



Perth Museum & Art Gallery New Zealand Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	New Zealand 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	15 th April 2014
<p>There are seventy-six Māori artefacts from New Zealand.</p> <p>This significant collection includes two kilts (<i>piu piu</i>) acquired in the early 20th century. There are seven cloaks of New Zealand flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>) including a unique cloak covered completely in night parrot (<i>kākāpō</i>) feathers (1978.73). Another cloak is covered entirely with kiwi feathers (1978.85).</p> <p>Five of the cloaks were donated in 1842 by Dr David Ramsay, a Perth-born ship's surgeon on HMS <i>Surry</i> which travelled in the Pacific. Twenty-one artefacts are attributed to Ramsay with a flute of carved wood adorned with dog hair (1978.533) also potentially part of his collection.</p> <p>There are five elaborately carved wooden feather boxes. Two were acquired from Ramsay and the original Perth Literary and Antiquarian Society register records both containing other items, including what appears to be a carved jade pendant (<i>hei tiki</i>). There are two <i>hei tiki</i> in the collection. Also of greenstone are two chisels acquired in 1841 from James Thomas. Another feather box acquired in 1917, decorated with female ancestral carvings, has a number of indigenous repairs. Other carved wooden items include three ceremonial paddles (<i>hoe</i>) and a weaving peg with haliotis (<i>pāua</i>) shell inlay.</p> <p>There are two large carved panels from a meeting house (<i>marae</i>) acquired from Otago Museum. Another panel from the same house is at National Museums Scotland. The panels are thought to be acquired from Lord James Stewart Murray and were previously exhibited at the Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in 1867. Also in the collection is a woven interior panel (<i>tukatuka</i>). There is also a partial model of a war canoe (<i>waka taua</i>) with prow and stern portions to one another with some of the central part of the canoe missing. The style is that associated with <i>Ngati Tarawhai</i> carvers.</p>	
<p>Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.</p>	
<p>Published collections:</p> <p>Roth, HL (1923), <i>The Maori mantle</i>. England: Bankfield Museum (1978.72; 1978.73; 1978.79; 1978.71; 1978.80)</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>	