



Perth Museum & Art Gallery Fiji Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Fiji 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	4 th March 2014
<p>There are fifty-four artefacts from Fiji.</p> <p>The collection largely dates from the 19th century and early 20th century. There are twenty-three clubs, seven of which are of the shorter type for throwing. The others are of the following Fijian styles: <i>culacula</i>, <i>waka</i>, <i>tokokia</i>, <i>vunikau</i>, <i>gugu</i>, <i>gata</i>, and <i>bowai</i>. Sir Windham Carmichael-Anstruther donated four of these with a neck ornament of split whale teeth in 1935. Five clubs were included in Mr John Melville-Gray's extensive bequest of 1946 and another five clubs were donated in 1885 by local collector William Moncrieffe. A club donated in 1921 was brought to Scotland by the donor's grandfather David Pitblado (b.1806).</p> <p>The largest acquisition of Fijian material came from John H Dixon in 1917 (9 items). As well as two pieces of patterned barkcloth (<i>masi</i>), Dixon gave a woman's skirt (<i>liku</i>), a shell waist belt, and a wooden bowl with two coconut cups for use in drinking kava. Dixon also donated a headrest of wood with four feet carved with the words '<i>mere mere</i>' and '<i>rupeni</i>'.</p> <p>A circular piece of barkcloth with painted geometric pattern was donated in 1918 by Mrs A Gibbon Thomson, also attributed to Rotuma. The tools and utensils category includes a roller of bamboo for printing lines onto barkcloth. The collection includes a man's wig of bleached human hair attached to a woven palm leaf base which would be worn by a man of status. There are also two pendants of boar tusk.</p>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	
<p>Published collections:</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>	