



National Museums Scotland Tonga Collection



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COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Tonga collections, National Museums Scotland
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Principal Curator, Oceania, Americas and Africa
Date Completed	23 rd September 2014
<p>There are ninety-four items from Tonga</p> <p>Fifteen items are from the third voyage of Captain James Cook (1776-9). Five of these were transferred to the museum by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (SAS) in 1956, four items having been given to the Society in 1781 by Sir John Pringle who obtained them from Cook's widow. These are a set of bamboo pipes, a fly whisk, and two fishhooks. The fifth item acquired via SAS is a nose flute. Ten Cook voyage items were acquired from the University of Edinburgh in 1854 when parts of their collection were transferred to the Royal Museum. These are two fishhooks, two baskets, three large mats, a poncho of woven hibiscus, a bundle of coconut fibre, and a waist mat. These were all presented by Basil William Douglas, Lord Daer (1763-94) to the Royal Society of Edinburgh between 1783 and 1785. It is understood Lord Daer obtained them from William Anderson who was surgeon on the third Cook voyage.</p> <p>There are sixteen other artefacts transferred from the University of Edinburgh which are not associated with Captain Cook's voyages including six wooden clubs. The total number of clubs in the entire Tongan collection is twenty-five, mainly from the 19th century. Several feature carved human and animal figures.</p> <p>There are seven pieces of barkcloth (<i>ngatu</i>), one is transferred from the University of Edinburgh collection, another acquired in 1856, and the other three are 20th century.</p> <p>Other items include a piece of bark worn around the neck by a chief supposedly as a charm, ten coconut gaming discs and three wooden kava bowls.</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.UC.474; A.1956.1002; A.1974.64; A.1892.74)</p> <p>Kaepler, AL (1978), <i>Artificial Curiosities: Being an Exposition of Native Manufactures Collected on the Three Pacific Voyages of Captain James Cook, R. N.</i> Honolulu: Bishop Museum Press (A.1956.1008; A.1956.1009; A.1956.1010; A.1956.1011)</p> <p>Hooper, S. (2006) <i>Pacific Encounters: Art and Divinity in Polynesia 1760-1860</i>. London, British Museum Press.(A.UC.473; A.1956.1010)</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>	