



Sailor's Valentine, Barbados, c.1850.  
© Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum

# African and Caribbean Collections in Scottish Museums Tayside, Central and Fife

## Tayside, Central and Fife

- Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum (The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Trust)
- Montrose Museum (ANGUSalive)
- Museums of the University of St Andrews
- OnFife Museums and Galleries
- Perth Museum (Culture Perth and Kinross)
- Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum
- The Black Watch Museum (The Black Watch Regimental Trust)
- The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum (Leisure and Culture Dundee)

# Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum

## The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Trust

**Contact**     [museum@argylls.co.uk](mailto:museum@argylls.co.uk)

### **Location of collections**

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum  
The Castle  
Stirling  
FK8 1EH

### **Size of collections**

15 African objects  
No known Caribbean objects

### **Selected objects**

- Engraved club or knobkerrie, South Africa, 0397
- Bread bowl, South Africa, 30/63d.1
- Headrest, South Africa, 30/63g.1
- Shield, Kenya/ eastern Africa, 907/87

### **History of the collection**

The Museum is situated in Stirling Castle and tells the story of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Created under the Childers Reforms in 1881, the regiment was an amalgamation of the 91st Argyllshire Highlanders and 93rd Sutherland Highlanders but traces its history back to the raising of the Stirlingshire Militia in 1639. Importantly for this review, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were involved in numerous colonial conflicts during the 19th century, including the so-called Anglo-Zulu Wars of 1879-1896.

### **Overview of the collection**

Fourteen out of the 15 African objects identified are from South Africa and could be described as trophies of war, taken during the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. Two Zulu clubs or knobkerrie and one assegai or spear were taken from the Battle of Gingindlovu (uMgungundlovu) which was fought on 2 April 1879 between British colonial troops and a Zulu impi of King Cetshwayo. Both clubs have been converted into walking sticks, engraved with the name of the person who took them and the date and site of the battle. Nine objects are linked to the Battle of Ulundi on 4 July 1879, the last major battle of the Anglo-Zulu War, resulting in the defeat of the main Zulu army and the capture and sacking of the royal homestead of oNdini. These objects include domestic items, such as two necklaces, a scent bottle, two headrests, a spoon, and a bread bowl.

One shield in the collection appears to be from Kenya or eastern Africa, possibly Maasai. Unlike the other objects, it does not have recorded provenance.

### Notable donors

William F Elliot (dates unknown)

### Areas for further research

The majority of the African collection, including the domestic items, were taken by Major William F Elliot. Research into his actions during the Anglo-Zulu War may shed further light on the exact provenance of the objects.

Research into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders history in eastern Africa may indicate the likely origin of the undocumented shield that appears to be Maasai.

### Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
<b>Eastern Africa</b>		1	
Eastern Africa unspecified		1	Shield
<b>Southern Africa</b>		14	
South Africa	Gerald L J Goff Alexander C Bruce William F Elliot J Denholm	14	Clubs or knobkerrie, headrests, necklaces of wood and bone, scent bottle, shield, spears, spoon, wooden bread bowl

## Selected object images

Detail of engraved club or knobkerrie, South Africa, 0397



Bread bowl, South Africa, 30/63d.1



Headrest, South Africa, 30/63g.1



Shield, Kenya/ Eastern Africa, 907/87



# Montrose Museum

## ANGUSalive

**Contact**     [collections@angusalive.scot](mailto:collections@angusalive.scot)

### Location of collections

#### ***On display***

Montrose Museum  
Panmure Place  
Montrose  
DD10 8HF

#### ***In storage***

Meffan Museum and Art Gallery  
20 West High Street  
Forfar  
DD8 1BB

#### ***In storage***

The Yard  
Queenswell Road  
Forfar  
DD8 3HZ

### Size of collections

134 African objects  
3 Caribbean objects

### Selected objects

#### ***Africa***

- Leather writing case, Nigeria, M1980.4618
- Brass bowl, Nigeria, M1980.4620
- Comb, Ghana, 575
- Cloth, Madagascar, M1980.4651
- Stool, Cameroon, TN.1057
- *Nkisi* figure, Democratic Republic of the Congo, TN.1992

#### ***Caribbean***

- Clubs, Guyana, A1982.169 + A1982.170

### History of the collection

The Museum, founded by Montrose Natural History and Antiquarian Society, opened in its present building in 1842. One of the first purpose-built museums in Scotland, it tells the story of Montrose and its people. In 1962 the Museum and collection formally passed to the local council and has been managed since 2015 by ANGUSalive, Angus Council's culture, sport and leisure trust.

### Overview of the collection

#### ***Africa***

When this review was conducted in March 2023, less than half of the collection was on the collection management database. This summary is based on the database records available at the time of writing, lists of 'ethnographic' material compiled by former museum staff, and a visual survey of objects in storage. The Museum is currently working on a full audit and in 2023 received funding from Museums Galleries Scotland for a project which will include work to catalogue, research and safely store their 'world cultures' holdings. Object totals in this report were updated to reflect the most recent findings in autumn 2024, but it is likely that much more material and provenance information will be identified as work progresses.

According to the information available at the time of writing, Montrose Museum holds at least 134 objects from Africa, 14% of which are not currently attributed to any country or region. Around 38% of the material is probably from southern Africa, 26% from western Africa, 15% from eastern Africa, 4% from northern Africa, and 3% from central Africa.

Southern African material makes up a large percentage of the collection, and historic records suggest there may in fact be up to 66 objects from the region. Much of this was probably collected as a direct result of colonial-era conflict. For example, two spears (M1980.4702+05) are recorded as being donated by C Bruce in 1889, but taken during the war of 1877, which most likely refers to the so-called ninth Anglo-Xhosa War (1877-1879). Other material includes beadwork, shields and clubs, many of which were donated in the 1870s, 1880s and 1890s. For example, a beadwork necklet and girdle, donated by J Wishart in 1890, and five staffs and knobkerries donated by D Corsar in 1876.

West African material includes a Nigerian ceremonial paddle (M1980.4622), a brass bowl from Bida (M1980.4620), and a Hausa leather writing case (M1980.4618), donated by Lt H Renny of the Niger Constabulary and accessioned in 1897. Objects from Ghana include at least nine Asante 'charms', including one of pangolin skin, with no provenance information available. These are potentially amulets associated with Asante military attire. The collection also contains a comb (575) which historic records suggest was taken at Cape Coast Castle in Ghana by a Mr Salmond, accessioned in 1874.

East African material includes a drum and gunpowder horn from Uganda (dated 1880s) and a stool from Kenya, donated in 1895 by Mr A Alexander of Mombasa; a shield and barkcloth from Uganda, donated in 1892 by J Kyd; a wooden bowl from Uganda, donated in 1893 by J Mackie; and Kikuyu beadwork from Kenya, donated in 1921 by a Dr Philip.

Some of the earliest accessions date to the 1830s. These include a 'dagger' or 'parrying shield' made of antelope horn, recorded as being donated by a T Webster in 1839 (M1980.4916). Other early accessions include raffia cloth from Madagascar, donated in 1844 by a J Bremner of the Royal Navy (M1980.4651). Also of note is a stool recorded as coming from Cameroon (TN.1057) and *Nkisi* figure from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (TN.1992). Both were identified during a visual survey, but no further provenance information is currently available.

### ***Caribbean***

Although the collection database does not record any objects from the Caribbean, a visual survey of storerooms identified three clubs from Guyana (A.1982.341, A.1982.169, A.1982.170). Historic lists of 'ethnographic' material also note a fan from Guyana; a gold earring from Cuba, donated by a Miss M Masson in 1852; and a headdress from the West Indies, donated by a Captain W M Allan before 1867. It was not possible to locate these items during the review.

## **Associated Material**

### ***Africa and the Caribbean***

In the first half of the 18th century, Montrose had a thriving tobacco trade with America which relied on the transatlantic trafficking of enslaved people from the African continent.

Documents in the collection attest to this history. Of note is a contract, signed on 15 July 1751 by Montrose tobacco merchants Thomas Douglas & Co and Thomas Gibson, master of their ship *Potomac*. The contract details an agreement to transport a cargo to the West

Coast of Africa, to sell or barter the cargo, purchase enslaved people with the proceeds, and travel on to the West Indies or America. Records show that the ship sailed to the West Coast of Africa and loaded 260 enslaved people on board, of whom only 197 survived the journey across the Atlantic. The collection also contains an 'African Company' document, dated 8 January 1698 and signed by Charles Ogilvie and Robert Rennald, Provost of Montrose.

The Museum holds hundreds of African coins which have not been included in this review.

Material associated with the Caribbean includes five small-scale dioramas of villages and people from the Essequibo region in Guyana. These are recorded as being donated by a J G Campbell in 1876.

### Areas for further research

Given the age of the Museum and the region's historical links with Africa and the Caribbean, it is likely that the collection holds much more material of note that would benefit from further research. The current auditing process is crucial for future research. For example, historic records include a 'sword walking stick of King Theodorus, Ethiopia', donated by a Captain S Farquar in 1871 (498). If located, this may prove to be a highly significant object related to the British sacking of Maqdala in 1868. Within the timeframe of this project, it has not been possible to research donor biographies which may shed further light on how some of these items were obtained. Researchers may find useful Angus Council archives pertaining to museums, in addition to minute books, director's reports, correspondence and historical catalogues held at Montrose Museum itself. An examination of objects may be beneficial as many still retain their historical museum labels.

### Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
<b>Africa unspecified</b>		19	Terracotta figures, arrowheads, spears, wooden needle, comb, model boat, spindle, dagger
<b>Northern Africa</b>		<b>6</b>	
Northern Africa unspecified		4	Fan
Sudan	Miss Adamson	2	Spears
<b>Eastern Africa</b>		<b>20</b>	
Eastern Africa unspecified		9	Barkcloth, anklets, necklaces
Kenya	Dr Phillips Mr A Alexander	2	Necklace, stool
Madagascar	J Bremner	1	Cloth
Uganda	Mr A Alexander John Kydd	5	Barkcloth, drum, shield
United Republic of Tanzania		1	Necklace

Zimbabwe	Mr A P V Dellanzo	2	Weaponry
<b>Central Africa</b>		<b>4</b>	
Cameroon		1	Stool
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Captain Dorward	3	<i>Nkisi</i> figure, sword, water jug
<b>Southern Africa</b>		<b>50</b>	
Southern Africa unspecified	Mr John Crow J Wishart D Corsar	48	Beadwork, shields, spears, clubs, strainer, necklaces, beaded aprons, cloth
South Africa	C Bruce	2	'Assegai' spears
<b>Western Africa</b>		<b>35</b>	
Mali/ The Gambia/ Senegal/ Guinea		1	Quiver
Ghana	Mr Salmond	13	Asante charms, comb
Nigeria	Lt H Renny	21	Writing case, bag, basket, brass bowl, ceremonial paddles, dagger, drum, kola nut bowl, manilla, sandals, utensils

#### Regions and countries represented: Caribbean

Country	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Culturally affiliated with the Caribbean region (within CARICOM)		
Guyana	3	Clubs

## Selected object images

Leather writing case, Nigeria, M1980.4618



Brass bowl, Nigeria, M1980.4620



Comb, Ghana, 575



Cloth, Madagascar, M1980.4651



Stool, Cameroon, TN.1057



Nkisi figure, Democratic Republic of the Congo, TN.1992



Clubs, Guyana, A1982.169 + A1982.170



# Museums of the University of St Andrews

**Contact**     [museumenquiries@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:museumenquiries@st-andrews.ac.uk)

## Location of collections

Museums Collections Centre  
87 North Street  
St Andrews  
KY16 9AE

## Size of collections

115 African objects  
No known Caribbean objects

## Online Collections

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/collections/>

## Selected objects

- Fertility doll, Zambia, ET4
- Diviner's wand, Zambia, ET8
- Ceremonial axe, Zambia, ET14
- Glass bracelets, Egypt, HC1996-1-3

## History of the collection

The University of St Andrews was Scotland's first university, founded in 1413. The University museums hold around 115,000 objects of national and international importance that reflect several centuries of academic enquiry. The University and the town's Literary and Philosophical Society jointly founded the first official museum in 1838 in College Hall. Material, including non-European objects, was actively collected for around 70 years, forming a collection of natural history, archaeology and 'ethnographic' items. In 1904, full ownership of the collections was transferred to the University. In 1912, these collections moved into the newly built Bell Pettigrew Museum. The collections were subsequently dispersed in the 1960s when the scale of the museum was reduced, with archaeological, 'ethnographic' and other collections transferring to related academic Schools, or to other institutions, including the Royal Museum of Scotland (now National Museums Scotland), Fife Council, and St Andrews Cathedral (now part of Historic Environment Scotland). Oversight of the collections was managed by the academic subject-relevant Schools until the late 1980s, when a centralised museum unit emerged.

## Overview of the collection

The African material (ET:C17) currently looked after by the Museums of the University of St Andrews is mainly from northern Africa (47% of African collection) and eastern Africa (44% of African collection). Despite the long history of the University collections, much of it is relatively modern and dates to the late 20th century.

The northern African collections consist mainly of Moroccan and Sudanese material. The Moroccan material is relatively modern and was donated from 2011 by Dr Hamish Brown. Items are mainly domestic ware such as dishes, bowls, tagines, oil lamps, a butter churn and basin. The Sudanese material includes one sword that possibly dates to the Mahdist War of 1881-1889. Other items of note include a dagger and a scimitar from Sudan, possibly donated by Rev Alexander Allan Milne in the 1930s. Objects from Egypt include glass bracelets (HC1996-1-3) donated in 1912 by Miss Ellen Paterson. An historic object label suggests that these were originally exhibited in a Missionary Loan Exhibition at Dundee YMCA.

The East African collection is possibly the most significant because of the large collection (ET:C27) donated by Professor of Social Anthropology Ladislav Holý (1933-1997). This material dates from between 1961 and 1986 when Holý completed fieldwork in the region. The collection comes mainly from Zambia, although he also donated objects from Kenya, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Sudan. Holý was Director of the Livingstone Museum in Zambia from 1968 to 1972 and was responsible for acquiring national collections. The objects in St Andrews were acquired by Holý, or on his behalf by the missionary Father Corbeille, between the early 1960s and mid-1980s. They include a Bemba snuff box (ET13), a Nkoya finger piano (ET16.1&2), a Gwembe Tonga fertility doll (ET4) and the wand of a Toka diviner (ET8). There is also a ceremonial axe (ET14), reportedly sold to Holý in 1969 by Chief Kasempa's councillors (Kisinga Village). Other material includes an ink pot and quill (ET1), a pipe (ET5), a gourd water vessel (ET9), knives (ET3) and daggers (ET12). Geographical provenance and ethnic group names are recorded in most cases. These include Malilansola village and Kaloma District in Zambia, and groups recorded as Bemba, Berti, Maasai, Toka and Gwembe.

Little provenance information is available for other parts of the collection, but one exception is material from Kenya and Nigeria donated by Rev Alex Ferguson. Cattle bells, wooden spears, an ivory bracelet and hide whip (ET1984(4)) were donated by Ferguson, reportedly a missionary in Calabar during the mid-20th century. His mother collected in Kenya prior to 1910.

### **Human remains**

The University of St Andrews holds skeletal human remains for up to five individuals identified as originating from Africa. One is recorded as West African and four are recorded as Egyptian.

### **Notable donors**

Dr Hamish M Brown (b.1934)  
Rev Alex Ferguson (dates unknown)  
Ladislav Holý (1933-1997)

### **Areas for further research**

It is possible that more provenance information could be located for some objects in the original accession registers and minute books of the Literary and Philosophical Society of St Andrews.

The Zambian collections may be of interest to researchers and connections to collections at the Livingstone Museum may provide insights into an interesting post-independence period in African museum history.

## Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
<b>Northern Africa</b>		<b>55</b>	
Egypt	Miss Ellen Paterson	3	Ceramic crocodile, glass ornaments
Morocco	Dr Hamish Brown	32	Basin, basketry, bottle, brush, butter churn, camel charm, candle holder, children's dress items, comb, glasses, goat and camel hair bag, 'Hand of Fatima', head covering, kettle, mat, model of mill, oil lamp, padlock, pottery dish and bowl, rope, teapot, toothbrush
Sudan	Ladislav Holý	20	Dagger, clothing and footwear, knife, number square or amulet, quill pen, sword, writing board
<b>Eastern Africa</b>		<b>51</b>	
Kenya	Mrs Ferguson Ladislav Holý	3	Bark vessel, club, whip
Uganda	Ladislav Holý	1	Ceremonial axe
Zambia	Ladislav Holý	43	Animal bones, basketry, ceremonial axes, dagger, domestic items, finger piano, horns, pottery and glass sherds, shells, sound chamber for snuff box, stones, witch doctor or diviner's wand, wooden human figures
Zimbabwe	Ian Carradice Ladislav Holý	4	Fertility doll, pipe, wooden drum, wooden mask
<b>Southern Africa</b>		<b>1</b>	
South Africa	Dr Joseph Coplans	1	Bust of Jan Christiaan Smuts
<b>Western Africa</b>		<b>8</b>	
Nigeria	Rev Alex Ferguson Capt Alex Smith	8	Antelope ornament, axe head, three bracelets of beaded leather, crocodile ornament, flamingo ornament, leopard ornament, manilla

## Selected object images

Fertility doll, Zambia, ET4



Diviner's wand, Zambia, ET8



Ceremonial axe, Zambia, ET14



Glass bracelets, Egypt, HC1996-1-3



## OnFife Museums and Galleries

**Contact**      [museums.enquiries@onfife.com](mailto:museums.enquiries@onfife.com)

### Location of collections

Fife Collections Centre  
Bankhead Central  
Bankhead Park  
Glenrothes  
Fife  
KY7 6GH

Laing Museum (currently closed)  
120 High Street  
Newburgh  
KY14 6DX

### Size of collections

187 African objects  
No known Caribbean objects

### Selected objects

- Tabwa chair, Zambia, NEGLM:1981.0011
- Staff, Zambia, NEGLM:1981.0005
- Armllet, southern Africa/Lesotho, CUPMS:1992.0059
- Shield, southern Africa, CUPMS:1984.0279
- Janiform skin-covered mask, Nigeria, KIRMG:1927.0226

### History of the collection

OnFife Museums and Galleries looks after collections that were previously held by three museum services in the region. The organisation is now responsible for over 110,000 objects, across seven museums and the Collections Centre, that pertain to the social and cultural heritage of Fife, including material of local, national and international significance. African material in the collection is predominantly from the former museum services in Kirkcaldy and North-East Fife. The latter includes the Laing Museum, Newburgh, where the Tabwa chair is currently located. The history of the entire collection is complex because it originates from multiple local museums, each founded for different reasons at different times. Further research is required to fully understand these histories. It is known that the Laing Museum was established in 1896 when local banker, Alexander Laing (1808-1892), bequeathed his collection of antiquities to the town. Some collections originate from local societies founded in the late 19th century. For example, the Duncan Institute which was established in 1870 for the workers of Cupar, Dairsie and Kilconquhar parishes. Past inventories for some of the original museums are held at the Collections Centre in Glenrothes, where most of the African material is currently stored.

