



# National Museums Scotland Tuamotu and Gambier Islands Collection



# COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

<b>Title of the Collection</b>	Tuamotu & Gambier Islands 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>	21 January 2014
<p>The collection is a small but important group of fifteen items. It is the only collection of artefacts from the Tuamotu and Gambier Islands in Scotland.</p> <p>Twelve artefacts are from the Tuamotu Archipelago, including a canoe model, food pounder, and shark fishing hook from the George Darsie collection. Darsie was a wealthy trader and the second Scottish husband of Tahitian Princess Titaua. Her first husband John Brander donated items to Elgin Museum.</p> <p>Half of the total collection was acquired on Captain Frederick William Beechey's expedition to the Pacific on the HMS <i>Blossom</i>, which visited the islands from December 1825 - January 1826.</p> <p>Three objects are from the Gambier Islands including an unusual canoe paddle with a foot carved at the base of the handle from the island of Mangareva. The paddle was collected by Edward Belcher, Assistant Surveyor on the expedition, and has his initials carved in the blade. This type of paddle is mentioned in Beechey's narrative of the voyage. There is another paddle from the islands, and a staff which would have signified status, both also collected on the Beechey expedition.</p>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	
<p>Collections published:</p> <p>Emory, KP (1975), <i>Material Culture in the Tuamotu Archipelago</i>. Honolulu: Bishop Museum Press. (A.UC.361, A.UC.366, A.UC.358, A.UC.267)</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> <p>Related publications:</p> <p>Beechey, FW (1831), <i>Narrative of a Voyage to the Pacific and Beering's Strait: To Co-operate with the Polar Expeditions: Performed in His Majesty's Ship Blossom, Under the Command of Captain F.W. Beechey, R.N. ... in the Years 1825,26,27,28</i>. London: Henry Colburn and Richard Bentley</p>	

Produced as part of *Pacific Collections in Scottish Museums: Unlocking their knowledge and potential* project 2013-2014. For full information and resources visit [www.nms.ac.uk/pacific](http://www.nms.ac.uk/pacific)

Gough, BM (1973), *The Pacific and Arctic with Beechey: The journal of Lieutenant George Peard of HMS 'Blossom' 1825-1828* Cambridge University Press

Mackintosh, Fiona J. (2011), *From the South Seas to the North Sea: the story of Princess Titaua of Tahiti*. Anstruther: Kilrenny and Anstruther Burgh Collection