



St Lucia parrot, *Amazona versicolor*.
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Caribbean Natural Science Collections in Scottish Museums

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Queen conch shell, *Lobatus gigas*, West Indies.
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Caribbean Natural Science Collections in Scottish Museums Introduction

Introduction

Reveal and Connect: Caribbean Natural Science Collections in Scottish Museums, funded by John Ellerman Foundation, was the second phase of the partnership project *Reveal and Connect: African and Caribbean Collections in Scottish Museums*. It was led by National Museums Scotland; Glasgow Life Museums; The Hunterian, University of Glasgow; and University of Aberdeen Collections. The group worked in partnership with a further seven organisations across Scotland that hold Caribbean natural science collections, an Advisory Group representing organisations in the Caribbean and diaspora organisations in Scotland, and a Curatorial Network Group responsible for Caribbean Natural Science collections in Scottish museums. This collaboration aimed to reveal Caribbean natural science collections in Scottish museums through a national review and published report; and to foster a network connecting collection holders with museums and communities in the Caribbean and people of Caribbean descent in Scotland. This review report is intended to be a starting point for future research, partnerships, and dialogue. *Reveal and Connect* is part of a broader movement to proactively address Scotland's involvement in, and profits from, empire and the transatlantic trade of enslaved people. This history has particular significance for museums, shown to function as authoritative sites implicated in the maintenance and reproduction of imperial control through mechanisms of collecting, exhibiting, and educating.

The first phase of *Reveal and Connect* focused primarily on material culture collections. Comparatively small numbers of objects were identified as Caribbean in the collection review. Steering Group colleagues in Caribbean organisations identified natural science collections as a priority area for research. Exploring the Caribbean within the contexts of natural history uncovers the unique ways that the region has been used and exploited. Since Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Bahamas in 1492, the Caribbean has been viewed as a natural wonder. The perception of the region as untouched and pristine erased generations of indigenous existence and the influence of local populations. By the time natural science had become an established field of study in the mid to late 19th century, the plantation economy had devastated the region's ecosystems through systematic deforestation, resource extraction, and the introduction of invasive flora and fauna.¹

At the turn of the 19th century, natural science had developed into a distinct field of study. Inspired by European Enlightenment thinkers such as Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778), specimen collecting during this period shaped the discipline of modern natural science. Collections of the early modern era in Europe were restricted to the private

¹ Morgan, P D (2022). 'The Caribbean Environment to 1850'. In Morgan, P D, J R McNeill, M Mulcahy and S B Schwartz (eds), *Sea and Land: An Environmental History of the Caribbean*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 20-30.

homes of wealthy collectors.² By the end of the century, natural science had become a popular leisure activity and a paid profession in universities and purpose-built museums. Local, regional, national, and international societies grew with the intent to understand and build vast collections. The expansion of the British Empire granted naturalists efficient exploration opportunities in regions under British occupation, leading to an explosion in Western scientific interest in the global natural world. As the field expanded, so did ideas of racism and imperial superiority. The same networks of scientists analysing material from around the world also ascribed to race science, phrenology, and philosophies of racism. Most collections reviewed in this report date from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century, in line with the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, emancipation movements, and the years that followed.³ Over this period, racial superiority was redefined to justify the continued occupation of global regions and the expansion of scientific exploration.

A range of projects over the last few years have explored the histories and legacies of colonialism, empire and slavery. Museums Galleries Scotland has undertaken *Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums* (2020-2022). Sponsored by the Scottish Government, the project's Steering Group developed recommendations for how Scotland's involvement in empire, colonialism and historic slavery can be addressed using museum collections and museum spaces. These recommendations, developed through a national consultation, were accepted by the Scottish Government in 2024. *Reveal and Connect* provides baseline information and possibly some of the networks that will support these. At the same time, *Reveal and Connect* partners have explored diverse ways of engaging with legacies of transatlantic slavery and colonialism embedded in their institutions. National Museums Scotland worked with partner museums across the UK on *Exchange: Community-Led Collections Research* (2021-2022).⁴ In 2024, the repatriation of a specimen of Jamaican giant galliwasps in the collection of The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, to the University of the West Indies, prompted conversations about how restitution to the Caribbean of material in European museums can and should operate.⁵ In 2023, Glasgow Life Museums developed the permanent, co-curated *City of Empire* display at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Created in collaboration with the Our Shared Cultural Heritage (OSCH) Changemakers, the display has continued to shape ongoing work by Glasgow Life Museums. This includes displays and audience engagement programmes that address and examine the legacies of empire and slavery in Glasgow. In 2024, following the recommendations of Museums

² Yanni, C (2005). *Nature's Museums: Victorian Science and the Architecture of Display*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1.

³ Goffe, T L (2025). *Dark Laboratory: On Columbus, the Caribbean and the Origins of the Climate Crisis*. London: Penguin Books, 62.

⁴ <https://www.nms.ac.uk/collections/departments/global-arts-cultures-design/projects/exchange>

⁵ Rutherford, M G and G Vitelli (2024). 'Return of the Galliwasp'. *Museums Galleries Scotland*: <https://www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk/sector-story/return-of-the-galliwasps/>

Galleries Scotland's *Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums* report of 2022, the Scottish Museum of Empire, Slavery, Colonialism and Migration (SMESCM) was established.⁶

Projects focused on decolonising natural science collections are still relatively new. Partly inspired by Subhadra Das and Miranda Lowe's 2018 paper, there have been calls for specialists to reinterpret the colonial histories of their collections.⁷ In England, Jessica Ashman's 2025 art installation, *Those that do not smile will kill me: Decolonising Jamaican Flora*, at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, provoked conversations about the histories behind botanical collections. *Reveal and Connect* has been informed by, and contributes to, this spectrum of ongoing work.

This report encapsulates a map of Caribbean natural science collections in Scottish museums. It presents 11 collections, nine of which also featured in the first report on cultural material from Africa and the Caribbean. It brings together existing catalogue data with unpublished information, undigitised collections, and previously unidentified material. It provides summaries and breakdowns of individual museum collections that highlight countries and regions represented, types of objects included, and who collected or donated them. In doing so, it aims to support wider access and engagement with these collections and the contextual histories behind their acquisition.

The report is structured in two parts. The first lists the collections in alphabetical order and includes characterisations of each collection. These characterisations provide a summary of each museum's history, an estimate of the relevant collection size, an overview of the contents, and notable donors or collectors. A table provides a breakdown of the collection by country, major sources and specimen types. A small selection of object images is also included. The second part of the report details the results and conclusions, and a table arranged by countries in and surrounding the Caribbean.⁸ This allows users to search for countries represented in individual collections. Provenance patterns and an index of notable collectors and donors are also included. Museum reports can then be consulted for further detail.

⁶ Ali, S and G Browne (2024). Introducing the Scottish Museum of Empire, Slavery Colonialism and Migrations'. *Museums Galleries Scotland*: <https://www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk/blog-article/introducing-the-scottish-museum-of-empire-slavery-colonialism-and-migration/>

⁷ Das, S and M Lowe (2018). 'Nature Read in Black and White: decolonial approaches to interpreting natural history collections'. *Journal of Natural Science Collections* 6, 4-14: natsca.org/sites/default/files/publications/JoNSC-Vol6-DasandLowe2018.pdf

⁸ For this review, the Caribbean has been defined as all islands in the Caribbean Sea. All members and associate members of CARICOM have been included. Regions that encompass the Caribbean Sea have also been included in this report due to their cultural affiliation to the Caribbean region. This includes Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.

This review is primarily concerned with natural science specimens that have been collected, or can be found, in the Caribbean. Due to the remit of this report, collections research has focused specifically on historical colonial collecting. This has been loosely defined as the period 1838-1914. Concessions are made for some collections on either side of these dates and contemporary donations of historical material have also been included. Short summaries of associated material are included where relevant. The report also indicates where collections hold skeletal human remains that were not included in the first report. Contextual details have been provided in the relevant museum collection reviews, but human remains are not included in the final number of recorded holdings.

Contemporary collecting in the Caribbean has been quantified in the data of this report but requires further research that respects the modern dynamics of neo-colonial collecting, scientific research, and poaching. Photographic and archival material has also not been covered as further detailed research is required to map and review these collections.

The Caribbean natural science collections review and report were completed over 12 months during 2025 and 2026. The 32 museums included in the first report were contacted to identify any collections with relevant material. Nine museums identified from the first phase took part in this review together with an additional two museums.⁹ There are other collections in Scotland with relevant material, for example Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, but this project focused primarily on museum collections. Botanical collections, including living material and herbarium collections, require further focused research that falls outside the remit of this project.

The first stage of the review involved a survey of digital records, either supplied by participating museums or extracted from their online collection databases. The Project Curator, Tasmin Evans, then conducted site visits to ten partner museum organisations between August 2025 and March 2026 to complete visual surveys.¹⁰ A core focus of this review was to build an understanding of collection histories and fill gaps in provenance. During these visits, specimens were consulted to interrogate labels and conduct research using supplementary material such as accession registers and archival documents. For smaller collections, closer examination was possible for the entire collection. For large collections, a small sample of material with the largest information gaps was consulted. Due to the taxonomic storage systems in many collections, some undocumented material was found in situ, though further research could uncover more.

⁹ University of Dundee and Ayrshire360 did not feature in the first review but identified relevant Caribbean natural science material for the second phase.

¹⁰ Due to concurrent commitments, the collection at Paisley Museum was consulted online.

Running alongside this work, regular meetings took place with the project Consortium, Advisory Group, and Curatorial Network Group. During these meetings initial findings, data and images were shared and discussed. A knowledge-sharing week in May 2026 brought three partners from the Institute of Jamaica, University of the West Indies Zoology Museum, and Barbados Museum and Historical Society to Scotland to consult some of the collections featured in the report.¹¹ At the end of the week, results from the report were shared with these partners and others in Scotland to explore how to connect these collections with stakeholder communities.

