



Perth Museum & Art Gallery Austral Islands Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Austral Islands collection, Perth Museum & Art Gallery
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	History Officer, Perth and Kinross Council
Date Completed	5 th September 2014
<p>There are fifteen items from the Austral Islands</p> <p>In the collection is a headdress (1977.1418) consisting of a tall cap of fibre covered in barkcloth from the top of which cut black feathers hang on woven coconut fibre cords. The headdress was presented in 1843 by General Lindsay who acquired it from Dr L MacLean. The original register states it was worn by 'Tomatoa Principle Chief of the Island of Tuhuca in the Australia Group of the South Sea Islands.' It has since been provenanced to Tubuai and a chief named Tamatoa.</p> <p>Also from the Austral Islands are ten ceremonial paddles of wood carved with surface decoration. Two of the paddles have a shaft that is square in cross-section and the other eight are cylindrical terminating in a ring of anthropomorphic figures. The two earliest of these were acquired from Colin Robertson in 1828 and Mr Strachan in 1833. There is a finely carved 19th century staff and a ceremonial ladle, both of which also have a terminating ring of figures. The bowl part of the ladle ends in a carved bird figure.</p> <p>Two cut pearl shell pendants are thought to be from the Austral Islands.</p>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	
<p>Published collections:</p> <p>Buck, PH [Te Rangi Hiroa] (1944), <i>Arts and Crafts of the Cook Islands: Bernice P. Bishop Museum Bulliten 179</i>. Hawaii: Bishop Museum Press. Pl.15D (1977.1418)</p> <p>Idiens, D (nd), <i>Perth Museum & Art Gallery Catalogue of the Ethnographic Collection: Oceania, America, Africa</i>, Perth.</p> <p>Idiens, D (1990), 'The Pacific Collections in Perth Museum and Art Gallery', in <i>Pacific Arts</i> no.'s 1 & 2 (January/July 1990), pp58-59.</p> <p>Related Publications:</p> <p>Gathercole, P & A. Clarke (eds) (1979), <i>Survey of Oceania Collections in Museum in the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic</i>. Paris: UNESCO</p>	