IV12 4EE

Size of collections

105 African objects
7 Caribbean objects

Selected objects

Africa

- Leopard skin cloak, Ethiopia, 22366
- Ivory walking stick, Uganda, 20401
- Fibre hat, Sierra Leone, 20613

Caribbean

- Beaded apron, Guyana, 22360
- Wooden clubs, Guyana, 20470 + 20314.002

History of the collection

Nairn Museum collection was founded in 1858 when Dr John Grigor (1814-1886), a medical practitioner and former provost of Nairn, began acquiring objects from individuals with Nairnshire connections. The first museum was established in 1860 on Nairn's High Street. The collection was moved at the start of the Second World War when the army requisitioned the building. After the war, it was moved to the current site, a Georgian mansion that was formerly the town courthouse. The museum collection largely relates to the town and its history.

Overview of the collection

Africa

According to current records, around 60% of the African material at Nairn Museum is from western Africa, 15% southern Africa, 10% northern Africa, 10% eastern Africa, 1% central Africa, and 4% is unattributed.

Over half of the African collection is recorded as Nigerian. Objects include Hausa swords, knives, and spears; drums; various types of basketwork; domestic utensils; and an object described as a 'hornbill decoy'. Many of these are recorded as being donated by a David Douglas in 1940. The western African material also includes two combs and a fibre hat from

Sierra Leone, donated by Dr John McEwan Dalziel (1872-1948) of the West African Medical Service.

Material from South Africa makes up around 15% of the entire African collection. Of note are horn headdresses, probably from Zulu rickshaw pullers. Other southern African material includes spears, a club, and snuff containers.

One of the potentially most significant objects in the collection is a leopard skin cloak, possibly connected to the British looting of Maqdala in Ethiopia in 1868. The cloak was donated by the Ketchen family in 1869 and is recorded as 'being purchased at the late King Theodore's sale after the capture of Magdala'. Other material associated with British military activity are three spears, probably taken from Sudanese soldiers during the Battle of Omdurman in 1898. The collection also contains a hammock that is recorded as coming from Cape Coast Castle in Ghana in 1859, donated by Benjamin Lumsden Gordon who served with the British army in India.

Another object of note is an ivory walking stick from Uganda. Records suggest that it was gifted by the Kabaka of Buganda to 'Mr E. K. Borup', a Danish missionary, in appreciation of his work as the first man to introduce the cultivation of cotton into Uganda.

Caribbean

This survey has identified seven objects that probably originate from former British Guyana. The collection holds six wooden clubs, often recorded as war clubs or 'macana', and one beaded belt or apron. There is currently no further provenance information available for these items.

Areas for further research

The leopard skin cloak from Ethiopia and ivory walking stick from Uganda are of particular interest and would benefit from further research. Many of the Ketchen family, who donated the cloak, were born in India and served in the Indian Army. Further research may highlight a direct link to the British looting of Maqdala, because the field force involved was composed of British and Indian troops. *History of Nairnshire* by George Bain (1893) discusses the Ketchen family and may provide key information.

The ivory walking stick was donated by a retired indigo planter, Henry Alfred Baily, who died in Nairn in 1950. Baily's connection to Borup and Uganda is currently unclear. 'Mr E. K. Borup' is most likely Kristen Eskildsen Borup (1866-1938) of the Christian Missionary Society Industrial Mission. Borup has been credited with introducing cotton seed to Uganda in the early 1900s. This object is potentially significant as it highlights histories related to missionary activity, royal gifting, and industry in Uganda.

Objects donated by Dr J M Dalziel also hold research potential because information about his career in West Africa is available. Dalziel worked for the West African Medical Service and spent time in all former British West Africa colonies. He had a particular interest in Northern Nigeria and the natural sciences, collecting botanical and zoological specimens. He published *A Hausa Botanical Vocabulary* in 1916. It is possible that he donated some of the currently unprovenanced Nigerian material.

