



National Museums Scotland Niue Collection



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COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Niue collection, National Museums Scotland
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Principal Curator, Oceania, Americas and Africa
Date Completed	2 nd June 2014
<p>There are forty-one items in the collection. This is a comparatively large collection as there are few items from Niue in Scottish museums.</p> <p>The material dates mainly from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Twelve items are associated with Reverend William G Lawes who was a missionary for the London Missionary Society on Niue from 1860-72. This includes a nose flute, a fishing net and hook, and two fans.</p> <p>There are three pieces of decorated barkcloth (<i>hiapo</i>) dating from mid to late 19th century. One of these is in the form of a fringed poncho.</p> <p>The earliest known acquisition is a canoe model collected in the 1830s. A fly whisk of feathers with handle wrapped in barkcloth (A.UC.490) is originally from the University of Edinburgh collection which was transferred to the Royal Museum in 1854.</p> <p>Under the category of arms and armour are seven finely carved spears with adornments of human hair and plant fibre, four of which are from the collection of Admiral Erskine who visited Niue in the 1850s. There are two throwing stones of stalagmitic rock.</p> <p>There are three canoe paddles in the collection, one of which has a binding of human hair.</p> <p>In addition to the above material is a contemporary artwork incorporating some traditional Niuean motifs by artist and writer John Pule who lives in New Zealand but was born in Niue.</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>	