



# McLean Museum and Art Gallery Vanuatu Collection



## COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

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|---|---|
| <b>Title of the Collection</b>  | Vanuatu collection, McLean Museum and Art Gallery |
| <b>Author(s)</b>  | Eve Haddow  |
| <b>Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)</b>  | Curator, McLean Museum and Art Gallery            |
| <b>Date Completed</b>   | 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2014                    |
| <p>There are sixty-nine items from Vanuatu (previously New Hebrides).</p> <p>Thirty of these were collected by (James) George Hart, a deputy head teacher at Ladyburn School in Greenock who took up post as District Education Officer in Vanuatu in 1969. Hart's gift includes a small tree fern grade figure from Ambrym (2009.38), a wooden ancestor figure decorated with pigment possibly also from Ambrym (2009.37), and a mask worn in ceremonial dances from Malekula (2009.42). Hart also collected fifteen bags and baskets, a kava bowl and cups, a number of wooden clubs and arrows, and a woven mat dyed with purple patterns from central Vanuatu.</p> <p>Twenty artefacts in the collection were acquired from Sutherland Sinclair (1851-1917) who grew up in Greenock before travelling to North America, Australia and Asia. He became Secretary to the Trustees of the Australian Museum in Sydney in the 1880s where he also took on a role as Librarian and Storekeeper. In 1894 Sinclair spent two months with the Presbyterian missionary Reverend H.A. Robertson on Erromango where he collected bows and arrows, an axe, a shell trumpet and a pair of tongs for cooking.</p> <p>Also in the collection are a bow, two sets of arrows and a wooden club from Tanna, donated by Dugald Robinson in 1880. Finally, there are two 19<sup>th</sup> century skirts of leaves with little provenance.</p> |   |
| Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.  |   |
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