### Overview of the collection

OnFife Museums and Galleries holds a diverse collection from across the African continent. Southern African material represents the largest percentage at around 40%, followed by eastern Africa at around 11%, central Africa around 10%, northern Africa 9%, western Africa 2%, and 28% is currently unattributed.

The majority of southern African material is beadwork of various forms, in addition to utilitarian items such as snuff containers and spoons. Alexander Laing is believed to be the main donor of this material. There are no records to suggest that Laing ever travelled to Africa and further research is needed to ascertain how material was acquired. Due to their probable age, it is possible that some objects were taken during the South African Wars of 1879-1915. There is evidence that objects donated by James Bonnar (1849-1930) were taken during the so-called 'Gun War' (1880-1881), including an armband (CUPMS:1992.0059) reportedly taken from the body of a soldier from Lesotho who was killed in the Orange River region. An historical object label states that the armband was taken by his brother, John W Bonnar (b.1853), who commanded the 'Abalondolozi regiment of the Amahlengwoni Zulus' from 1880 to 1881. Based on a newspaper article from 1879, it is possible that a South African headrest (CUPMS:1992.0129) and a Zulu shield (CUPMS:1984.0279) were acquired by George Lindsay Bonnar junior (1856-1926) and originally donated to the Duncan Institute.

Some of the most significant material in the collection is from Zambia and was donated by Robert Andrew Young (1867-1932) who worked for the British South Africa Company. Key items include a Tabwa throne or chair (NEGLM:1981.0005), a staff (NEGLM:1981.0011) and bows (NEGLM:1981.0013 and NEGLM:1981.0014). A newspaper article from 1905 reports that Young also donated swords, arrows, 'idols', charms, cups, and water bottles. It is possible that additional objects in the collection could be identified with further research. Museum records state that Dr Allen Roberts (University of California, Los Angeles) has found that this is the largest example out of eight known still to exist, and it is one of the most elaborately decorated. Chairs of this type, thought to have been status objects for high-ranking people, were produced for a short period from around 1850 to 1880 and would have been made by a specialist carver. Young's diary states that it was gifted to him in 1901 by Chief Matipa. The chair stands at 1.5 metres tall and is topped by a male ancestor figure on the backrest. The back of the chair features *balamwezi* triangular patterns decorated with red and white pigmentation that are thought to reference the rising of the new moon and lunar phases. Staff have recently identified a piece of wood that is reportedly from the tree under which Scottish missionary David Livingstone's heart was buried in Zambia (TEMP:2013.0411). An attached label is signed by Robert Andrew Young and bears the stamp of the British South Africa Company.

Other objects of note include a janiform skin-covered mask or headdress from Nigeria. Typically associated with the Ekoi people and part of masquerade culture, this object was donated by a Mr Morton from Kirkcaldy in 1927 (KIRMG:1927.0226). Other noteworthy objects include a wooden 'female figure' (TEMP:2011.0044) that is probably Nigerian (Igbo) and a *Nkisi* or power figure (CUPMS:1992.0200) and staff (CUPMS:1992.0662), both likely from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The staff is described as a 'slavers stick' in a 19th-century museum label. These objects do not have provenance information at the time of writing.

## **Associated material**

### ***Africa***

This review has not included 20th-century coins and archaeology. The collection contains around 24 coins from southern and eastern Africa dating from 1894 to 1976.

## **Caribbean**

Although the collection does not contain any objects that come under the remit of this review, staff did identify two coins from Jamaica dating to 1871, one coin from Cuba dating to 1915, and a cigar box from Havana, Cuba.

## **Notable donors**

James Bonnar (1849-1930)

John W Bonnar (b.1853)

George Lindsay Bonnar junior (1856-1926)

Alexander Laing (1808-1892)

Robert Andrew Young (1867-1932)

## **Areas for further research**

More research is needed to ascertain how the large quantity of material attributed to Alexander Laing was acquired, and this would be particularly beneficial for the southern African collection. It is understood that his father, Peter Laing, emigrated to the Cape of Good Hope sometime after 1816, which may provide an avenue for future research. There are probably more objects donated by James, John, and George Lindsay Bonnar (sometimes spelt Bonar or Boner) than current records confirm, and further research could be conducted into the brothers' military and settler activity in South Africa.

Although the Tabwa chair has received some scholarly attention, there is potential to further research objects, original owners, and makers through the detailed diaries of Robert Andrew Young. Some of these have been transcribed and are currently held by OnFife Museums and Galleries alongside articles and obituaries that outline Young's career. More generally, the diaries record Young's involvement with the paramilitary forces of the British South African Company and his relationships with local people, which could provide insights into the wider colonial structures of extraction that were taking hold in the region at the turn of the 20th century.

Many individual objects in the collection would benefit from further research, including the janiform skin-covered mask donated by Mr Morton in 1927 (KIRMG:1927.0226), 'female figure' (TEMP:2011.0044), the *Nkisi* (CUPMS:1992.0200) and staff (CUPMS:1992.0662), which currently have no provenance information available. Historical museum records may provide starting points in these cases.

## **Regions and countries represented: Africa**

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
<b>Africa unspecified</b>	Alexander Laing	50	Beadwork, domestic utensils, snuff equipment, stone knives and axes, tools, weapons, wooden figures
<b>Northern Africa</b>		<b>16</b>	
Northern Africa unspecified		6	Domestic utensils, footwear, stone tools

Egypt		10	Amulets, coins, clay pot, figures, oil lamp
<b>Eastern Africa</b>		<b>21</b>	
Eastern Africa unspecified	Alexander Laing	5	Personal ornaments
Kenya	Alexander Laing	9	Personal ornaments
Zambia	Robert Andrew Young	7	Chair, staff, weapons, wooden figures
<b>Central Africa</b>		<b>18</b>	
Central Africa unspecified	Alexander Laing	16	Weapons
Democratic Republic of the Congo		2	<i>Nkisi</i> figure, staff
<b>Southern Africa</b>		<b>78</b>	
Southern Africa unspecified	J Bonnar	6	Armour, personal ornaments
Lesotho	J Bonnar	3	Beadwork personal ornaments
South Africa	Alexander Laing Thomas Urquhart	69	Beadwork, clothing, club, domestic utensils, snuff equipment
<b>Western Africa</b>		<b>4</b>	
Western Africa unspecified		2	Local currency, weapons
Nigeria	Mr Morton	2	Janiform skin-covered mask, wooden female figure

**Selected object images**

Chair, Zambia, NEGLM:1981.0005



Staff, Zambia, NEGLM:1981.0011



Armlet, southern Africa/Lesotho, CUPMS:1992.0059



Shield, southern Africa, CUPMS:1984.0279



Janiform skin-covered mask, Nigeria, KIRMG:1927.0226



# Perth Museum

## Culture Perth and Kinross

**Contact**     [museum@culturepk.org.uk](mailto:museum@culturepk.org.uk)

### Location of collections

#### *In storage*

Perth Art Gallery  
78 George Street  
Perth  
PH1 5LB

### Size of collections

334 African objects  
17 Caribbean objects

### Online collections

<http://collectionsearch.pkc.gov.uk/brief.aspx>

### Selected objects

#### ***Africa***

- Gold dust containers *or kudu*, Ghana, 1978.749 + 1978. 750
- Figure or hunting charm, Nigeria/ Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1935.17
- Prayer scroll, Ethiopia, 1979.1606
- Rattle, Republic of the Congo/ Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1978.575
- Horned dish cover, Uganda, K1972.210

#### ***Caribbean***

- Club or *macana*, Guyana, 1978.735
- Beadwork apron, Guyana, 1978.704
- Basketwork pillow, Guyana, 1978.11
- Lacebark whip, Caribbean/ Jamaica, 1004,

### History of the collection

The earliest collections held by Perth Museum were formed by the Perth Literary and Antiquarian Society, which was founded in 1784. In 1824 the Society opened a library and museum building which is one of the UK's oldest purpose-built museums. In 1914, it was gifted to the city of Perth by the Society. It is likely that many African and Caribbean objects date back to this early history of the museum. The earliest recorded accession dates are 1832 for Caribbean material, and 1850 for African material. Over the decades, non-European material from other local museums was incorporated into the collection, for example, from Kinross Museum in the 1970s. During this review the former Perth Museum and Art Gallery completed a major redevelopment project. The new Perth Museum opened in spring 2024 in the former City Hall and displays the story of Perth and Kinross. There is no on-site storage

so collections remain at Perth Art Gallery (the former Museum and Art Gallery) until the new collections store project is reinstated.

## Overview of the collection

### **Africa**

This review is based on current collection management database figures provided by the Museum. These suggest that the Museum currently holds around 334 African objects, although further research and auditing is required.

According to current records, around 33% of the African collection is from southern Africa, around 23% from western Africa, 22% from eastern Africa, 4% from central Africa, and 3% from northern Africa. Around 15% is currently unattributed to a country or region. Nigerian material makes up the largest collection from a single country.

The southern African material includes many beadwork and dress items, in addition to domestic utensils, and weapons such as clubs and spears. Little information is available about this material, but it is likely that some was taken during the South African Wars of the late 1800s. Some objects do have clear provenance, for example, a spear recorded as being taken from the 'Battle of Isandlwana' of 1879. The collection also contains a walking stick recorded as belonging to Field Cornet Du Voits and used during the South African War (1899-1902).