Caribbean natural science collections can be found across Scotland in a range of institutions including local authority, university, and national museums. Collections vary widely in size from the smallest, Dumfries Museum with nine objects, to the largest, National Museums Scotland with over 2,500 records. The review located an estimated 5,220 records that cover zoology, botany, and earth sciences material. Due to the nature of scientific recording, one record may contain multiple examples of one or many species or may represent many specimens in a single accession lot. For this reason, the number of individual specimens will be significantly higher.

Approximations have been made with undocumented material as it was not possible to locate or quantify specimens that were not recorded in databases or found during visual surveys. Much of the collection information is derived from historical museum records. These may be partial and subjective, particularly in the case of colonial-era records. While careful research has been undertaken to contextualise and mitigate this, it was not possible within the timeframe of the project to comprehensively review and update all information. For this reason, information is generally reported as it currently appears in records and inevitably contains errors, inaccuracies, and omissions. Supplementary research has been conducted where possible, but further work and meaningful consultation with relevant communities is required.

This report should be understood as a starting point, with a commitment to support wider access and engagement with Caribbean natural science collections in Scottish museums and facilitate new modes of research and museum practice.

¹¹ The collections featured during the visit week included National Museums Scotland, Glasgow Life Museums, Perth Museum, and The Hunterian, University of Glasgow.



Sloane's urania moth, *Urania sloanus*, Jamaica.
© The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Caribbean Natural Science Collections in Scottish Museums Collection Review

Dick Institute, Ayrshire360

Contact info@ayrshire360.com

Location of collections

Dick Institute
Elmbank Avenue
Kilmarnock
KA1 3BU

Size of collections

13 specimens

Selected objects

- Sawfish, complete, preserved, unknown location, RI_DI_002008
- Sawfish rostrum, *Pristis cuspidata*, unknown location, RI_DI_001997
- Hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, unknown location, RI_DI_0051728

History of the collection

Ayrshire360 manages multiple sites, including the Dick Institute, the Baird Institute, Burns Monument Centre and Burns House Museum. Its collections have been built up since the 19th century by private collectors, local and national societies, and other museums.

In the late 1800s James Thomson (1823-1900), a local fossil collector, offered the town council his collection on condition that a museum was created to store and display it. Elmbank House, built as the Sheriff Hall in 1792 and later used as the Free Library, was considered too small and was demolished. The new building on the site was funded by James Dick (1823-1902) and designed by architect Robert Ingram (1841-1915), both born locally. The Dick Institute opened in 1901, and other collectors began donating their objects; many acquisitions came from the Glenfield Ramblers, notably archaeological specimens linked to member Archibald Fairbairn (1867-1945). The building was badly damaged by fire in 1908 and much of the collection lost. The Institute re-opened in 1911.

Overview of the collection

Eleven of the 13 specimens in East Ayrshire's collection are sawfish rostra, including one complete example of a sawfish. There is only one named donor, H S Dunn who donated a sawfish rostrum. This may be Hugh Shaw Dunn (1842-1915), an engineer and colliery manager based in Kilmarnock. With further research, it might be possible to understand more about Dunn, his work, and his possible connection with the trade industry in Ayrshire.

At the time of writing, there is very little data attached to the specimens in the collection. The rostra can be investigated to determine specimens to species level, but it may be impossible to attribute them to the Caribbean.

Associated material

The Dick Institute recently acquired a daguerreotype depicting George or Geordie Graham (c.1790-1863), a Black man from Grenada. He arrived in Glasgow with his father, a coachman to a Glasgow merchant, and his mother. It is likely that George's parents were enslaved by this merchant but there is no information on their lives. Known colloquially as 'Black Geordie', he was formerly in the British Royal Navy. Graham later settled in Coyllon, Ayrshire around the 1820s. He has been described as a proficient drummer and may have played with the Leadhills Brass Band in the 1830s.¹² He is also described as making a living polishing and selling jasper stones from the local area. Staff at the Dick Institute noted that he later lived at Dalgig Farm where he was employed by Ivie Campbell as a groom.¹³ He is described in the 1851 Scotland census as a farm labourer. Further research could be done on George Graham's life, family, and rich connection to Ayrshire.

Notable donors

- Hugh Shaw Dunn (1842-1915)

Areas for further research

Further research could be done around suspected Caribbean material, including the sawfish rostra, turtle shells, and bird mounts. While it may not be possible to uncover their contextual histories, it may be possible to determine a general idea of where they could have come from.

Additional work could be done to understand the general history of Ayrshire's connection with the Caribbean region, even where there are no examples present in the collection.

Regions and countries represented

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Unspecified	H S Dunn	13	Fish, reptile

¹²Anon (1886). 'Geordie Graham: The Negro Drummer of Ayrshire'. *Lanarkshire Upper Ward Examiner*, Saturday 06 February:

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/BL/0001011/18860206/001/0001>

¹³Ellis, J (no date). "Few men are better remembered" – Black Geordie: George Graham of Dalgig, Ayrshire'. *Historical Roots*: <https://www.historycalroots.com/few-men-are-better-remembered-black-geordie-george-graham-of-dalgig-ayrshire/>

Selected object images



Sawfish, complete, preserved, unknown location, RI_DI_002008. Reproduced with permission of Ayrshire360



Sawfish rostrum, *Pristis pectinatus*, unknown location, RI_DI_001997. Reproduced with permission of Ayrshire360



Hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, unknown location, RI_DI_0051728.
Reproduced with permission of Ayrshire360

Dumfries Museum, Dumfries and Galloway Council

Contact dumfriesmuseum@dumgal.gov.uk

Location of collections

Dumfries Museum and Camera Obscura
The Observatory
Rotchell Road
Dumfries
DG2 7SW

Size of collections

9 records

Online collections

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

Selected objects

- Blue honeycreeper, *Coereba cyanea*, Tobago, E:30.01.2024
- Golden-headed manakin, *Pipra erythrocephala*, Demerara, E:30.01.2024
- Granite, *Pegmatite*, Guyana, no number
- *Hypnea musciformis*, West Indies, no number
- *Cymopolia barbata*, The Bahamas, no number

History of the collection

Dumfries Museum started life in 1835 as a derelict windmill tower converted into an observatory with a telescope and camera obscura. The site was purchased by merchant and ship builder Robert Thomson (1775-1848) on behalf of the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Astronomical Society. Members began to donate 'antiquities, curiosities and bygones' and in 1862 a Main Hall was constructed as an extension to accommodate the growing collections. In November 1862, the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society (DGNHAS) was formed and collected a large body of material, with a particular focus on local collections.

By the 20th century, international collections had begun to enter the Museum. In 1948, Alfred E Truckell (1919-2007) was appointed curator and took an active interest in collecting non-European material. He acquired collections from other museums and local sales, including objects and natural science specimens from the Royal Scottish Museum (now National Museums Scotland), Stranraer Museum, Langholm Museum, and Dr Thomas Boyle Grierson's Museum in Thornhill.

Overview of the collection

Dumfries Museum holds nine specimens from the Caribbean, including birds from Tobago and Demerara, algae samples from the Bahamas, and a geological sample from Guyana.

The birds were donated by descendants of Sir William Jardine (1800-1874), a Scottish naturalist with an interest in ornithology. He served as the first President of the DGNHAS from 1862 until his death. He was particularly interested in the birds of Trinidad and Tobago, and museum staff noted that he had been planning to produce a book before his death. The *Coereba cyanea* (E:30.01.2024) specimens were collected by James Kirk (1800-1874), an estate owner in Tobago. Kirk was originally from Perthshire, emigrating to Tobago in 1825 to work on a plantation. He eventually owned his own estates, becoming an enslaver of around 100 African people across multiple plantations. These included the Glamorgan, Roxburgh and Betsey's Hope estates.¹⁴ He was interested in the wildlife of the island and routinely sent specimens to William Jardine in Scotland.¹⁵

The algae specimens were collected by Dr Edward Palmer (1829-1911) who travelled to Nassau in the Bahamas between March and August 1874.¹⁶ Originally from the UK, Palmer was a botanist and archaeologist most active in the Americas, and his botanical collections have been dispersed around the world. His collection at Dumfries Museum may have been purchased, gifted or given in an exchange with Dr James Gilchrist (1813-1885). Gilchrist was a botanist and geologist and served as a founding member of the DGNHAS.

The *Pegmatite* sample from Guyana comes from the collection of Thomas Boyle Grierson's Museum at Thornhill. There is a sample listed in Grierson's 1894 catalogue as 'Granite with garnet'¹⁷ from British Guiana. In 1964, after the transfer of the museum's collection by Alfred Truckell, a *Pegmatite with garnets* from British Guiana is listed from Grierson. There is little data attached to the specimen. It is possible that original historical documentation was lost during the dispersal of the museum at Thornhill.

Associated material

Dumfries Museum has a collection of international material that was collected by Scottish missionaries travelling across the world. It includes objects from East Asia, Oceania, and South America. Museum staff noted that this reflects a deep colonial

¹⁴ The National Archives of the UK; Kew, Surrey, England; *Office of Registry of Colonial Slaves and Slave Compensation Commission: Records*; Class: T 71; Piece Number: 491

¹⁵ National Records of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland, *Letters to Sir William Jardine, chiefly from James Kirk, concerning the wildlife of Tobago, the transfer of specimens to Britain and other matters*, GD472

¹⁶ Palmer, E (1875). *A List of the Marine Algae, collected by Dr. Edward Palmer on the Coast of Florida and at Nassau, Bahama Islands, March-August 1874*. New Haven: D C Eaton.

¹⁷ Black, G F and J Bisset (1894). *Catalogue of Dr. Grierson's Museum, Thornhill*, Edinburgh, 11: repository.lib.fsu.edu/islandora/object/fsu%3A954639

connection between Dumfries and the wider world, and the role that religion has played in British imperialism.