Regarding Caribbean material in the collection, Bain's 1893 *History of Nairnshire* notes that the Ketchen family property, 'Kingillie', was purchased in 1890 by a David Anderson with links to Demerara. Research into local connections such as these may provide a starting

point for further investigations. More generally, there are key links with the East India Company and British military in Nairnshire and research into the collection would illuminate these histories further.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Africa unspecified		6	
			Dagger, hunting equipment, shield, spear, wall hangings
Northern Africa		22	
Egypt		1	Fez
Sudan	David Douglas	10	Spears
Eastern Africa			
Eastern Africa unspecified		3	Bracelet, shield, sword
Ethiopia	Ketchen	2	Cloak, spear
Somalia	H W Seton-Karr	4	Shields, stone implements, walking sticks
Uganda	Dr Bailey	1	Ivory walking stick
United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs Christine Kennedy	1	Two-handled bowl
Central Africa		1	
Chad		1	Knife
Southern Africa		16	
South Africa		16	Axe head, club, horn headdress, snuff container, spear
Western Africa		60	
Western Africa unspecified		1	Drumsticks
Ghana	Benjamin Gordon	1	Hammock
Nigeria	David Douglas	55	Axe, basket, beadwork, bottle, bow, drumsticks, flywhisk, hornbill decoy, knife, necklace, pick/axe, shield, spear, spoon, strainer
Sierra Leone	J M Dalziel	3	Combs, hat

Regions and countries represented: Caribbean

Country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Guyana		7	Beaded apron, clubs

Published Information

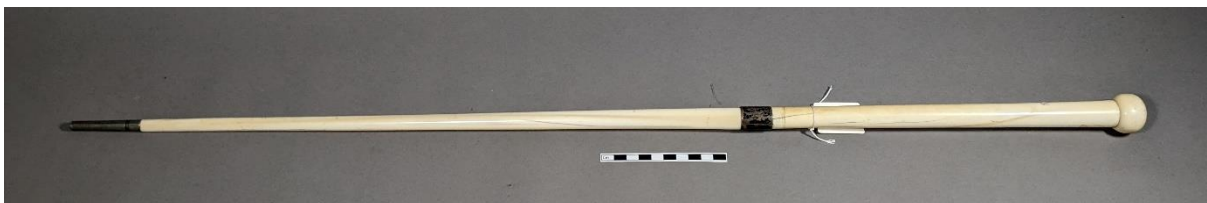
Bain, George (1893). *History of Nairnshire*. Nairn: Telegraph Office.

Selected object images

Leopard skin cloak, Ethiopia, 22366



Ivory walking stick, Uganda, 20401



Fibre hat, Sierra Leone, 20613



Beaded apron, Guyana, 22360



Wooden club, Guyana, 20470



Wooden club, Guyana, 20314.002



Shetland Museum & Archives

Shetland Amenity Trust

Contact info@shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk

Location of collections

Shetland Museum & Archives
Hay's Dock
Lerwick
Shetland
ZE1 0WP

Size of collections

3 African objects
No known Carribean objects

Selected objects

- Leopard skin stole, Kenya, APP2013.93
- Leopard skin muff, Kenya, APP 2013.94
- Cheetah skin handbag, Kenya, APP 2013.92

History of the collection

The current Museum opened in 2007 in a new building on the waterfront in Lerwick, bringing together the museum and archive collections for the first time. The collections relate to all aspects of the islands' history.

Overview of the collection

Shetland Museum & Archives holds a cheetah skin handbag, a leopard skin muff and leopard skin stole from Kenya that were made in the 1940s. These belonged to Agnes Grace Gibb (1895-1981) from Aith, Shetland. Following the Second World War, she moved to Nairobi to work as a lady's maid to a Mrs Silver. While in Nairobi she met and married an English settler farmer, Harold Gibb. These objects were reportedly made from a cheetah and leopard which she shot to protect livestock. The skins were tailored by John Richmond of Nairobi.

Associated material

The Museum also contains artworks and medals that do not come under the remit of this review but may be of interest to researchers. Those with African connections include artworks by Bretta Astrid Laurenson (1893-1945) made during her time working as a governess for the Salvesen family at the Lone Cow Estate, Banket, present day Zimbabwe, in the 1930s. The 54 artworks depict landscapes, villages, adults, and children of the area. An 1871 portrait of George Reid Morrison (1819-1892) by William Richard Waters (1813-1880) is notable for Morrison's reported role in suppressing slavery and piracy on the south and west coasts of Africa. The collection also contains eight military medals with links to South Africa, including a medal of service in the Anglo-Zulu War, 1877-1890.

A portrait of surveyor and cartographer John Robertson (1753-1829) has connections to Jamaica, where he arrived in 1778. He surveyed the island between 1796 and 1799 and published a map series in 1804. The oil painting is potentially the work of Philip Wickstead, a portraitist in Jamaica between 1774 and 1786.