The western African collection contains notable material from Ghana, including two *Kuduo* or gold dust containers (1978.749 + 1978.750) that probably date to the first half of the 19th century. They were donated by John Ross, but no further information is available. The collection also contains one small ivory bead that is recorded as being taken from the body of a 'Chief' killed during the British sacking of Kumasi in 1874, donated by a Mr Lindsay. Material from Nigeria includes a collection of arrows that are recorded as being taken from 'Katsina Palace, Hadeiga Expedition', donated by a Mr McKinlay. There are also embroidered linen mats from Arochukwu, East Nigeria, associated with Scottish missionary Mary Slessor (1848-1915). The mats were made by local women, and the patterns are reportedly based on traditional body markings. One object that requires further research is a figurative wooden charm (1935.17) covered with beads and animal skins that is recorded as being taken from a shrine in Akwa Akpa, Southern Nigeria, in 1894. However, the style suggests that it could be a hunting charm originally made in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Other objects of note include an Ethiopian Ge'ez prayer scroll (1979.1606) that may have been taken during the British siege of Maqdala in 1868. Text written on the outside of the scroll reads 'Scroll. Abyssinian. Taken from King Theodios House.' The register entry records the donor as Captain Dewhurst of Thurso (no date). The collection also contains two items from the Republic of the Congo or the Democratic Republic of the Congo that would benefit from further research. These are a staff and Yombe initiation rattle (1978.575), bought at Murie House sale in 1920. This sale probably dispersed the collections of John Broun Morrison who owned Murie in the late 19th century. Items transferred from Kinross Museum include a small collection recorded as Ugandan, donated by Major G L Thomson (no date). Objects include conical and horned dish or gourd covers made of woven grass (K1972.210).

## Caribbean

Around two-thirds of known Caribbean material at Perth Museum is from Guyana. Objects include a beadwork 'apron' accessioned in 1832, three wooden clubs or *macana*, and various basketwork including pouches, pillows and a rattle. This review has identified two lacebark whips, one of which was donated in 1855 by Lt G F Stewart. Stewart is recorded in the register as a member of the 36th regiment. These are currently listed as African but were most likely made and collected in the Caribbean or Jamaica specifically. The collection also contains stone axe heads, a conch shell chisel recorded as coming from the Virgin Islands, and a piece of barkcloth from Belize. It is possible that more Caribbean material would be identified by a comprehensive visual survey.

## Associated material

Staff recently identified fetters that museum records suggest came from a ship named 'Negrinha' (probably Portuguese) used for trafficking enslaved people, captured off Grenada by 'HMS Vestal' on 20 September 1836. They were given to the Perth Literary and Antiquarian Society in 1837 by Dr Maclaren, a Royal Navy surgeon.

## Areas for further research

The African and Caribbean collections at Perth Museum remain understudied and would both benefit from further research. Records of the Perth Literary and Antiquarian Society, historical registers and cards for the Perth collections, and documents from transferred collections, provide important opportunities for archival research that may uncover more information.

Much material is likely undocumented and within the timeframe of this review it has not been possible to research the biographies of donors. Future work on this may help identify the geographic provenance of some material.

Because it makes up the largest percentage of the African collection and very little is known about it, the southern African material would benefit from further research. From the Caribbean, Guyanese material, particularly the beadwork apron, warrants further investigation due to its early accession date.

## Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
<b>Africa unspecified</b>	Thomson	<b>49</b>	Apron, arrow, bag, bangle, baton, bracelet, cloth, comb, headrest, ivory, key, knife, ladle, manicure set, mousetrap, necklace, pipe, razor, shield, spear, spearhead, spoon, staff, stick, stilleto, whip, wooden waistband
<b>Northern Africa</b>		<b>9</b>	
Northern Africa unspecified		3	Jug

Egypt		1	Camel stick
Sudan	Melville-Grey	5	Shield, spear, staff
<b>Eastern Africa</b>		<b>74</b>	
Eastern Africa unspecified	McLean Shanks Douglas McCoudach	34	Arrowhead, figure, flywhisk, headdress, necklace, shield, spear, spearhead, spoons, staff, strainer, walking stick
Ethiopia	Captain Dewhurst	1	Prayer scroll
Malawi	Alexander	4	Bead necklace, beadwork apron, carved elephants' tusks, wooden figure
Mozambique		1	Fan holder
Somalia		5	Ivory comb, pair of shoes, water bottle, wooden spoon, woven bracelet
Uganda	G L Thomson Major McKeith	9	Arrows, dish cover, ivory anklets, lyre, pair of shoes, spear
United Republic of Tanzania		1	Spear
Zambia	Fairweather	3	Walking stick, whip
Zimbabwe	Fairweather	16	Axe, basket, bottle, flywhisk, headrest, pipe, pipebowl, spear, spoon, vessel
<b>Central Africa</b>		<b>14</b>	
Central Africa unspecified	Melville-Grey	4	Arrow, dagger, spear
Angola	Fairweather	3	Axes
Republic of the Congo and Democratic Republic of the Congo	Fenwick Moody-Stuart Melville Gray	7	Dish, figure, gong, knife, rattle, staff
<b>Southern Africa</b>		<b>110</b>	
Southern Africa unspecified	Rutherford Lamb Shanks Cameron Douglas Howie Fleming Duncan MacGregor McCoudach Buchanan Whyte Howie	105	Anklet, apron, armlet, bangle, belt, bottle, bracelet, club, collar, cup and saucer, cup, girdle, hat, necklace, necklet, ornament, pendant, pouch, sash, shield, signal horn, skimmer, snuff bottle, spear, spoon, staff, stool, walking stick
South Africa	Miss Glass	5	Cloaks, costume, skirt

<b>Western Africa</b>		<b>78</b>	
Western Africa unspecified	Miss E A Mitchell	8	Bag, bow, cloth, mask, spear, whip
Benin	Mitchell	5	Brass figure, cotton cloth
Ghana	Ross	3	Brass vessel, ivory bead
Nigeria	Rankin Jacobson Howie Stephen Christie Paterson Cummings McKinlay	60	Arrow, bag, bead, beater, bottle, bowl, box, bracelet, cap, case, cloths, collar, currency, cushion covers, dagger, fan, figure, gong, mask, mat, pouch, powder horn, raft, ring robe, spool, spoon, staff, sword and sheath, thorn carving, tray, vessel, zither
Senegal	Moustapha Mrs Hymers	2	Mask, thumb piano

### Regions and countries represented: Caribbean

Country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Jamaica	Lt G F Stewart	2	Lacebark whip
Virgin Islands	Roy	4	Axe heads, chisel, conch shell
Culturally affiliated with the Caribbean region (within CARICOM)			
Belize	MacTavish	1	Barkcloth
Guyana	Macpherson	10	Beaded apron, clubs, pillows, pouch, rattle

### Published Information

Idiens, Dale (1983). *Catalogue of the Ethnographic Collection: Oceania, America, Africa*. Perth: Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

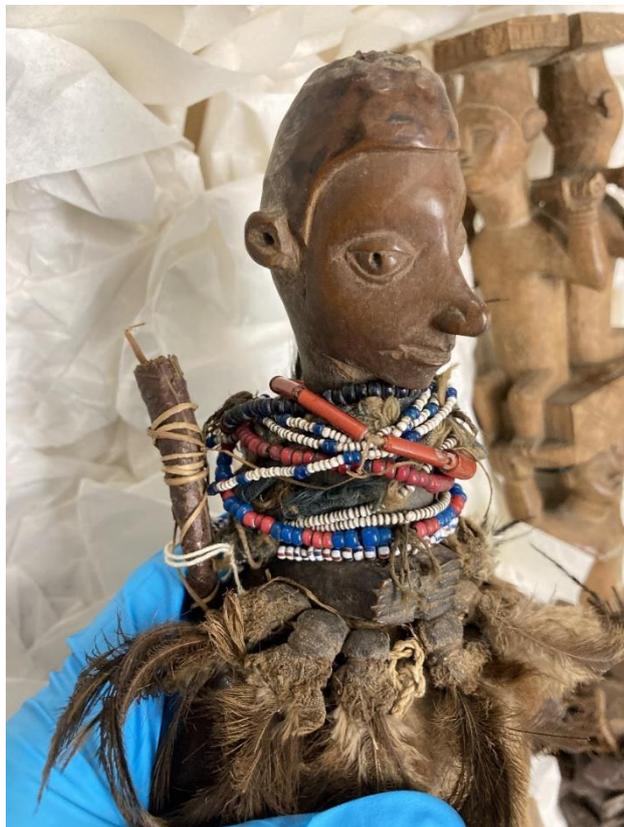
Idiens, Dale (1991). African Collections in Edinburgh and Perth. *Journal of Museum Ethnography* No 3: 31-41.