Notable donors

- William Jardine (1800-1874)
- James Kirk (1800-1874)
- Dr Edward Palmer (1829-1911)

Areas for further research

William Jardine's collection was widely dispersed after his death. Many specimens were sent to the British Museum, Cambridge Museum of Zoology, and National Museums Scotland. Further research into these collections could uncover other bird specimens from Trinidad and Tobago.

Further work into the surviving collections of Dr Thomas Grierson could uncover Caribbean natural science specimens held in his original museum in Thornhill. His 1894 catalogue details material from the Caribbean, including British Guiana, Demerara, and Jamaica. Some of this material may be held at Dumfries Museum or could have been dispersed to other museums across Scotland and England.

William Jardine had a close connection with Dr William Fergusson (c.1795-1846). Fergusson was a mixed-heritage Jamaican physician who was the first known student of African descent to study at the University of Edinburgh. He lived for some time in Dumfries and later served as Governor of Sierra Leone. He also sent bird specimens to William Jardine, especially from Sierra Leone and the West coast of Africa. Further research could be done to uncover more about Fergusson's specimens in Jardine's dispersed collection.

Regions and countries represented

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Caribbean (unspecified)	None	1	Algae
The Bahamas	Dr Edward Palmer	4	Algae
Guyana	L Harvey Dr Thomas Boyle Grierson	2	Birds, geology
Tobago	James Kirk	2	Birds

Selected object images



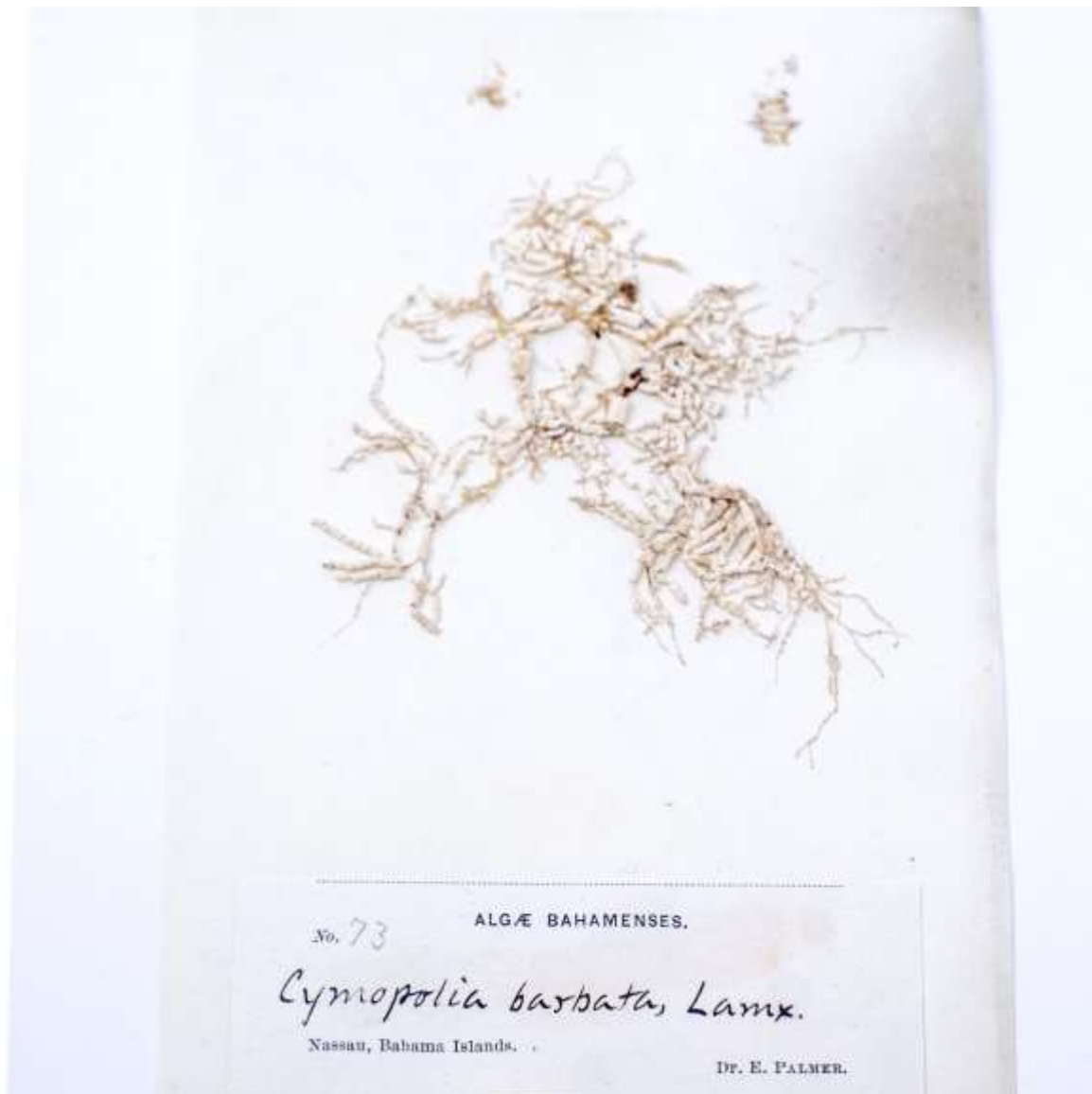
Two examples of blue honey creeper, *Coereba cyanea*, Tobago, and golden-headed manakin, *Pipra erythrocephala*, Demerara, E:30.01.2024. © Dumfries Museum, Dumfries and Galloway Council



Pegmatite with garnets, Guyana, no number. © Dumfries Museum, Dumfries and Galloway Council



Hypnea musciformis, West Indies, no number. © Dumfries Museum, Dumfries and Galloway Council



Cymopholia barbata, The Bahamas, no number. © Dumfries Museum, Dumfries and Galloway Council

Glasgow Life Museums

Contact museumcollections@glasgowlife.org.uk

Location of collections

On display

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum
Argyle Street
Glasgow
G3 8AG

Riverside Museum
100 Pointhouse Place
Glasgow
G3 8RS

In storage

Glasgow Museums Resource Centre
200 Woodhead Road
South Nitshill Industrial Estate
Glasgow
G53 7NN

Size of collections

>903 records

Online collections

[Glasgow Museums online collections](#)

Selected objects

- Peba armadillo, *Tatusia peba*, Guyana, 1875.1.d
- Slate pencil urchin, *Eucidaris tubuloides*, The Bahamas, 1895.57.an
- Collared peccary, *Dicotyles tajacu*, Suriname, Z.1880.24
- Flaming cask-shell, *Cassis flammea*, Cuba, 1910.7.fqn
- *Saccoloma domingense* (*Dicksonia plumieri*), Jamaica, B.2020.2.30
- Opal, Antigua, 1896.65.cvi.[1]
- Silicified wood, Antigua, 1884.16.an

History of the collection

Glasgow Life Museums is a group of 11 museums and galleries owned by the City of Glasgow and managed by Glasgow Life, including Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, and Riverside Museum. Many of the

earliest natural history specimens were collected by members of the Glasgow Natural History Society, whose donations supported the creation of early displays in the original Kelvingrove House in 1876. It was demolished in 1899 to make way for Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, which opened in 1901 as the Palace of Fine Arts for the Glasgow International Exhibition held in that year. Today the Glasgow Life collection is a Recognised Collection of National Significance, covering natural science, social history, works of art, transport, and technology.

Many of the specimens donated by the Glasgow Natural History Society focus on Scotland and the areas surrounding the Clyde. Connections with collectors around the world, both through the Society and elsewhere, expanded the scope of the natural science collection. The collection has grown to include over 585,000 specimens covering zoology, geology, and botany from around the world. Since the collection began in 1870, there have been over 220 accessions of Caribbean natural science material.

Overview of the collection

As of publication, there are 2,748 digital records of Caribbean material in the collection, however 1,920 do not have a recorded location (70%). For the purposes of this review, the data discussed includes only records with detailed locations. With dedicated research in the collection stores, more may be found in situ, as curators estimate that approximately 1,500 of the 1,920 records are currently stored within the taxonomic run. During research for this review, around 52 specimens were successfully located using their taxonomic sequence. Ten additional drawers of contemporary material from University of Glasgow expeditions to Trinidad and Tobago were also located, comprising around 1,000 specimens.

According to current records, around 24% of all specimens come from Jamaica, 17% from Trinidad and Tobago, and 13% from Guyana, including those labelled as British Guiana, Berbice, and Demerara.

Collections from Suriname, or Dutch Guiana, make up around 10% of the collection, mostly coming from Robert Kirke of Burntisland (1815-1894). He was a plantation owner and enslaver in Suriname and is considered one of Scotland's last enslavers. This is because the Netherlands abolished slavery in 1863, allowing Kirke and his family to exploit this system for an additional 30 years after the abolition of slavery in Britain.¹⁸ Kirke owned three sugar estates in Suriname. He inherited Waterloo and Hazard from his uncle, James Balfour (1777-1841), and later bought the Nursery plantation around 1890, with an estimate of over 300 people enslaved across his estates. From 1876 he donated bird skins, mammals, and insects to Glasgow's early collection. On his death in 1894, a further bequest of natural specimens from Suriname entered the collection.

Other early collectors, including Nicol Anderson (1858-1939) and James Grierson (c.1890s), were based across the British and Dutch Guyanese areas.

¹⁸ Alston, D (no date). 'Robert and David Kirke' Enslaved Africans Scottish enslavers in Guyana: <https://www.spanqlefish.com/slavesandhighlanders/index.asp?pageid=607903>

Out of the 24 regions represented, around seven countries each make up 1-5% of the collection, including Barbados, Bahamas, Belize, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Eight regions, including Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Saint Kitts, and Saint Lucia, each cover less than 1%. Over 12% of the collection is from the West Indies, either as a generalised location or from collecting in the Caribbean Sea.

