



North Lanarkshire Council Museums Pacific Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Pacific collection, North Lanarkshire Council Museums
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Curator responsible for collection (if different from author)	Curator of Social History, North Lanarkshire Council
Date Completed	12 th December 2014
<p>There are twelve items from the Pacific region including Melanesia and Polynesia. There are no objects from Micronesia.</p> <p>The collection contains six clubs of wood. From New Caledonia are two clubs with mushroom shaped heads and two examples of bird head clubs (<i>porowa ra maru</i>). One of the bird head examples is notable shorter and squatter than some examples. Another club is stylistically from Pentecost in Vanuatu and has a binding of human hair around the grip. Finally, there is a Fijian club.</p> <p>Also in the collection are three lime spatulas from the Trobriand Islands area in Papua New Guinea. Two are carved with human figures. From the Austral Islands is a distinctive ceremonial paddle of wood, carved with geometric patterns. Additionally, there is a fan of pandanus leaf, possibly from Vanuatu, and some pieces of wood that appear to have come from a Tongan boat model.</p> <p>The collection was originally acquired by Airdrie Public Museum which opened in 1895 and Pacific artefacts were collected from the 1890s to around the 1920s. In 1975 the entire museum collection was transferred to the local authority, now North Lanarkshire Council, following the closure of the museum. A guide to the collections in the Airdrie public museum was published in 1927. There is reference within this to 'various Polynesian curios'. A number of items from the Pacific have been identified within old minute books and curators notes from 1896-1929 however it is clear that not all of these artefacts survive. For example, seven items were gifted in 1920 by Reverend JG Drummond apparently from Samoa but none of these items have currently been identified within the North Lanarkshire Council collection.</p>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	