



Perth Museum & Art Gallery Society Islands Collection



COLLECTIONS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Data Entry form

Title of the Collection	Society Islands 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	3 rd March 2014
<p>There are thirty four artefacts from the Society Islands.</p> <p>The collection includes significant early voyage material, including thirteen items donated in 1842 by Dr David Ramsay, a Perth-born ship's surgeon on HMS <i>Surry</i> who settled in Sydney, Australia. Ramsay's donation contains: a finely carved drum with stretched shark skin; a Tahitian bow with bamboo quiver and coconut stopper containing fourteen arrows; and seven parts that combine to make a full Tahitian mourner's costume which arrived at the museum wrapped in one of the pieces of barkcloth. The mourner's costume is the only complete example in Scotland.</p> <p>The collection includes two barkcloth sample books bound in Edinburgh in 1820 containing cuttings of Tahitian cloth and several pieces that appear to be Hawaiian. There are also five pearl shell fishhooks, two of which have bone barbs.</p>	
Have any aspects of the collection been published? Please provide bibliographic references if available.	
<p>Published collections: 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: 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>	