Areas for further research

The specific context in which these objects were made may be of interest to those researching histories of settler agriculture in eastern Africa.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Eastern Africa		3	
Kenya		3	Cheetah skin handbag, leopard skin muff, leopard skin stole

Selected object images

Leopard skin muff, Kenya, APP 2013.94



Leopard skin stole, Kenya, APP2013.93



Stromness Museum

Orkney Natural History Society

Contact custodian@stromnessmuseum.org.uk

Location of collections

Stromness Museum
52 Alfred Street
Stromness
Orkney
KW16 3DH

Size of collections

93 African objects
No known Caribbean objects

Online Collections

<https://www.stromnessmuseum.org.uk/collections>

Selected objects

- Wooden bowl in the shape of a turtle, Nigeria, E083
- Kola offering bowl, Nigeria, E102
- Caryatid stool, Democratic Republic of the Congo, E209
- Raffia cut-pile textile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, E094
- Zanze or thumb piano, Gambia River, E124
- Beadwork bands, South Africa, E104+E105
- Chair, Zanzibar, A662

History of the collection

Stromness Museum was founded in 1837 as the museum of the Orkney Natural History Society. The Society actively built collections, but these did not have a permanent home until 1862 when the current museum was opened with support from the Magistrates and Town Council. During the 18th and 19th centuries, Stromness was at the crossroads of a maritime network that stretched from the South Pacific to the North Atlantic. These connections are reflected by important collections of non-European material that were brought back from across the world in the 19th and 20th centuries. African material was likely given to the museum by seafarers stopping off in Stromness for water and supplies, as well as Orcadians who travelled to the continent.

Overview of the collection

The collection of 93 African objects is predominantly from western Africa, Nigeria specifically. Material currently attributed to Nigeria makes up 37% of the entire African collection and much of this was probably donated by William Balfour Baikie (1825-1864). Baikie was a doctor and explorer from Orkney who played a key role in opening Nigeria to British trade from 1854. The collection is predominantly domestic items, utensils and ornaments. Objects

that have been directly attributed to Baikie include a wooden food bowl and cover in the shape of a turtle. Another donor of Nigerian material was Harry Mowatt who spent his life as a missionary and teacher at the Hope Waddell Training Institution in Calabar. Objects attributed to Mowatt include a raffia fan made at the Hope Waddell Institution, manillas, and a leather bag and amulet necklace from Northern Nigeria. Other objects of note with less clear provenance include a straw and cowrie shell kola offering bowl, two votive pots recorded as being taken from the oracular shrine at Aro Chukwu, and two miniature thorn carvings. The Nigerian collection also includes some brass work from Benin City that was made for sale during the 20th century.

The second largest collection from any single country comes from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and was mainly donated by Mr and Mrs J Bews, date unknown. Material includes basketwork, raffia cut-pile textiles, and a caryatid stool. Other objects of note include a *Zanze* or thumb piano that is recorded as being 'taken off the body of a chief' killed during conflict on the Gambia River. It was taken by Henry Salter, one of the crew of HMS *Arrogant* (Commander Edmonton), around 1859-1860. There are some examples of beadwork from southern Africa that were donated in 1912 by Mr Thompson. These include beadwork 'bands' that may be Zulu rolled headbands, necklaces, or waistbands (*Umgingqo*). More unusual items in the collection include a pottery figure recorded as coming from Cameroon, and an ivory hairpin attributed to Gabon.

The most striking object in the collection is a Swahili *kiti cha enzi* or a 'Chair of Power', probably made in Zanzibar or the east coast of Africa during the 19th century. The high-backed chair is highly decorated with string panels and ivory or bone inlays. It was probably acquired around 1902-1905 by Robert Hamilton (1867-1944), a Scottish politician who was appointed Assistant Judge of the High Court of East Africa at this time.

Notable donors

William Balfour Baikie (1825-1864)

Robert Hamilton (1867-1944)

Harry Mowatt (dates unknown)

Areas for further research

Although material was not formally accessioned until the early 20th century, object donations are sometimes listed in minute books of the Orkney Natural History Society from the 1800s. These could be used to identify object sources, for example, it may be possible to link further objects with Baikie.