## Selected object images

Gold dust containers or *kuduo*, Ghana, 1978.749 + 1978. 750



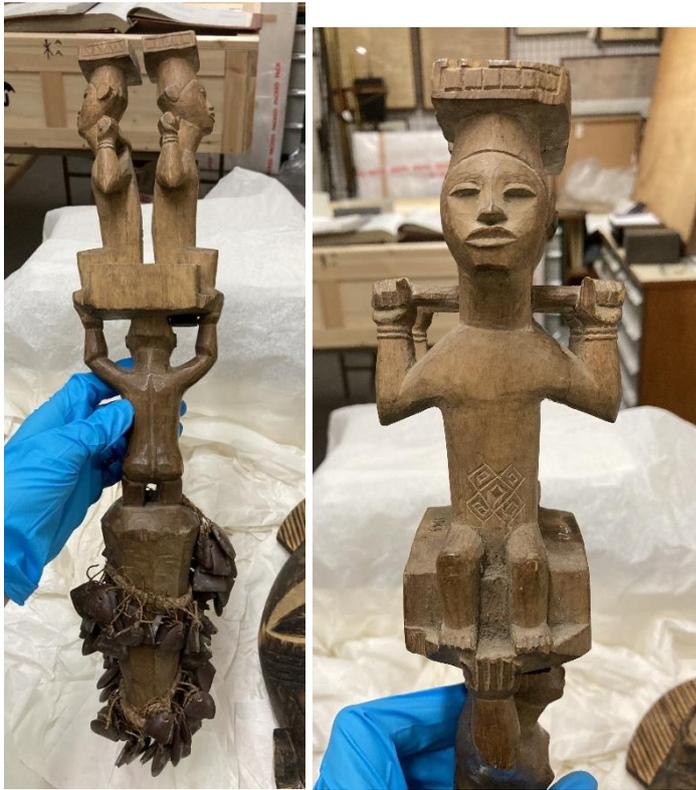
Figure or hunting charm, Nigeria/ Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1935.17



Detail of prayer scroll, Ethiopia, 1979.1606



Rattle, Republic of the Congo/ Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1978.575



Horned dish cover, Uganda, K1972.210



Club or *macana*, Guyana, 1978.735



Beadwork apron, Guyana, 1978.704



Basketwork pillow, Guyana, 1978.11



Lacebark whip, Caribbean/Jamaica, 1004



# Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum

**Contact**      [collections@thesmith.scot](mailto:collections@thesmith.scot)

## Location of collections

Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum  
40 Albert Place  
Dumbarton Road  
Stirling  
FK8 2RQ

## Size of collections

610 African objects  
40 Caribbean objects

## Selected objects

### ***Africa***

- Chair or *Kiti cha enzi*, Zanzibar/Tanzania, 03969
- Stool, Ghana, 17294
- Ivory armband, South Africa, 17300
- Staff with figure, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 06113

### ***Caribbean***

- Sailor's Valentine, Barbados, 04934
- Lacebark whip, Jamaica, 04487.003
- Rattle/ pipe with feathers, Guyana, 17217
- Necklace of capybara teeth and bird skin, Guyana, 17235

## History of the collection

The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, formerly The Smith Institute, was founded in 1874. Funded by a bequest from artist Thomas Stuart Smith (1815-1869), it was originally a gallery of contemporary art, with a museum and library reading room for local residents. Objects from Africa and the Caribbean were donated during the early years of the Museum and in many cases reflect the activity of Stirling residents and families across the British Empire, including traders, missionaries and soldiers.

## Overview of the collection

### ***Africa***

Around 57% of the African collection is made up of material from southern Africa; 10% is from northern Africa; 9% eastern Africa; 9% central Africa; 6% western Africa; and around 9% is currently unattributed to a region or country. Records suggest that the majority of African objects entered the Museum between 1880 and 1950. Many were probably acquired in the late 1800s and donated later as a bequest. Regular accessions continued until the 1980s.

Southern African material makes up the majority of the collection. Around 50% of this material was donated in 1933 by Major General Donald Charles Frederick MacIntyre (1859-1938) and was reportedly taken during the South African War of 1899-1902. Staff believe that some of these objects may have belonged to General Joseph Oates Travers (1867-1936) who served in South Africa, and who had family in Bridge of Allan. This collection is predominantly made up of arrows and spears, but also includes an axe, bows, quivers, clubs, a knife, beadwork, domestic utensils, baskets, bags, and a headrest. MacIntyre donated a total of 225 objects, the largest donation from one person in the African collection. One of the earliest acquisitions is an ivory armband that, according to records, belonged to 'Kreli', who led the Xhosa against the British Empire in the so-called ninth Anglo-Xhosa War of 1877-1878. This may refer to Sarili kaHintsisa (c.1810-1892), the King of the Xhosa nation from 1835 to 1892. The armband was donated by a J Ormiston in 1881.

The western African collections include teeth-cleaning sticks and a raffia fan from Nigeria that are reportedly associated with a Dr Thompson, the first missionary sent from Alloa West United Presbyterian Church to Calabar. The Nigerian collection also includes three ceremonial canoe paddles. One of the most notable items from western Africa is an Asante stool from Ghana, loaned to the Stirling Smith by Major Johnston in 1886. Due to the date and apparent military connection of the donor, this object is potentially connected to the so-called Anglo-Ashanti wars of the 1870s.

The northern African collection is predominantly made up of 44 items donated in 1928 by Colonel C M Drew of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Much of this material is recorded as being taken during the so-called Anglo-Egyptian conquest of Sudan in 1896-1899, and includes spears, arrows, and clubs.

Central African material includes around 43 items from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including bows and arrows, ceremonial knives, flywhisks and a staff topped with a wooden figure. Donated by Miss H E Carson in 1949, records suggest that these were collected by the donor's uncle, Mr Alex Carson, a missionary in the Lake Tanganyika area from 1886 to 1896.

The eastern African collection is mostly from Zimbabwe, and includes axes, spears, headrests, a snuff container, and *sansa* or thumb piano. Donors include a Miss E W Graham, who reported that the objects had been collected by her brother before he was killed in the 'Ndebele uprising' of the late 1890s. The eastern African collection also includes an elaborate chair or *kiti cha enzi* from Zanzibar that was donated by Agnes Marion Christian Kidston (1872-1950) before 1928.

### **Caribbean**

The Caribbean collections held by the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum were acquired between the 1880s and 1930s. A total of 55% of the Caribbean collection is attributed to Jamaica, 20% is attributed to Guyana, 15% to the West Indies, and 10% to Barbados.

The Jamaican material includes necklaces made from seeds and 'beetle eggs', hats made of coir, a cowbell, basket, palmetto palm brushes, a lacebark whip, and 'charms' made of beans. According to museum records, most were produced before 1932 and donated in 1936 by Mrs Elizabeth E F Dall. Her donation also included necklaces, a bracelet, a pin cushion and a trinket box from the West Indies.

Material from Guyana includes a basketwork sieve or *zebucan*, probably for preparing cassava; a necklace made of capybara teeth and a bird skin; and a 'rattle' or pipe. These were donated by a John Virtue (1844-1896) and were accessioned in 1882. They are recorded as coming from the Demerara region and were potentially made by indigenous groups of people living inland. Virtue was a resident of Demerara and his wife, Maggie Pollock, was from Stirling.

The Caribbean collection also contains archaeological material, namely two conch shell chisels and an adze head from Barbados. These were donated by Colonel John Stirling Stirling of Gargunock (1832-1900). His father, Charles Stirling of Gargunock, appears in British parliamentary papers as a claimant for estates in Jamaica following the abolition of slavery. One of the conch shells has an inscription that reads 'St Michail's Barbados 1868'.

The object in the Caribbean collection that has received most research to date is a Sailor's Valentine. It is an octagonal, glass-fronted, hinged wooden box inlaid with intricate and symmetrical designs of seashells. It is understood that these objects were made by women in Barbados in the mid-1800s and sold to sailors as souvenirs.

### **Notable donors**

Major General Donald Charles Frederick MacIntyre (1859-1938)

Colonel John Stirling Stirling of Gargunock (1832-1900)

John Virtue (1844-1896)

### **Areas for further research**

#### ***Africa***

A large percentage of the African collection is recorded as being taken during colonial wars, and many of the donors appear to have military connections. More research could be conducted into the events and individuals associated with these objects, particularly the southern African and Sudanese weaponry, the Asante stool, and the armlet recorded as belonging to 'Kreli'/ Sarili kaHintsia.

Additional documentation for objects with named donors may be located. Little is known about J Wright and how he acquired 38 items from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, and East Africa, probably before 1886. Likewise, very little is known about Miss H E Carson's uncle, Alex Carson, who was reportedly a missionary in the Lake Tanganyika area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Agnes Marion Christian Kidston, the donor of the chair from Zanzibar, was married to Scottish botanist and palaeobotanist Robert Kidston (1852-1924). To date, neither have any known connections to Eastern Africa. More generally, the large southern African collection deserves further attention, including the examples of beadwork.

#### ***Caribbean***

The whole Caribbean collection would benefit from further research. Little is currently known about named donors or how the objects were acquired. Of particular note is the early material from Guyana and archaeological material from Barbados, due to the donors' known connections to Demerara and Jamaica. Researching these objects could shed further light on Scottish involvement in the Caribbean's plantation economy and exploitation of enslaved people.

## Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major Sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
<b>Africa unspecified</b>	Mr J Wright. Miss Hunter. Maj Gen D C F MacIntyre.	<b>60</b>	Domestic utensils, flywhisks, personal ornaments, weapons
<b>Northern Africa</b>		<b>61</b>	
Northern Africa unspecified	J Johnston	5	Domestic utensils, personal ornaments, textiles, weapons
Egypt	Shearer M Smith A Marshall	4	Baskets, corn doll, leg irons
Morocco	E E F Dall	6	Clothing, mirror, weapons
Sudan	Col C M Drew. Maj Gen D C F MacIntyre.	46	Charms, flywhisk, headrest, weapons
<b>Eastern Africa</b>		<b>52</b>	
Eastern Africa unspecified	Mr J Wright	8	Arrows
Kenya	Miss A B McJannet Lt J Laing R Anstruther	6	Armour, domestic utensils, tourist souvenir, weapons
Malawi	H Sanderson M Bain	6	Beadwork clothing, tobacco pipe
Mozambique	Maj Gen D C F MacIntyre	1	Headrest
Uganda	A MacLean	5	Arrows and quiver
United Republic of Tanzania/Zanzibar	A M C Kidston	2	Chair or <i>kiti cha enzi</i> , bracelet
Zambia	Rev J McNeil H L Moodie	2	Axe, <i>sansa</i>
Zimbabwe	J Wright Capt A W Simpson E W Graham	22	Domestic utensils, headrest, <i>sansa</i> , snuff container, weapons, wooden animal figures
<b>Central Africa</b>		<b>53</b>	
Cameroon	S Moore	1	Basket
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Miss H E Carson. E M Dewar. Maj Gen D C F MacIntyre.	52	Ceremonial and utilitarian weapons, currency, domestic utensils, personal ornaments, staff, textiles
<b>Southern Africa</b>		<b>346</b>	
Southern Africa unspecified	Mr J Wright	2	Axe, digging stick weight
Botswana	E W Graham	1	Axe

Lesotho	Capt G Kilgour. Maj Gen D C F MacIntyre. E W Graham.	3	Axes
South Africa	Maj Gen D C F MacIntyre. H L Moodie. Capt G Kilgour. Mr J Wright. H Stevenson Ferguson. J Stuart. Capt A W Simpson. J Ormiston.	340	Bags, basketwork, beadwork, clothing, clubs, domestic utensils, flywhisks, personal ornaments, snuff containers, weapons
<b>Western Africa</b>		<b>38</b>	
Western Africa unspecified	J Wright. J Johnston. Ruby Henderson Oulton.	10	Clothing, currency, flywhisk, personal ornaments, powder horn, whip
Ghana	Maj C Johnston	1	Stool
Nigeria	J Wright E E F Dall J B Messer A Douglas Mr R Oulton S Moore J Dickson	27	Book, basketry, clothing, domestic utensils, footwear, paddles, <i>sansa</i>

### Regions and countries represented: Caribbean

Country	Major Sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
Barbados	Col J S Stirling Miss H L Moodie	4	Adzehead, conch shell chisels, 'sailor's valentine'
Jamaica	Mrs Elizabeth E F Dall  Mr J Wright  Miss H L Moodie	22	Basketry, brushes, 'charms', cigarette papers, cowbell, hats, lacebark whips, ornaments, rattle/beater, tooth powder and sticks
West Indies unspecified	Mrs Elizabeth E F Dall	6	Bottle, bracelet, pin cushion, trinket box, necklaces
Culturally affiliated with the Caribbean region (within CARICOM)			
Guyana	A Sawers J Virtue	8	Arrowhead cotton for blow gun, darts, necklaces, sieve or <i>zebucan</i> , rattle/ pipe

## Selected object images

Chair or *Kiti cha enzi*, Zanzibar/Tanzania, 03969



Stool, Ghana, 17294



Ivory armband, South Africa, 17300



Detail of staff with figure, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 06113



Sailor's Valentine, Barbados, 04934



Lacebark whip, Jamaica, 04487.003



Rattle/ pipe with feathers, Guyana, 17217



Necklace of capybara teeth and bird skin, Guyana, 17235



# The Black Watch Museum

## The Black Watch Regimental Trust

**Contact**     [curator@theblackwatch.co.uk](mailto:curator@theblackwatch.co.uk)

### Location of Collections

Balhousie Castle  
Hay Street  
Perth  
PH1 5HR

### Size of collections

37 African objects  
No known Caribbean objects

### Selected objects

- Basket, Sudan, A679.1
- 'Shawl', Sudan, A679.2
- Tunic or *jibba*, Sudan, 2020.75.1
- Two swords, Sudan, 2020.75.2.2 + 2020.75.2.1
- Drum, Nigeria, A2059.12
- Staff, Nigeria, A2059.7

### History of the collection

The Black Watch Museum is the regimental museum of The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) regiment of the British Army. It's collection of African material was taken by members of the regiment during military campaigns across the continent from the 1880s to the 1950s. Objects were sometimes kept in the officers' mess or in private collections that were later donated. The collection was not formalised until 1938, when the first accessions were recorded. The museum collection moved to the current site at Balhousie Castle in the early 1960s. A major redevelopment project began in May 2012 and the redeveloped The Black Watch Castle and Museum opened in June 2013.

### Overview of the collection

The African collection is predominantly made up of objects removed as spoils or souvenirs of war. Most of the collection can be traced to specific military events and was donated by members or associates of the regiment. Nearly half of the African material is northern African of Sudanese and Egyptian origin, with smaller numbers of objects from Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Mauritius and Ethiopia.

The Sudanese and Egyptian material was taken between 1882 and 1898 and is mostly documented as being taken during the so-called Anglo-Egyptian War (1882), Anglo-Egyptian conquest of Sudan (1886-1899), and Mahdist War (1881-1899). In many cases, there are records of how, when, and where objects were taken. For example, one sword is recorded as being 'captured' from the tent of Egyptian Commander Colonel Ahmed 'Urabi by Captain George Malcolm Fox following the Battle of Tel-EI-Kebir (13 September 1882) during the

Anglo-Egyptian War. Four spears are described as being 'taken' by Captain A Scott-Stevenson following the Battle of Tamai (13 March 1884) and the Battle of Kirbekan (10 February 1885). The collection also includes a Sudanese flag and pole 'presented' by Brigadier General Hector Archibald MacDonald following the Battle of Omdurman, 2 September 1898, during the Anglo-Egyptian conquest of Sudan. Two of the most significant objects are a basket (A679.1) and 'shawl' (A679.2), recorded as being 'captured' from Osman Diqna's tent by Captain Alfred Campbell Bald (c.1861-1905), after the Battle of Tamai during the Mahdist War. Diqna was reportedly the Mahdī's leading amīr or general in the Red Sea Hills region of eastern Sudan. In 2020, the Museum acquired a tunic or *jibba* (2020.75.1) and two swords (2020.75.2.2 + 2020.75.2.1) that reportedly belonged to a Sudanese amīr, brought to the UK by General John Grenfell Maxwell (1859-1929) in the late 1800s and probably taken following the battles of Atbara or Omdurman (1898). Maxwell is notorious for his controversial handling of the 1916 Easter Rising in Ireland, but prior to this was posted in Egypt, Sudan, and South Africa.

The collection contains eight objects from Nigeria, including two drums (A2059.12), a staff (A2059.7), an engraved horn, a whip, two spears, and a bundle of objects described as 'joss sticks'. These are recorded as being 'brought back' and 'taken' from Katsina in 1909 by Captain Duncan Campbell (1880-1915). As Lieutenant in the West African Frontier Force from 1905 to 1910, records suggest Campbell was based in Northern Nigeria and took part in the 'Kano Campaign' and/or 'Hadejia Campaign' of 1906.

The Black Watch Museum also holds at least five objects from Kenya, including two spears, a quiver with 15 arrows, a simi knife, and a knobkerrie. These are recorded as being 'found' or 'picked up' in Kenya and almost certainly date to The Black Watch involvement in suppressing the Mau Mau, 1953-1954. Exact provenance is limited, one spear is recorded as 'found in Muranga', the quiver and arrows 'from the Mau Mau Kenya', and the knobkerrie 'picked up by D Skea in Kenya'.

Other material includes beadwork from South Africa, and tortoiseshell containers from Mauritius.

### **Associated material**

The Museum also contains relevant archival material, such as photograph albums of troops and battlefields and soldiers' diaries. These include a photograph album, *Egypt & The Sudan 1882*, and the diaries of Captain Duncan Campbell who was based in Northern Nigeria in the early 1900s.

### **Areas for further research**

The 1986 *Museum Ethnographers' Group Survey* noted that the collection contained Ghanaian material in the 'Ashantee Turret Room', including West African weapons, drums, and a scrapbook of the 'Ashantee campaign 1873-1874'. These were not identified during this review but may be located with further research.

Very little is known about the eight Nigerian objects donated by Captain Duncan Campbell. Further research into the objects themselves could be conducted in addition to research into his diaries, which are held in the museum archives. Campbell was based in northern Nigeria around 1906 and it's possible he refers to objects in his diary entries.

The *jibba* and two swords that reportedly belonged to a Sudanese amīr and were brought to the UK by General John Maxwell deserve further research. Although Maxwell's response to

the 1916 Easter Rising has received critical attention, his actions in Egypt and Sudan have not received the same level of scrutiny.

