



Glasgow Museums New Caledonia Collection



National
Museums
Scotland



UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	New Caledonia collection, Glasgow Museums
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Curator of World Cultures
Date Completed	25 th August 2014
<p>There are sixty nine items from New Caledonia.</p> <p>The collection includes two carved wooden door jambs coloured with red, black and white pigment which would have been placed at the entrance to a chief's house. The carvings represent ancestors with the top part of each jamb depicting a face and the lower portions carved with a repeating square pattern.</p> <p>There are three turtle shell arm ornaments and four worked pieces of pearl shell which form a broken breast ornament. There are three necklaces of cut conus shells on red cloth. One has a central pearl shell ornament of the style associated with Futuna, Vanuatu. This neck ornament and thirty-one other items were acquired in 1924 from Miss AM Dougan with five items from Vanuatu. Dougan also donated several Vanuatu items to National Museums Scotland. It is possible some production place information has been confused as there are also combs in the Dougan collection which could be from south Vanuatu.</p> <p>There is a basket of woven pandanus leaves and a mat from the Loyalty Islands, acquired in 1896. Also in the collection is a length of carved bamboo partially depicting a story.</p> <p>There are three sling stones and eighteen spears including four spears decorated with carvings, braided flying fox fur, and tapa. There is also a ceremonial bird-headed club with shaft wrapped in blue and red trade cloth and braided flying fox fur (1870.21.a).</p> <p>The collection includes two pearl shells with hand painted depictions of a man's head. These type of decorated shell are often attributed to French convicts imprisoned in New Caledonia and date from the 19th century.</p>	
<p>Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.</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> <p>Lovelace, A (1992), 'The Pacific Collections at Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum', <i>Pacific Arts, The Journal of the Pacific Arts Association</i>: 19-23</p>	