



National Museums Scotland New Ireland Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	New Ireland collection, National Museums Scotland
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Principal Curator, Oceania, Americas and Africa
Date Completed	12 th September 2014
<p>There are forty-four items from New Ireland in the collection.</p> <p>The majority of artefacts date from the 19th century and almost half of the collection was purchased from dealers (21 items).</p> <p>Eight wooden carvings and masks are identified as related to <i>malangan</i> funerary rituals. There are two chalk figures associated with the <i>iniet</i> ceremony, one male and one female. These were bought from the London taxidermists E Gerrard & Sons in 1882 along with a dyed red skirt of vegetable fibre.</p> <p>There is a canoe prow ornament in wood depicting a fish and bird purchased in 1899 with a carved dance ornament which was previously described as coming from a canoe. There are another three dance sticks and ten ceremonial paddles which are carved and pigmented. A ceremonial item in the form of an axe features figurative carving.</p> <p>A large shark fishing float and rope were acquired from the collection of Harry G Beasley in 1954. There are two musical instruments in the collection: a carved wooden gong (<i>livika</i>) from the Lelet region, and a clapper formed of an immature coconut and boar's tusk.</p> <p>Two spears and a women's garment of plant fibre worn around the waist are attributed to New Hanover island, also known as Lavongai.</p>	
<p>Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.</p>	
<p>Idiens, D (1982), <i>Pacific Art in the Royal Scottish Museum</i>. Edinburgh: Royal Scottish Museum (A.1882.53.10-11; a.1890.58; A.1906.607)</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>	