There are 94 known collectors within the historical Caribbean collections. Of these, 67 collectors donated less than 1% each, and the largest donation by a single donor is 92 specimens (10%) by Robert Kirke.

Most material was collected between the mid-19th century to the early 20th century, with the earliest accession dating back to 1876. Around 12% of the collection is from contemporary collectors, including University of Glasgow expeditions to Trinidad and Tobago between the 1980s and 2000s.

At the time of writing, 264 records (approximately 30%) contain unknown provenance. This occurs most frequently in the botany collection, including a pressed fern album titled *Ferns of Jamaica* which has limited provenance information for both individual specimens and the book itself (B.2020.2). Similar pressed fern books can be found elsewhere, implying that *Ferns of Jamaica* may have been produced for multiple collectors, either specialists or amateurs. The rise of 'pteridomania', or mass fern collecting, in the mid-19th century, reflects a rapid growth of interest in the natural sciences for those with sufficient leisure time to take up science as a hobby. More research could uncover where these books originated or who contributed to the albums, but it can be concluded that there was mass appeal in collecting and displaying plant life from the Caribbean.

Zoology

Including vertebrates, invertebrates and molluscs, zoology covers nearly 70% of the Caribbean collection. Over half was donated from Guyana and Suriname (former Dutch Guiana), by around 20 donors. Scotland and Guyana have a strong connection through the early settlement of Scots seeking success in the Caribbean in the 18th century. Planters like Thomas Cuming (1740-1813) turned the Dutch colonies of Berbice and Demerara into a central hub for Scottish-owned sugar plantations before the British ceded control in 1814. Robert Kirke and his natural science collection reflect this strong connection. Kirke donated a large collection of specimens, including birds, insects, and mammals. Of note is a mounted collared peccary, *Dicotyles tajacu* (1880.24). A letter from Kirke was read out in the *Proceedings of the Natural History Society of Glasgow* in 1880 regarding this donation. He notes that it was sent alive from his plantations in Suriname with its mate which died on the journey. The living female was brought to his home in Burntisland and kept briefly as a pet before also dying.¹⁹

Most notable in the zoology collection are a three-streaked galliwasps, *Celestus hewardi* (DB.4279), and Jamaican ameiva, *Pholidoscelis dorsalis* (DB.4286), donated by Mr Lumsden. Both are now considered endangered, with the Jamaican

¹⁹ Young, J (1880). 'Specimens Exhibited'. *Proceedings of the Natural History Society of Glasgow*, vol IV, 1878-1880: 270:
<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/17682#page/296/mode/1up>

ameiva considered extinct in 70% of its mainland subpopulations.²⁰ These specimens were originally found unregistered in the store and staff have concluded from the style of mounting that they likely originate from the 1880s. There is no data attached to the specimen that identifies Mr Lumsden. This may require research into accession registers to identify the relevant records. The Jamaican ameiva is now on display at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum as part of the *City of Empire* display. It describes how Indian mongoose, *Urva auropunctata*, were introduced to plantations to curb rat populations that were destroying sugar crops. They were introduced in 1872 to the estates owned by William Bancroft Espeut (1843-1892) to curb rats and snakes from eating sugar crops. This invasive species later hunted reptile species like the ameiva and contributed to its population decline.²¹

A sizeable number of molluscs form part of the Thomas Gray (1820-1910) collection, including examples from Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, and Panama. At the time of writing, 21 specimens have been located in the taxonomic order. Gray was a prolific collector and describer of new species and would have had a network of collectors working in the region. Many molluscs from his collection have become disassociated from their original labels. Many labels contain locality information, which could uncover more specimens from the Caribbean region, but more research is required to reconnect examples with their original data.

Botany

Plants make up around 30% of Glasgow Life Museums Caribbean holdings, with most specimens originating from Jamaica, but other named localities include Barbados and Bermuda. The vast majority are ferns but there are also small numbers of bryophytes (linked to G Thomson, c.1860) and marine algae (linked to Dr Wright c.1803, possibly William Wright, 1735-1819). Of interest is a *Lycopodiella cernua* donated by Miss Taylor (NHB.1882.31.gon). This may be Fanny Hope Taylor (1835-1881), an English botanist who worked or lived in Jamaica around the 1850s. She reflects Victorian women's growing interest in botany and access to colonies through travel to explore their specialisms. Few women are named as individual collectors and they are often related to a male donor. Further research on female botanists in this period could prove fruitful in finding other notable collectors in the Caribbean.

Geology

A significant specimen from the geology collection is an example of silicified wood from Antigua, purchased from Miss A Rose in 1884 (1884.16.an). This is possibly Agnes Rose (c.1829-1918), who was listed as a governess in census records. She was the daughter of Alexander Rose (1786-1860), lecturer in mineralogy and geology at Queen's College Edinburgh during the mid-19th century. This specimen was sold to Glasgow museums in 1884, but 'Miss Rose' is also present in museum registers for the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art, now National Museums

²⁰ Wilson, B S and S B Hedges (2017). '*Pholidoscelis dorsalis*' (amended version of 2017 assessment). *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/50009027/121640494>

²¹ Goffe, T L (2025). *Dark Laboratory: On Columbus, the Caribbean and the Origins of the Climate Crisis*. London: Penguin Books, 205-207.

Scotland (NMS). In NMS registers of the same year, she was also selling similar geological material. In 1904 an Agnes Rose offered some of her father's collection to Glasgow museums but does not mention selling items previously at either institution. With more research on Miss A Rose, a better picture of the acquisition of this Antiguan material and its connection with Alexander Rose could be found.

Associated material

Annie Templeton-Anderson and Robert Kirke donated Caribbean material that featured in *Reveal and Connect: African and Caribbean Collections in Scottish Museums*. Kirke donated earthenware from Suriname, and Templeton-Anderson donated material from indigenous groups in Guyana.

A sample of *Lagetta lagetto*, or Jamaican lacebark (ETHNN.337), also features in the original report. Lacebark was historically used by enslaved and freed people, particularly women, to create clothing and accessories and acted as a symbol of their resilience. Preparing lacebark is a culturally significant skill that has been passed down through generations of artisans and reflects how cultural knowledge of natural material intersects with human culture.²² This specimen is on display in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum's *City of Empire* display.

Notable donors

- Robert Kirke (1815-1894)
- Nicol Anderson (1858-1939)
- James Grierson (c.1890s)
- Caw, Prentice, Clapperton & Co (c.1880-1900)
- James Newall Thomson (1849-1903)
- Mr Lumsden (dates unknown)
- Sir Norman Lamont (1869-1949)

Areas for further research

One of the key areas for research in Glasgow Life Museums' collection is locating specimens that are not fully catalogued in the digital system. As mentioned above, some specimens were located during the initial visit, and a deeper exploration will yield further results. For instance, an uncatalogued collection of economic botany from the Greenock Museum, now the Watt Institution, was identified during research visits. It includes raw sugar deposits from around the world, with some from Demerara and Cuba. There was little provenance information surrounding the material so this collection would benefit from further attention to ascertain its history and trace the original donors.

Robert Kirke's bird skins and mammals from Suriname would benefit from further research into how he acquired his large collection. It is not well documented whether

²² Buckridge, S O (2003). 'The Role of Plant Substances in Jamaican Slave Dress'. *Caribbean Quarterly* 49/3: 67.

Kirke had contacts in the region sending specimens for him, or if he was also collecting during his time in Suriname.

Thomas Gray was a prolific mollusc collector and one of the original members of the Natural History Society of Glasgow. Gray named and described species from around the world. He may have had a large network of people gathering material to send to him. Glasgow Life Museums holds a copy of his catalogue in their archives which provides locality data of individual specimens. At the time of writing, little is known about who worked with Gray to compile his vast collection, and more research could be done to investigate those who were employed to collect or otherwise gifted and exchanged material with him.

Staff at Glasgow Life Museums noted that human remains were also presented by Nicol Anderson around the same time as his bird and mammal collection. The label describes this person as a chief or king, possibly from Guyana. Further research may develop a better understanding of the origins of these remains and their history in Glasgow Life Museums' collection.

Regions/countries represented

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Caribbean (unspecified)	Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery John Brand Dr T D Buchanan Hannah Alston Robertson Caw, Prentice, Clapperton and Co James Duffey Thomas Gray Contemporary collectors	111	Bird, cnidarian, echinoderm, foraminifera, insect, mollusc, plant, reptile
Antigua and Barbuda	Frederick Lorkin Miss A Rose	5	Reptile
The Bahamas	James Newall Thomson	18	Cnidarian, echinoderm, mollusc, porifera, reptile

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
	Georgianna Elder Bruce/Mrs Newall Thomson		
Barbados	Strathclyde University	10	Echinoderm, plant, reptile
Belize (formerly British Honduras)	Dr F C Davis	12	Insect
Bermuda	Miss J Stirton Miss Landsborough Hannah Alston Robertson	11	Foraminifera, mollusc, plant
Central America	Mrs J B Aitkman Edward Henry Bostock	10	Bird, insect, mammal
Costa Rica	Caw, Prentice, Clapperton & Co	41	Birds, insect, mollusc
Cuba	Thomas Gray Contemporary collectors	12	Mollusc, plant
Dominica	Dr Arnott Rev Major J A Fleming	2	Plant
Dominican Republic	Dr William J Clench	1	Mollusc
French Guiana	Dr Arnott	5	Insect, plant
Grenada	John Lang Miss Marion Alston Robertson	5	Cnidarian

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Guyana (formerly Berbice, Demerara, British Guiana)	Miss Annie Templeton-Anderson Dr Arnott Nicol Anderson Edward Henry Bostock Caw, Prentice, Clapperton & Co James Grierson Duncan Stewart	112	Bird, mammal, mollusc, plant, reptile
Haiti	None	1	Mollusc
Honduras	David Corse Glen	2	Insect, mineral
Jamaica	Caw, Prentice, Clapperton & Co Dr Arnott Thomas Gray Dr Gilbert McNab	220	Bird, insect, mollusc, plant, reptile
Martinique	Strathclyde University	1	Plant
Panama	Thomas Gray	17	Insect, mollusc, plant
Saint Kitts and Nevis	James Marshall	3	Plant, reptile
Saint Lucia	Dr Arnott George G McKenzie	2	Plant, reptile
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Dr John Scouler Mrs Ramsay	20	Insect, mollusc, plant
Suriname	Robert Kirke	82	Bird, insect, mammal
Trinidad and Tobago	Dr Arnott David Corse Glen	148	Plant

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
	Sir Norman Lamont University of Glasgow Contemporary donors		
Venezuela	Strathclyde University	17	Birds, insect, plant

Selected object images



Peba armadillo, *Tatusia peba*, Guyana, 1875.1.d. © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collections



Eucidaris tubuloides.