### Notable donors

Captain Alfred Campbell Bald DSO (c.1861-1905)

Captain Duncan Campbell (1880-1915)

General John Grenfell Maxwell (1859-1929)

### Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
<b>Northern Africa</b>		<b>18</b>	
Egypt	Capt George Malcolm Fox	1	Sword
Sudan	Capt Alfred Campbell Bald. Brig Gen Hector Archibald MacDonald. Gen John Maxwell. Capt A Scott-Stevenson.	17	Basket, crocodile skin shield, daggers, drums, flag, <i>jibba</i> , leather bag, rifle, 'shawl', spears, swords, water bottles
<b>Eastern Africa</b>		<b>8</b>	
Ethiopia		1	Silver filigree basket
Kenya	D Skea	5	Knobkerrie, quiver and arrows, simi knife, spears
Mauritius		2	Tortoiseshell containers
<b>Southern Africa</b>		<b>3</b>	
South Africa		3	Beads, flywhisk
<b>Western Africa</b>		<b>8</b>	
Nigeria	Capt Duncan Campbell	8	Two drums, engraved horn, 'joss sticks', spears, staff, 'whip'

### Published Information

Some objects were included in the 2017-2021 AHRC-funded research project *Baggage and Belonging: Military Collections and the British Empire, 1750 -1900, Project Catalogues*:

<https://nms-supercool.files.svdcdn.com/production/Documents/Research/Baggage-and-Belonging-Catalogues/black-watch-museum.pdf?dm=1720792606>

## Selected object images

Basket, Sudan, A679.1



'Shawl', Sudan, A679.2



Tunic or *jibba*, Sudan, 2020.75.1



Two swords, Sudan, 2020.75.2.2 + 2020.75.2.1



Drum, Nigeria, A2059.12



Detail of staff, Nigeria, A2059.7



# The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum Leisure and Culture Dundee

**Contact**     [themcmanus@leisureandculturedundee.com](mailto:themcmanus@leisureandculturedundee.com)

## Location of collections

Albert Square Meadowside Dundee DD1 1DA	Broughty Castle Museum Castle Approach Dundee DD5 2TF	The Collections Unit Barrack Street Dundee DD1 1PG <i>By appointment only</i>
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## Size of collections

1,131 African objects  
11 Caribbean objects

## Online collections

<https://www.mcmanus.co.uk/collections>

## Selected objects

### ***Africa***

- Crocodile head plaque, Nigeria, 1913-137-112
- Pendant plaque, Nigeria, 1913-137-106-2
- Penannular copper anklet, Nigeria, 9999-1135
- Skin-covered dance headdress, Nigeria, 1913-137-153-1=3
- Stool covered in studwork, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1893-14
- Raffia belt, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1983-270-2
- Prayer scroll, Ethiopia, 9999-1172

### ***Caribbean***

- Lacebark whip, West Indies, 1915-239
- Pipe, West Indies, 1935-64
- Spindle, Guyana, 1936-206-1

## History of the collection

The origin of the current museum and collection lies in the establishment of the Watt Institute in 1824, which gradually built up a library and collection of objects, before closing in the mid-1800s. The collections were taken over by the Town Council in 1869 and a purpose-built museum opened in 1872. The first museum inventory was started in 1874. It is likely that non-European material was part of the original collections. Significant loans of African material are known to have been added to displays in 1898 and 1902. In the early 1950s, work began on displays dedicated to Scottish missionary Mary Slessor (1848-1915). Today, the majority of African material is displayed in the 'Dundee and the World' gallery, which

focuses on the City's international collections and highlights Dundee's long involvement in overseas trade.

## Overview of the collection

### **Africa**

Just under 45% of the African collection is from western Africa, 18% from eastern Africa, 13% from central Africa, 11% from southern Africa, 3% from northern Africa and around 10% is not currently attributed to a region or country.

The McManus has particularly strong Nigerian holdings which represent around 34% of the entire African collection. Much of this was acquired from medical missionary Dr Peter Rattray (d.1932), who is notable for donating the single largest collection of African material held by the Museum. Objects from Rattray include two cast metal items recorded as being 'taken from the ruins of the King's palace Benin City'. These are a pendant plaque in the form of three figures, probably a Royal figure flanked by two attendants, and a crocodile head plaque. Both have a ceremonial *eben* sword engraved on the underside. The collection also contains a cast metal figure, thought to be a warrior, broken off at the knees, which may have been part of a tableau of figures to be placed on an altar. The exact provenance for this item is not recorded. Although Rattray was not involved directly in the so-called punitive expedition of 1897, he was posted to Nigeria in 1898, and it is plausible that he took objects himself from the ruins of Benin City. Other objects donated by Rattray and attributed to Benin City include carved ivory combs, lacework and a charm purse. Other noteworthy Nigerian objects include bifurcated knives, a leopard skin knife sheath, skin-covered dance headdresses, an Ibo ceremonial kola nut dish, and an Efik decorated wall box.

Much of the Nigerian material is notable because of its association with Mary Slessor, a well-known Scottish missionary. Slessor spent her life as a missionary in the Calabar region and many others followed in her footsteps. The Calabar mission was originally founded in 1846 by Rev Hope Waddell. Slessor arrived in 1876. The collections associated with Slessor were mainly donated by former missionaries who had worked alongside her, or colonial officials working in the same region. Some objects of note from these individuals include large bronze anklets donated by Agnes Siddons Arnot (1911-1948), an elaborate axe in the form of a human head donated by Alice Louise Beveridge, and a ceremonial paddle donated by Sir John Middleton (1870-1954). The collection also contains examples of body painting designs produced by local women in the Mary Slessor Home, Calabar. The missionary schools discouraged women from painting their bodies and instead instructed them to use the designs as inspiration for embroideries. The collection contains examples of designs painted onto a paper template in the shape of a woman's back and cloths embroidered with the same patterns.

The broader west African collection contains examples of spiritual and ceremonial items, including *Bhundu* masks and *Minsereh* figures from Sierra Leone (donated 1912) and an Ekpe raffia masquerade costume from Nigeria.

The second largest collection from any single country comes from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The three primary donors of this material are Peter Whytock, Hermann Wallbaum, and a Mrs Lamont, with material accessioned between 1893 and 1916. Whytock and Wallbaum were associated with the Congo-Balolo Mission located in Pool Malebo (formerly Stanley Pool). The material is mostly recorded as originating from the 'Upper Congo' and Kasai regions. More research is required into the potential circumstances

surrounding acquisition. Objects of note include a stool covered in studwork (accessioned in 1893), a cup carved in the form of a female head (accessioned in 1916), raffia belts with large pompoms (accessioned in 1911), and a ceremonial axe with intricately decorated blade.

Other objects of note include an Ethiopian prayer scroll that is recorded as coming from the Palace of Emperor Tewodros II during the British siege of Maqdala in 1868. A collection of throwing spears donated by J C Edwards are reportedly from the battle of Omdurman, Sudan (1898). Objects taken during the so-called Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 by Lt Lindsay include a club, spear, shield, and loin cloth from the battlefield of Ginginhlovu. The McManus also holds a very large collection of pipes that were donated by collector Mr J G Henderson in 1935. The collection includes examples from across the African continent that were bought from London dealer William Ockleford Oldman. Correspondence regarding these purchases is held in the museum archives.

### ***Caribbean***

The Caribbean material includes three items from Guyana donated by Colonel Tyrie in 1936: a cotton and bead armlet, a rabbit tooth necklace, and spindle of cotton. A further eight items are attributed to the West Indies, including lacebark whips donated by J Murray in 1915, axe heads, coconut carvings, beaded necklaces, and one pipe from the collection of Mr J G Henderson.

### **Associated material**

The McManus holds a large collection of around 430 objects that were either owned by, or are associated with, Mary Slessor. This review has only included items that were made in Africa, such as spears, paddles, and bracelets. The wider collection contains material such as lantern slides, photographs, letters, spectacles, a watch, a compass, books, bibles, lesson plans, Scottish bank notes, medals, music sheets, and postcards. Key pieces of associated material are on loan from the Church of Scotland.

### **Notable donors**

Sir John Middleton (1870-1954)

Dr Peter Rattray (d.1932)

Agnes Siddons Arnot (1911-1948)

### **Areas for further research**

The Museum published a catalogue of its non-European holdings in 1994 which provides a good starting point for exploring the collection and identifying research leads. In many cases donors are named but little more is known about them, and further research may provide information about the circumstances surrounding the acquisition of objects. The large Nigerian collections have received some attention to date, but the central, southern and eastern African collections would benefit from further investigation. Likewise, very little is known about the Caribbean collection and investigation of the named donors may prove a helpful starting point to better understand the material.

## Regions and countries represented: Africa

Region/country	Major sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
<b>Africa unspecified</b>	Angus District Council. Janet Brown. Robert Butter Esq. Mrs C Duff. Mrs Hay. J G Henderson. W Anne Henderson. C W B Hoy. Mr A H Macdonald. Mrs Alice Mair. Meffan Institute. Sir John Middleton. Miss J Noble. Mr A Ogilvie. Dr Peter Rattray. Mr Reid Robertson, (ex-Lord Dean of Guild). Mrs M Robertson. Miss Scott. D Smart. Albert Stanley Smith Esq. Mr W T Smith. Mr A Sommerville.	<b>117</b>	Armlet, animal figure, arrowhead, basket, bead, bell, bottle, bow, bowl, bow-stave, box bracelet, cap, cloth, raffia comb, cowrie shells, darts for blowpipe, drum, earring, flywhisk, girdle belt, gourd hairpin, head ring, knife, lamp, manillas, mask, model, napkin rings, necklace, packets of seeds, pipe bowl, potholder, pottery vessel, purse, quiver, razor, shawl, shield, skirt, spear, spindle whorl, spoon, table mat, coil of tobacco, wagon, walking stick
<b>Northern Africa</b>		<b>33</b>	
Northern Africa unspecified	Mr Ian Campbell F Rough Miss Scott Mr W T Smith	5	Dagger and sheath, knife, pair of earrings, razor, spike fiddle
Algeria	Mrs Mary Petrie	1	Pottery
Egypt	William Leng Miss Scott Mr W T Smith Miss Isabella Tyrie	6	Bowl, cigarette, cups and cover, deity figure, figure, headscarf
Libya		1	Container
Morocco	Miss Isabella Tyrie	2	Beaded slippers, woman's dress
Sudan	John C Edwards J G Henderson Mrs Marryat	17	Arrowhead, carrying girdle, girl's staff, headrest, pipe, shield, spear, stick
Tunisia		1	Shoe

