



National Museums Scotland Tuvalu Collection



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COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Tuvalu collection, National Museums Scotland
Author(s)	Eve Haddow
Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Principal Curator, Oceania, Americas and Africa
Date Completed	20 th November 2014
<p>There are twenty-two items from Tuvalu (previously named Ellice Islands).</p> <p>There is a narrow waist mat of barkcloth with fringes at either end of red fibre and a chaplet of white shells on cane which were both acquired in 1892 from Admiral Robertson MacDonald of the Royal Navy. Also in the collection is an ear ornament of turtle shell and bars of pearl shell from the island of Nanumea. This was purchased from Dutch museum curator CM Pleyte and collected by Captain Zembsch who was German Consul-General in Samoa from 1879-83.</p> <p>Four items are thought to be from the collection of Admiral Edward Henry Meggs Davis, purchased through from the taxidermists E Gerrard & Sons of London in 1904. This acquisition includes three fish hooks and an item of woman's dress made of rolled strips of plant fibre.</p> <p>There are nine items acquired from Dr JG McNaughton who ran the hospital in Funafuti, Tuvalu from 1916-17. The majority of this material is clothing and personal ornaments including a pair of sandals for reef fishing, a plant fibre belt and a cuirass of coconut fibre. There are also two garments worn by women around the waist, one of which consists of a skirt of grass and broad strips of leaf decorated in various colours plaited onto a waistband. Dr McNaughton also collected a sleeping mat and pillow of woven and dyed pandanus leaf and a small shark tooth knife.</p> <p>Several other artefacts were acquired in the early 20th century. There are three fish hooks, one with a hackle of white cloth, and a stone pestle. There is also outrigger canoe model from Nanumea and woman's skirt of grass and coloured pandanus leaf from Vaitupu island gifted by Mr A Bunyan.</p>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	
<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>	