Bahamas.

Presented by J. Newall Thomson.

Slate pencil urchin, *Eucidaris tubuloides*, The Bahamas, 1895.57.an. © CSG CIC
Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collections



Collared peccary, *Dicotyles tajacu*, Suriname, Z.1880.24. © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collections



Flaming cask-shell, *Cassis flammea*, Cuba, 1910.7.fqn. Reproduced with permission of Glasgow Life Museums



Saccoloma domingense (*Dicksonia plumieri*), pressed fern from *Ferns of Jamaica*. ©
CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collections



Opal, Honduras, 1896.65.cvi.[1]. Reproduced with permission of Glasgow Life Museums



Silicified wood, Antigua, 1884.16.an. Reproduced with permission of Glasgow Life Museums

The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Contact hunterian-enquiries@glasgow.ac.uk

Location of collections

On display

The Hunterian
University of Glasgow
82 Hillhead Street
Glasgow
G12 8QQ

In storage

Kelvin Hall
1445 Argyle Street
Glasgow
G3 8AW

Size of collections

>1,000 specimens

Online collections

[Hunterian online collections](#)

Selected objects

- Sloane's Urania moth, *Urania sloanus*, Jamaica, GLAHM:127464
- Jamaican giant galliwasps, *Celestus occiduus*, Jamaica, GLAHM:167720
- John Maxwell Lepidoptera collection, Trinidad and Tobago, HUG:Z267r
- Horned screamer, *Anhima cornuta*, French Guiana, GLAHM:Z484
- Cuban painted snail, *Polymita picta*, Cuba, GLAHM:130998

History of the collection

The Hunterian was built on the legacy and collection of Dr William Hunter (1718-1783). Born locally and educated at the University of Glasgow, Hunter's renown as an anatomist, physician and teacher of medicine enabled him to build up a large private collection. With the assistance of global networks, he was able to gather ethnographic and natural material from around the world. It was bequeathed to the University on his death in 1783 along with money to create a suitable museum. The Hunterian, founded in 1807, is Scotland's oldest public museum. Notable historical keepers and curators of The Hunterian have been natural scientists, including John Young FRSE (1866-1902), William Smellie (1914-c.1920s), and Robert Arnot Staig (1905-1945). Today the Hunterian collections are a Recognised Collection of

National Significance and cover diverse subjects, including the history of medicine, natural sciences, and art.

Overview of the collection

At the time of writing, the Hunterian holds 1,053 records from the Caribbean. Its largest collection areas are Trinidad and Tobago (60%), Barbados (13%), and Jamaica (10%). Fifty-nine items come from Suriname and are predominantly insects (<6%). Between 1% and 2% of the collection is from Antigua, Guyana, French Guiana, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Ten regions hold less than 10 items (<1%) each, including Anguilla, Antigua, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Saint John, USVI.

Around 829 specimens (78%) are from contemporary collectors, mostly from University of Glasgow expeditions to Trinidad and Tobago between the 1980s and 2000s. The Trinidadian expedition collection makes up around 60% of the total collection, comprising mostly amphibians, insects and fish. The University of Glasgow has a close partnership with institutions in the region, including The University of the West Indies. Much of the collection was gathered by University staff and students. There are some contemporary collections not directly related to the University of Glasgow, including a commercially sold *Chelonia mydas* shell from the Cayman Islands (GLAHM:155110).

There are around 19 known historical donors at the time of writing. Thirty-two records are lacking donor information. Currently, most of the Caribbean holdings are entomology, with around 313 records (30%). Notable historical donors within this collection are Thomas George Bishop (1846-1922), John Maxwell (1822-1899), and William Hunter (1718-1783).

Zoology

Currently, around 90% of The Hunterian's holdings are zoology specimens. This covers wet and dry specimens, including vertebrates (birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles) and invertebrates (molluscs and terrestrial and marine invertebrates). Birds and insects are the best represented animal groups in the colonial Caribbean collections.

Within the wet specimens, there are two examples of galliwasps from Jamaica, including a *Celestus occiduus* (GLAHM: 167720) that was transferred from Anderson's College, now University of Strathclyde, in 1889. The giant galliwasp that was returned to Jamaica in 2024 was also originally part of this collection.²³ The College operated the Andersonian Museum, opened in 1831. It displayed scientific apparatus and natural history specimens that were collected and bequeathed by John Anderson (1726-1796) when the College opened in 1796. Due to lack of

²³ Rutherford, M G and G, Vitelli (2024). 'Return of the Galliwasps'. *Museums Galleries Scotland*: <https://www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk/sector-story/return-of-the-galliwasps/>

funding, the Andersonian Museum closed in 1887, and its collections were given to The Hunterian.²⁴

Thomas George Bishop was a prominent Coleoptera collector from England who settled in Scotland as a tea merchant. Bishop purchased much of his collection, which was donated to the Hunterian Museum after his death. It included eight cabinets of specimens bought posthumously from the collection of Edward Alfred Heath (1839-1907). Heath was noted as having one of the largest private collections of beetles in the world and gathered material from locations such as Jamaica, Suriname, Guyana, and the Cayman Islands. Not much is known about how he gathered material, but his membership of the Linnean Society may have allowed him access to a large network of collectors and dealers.²⁵

There is an interesting Lepidoptera collection amassed by John Maxwell. It contains over 400 specimens described as coming from Trinidad between 1875 and 1876. Surviving labels require more work to identify taxonomic and locality information. John Maxwell was a Justice of the Peace for Glasgow and frequently travelled abroad with his wife. On his death, his estates were bequeathed to his nephew, John Maxwell Scott Maxwell, who studied at the University and donated the collection to the Hunterian Museum in 1905.²⁶

William Hunter's entomology and zoology collection is the largest donation of colonial Caribbean specimens by a single person, with 142 items bequeathed in his will. Some interesting specimens are two examples of *Urania sloanus* (GLAHM:127466, GLAHM:127464), a species of moth that was endemic to Jamaica. It was last reported in the wild around 1894 and is now considered extinct, possibly due to habitat loss.²⁷ While Hunter is not known to have collected insects in the wild himself, he had a network of dealers, field collectors and natural history enthusiasts that allowed him to amass his large collection. Specimens either came directly to him or passed through the hands of other notable collectors. The Hunterian collection reflects the natural science interests of the Enlightenment period, which was restricted to those with the means to travel or with connections to travellers. At this time, scientific exploration expanded in tandem with the growing global presence of the British Empire.²⁸

One significant contributor to Hunter's insect collection was Dru Drury (1725-1804), an English collector who received and described specimen collections from around

²⁴ Anon (no date). 'Andersonian Museum'. *The Glasgow Story*: <https://www.theglasgowstory.com/image/?inum=TGSS00045>

²⁵ Breitling, R and E G Hancock (2014). 'Edward Alfred Heath FLS (1839-1907): homeopath, amateur naturalist and beetle collector'. *The Linnean* 30/1: 19.

²⁶ Anon (1899). 'Glasgow Heir to a Fortune'. *Stonehaven Journal*, Thursday 7 September: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0001271/18990907/081/0004>

²⁷ Lees, D C (1991). 'Foodplant Associations of the Uraniinae (Uraniidae) and their Systematic, Evolutionary and Ecological Significance'. *Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society* 45/4: 334: <https://images.peabody.yale.edu/lepsoc/jls/1990s/1991/1991-45%284%29296-Lees.pdf>

²⁸ Andersson Burnett, L (2023). 'Collecting Humanity in the Age of Enlightenment: The Hudson's Bay Company and Edinburgh University's Natural History Museum'. *Global Intellectual History* 8/4: 388.

the world. Drury paid for those visiting or stationed in the British Empire, including West Africa and the Caribbean, to send material to him. Specimens would likely have been transported across the triangular routes of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, where specialists could make use of human trafficking and merchant ships. Henry Smeathman (1742-1786), for example, travelled to Sierra Leone aboard a trafficking ship. Despite his initial hatred for the slavery system, Smeathman was reliant on traders of enslaved people to further his scientific research. When the American War of Independence rerouted him to the Caribbean, he travelled aboard another trading ship to Grenada.²⁹ Between 1775 and 1779, he would have gathered specimens that may still be present within William Hunter's collection. When he travelled back to Britain, it may have been on the same trading ships bringing sugar, rum, and coffee from plantations. Like many other Enlightenment scientists expanding their knowledge of the world, Henry Smeathman's scientific endeavours were intertwined with global colonial violence.

