



Introduction to Pacific Collections: Contents & Introduction



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Introduction

Introduction to Pacific Collections is an outcome of *Pacific collections in Scottish Museums: Unlocking their knowledge and potential*.

This partnership project, supported by the Museums Association Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund, ran from April 2013 to December 2014. The four core partners were National Museums Scotland, Perth Museum and Art Gallery, Glasgow Museums and Aberdeen University Museums. The project had two key aims:

- To carry out a review of Pacific material held by each of the partner institutions, drawing out stories both within and between each collection
- To develop and implement a new methodology for collections knowledge transfer between a new curator, current collections staff and subject experts

The contents of the *Introduction to Pacific Collections* are an outcome of the second aim and draw on the learning experienced by the project curator. This resource is aimed at anyone working with Pacific collections. It is likely that those with no prior specialist knowledge of the subject area will find it of most use. The review findings are published separately in *Review of Pacific Collections in Scottish Museums* and provide an overview of Pacific material in the partner collections. Both documents can be used as separate resources or in conjunction with one another.

In the pages that follow, focussed information on Pacific material culture relates mainly to artefacts likely to be found in Scottish museum collections. This was informed by both the findings of the collections review at the project partner museums and by visits to a number of other Scottish museums with Pacific collections. There is also an introduction to some less common material with particularly distinct styles. In order to assist in working with the wealth of material from areas not specifically covered in this introduction, this resource aims to demonstrate how to approach identification of artefacts and provides information on collections care, hazards, and cultural considerations applicable to all Pacific material. There is a bibliography of relevant texts and suggestions of online resources and useful networks.