The collection from the Democratic Republic of the Congo deserves further research, particularly as nothing is currently known about the donors or their activities in central Africa. Mr and Mrs J Bews may possibly be related to Professor John William Bews (1884-1934) who was born in Kirkwall and educated in Edinburgh. He was a botanist and worked in South Africa from 1910 to 1934 on botanical surveys and as Professor of Botany at Natal University College and University of South Africa.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Africa unspecified		29	
	William Balfour Baikie. Gunnie Moberg. Mr J Sabiston.		Armlet, arrowhead, bowl, containers, dish, pottery, textiles
Eastern Africa		1	
United Republic of Tanzania	Lady Hamilton, Edinburgh	1	Chair
Central Africa		18	
Cameroon		2	Loom, pottery figure
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mr and Mrs J Bews	15	Basketwork, bracelet, cartridge pouch, caryatid stool, charm, comb, knife, raffia cut-pile textiles
Gabon		1	Hippo tooth hairpin
Southern Africa		4	
South Africa	Mr Thompson Mrs Buchan	4	Beadwork, model wagon
Western Africa		41	
Western Africa unspecified		6	Armlets, ear weights, straw dish covers
Gambia		1	Thumb piano
Nigeria	William Balfour Baikie Dr McLetchie Harry Mowatt	34	Amulet, armlet, basketwork, brass casting, dress items, fan, leather bag, manillas, offering plate, raffia textiles, ring, saddle cloth, sandals, sheaths, 'slave irons', spoons, strainer, thorn carving, votive pot/bowl

Selected object images

Wooden bowl in the shape of a turtle, Nigeria, E083



Kola offering bowl, Nigeria, E102



Caryatid stool, Democratic Republic of the Congo, E209



Raffia cut-pile textile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, E094



Zanze or thumb piano, Gambia River, E124



Beadwork 'bands', South Africa, E104+E105



Chair, Zanzibar, A662



Tain & District Museum

Contact info@tainmuseum.org.uk

Location of collections

Tain & District Museum
Tower Street
Tain
IV19 1DY

Size of collections

4 African objects
2 Caribbean objects

Selected objects

Africa

- Two 'anklets', Nigeria, TDM 0813.005.1ab + 0813.005.2 ab
- Two 'bracelets', Nigeria, TDM 0813.005.3 + 0813.005.4

Caribbean

- Mounted 'saw' of a sawfish on wooden base, Guyana, 0775
- Bamboo quiver, Guyana, unaccessioned

History of the collection

Established in 1966, the Tain & District Museum, incorporating the Clan Ross Centre, is an independent, volunteer-run museum. Collections represent the history of Easter Ross and its people.

Overview of the collection

Africa

The museum holds two 'anklets' and two 'bracelets' that are recorded as Nigerian. Currently, no further documentation is available.

Caribbean

Staff have recently identified two objects that probably originate from Guyana. These are the rostrum or 'saw' of a sawfish that has been mounted on a wooden base, and what is thought to be a bamboo quiver.

Staff believe that the mounted sawfish rostrum may have been sent to Tain by Alexander MacPherson (1803-1861). MacPherson travelled to Guyana in 1825 and became manager of plantations numbers 17 and 18 in Berbice. In a letter written to his mother, he mentioned a number of 'curiosities' that he was sending back to Tain, including the 'saw of a saw, a Sword Fish'.

The object that may be a bamboo quiver has only recently been identified and is currently unaccessioned. It carries an inscription that is partly illegible but appears to read: 'Presented by Tourdanea Chief of the Warrow Indians of Equivee Creek Commander of the Karahouun Casahours to GB August 1811'. It is possible that 'Warrow' refers to the Warao, an indigenous Amerindian people, and that 'Equivee Creek' is a spelling variation of Essequibo, a river region in Guyana. No other documentation is available.

Notable donors

Alexander MacPherson (1803-1861)

Areas for further research

Tain has many historical connections to the Caribbean through local families associated with plantations, particularly in Berbice. The two Guyanese objects in the collection illuminate this history and deserve further research.

Alexander MacPherson, who is the likely collector of the mounted saw fish rostrum, worked on cotton plantations owned by James Blair (1788-1841), an absentee planter, owner of enslaved people, and minister of British parliament.¹ Following abolition, Blair reportedly claimed for more enslaved people and received more money than any other enslaver in the British Empire.² He has been the subject of some research to date.³ Plantations numbers 17 and 18 in Berbice, of which MacPherson was manager, included 350 enslaved people and covered an area of 2,000 acres. McPherson also served as a lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion of the Berbice Militia. Following the abolition of slavery in 1833, he left former British Guiana. He appears in British parliamentary papers as a claimant receiving £63 for owning one enslaved person at the time of abolition. McPherson arrived in Canada in 1835 and settled at Whitby, Canada West. His letters, some digitised, are held by Whitby Public Library in Ontario, Canada: <https://vitacollections.ca/whitbynews/3739246/data>

Further research is needed into the inscription on the bamboo quiver, which may be significant. The former colony of Demerara-Essequibo was created in 1812 when the British combined the colonies of Demerara and Essequibo. The quiver, as a potential diplomatic gift from the Warao of Essequibo to someone in Great Britain, could potentially be understood in this context.

Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Western Africa		4	
Nigeria		4	Anklets, bracelets

¹ <https://vitacollections.ca/whitbynews/3739246/data>

² Rodgers, Nini (2007). 'The Irish and the Atlantic Slave Trade'. *History Ireland* 15, No 3, Ireland and Slavery (May-Jun 2007): 17-23.

³ <https://www.spanglefish.com/slavesandhighlanders/index.asp?pageid=221882> Burnard, T and J Coffey (2023). 'Slave Registers and British Guiana: Life and Resistance on Slave Plantations'. *Histories of People and Place* 18 (1-2): 43-65. <https://doi.org/10.1080/28334299.2023.2283117>

Regions and countries represented: Caribbean

Country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Guyana	Possibly Alexander MacPherson	2	Bamboo quiver, sawfish blade on a wooden base

Selected object images

'Anklets', Nigeria, TDM 0813.005.1ab



'Bracelets', Nigeria, TDM 0813.005.3



Mounted blade of a sawfish on wooden base, Guyana, 0775



Bamboo quiver, Guyana, unaccessioned



West Highland Museum

West Highland Museum Trust

Contact curator@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk

Location of collections

In storage

West Highland Museum
Cameron Square
Fort William
PH33 6AJ

Size of collections

7 African objects

No known Caribbean objects

Selected objects

- Fish spear with head of five serrated bones, Africa unspecified, 1953.019.004
- Two African throwing spears, Africa unspecified, 1953.019.005
- Two African spears with wooden shafts and metal binding, Africa unspecified, 1953.019.006
- Knobkerrie, Southern Africa, K14
- Iron spearhead, Eastern Africa, 1486

History of the collection

The West Highland Museum at Fort William is one of the oldest museums in the Highlands. It was founded in 1922 by Victor Tylston Hodgson who had devoted many years to a detailed study of the history and archaeology of the western Highlands. The museum originally collected croft house furniture and other artefacts. In 1925, after several temporary exhibitions and the acquisition of significant collections, the Museum launched a fundraising appeal and in 1926 purchased the present building, a former branch of the British Linen Bank. Descendants of Victor Hodgson are still involved with the Museum today. The Museum's remit is to collect, conserve and present items of significance and historical and cultural interest related to the West Highland area. The collections span a wide range of subjects, from archaeology to modern industry, with a special emphasis on the Jacobite risings of the 18th century. The museum also holds a collection of clothing, weapons, medals, and other paraphernalia relating to the Highland regiments, from the South African War to the Second World War. The small number of African objects in the collection reflect this military history because they were presented to the donor by Major Ranald W Macdonald of North Uist.

Overview of the collection

The small collection of seven weapons ascribed to Africa are outwith the normal scope of the West Highland Museum's collections and come with very little documentation. Six of the objects are spears, one of which, described as a fish spear, may not be African. The seventh is a knobkerrie. Five of the spears carry a historical label that reads: 'These African weapons

were presented to Dr. M.J Mackenzie of Scolpaig, North uist by Major Ranald W. Macdonald C.M.G., O.B.E, of Nyasaland, East Africa, of Rudha-nan-Gall, Lochmaddy.' They were part of the collection of Dr John Mackenzie of Skye, gifted to the West Highland Museum in 1953. The sixth iron spearhead was found in Strontian in early 1959 and has no accompanying documentation. The knobkerrie came from Culloden House but has no known donor.

Areas for further research

All seven objects require research to identify their geographical and cultural provenance. Further research is also needed into the one known collector, Major Ranald W Macdonald and his time in Malawi (former Nyasaland).

Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Africa unspecified		5	
	John MacKenzie		Fishing spear, four throwing spears
Eastern Africa		1	
Eastern Africa unspecified		1	Spear
Southern Africa		1	
Southern Africa unspecified		1	Knobkerrie

Selected object images

From left to right, fish spear with head of five serrated bones, Africa unspecified, 1953.019.004; two African throwing spears, Africa unspecified, 1953.019.005; two African spears with wooden shafts and metal binding, Africa unspecified, 1953.019.006; knobkerrie, southern Africa, K14; iron spearhead, eastern Africa, 1486