Beyond the entomology collection, other items of note include two painted *Polymita picta* shells from Cuba (GLAHM:130998). These were purchased by William Hunter's trustees at the sale of the Portland Museum in 1786. The Portland Museum was owned by Margaret Cavendish-Bentinck, Duchess of Portland (1715-1785), who amassed one of the largest private natural science collections of her time. She was determined to collect one of every specimen around the world and employed curators, specialists, and collectors to travel to locations such as the Caribbean. These two examples were sold for five guineas.³⁰ Hunter's collection also includes a crinoid, *Cenocrinus asterius*, from Barbados, originally from John Fothergill (1712-1780) (GLAHM:130198). Fothergill was another prolific collector of the 18th century, particularly botanical and conchological specimens. He acted as patron to a network of travelling naturalists.

Palaeontology

The collection includes 19 palaeontological specimens from the Caribbean, including Antigua, Barbados, Jamaica, and Panama. There is a *Diatomophyceae* slide from Barbados that was originally part of Thomas Boyle Grierson's (1818-1889) museum in Thornhill. Grierson collected widely and opened his museum in 1872. After his death in 1889 it was run by a Trust until 1965 when his collection was dispersed across Scottish and English museums, particularly Dumfries Museum under Alfred E Truckell. In Grierson's 1894 catalogue there is an example of *Globigerinina* described as coming from Barbados and collected by F W Grierson.³¹ Further research could uncover a link between the described specimen and the one held in The Hunterian.

Fourteen examples come from the collection of Thomas Brown of Lanfine and Waterhaughs. Thomas Brown (1774-1853) was a Scottish surgeon with an interest in fossils, mineralogy, and botany. He worked as Deputy Professor of Botany at the

²⁹ Kean, S (2019). 'Historians expose early scientists' debt to the slave trade'. *Science*: <https://www.science.org/content/article/historians-expose-early-scientists-debt-slave-trade>

³⁰ Skinner and Co (1786). *A Catalogue of the Portland Museum, lately the Property of the Duchess Dowager of Portland*, London: 182.

³¹ Black, G F and J Bisset (1894). *Catalogue of Dr. Grierson's Museum, Thornhill*. Edinburgh: 47: repository.lib.fsu.edu/islandora/object/fsu%3A954639

University of Glasgow from 1799 to 1816. Brown's collection began as gifts and purchases around 1803, but he began field collecting after 1816. His collection, including his fossils, was donated after his death by his daughter Martha (1808-1897). The museum acquired the collection in instalments between 1875 and 1897, with some of the collection also going to the University of Edinburgh. There are fossils from Antigua, including *Palmoxylon* specimens and other examples of silicified wood.

Geology

At the time of writing, there are 36 geological samples at The Hunterian, including mineralogy and petrology examples. The largest collection comes from French Guiana by a contemporary donor. Ten examples of more historical collections come from regions such as Anguilla, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. During a survey of the collection, six samples of bitumen from Trinidad were found. Included in this was an example from William Hunter's collection, described as *Asphaltum* from Pitch Lake in Trinidad (GLAHM: M4160). Pitch Lake, in La Brea, is the largest natural bitumen deposit in the world and has been used by international commercial entities for oil drilling and tourism. Multiple examples of pitch can be found in collections throughout this report, with many dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Hunter's example is one of the oldest in the collection. It is described in Captain John Laskey's 1813 catalogue as 'saggy mineral pitch'³² but it is unclear when this was acquired. It is possible that this example was bequeathed with the rest of Hunter's original collection or was purchased on behalf of the museum by his Trustees. It could have been collected from Trinidad while under Spanish colonial occupation, as Hunter died before the British invasion in 1797.

Other examples include pitch collected by Frank Rutley (GLAHM: M9169) and Thomas Brown of Lanfine (GLAHM: M4153). Frank Rutley (1842-1904) was an English geologist and petrographer from Dover. He studied at the Royal School of Mines in London but worked primarily in the Lake District, Cumbria. Other objects found in the Rutley collection include a sample of phosphate of *alumina* from Anguilla (GLAHM: R11070).

Associated material

William Hunter's collection contains natural material from around the British Empire. Like the *Urania sloanus*, it may feature other extinct species from other regions.

The Hunterian holds scans of Dru Drury's entomology catalogue, the original of which is held at the University of Oxford Museum of Natural History. It contains details of collectors and locations, including Henry Smeathman's donations from Sierra Leone and Grenada and specimens from other specialists active in the Caribbean.

³² Laskey, J C (1813). *A General Account of the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow: including historical and scientific notices of the various objects of art, literature natural history, anatomical preparations, antiquities, &c in that celebrated collection*. Glasgow: J Smith & Son: 42: https://archive.org/details/qri_33125011898240

Notable donors

- Dr William Hunter (1718-1783)
- Margaret Cavendish-Bentinck, Duchess of Portland (1715-1785)
- John Maxwell (1822-1899)
- Andersonian Museum

Areas for further research

Of interest is William Hunter's large network of collectors. Operating during the height of the 18th century Enlightenment era, they represent the small circles of privileged scientists and private collectors whose access to mobility within the British Empire globalised western natural science. More research could be done to uncover these collecting histories. Their accounts could provide an insight into the local populations who have been marginalised in the history of science. Hunter's collection may also reveal colonial stories that extend beyond the countries under occupation by the British Empire.

Further research could be done into The Hunterian's geology and palaeontology collections. At the time of writing, the data used in this report was collated using the museum's database. The Hunterian holds unregistered geology collections that may have further examples of material from the Caribbean region. These are known as Hunterian Unaccessioned Groups (HUGs) and contain records at lot level. In a 2024 report, it was noted that around 75% of the collection was categorised in a HUG group.³³

Approximately 7% of The Hunterian's zoology collection has also been catalogued as HUGs. More material originating from the Caribbean could be present within lot level accession groups. There is a significant collection of molluscs and insects, many of which are still to be added to The Hunterian's database and undoubtedly contains more specimens from the Caribbean region.

The original Thomas Brown of Lanfine collection spans approximately 5,400 minerals and over 1,600 fossils. The mineral collection was split between the University of Glasgow and the University of Edinburgh. A catalogue was produced from 1832 which covers most of Brown's collection, including details of his network of collectors. Further research into this collection and its catalogue could uncover how he collected so widely, and who was responsible for the material from the Caribbean.

As mentioned previously, there are thousands of mollusc specimens still to be catalogued. Many of these will have come from William Hunter's original collection and may just have the locality 'West Indies', but later collectors will also have acquired specimens from the Caribbean. An ongoing volunteer programme is

³³ Anderson, E (2024). 'Examining the Colonial Legacies of the Hunterian's Mineralogical and Petrological Collection: New Perspectives on Geoscience Collections'. *Museum & Society* 22/3: 139.

transcribing labels from specimens and potentially hundreds more Caribbean specimens may be found.

Regions and countries represented

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Anguilla	Frank Rutley	1	Geology
Antigua and Barbuda	William Hunter Thomas Brown of Lanfine	22	Insect, mollusc, palaeontology
The Bahamas	Ward's Natural History Establishment	9	Bird, cnidarian, echinoderm
Barbados	Thomas Boyle Grierson William Hunter James Walker	131	Cnidarian, echinoderm, fossil
Bermuda	Sir John Murray The Andersonian Museum	9	Cnidarian, foraminifera
Cayman Islands	Robert Munro	2	Crustacean, reptile
Cuba	Margaret Cavendish-Bentinck, Duchess of Portland	3	Mollusc, geology
Dominican Republic	None	1	Amphibian
French Guiana	William Hunter	35	Bird, insect, geology
Guyana	William Hunter Rowland Ward Ltd Dr F Whyte	19	Bird, fish, insect, mammal, reptile
Jamaica	Andersonian Museum Thomas George Bishop John Gould William Hunter	110	Bird, cnidarian, insect, mollusc, porifera, reptile

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Martinique	None	1	Geology
Panama	None	1	Palaeontology
Saint John, US Virgin Islands	None	5	Amphibian
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Thomas Wise	11	Mollusc
Saint Lucia	None	1	Fish
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Professor John Young	6	Bird, mollusc
Suriname	William Hunter	58	Insect
Trinidad and Tobago	William Hunter John Maxwell University of Glasgow	633	Amphibian, bird, cnidarian, crustacean, fish, geology, insect, mammal, mollusc, reptile, other invertebrates

Published Information

Baker, R A and E G Hancock (2015). 'Compiling Collectors in the Caribbean: Biographical Notes on Some Insect Collectors in Trinidad and Tobago during the British Colonial Period'. *Living World, Journal of Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club*: 15-22.

Clarke, F M and J R Downie (2001). 'A bat (Chiroptera) survey of mora rainforest in Trinidad's Victoria-Mayaro Forest Reserve'. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 10: 725-736.

Dobson, R M and E G Hancock (2008). 'Historical review of a cabinet of Coleoptera from Thomas George Bishop's collection connected with James Francis Stephens'. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 25/1: 9-14.

Downie, J (2001). 'Glasgow University Trinidad Expedition, 2000'. *Glasgow Naturalist* 23/6: 127-129.

Downie, J (2005). 'Marine turtle conservation on the north coast of Trinidad – a Darwin Initiative Project'. *Testudo* 6/2: 3-16.

Downie, J R (2012). 'Glasgow's Trinidad and Tobago Biodiversity Connection'. *Living World, Journal of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club*: 3-11.

Downie, J R, E G Hancock, S A White, A C Broderick and B J Godley (2017). 'Natural history contributions of the University of Glasgow Exploration Society to Scotland and the World'. *Glasgow Naturalist* 26/4.

Hancock, E G (2005). 'William Hunter's Insect Collection and emerging descriptive taxonomy in the Eighteenth Century'. *NatSCA News*, Issue 4: 8-13.