<b>Eastern Africa</b>		<b>208</b>	
Eastern Africa unspecified	Dr P Rattray Master Gordon Mills Mr W T Smith Miss Scott J G Henderson	27	Barkcloth, betel-nut cutter, charm container, crocodile lute, figure, gourd, headdress, medical instruments, neck ring, pipe sheath, sandals, spear, tobacco box
Ethiopia	T Wise	2	Scrolls
Kenya	J McCarthy A Sommerville R Heron John Thoms Dr Peter Rattray	13	Arrow, animal carvings, bow, carved wooden head, flywhisk, fork and spoon, knife, knife and sheath, pipe, shoes, whip, wooden carvings
Madagascar		2	Raffia textile, spoon
Malawi	J G Henderson Miss M J Webb	5	Club, gourd, knobkerrie, pendant, pipe, pipe bowl
Mozambique	Dr Peter Rattray	2	Spoons
Somalia	Mr R Martin	35	Arrow, beaker, bottle stoppers, box, combs, dish and lid, forks, knife, quiver, sheath, spoon, sticks, vessels, whip, wooden chains
Uganda	A Sommerville J G Henderson E F McShane Dr Peter Rattray	71	Animal figure, arrow, barkcloth, basket, beer tube, bow, bow harp, box, cap, comb, cup, drum, earring, flute, flywhisk, girdle, gourd containers, hat, hoe, human figure, hunting bag, jar, knife, lamp, lid, mallet, masks, milk pot, neck ornament, necklace, pipe, pipe bowl, raft zither, rope, sandals, spindle, stool, string of cowrie shells, throwing spears, tobacco pouch, vessels
United Republic of Tanzania	Dr Peter Rattray Miss Scott	29	Armlet, basket, bow, bracelet, pair of candlesticks, charm for childbearing, ear ornaments, figure, finger rings, fishing knife and spike, girdle/loin panel, head of a harp, hook,

			necklace, paddle, pipe, porter's tag, pot, razor, stick, snuff box, tobacco
Zambia	A Sommerville	4	Ceremonial drum, shield, spearhead, spears
Zimbabwe	J G Henderson Mr A H Macdonald Mrs Alice Mair Mrs Steggall	18	Axe, figures of birds, model trek wagon figure, pipe bowl, tuned sticks, wooden chain
<b>Central Africa</b>		<b>151</b>	
Central Africa unspecified	J G Henderson Mr H Wallbaum	11	Axe, knife sheath, pipe, raffia costume, raffia mat, spear, sword in sheath
Angola	J G Henderson	5	Pipes
Cameroon	Miss Bena Ferguson. Miss Elizabeth Beveridge. J G Henderson.	9	Carved wooden face, figure, mask, pipe bowl
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mrs W Bruce-Porter. Dr W Graham Campbell. J G Henderson Mrs Lamont D D Lyell Mrs Alice Mair Dr Peter Rattray Mr W T Smith Mr H Wallbaum Peter Whytock	113	Armlet, arrow, axe, bag, basket and lid, belt, bow, bowl, box and lid, bracelet, canoe paddle, carved tusk, ceremonial knives, charms, collar, comb container, currency, 'katanga cross' currency, drum, fan, finger-piano, flywhisk, girdle, gong, harp, headrest, helmet mask, horn vessel, mat, necklace, <i>Nkisi</i> figure, ointment cup, pipe, quiver and arrows, raffia loom, rattle bracelet, shield, slit drum, spear, spears, spoon, staff, stool, sword
Gabon	Albert Stanley Smith Esq	13	Fan, hand loom, knife and sheath, <i>kosi</i> figure, ladle, napkin ring, necklace, pipe, whip
<b>Southern Africa</b>		<b>122</b>	
Southern Africa unspecified	Charles Air Esq David Air Esq Angus District Council Richard Burn Robert Butter, Esq Mrs Nancy Greig Henderson, J G Mr A H Macdonald Mars Training Ship	67	Axe, bag, bangle, beaded headdress, belt, blanket, bottle, bow, charm/amulet, figure of a fish, girdle, head ring, knife, knobkerrie, ladle, <i>marimba</i> , necklace, pair of bracelets, pipe, pot, pottery head, rattle, snuff bottle, snuff box, <i>assegai</i>

	Misses Marshall Mrs H McIntosh J P Napper Mr A Ogilvie Mr W T Smith T Thoms		spear, spoon, string of beads, whip, xylophone
Botswana		2	Spoons
South Africa	Charles Air Esq R N C Lindsay Lt Morty Mr John Napper Esq John P Soutar Mrs T Thoms Miss Mackenzie E M S Robertson, (ex- Lord Dean of Guild) J G Henderson	53	Apron, amulet, armlet, arrow, bracelet, belt, box, girdle, hat, knobkerrie, model of Boer trek wagon, necklet, pipe, pot, powder horn, purse, rattle, scabbard, <i>ishulunga</i> shield, snuff spoon, <i>assegai</i> spear, staff, tapestry, <i>umgingqo</i> , <i>umutsha</i>
<b>Western Africa</b>		<b>501</b>	
Western Africa unspecified	Angus District Council Mrs Maggie Gordon J G Henderson Mr H Wallbaum Dr H F Wilson	52	Animal figure, bangle, bracelet, calabash, comb, cowrie-shell currency, dish, drumsticks, fan, flywhisk, harness, knife and sheath, manillas, necklace, necklace basket, pair of armlets, pin/hair, pipe bowl, pouch, purse, quiver and arrows, rope, seed purse, sword, textile purse, walking stick, whistle, xylophone
Benin		1	Axe
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr A G Walker	1	Carved <i>Baule</i> figure
Ghana	Mrs F L Bridge Mr Ian Campbell. Mr Frederick M Downs. G Findlay Margaret Foggie Mrs M Hardman J G Henderson A F Kerr Miss E MacDonald A R Walker	54	Bow, charms, <i>Akua'ba</i> figure, <i>Sasabonsam</i> figure, finger ring, gold weight, hat, knife, pipe, stool, textile
Mali/Niger		4	Textiles
Nigeria	Angus District Council. Mrs A S Arnot.	378	Anklet, armlet, bangle, ashtray, axe, bag, basket, basketry, bead necklace,

	<p>Mrs Agnes Siddons. Miss Elizabeth Beveridge. D S Bisset Esq. McLaren Cameron. Mr Ian Campbell. Church of Scotland Mission. Miss Bena Ferguson. Mrs Gemmel. Mrs Maggie Gordon. Mrs Groves. W Anne Henderson. Miss Edith Henry. Miss A Hutchison. Mrs Lamont. The Hon Mallam Abubakar Madawaki. Miss McIntosh. Miss Hannah McRobbie. Sir John Middleton. Dr Peter Rattray. Mrs M Robertson. Miss Yewande Sosanya. T Thoms. Mr H Wallbaum. Dr H F Wilson. A M Yacomini Esq.</p>		<p>belt, body painting designs, bottles, bow, bowl, box, bracelet, charm, cloth, comb, costume, currency, cushion cover, dagger and sheath, dancing rattle, dish, drum drumstick, embroidery for a man's garment, fan, <i>ibeji</i> figure, finger rings, finger-piano, fly whisk, goblet, gong, gourd, gourd vessels, hair ornament, hat, headdress, headpiece, jug, knife and sheath, bifurcated knife, Koran, lacework, ladle, mask, mat, milk gourd, mirror, model boat with figures, paddle, padlock and key, perfume bottle, pipe bowl, purse, crocodile head plaque, pendant plaque, plate covers, ceremonial pot, raffia bag, quiver and arrows, child's rattle, razor, shoes, skirt, spear, spoon, sword in scabbard, textiles, toothstick, toy animal, tray, tunic, trousers, waistbelts, walking stick, wall box, wall hanging, whip, wood panel</p>
Sierra Leone	<p>Alexander Aitken Esq J G Henderson Mr G Mudie</p>	10	<p><i>Minsereh</i> figure, <i>Nomoli</i> figure, <i>Bhundu</i> mask, <i>Sowe</i> mask, pipe, <i>Sehgbura</i> rattle, sword and scabbard</p>
Togo		1	Clay elephant

### Regions and countries represented: Caribbean

Country	Major donors/sources	Collection size estimate	Types of material
West Indies unspecified	J G Henderson J Murray, 1915	8	Axe heads, coconut carvings, lacebark whips, necklaces, pipe bowl
Culturally affiliated with the Caribbean region (within CARICOM)			
Guyana	Col Tyrie, 1936	3	Armlet, necklace, spindle of cotton

## Published Information

Proctor, Andrew (1994). *Cultures of the World: The Ethnographic Collections of Dundee Art Gallery and Museums*. Dundee: Dundee Art Gallery and Museums.

## Selected object images

Crocodile head plaque, Nigeria, 1913-137-112



Pendant plaque, Nigeria, 1913-137-106-2



Penannular copper anklet, Nigeria, 9999-1135



Skin-covered dance headdresses, Nigeria, 1913-137-153-1=3



Stool covered in studwork, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1893-14



Raffia belt, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1983-270 -2



Prayer scroll (detail), Ethiopia, 9999-1172



Lacebark whip, West Indies, 1915-239



Pipe, West Indies, 1935-64



Spindle, Guyana, 1936-206-1

