



University of Aberdeen Museums Austral Islands Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Austral Islands collection, Aberdeen University Museums
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Head of Museums, Library, Special Collections & Museums
Date Completed	17 th August 2014
<p>There are five items from the Austral Islands</p> <p>There are four ceremonial paddles in wood, each intricately carved with a row of anthropomorphic figures carved at the butt. Two of the paddles were transferred in the 1950s from the collection of the Royal Scottish Museum, now National Museums Scotland (NMS). Both were acquired by NMS in the early 20th century. Another paddle was acquired in 1896 from Mrs Duthie who was part of the Duthie shipbuilding family who were at that time associated with Cairnbulg Castle. The fourth paddle has no donor information but is included in the 1912 <i>Illustrated Catalogue of the Anthropological Museum</i>.</p> <p>Also in the collection is a long wooden spear club with a carved section on the shaft and coconut fibre cord bound around the butt. It was collected between 1816 and 1822 by Christopher W Nockells who is known to have travelled in the Pacific from 1816-23. Inscribed on the blade is 'New Zealand spear' however it is stylistically similar to other examples both in collections and in illustrations that are from Rurutu, Austral Islands.</p> <p>A carved fly whisk handle (ABDUA: 4024) of whale ivory composed of three sections tied with coconut fibre was collected from the Society Islands and is included in that collections level description. However, it is of the style associated with carvers from the Austral Islands. It was also presented by Christopher W Nockells. .</p>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	
<p>Reid, RW (1912), <i>Illustrated Catalogue of the Anthropological Museum, University of Aberdeen</i>, p242 (ABDUA:4038)</p> <p>Hunt, C (1981), <i>Shark Tooth & Stone Blade: Pacific Island Art from the University of Aberdeen</i>, University of Aberdeen, p7, item 17 (ABDUA:4038)</p> <p>Hooper, S (2006), <i>Pacific Encounters: Art and Divinity in Polynesia 1760-1860</i>. British Museum Press: London (ABDUA:4158)</p> <p>Gathercole, P & A. Clarke (1979), <i>Survey of the Oceanian Collections in Museums in the United Kingdom and Ireland</i>. UNESCO.</p> <p>Kwasnik, Elizabeth (ed.) (1994), <i>A Wider World: Collections of Foreign Ethnography in Scotland</i>. National Museums of Scotland</p>	