



National Museums Scotland West Papua Collection



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COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	West Papua collection, National Museums Scotland
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Principal Curator, Oceania, Americas and Africa
Date Completed	29 th September 2014
<p>There are twenty-nine items from West Papua. National Museums Scotland houses one of the only collections of West Papua material in Scotland.</p> <p>The earliest material is a wooden comb with long openwork handle terminating in a seed case and an ornamented wooden paddle. These were collected during the HMS <i>Challenger</i> expedition in 1875 in the Yos Sudarso Bay area (previously Humboldt Bay). A set of twelve arrows also from Yos Sudarso Bay were purchased in 1896.</p> <p>Four items are from the Asmat people all of which were purchased between 1963 and 1970. This includes a canoe ornament decorated with bird figures, a carved headrest, a shield of mangrove tree with sago leaf attachments, and a decorated bamboo horn.</p> <p>There are two <i>kovar</i> ancestral figures in wood from the early 20th century. From the Cenderawasih Bay area (formerly Geevlink Bay) are two canoe ornaments, one in the form of a man and the other with two heads and decorated with scrollwork. Both ornaments have cassowary feathers attached to form the hair of the figures. These were acquired from the collection of Harry G Beasley in 1948.</p> <p>A piece of painted barkcloth from the 1990s is by artist Humbray Mramra of Nafri Village, Yos Sudarso Bay.</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 (1966.726)</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>	