Selected object images



Sloane's urania moth, *Urania sloanus*, Jamaica, GLAHM:127464. © The Hunterian, University of Glasgow



Horned screamer, *Anhima cornuta*, French Guiana, GLAHM:Z484. © The Hunterian, University of Glasgow



James Miller Lepidoptera collection, Trinidad, HUG:Z267r. © The Hunterian, University of Glasgow



Cuban painted snails, *Polymita picta*, Cuba, GLAHM:130998. © The Hunterian, University of Glasgow



Jamaican giant galliwasp, *Celestus occiduus*, Jamaica, GLAHM:167720. © The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Museums of the University of St Andrews

Contact museumenquiries@st-andrews.ac.uk

Location of collections

The Bell Pettigrew Museum
University of St Andrews
Bute Building
Queen's Terrace
St Andrews
KY16 9TS

Size of collections

58 specimens

Online collections

[University of St Andrews online collections](#)

Selected objects

- Aves diorama, Tobago, BPM11185
- Great West Indian sea lily, *Cenocrinus asterius*, West Indies, BPM1252
- Queen conch, *Strombus gigas*, Florida to West Indies, BPM11082
- Tortugas rose coral, *Manicina areolata*, Bahamas, BPM176
- Velvet worm, *Epiperipatus trinidadensis*, Trinidad, BPM8887

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. One notable curator was William Carmichael McIntosh (1838-1931) who became Kennedy Professor of Natural History in 1882. With a background in natural sciences, he was tasked with documenting and rearranging the collection, which had not been curated by a scientific specialist before him. In 1904, full ownership of the collections was transferred to the University. In 1912, these collections moved into the newly built Bell Pettigrew Museum, opened in memory of Professor James Bell Pettigrew (1834-1908). Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson (1860-1948) took up the position of Chair of Natural History after serving as the University of Dundee's Zoology Professor of Biology (later Natural History) from 1884 until 1917.

A collection research project was conducted in 2024 by Conall Treen as part of his PhD and work at Museums of the University of St Andrews. It built on existing provenance information in the University's collections, with a significant focus on colonial collections. A report was also written on the connections between the University of St Andrews and the British Empire,³⁴ including the histories of some of the museum collections.

Overview of the collection

Currently, 58 Caribbean specimens have been identified within the collection. Most of the natural science material is on display in the Bell Pettigrew Museum. At the time of writing, staff noted that due to the age and functionality of the display cases, it was difficult to get physical access to some specimens. For this reason, items were observed in situ.

The largest collections are birds (36%), and molluscs (22%). Some bird specimens have been identified as coming from exchanges between the University and other institutions. These include the Royal Scottish Museum (now National Museum of Scotland), the British Museum, and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). One example is a white-bearded manakin, *Manacus manacus* (BPM5115) which was originally part of the Zoological Society of London's collection (ZSL) around the late 19th century. Original labels show that it was later owned by Robert George Wardlaw-Ramsay (1852-1921). Wardlaw-Ramsay was a Colonel in the British Army with an interest in ornithology. His uncle was Arthur Hay, the Marquess of Tweeddale (1824-1878), who served as President of the ZSL. Wardlaw-Ramsay eventually inherited his uncle's vast collection of birds after his death.³⁵ It is unclear whether the manakin skin was part of Arthur Hay's collection, how it was collected or how it reached the University of St Andrews. It is possible that it was gifted to William McIntosh during his time as the University Museum's curator or included in an exchange with another museum.

At present, the largest collection locality is the Bahamas, with nine specimens (15%). There are eight items each from Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago (13%) and three specimens from Jamaica (5%). There are three or fewer specimens (<5%) from Barbados, Bermuda, Grenada and Carriacou, Haiti, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Twenty records (35%) lack geographical data and have been labelled as coming from the Caribbean, West Indies or South America. Some specimens, particularly birds, have a range that includes the Caribbean, but their collection locations are unknown. For example, the motmot, *Momotus momota*, has a range of 'the Guianas to North Brazil' (BPM1938). Today there are several species of motmot that historically were identified as part of the same species, and these range from Argentina to Mexico and include Trinidad and Tobago.

Many specimens lack detailed provenance information. Significantly, during the time that D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson was curator of the University Museum from 1917 to 1947, there is a lack of documentation surrounding acquisitions and items in the

³⁴ Fyfe, A, I Robinson, T Vancisin, S Leith and M W Ylitalo (2025). *The University of St Andrews and the Legacies of Empire, 1700-1900*. University of St Andrews: <https://legacies-of-empire.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/report/>

³⁵ Anon (1921). 'Obituary: Robert George Wardlaw-Ramsay'. *Ibis*: 539.

museum. This is also the case for material held at the University of Dundee, where he had previously served as curator of its zoology museum. Some items still have historical labels attached, for example the marine invertebrates donated by Eileen Margaret Shelswell (1926-2016). Shelswell was a zoologist who studied parasitology at the University of St Andrews. She conducted her PhD research in connection with Rutgers University between 1952 and 1953. While it is not clear how she acquired specimens from Bimini in the Bahamas (BPM1021, BPM1042, BPM1548), she is most likely to have collected or received them during her time at Rutgers.

An interesting item is a diorama of birds from Tobago, presented by McIntosh but originally owned by his sister Agnes (BPM11185). A historical label says, 'Aves from Miss Mary MacDougall, 1856-1857', which could be the year it was gifted to Agnes or the years they were collected. The identity of Mary MacDougall has not been verified, but she is believed to be Mary Ann MacDougall (1848-1919). Mary Ann was born in the British West Indies and married Ralph James Forbes Leith, a health official living in Carriacou,³⁶ in 1866. More research might help to verify this and the connection between the MacDougall's in Tobago and the McIntosh family in St Andrews.

Another notable item is a sample of *Epiperipatus trinidadensis* from Port of Spain, Trinidad, donated by Friedrich William Urich (1870-1937). Urich was a Trinidad-born German zoologist with an interest in entomology. He was a professor at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, the predecessor of the University of the West Indies, and co-founder of the Trinidad Field Naturalists Club. Significantly, the Urich family's presence in Trinidad is linked to the sugar plantocracy and enslavement of African people. Friedrich's great-great uncles, Christian and Anselm Gerold, settled in Trinidad in the early 19th century and owned two plantations, Mon Chagrin in North Naparima and Matilda in Savanna Grande, with 73 enslaved people living across both estates.³⁷

Associated material

The University of St Andrews Archive Collections hold the Minutes of the University Court, accession registers, and Minutes of the Literary and Philosophical Society. These show significant events in the University's history, including gifts, donations and purchases for its museum collections.

Sir D'Arcy Thompson's correspondence is also held within the archive collection. It includes letters related to his time at University College Dundee and University of St Andrews. It may provide insight into the global networks he nurtured to receive international specimens.

Notable donors

- William Carmichael McIntosh (1838-1931)
- Miss Mary MacDougall (dates unknown)

³⁶ Anon (1868). 'Ralph Forbes Leith, M.D.' *The British Medical Journal*. 2/412: 557.

³⁷ The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey, England, *Office of Registry of Colonial Slaves and Slave Compensation Commission: Records*, Class: T 71, Piece Number: 517.

- Friedrich William Ulrich (1870-1937)
- George E W Dempster (1870-1943)

Areas for further research

Further work could be done to discover the connections between the collections at the Universities of Dundee and St Andrews. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson had significant influence over what was collected and how it was recorded during his time at both institutions. Focused research on how his collection was dispersed may help to identify specimens that have been historically under-documented.

Regions and countries represented

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Caribbean (unspecified)	None	15	Birds, cnidarians, echinoderms, fish, foraminifera, molluscs
Central America (unspecified)	None	5	Birds, mammals
South America (unspecified)	None	4	Birds, mammals
The Bahamas	Eileen Margaret Shelswell	9	Birds, cnidarians, crustaceans, fish, marine invertebrates, minerals
Barbados	None	2	Fish, molluscs
Bermuda	William Carmichael McIntosh	1	Molluscs
Grenada and Carriacou	None	1	Molluscs
Guyana	None	8	Birds
Jamaica	Dr James Edwin Duerden	3	Bird, invertebrates, reptile
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Trustees of the British Museum	1	Fish
Trinidad and Tobago	Frederick William Ulrich Miss Mary MacDougall	8	Birds, invertebrates, molluscs, mammals

Published Information

Fyfe, A, I Robinson, T T Vancisin S J H Leith, M W Ylitalo (2025). *The University of St Andrews and the Legacies of Empire, 1700-1900*, University of St Andrews.
<https://legacies-of-empire.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/report/>

Selected object images



Aves diorama, Tobago, BPM11185. © The University of St Andrews



Tortugas rose coral, *Manicina areolata*, Bahamas, BPM176. © The University of St Andrews



Great West Indian sea lily, *Cenocrinus asterius*, West Indies, BPM1252. © The University of St Andrews



Queen conch, *Strombus gigas*, Florida to West Indies, BPM11082. © The University of St Andrews



Velvet worm, Onychophora, *Epiperipatus trinidadensis*, Trinidad, BPM8887. © The University of St Andrews

National Museums Scotland

Contact natsci.enquiries@nms.ac.uk

Location of collections

On display

National Museum of Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1JF

In storage

National Museums Collection Centre
242 West Granton Road
Edinburgh
EH5 1JA

Size of collections

>2,530 records

Online collections

[National Museums Scotland online collections](#)

Selected objects

- Jamaican giant galliwasps, *Celestus occiduus*, Jamaica, Z.1859.13.39A and B
- Jamaican giant gecko, *Tarentola albertschwartzii*, Jamaica, Z.1884.23.7
- Head of swordfish, *Xiphias gladius*, West Indies, Z.1830.29
- Holotype gall midge-fly in Dominican amber of Miocene age, *Ipsseptemmyia rossi*, Dominican Republic, G.2013.5.10
- Cuban painted snail, *Polymita picta*, Cuba, no number
- Heart urchin, *Meoma ventricosa*, The Bahamas, Z.1889.66.6
- *Lophocampa citrina*, female, Trinidad, Z.1950.16
- *Lamontia calibana*, Trinidad, Z.1950.1

History of the collection

National Museums Scotland (NMS) was founded in 1854 as the Industrial Museum of Scotland (1855-1864), the first national museum outside London. The building in Chambers Street opened in 1866 as the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art (1866-1904), later renamed the Royal Scottish Museum (1904-1985). In 1985, the Royal Scottish Museum and the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (1858-1985) were formally merged to become National Museums of Scotland, renamed National Museums Scotland in 2006. The collection is divided into four distinct

departments, Science and Technology; Scottish History and Archaeology; Natural Sciences; and Global Arts, Cultures and Design.

