



# National Museums Scotland New Ireland Collection



## COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

<b>Title of the Collection</b>	New Ireland collection, National Museums Scotland
<b>Author(s)</b>	Eve Haddow
<b>Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)</b>	Principal Curator, Oceania, Americas and Africa
<b>Date Completed</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2014
<p>There are forty-four items from New Ireland in the collection.</p> <p>The majority of artefacts date from the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 &amp; 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>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	
<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 &amp; 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>	