Overview of the collection

The data for this review has predominantly been compiled using NMS's online catalogue. Approximations have been made based on the number of records, though it is likely that more Caribbean material can be found.

At present, 32 regions are represented across NMS's natural science collections. The largest collection regions are Jamaica with 638 records (25%), the Dominican Republic with 467 (18%), and Guyana with 307 (12%). The largest collection types are molluscs (32%), insects (24%), and birds (14%). 210 records have been attributed to the unspecified Caribbean region (8%). This is because specimens were either collected in an unspecified location of the Caribbean Sea or are lacking locality data.

Around 180 donors and collectors are represented in NMS's Caribbean material. Roughly 10% are contemporary donors. This includes NMS staff collecting entomology and palaeobiology material and purchases from shell and fossil dealers. Some natural material was also donated by zoos around the UK, including the skeletal remains of two American flamingos, *Phoenicopterus ruber*, that died at Chester Zoo in February 2008 (Z.2012.81.1) and May 2000 (Z.2012.81.2). At the time of writing, 38 records in the total holdings of Caribbean colonial material are without provenance information. The largest collections come from Edward Chitty, with 294 records, and Sir Andrew Smith with 145 records.

Edward Chitty (1802-1863) was a solicitor in London. In 1840, sources suggest that he moved to Jamaica to work as a judge. He was interested in conchology and malacology and described land snail species that were new to science. He worked closely with Charles Baker Adams (1814-1853), an American malacologist with an interest in species from the West Indies. His collection was donated through Sir William Jardine (1800-1874), a Scottish naturalist with an interest in ornithology who would later become curator of Dumfries Museum.

Sir Andrew Smith (1797-1872) studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, obtaining his degree in 1819. He went on to become a medical surgeon in the British Army. He served on multiple expeditions in South Africa and used the mobility of his profession to study indigenous people living in the region. He held the position of Principal Medical Officer at Fort Pitt, Chatham, Kent and later became the Inspector-General and Superintendent of its Army Medical Departments. Smith's collection consists mostly of reptile and amphibian material from various regions in the Caribbean, including Jamaica, Antigua, Trinidad, and Martinique. Some examples include two specimens of the Jamaican giant galliwasp, *Celestus occiduus*, (Z.1859.13.39A and B) and a great Martinique skink, *Mabuya mabouya* (Z.1859.13.497).

Zoology

The zoology specimens, which comprise vertebrates and invertebrates, make up nearly 90% of the total holdings of Caribbean material.

Vertebrates

One of the earliest vertebrate specimens from the Caribbean is the head of a swordfish, *Xiphias gladius*, that was presented by William Copeland of Blackwood in 1830 (Z.1830.29). As information on William Copeland is not readily available, this may benefit from further research.

There is a collection of 155 bird skins from British Guiana (now Guyana) from Lady Chalmers (Z.1932.82). This is Lady Janet Alice Chalmers, née Lorimer (1857-1946), who married Sir David Patrick Chalmers (1835-1899), the Chief Justice of British Guiana. Jane was also the sister of the artist John Henry Lorimer (1856-1936). Lorimer produced many portraits, including his 1889 painting *Lullabye*, featuring Joanna Herbert who was employed as a nanny for Janet's children.³⁸ Joanna (b.1845) was of mixed Guyanese heritage, and her mother was born into slavery. She accompanied the Chalmers family on their return to Edinburgh in 1894 and is present in the 1901 Scottish Census as a 'Domestic Nurse'. Joanna Herbert's life parallels many other Caribbean women employed as domestic servants and brought to Scotland. Others include Petronella Hendrick from Suriname (1829-1917), who was employed by Robert Kirke of Burntisland, and Malvina Wells from Carriacou (1804-1887), who was employed by Joanna Macrae, Edinburgh.

Another collection of 91 bird skins, also from British Guiana, was donated by John Couston in 1922 (Z.1922.18). John Couston (1864-1936) was born in Fife and travelled to British Guiana around 1889-1890. The accession register describes the birds as having been collected on the borders of British Guiana and Brazil by 'Indian collectors in British Guiana'. At the time of writing this is the only recorded mention of local indigenous people across all collections featured in this report. It is unclear which groups Couston's donation refers to as contemporary Guyana is home to many nations including the Patamona, Waiwai, and Akawaio. Building connections with indigenous people of Guyana and Northern Brazil may yield a greater understanding of local cultural and scientific knowledge of birds in the region.

There is a Jamaican black racer, *Alsophis ater*, (Z.1927.102) on display at National Museum of Scotland. It was brought alive to Kirkcaldy with bananas in October 1927 and donated by John Young Lockhart (1862-1943) who was a commercial trader and commission agent. The snake was mounted with bananas when it entered the collection. The black racer has been identified as critically endangered and has not been seen in Jamaica since 1960.³⁹ This is due in part to the introduction of the small Indian mongoose, *Urva auropunctata*, in 1872 by William Bancroft Espeut (1843-1892). Espeut owned plantations in Jamaica and brought the first mongooses to his estates on ships bound from Asia. These same ships also carried Chinese and Indian labourers, who were brought under the indentureship system after emancipation.⁴⁰ Mongooses were intended to stop rats from eating sugar crops, but

³⁸ Purves, G (2022). 'Echoes of Guyana: Scotland's Forgotten Slave Colony'. By *Erceldoune*: <https://graemepurves.blog/2022/03/02/echoes-of-guyana-scotlands-forgotten-slave-colony/>

³⁹ Hedges, B, B S Wilson and R Gibson (2008). 'Hypsirhynchus ater, Jamaican Racer'. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*: [IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T940A71739234.en.3.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/uk/2016-3/RLTS.T940A71739234.en.3.pdf)

⁴⁰ Goffe, T L (2025). *Dark Laboratory: On Columbus, the Caribbean and the Origins of the Climate Crisis*. London: Penguin Books, 207.

the nocturnal activity of rats and diurnal hunting behaviour of mongooses meant that this experiment ultimately failed. Instead, they hunted birds and reptiles across the island. Without natural predators to moderate their numbers, mongoose populations grew unchecked. The introduction of this invasive species has had long term ecological repercussions that contributed to the loss of species like the black racer and the giant galliwasps.⁴¹

The holotype and only known specimen of the Jamaican giant gecko, *Tarentola albertschwartzi*, (Z.1884.23.7) is also in the collection. It was donated by Miss Cooper from Kingston in 1884. There is little data about her and none about how the giant gecko was captured. This species is now considered extinct and possibly suffered a similar fate to other critically endangered and extinct species endemic to Jamaica following the introduction of Indian mongooses.

More recently, zoos have donated wild-caught specimens, mostly originating from Guyana. Conservation breeding programmes led by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Zoological Society of London have donated specimens originating from Antigua, Dominica, Jamaica, and Montserrat.

Invertebrates

The invertebrate collections date from the mid-19th century and contain the largest number of specimens from the Caribbean at NMS. They can be broadly divided into insects (entomology) and marine invertebrates (including poriferans, cnidarians, crustaceans, molluscs, and echinoderms). In addition, there are discrete collections of other terrestrial forms (spiders and millipedes) and freshwater invertebrates (snails). The collections are separated into wet-preserved specimens, dried specimens, models, and microscope slides.

One of the largest invertebrate collections is from Robert MacAndrew (1802-1873). He collected widely across the Caribbean region, including Jamaica (Z.1865.27), Cuba (Z.1866.18), Bermuda (Z.1873.1), and Saint Lucia and Tortola (Z.1866.18). MacAndrew was the son of a fruit and shipping merchant originally from Scotland, who later settled in London. He took over the business in 1819 before founding a shipping business, MacAndrew & Co, in London. He later moved to Liverpool where he became involved in the study of natural history, specifically conchology. The nature of his business gave MacAndrew easy mobility to travel widely and amass his shell collection.

Another large collection came from Miss Lumsden, who donated 98 insects from British Guiana. This may be Agnes Lowson Lumsden (1871-1946) from Fife, described in census records as unmarried. It is believed that she travelled frequently, including to Gibraltar and Canada, though it is unclear whether she visited the Caribbean. Due to the size of the collection, it is possible that she took up entomology as a hobbyist or amateur scientist. It is currently not known how she collected her material.

⁴¹ Anon (2024). 'The Mongoose on the Loose in Nineteenth-Century Jamaica'. *University of Stavanger*. <https://www.uis.no/en/research/the-mongoose-on-the-loose-in-nineteenth-century-jamaica>

There are some interesting examples of Lepidoptera collected by Sir Norman Lamont (1869-1949). Lamont was the last Baronet of Knockdow, Argyll, and a government official and sugar planter in Trinidad and Tobago. He was the nephew of John Lamont (1782-1850) who built his wealth in the early 19th century on the trade of enslaved people and ownership of Trinidad plantations, including Cedar Grove. Sir Norman Lamont was born in Scotland and inherited the plantations of John Lamont in 1907. He served on Trinidad's Board of Agriculture (1921-1945) and introduced the ideas that led to the establishment of the Imperial College of Agriculture. He had a significant interest in Lepidoptera, collecting widely from 1913 until his death.⁴² He also developed *A Catalogue of Trinidad Moths* in 1927.⁴³ Most of his collection is held at the University of the West Indies Zoology Museum in Trinidad.

Earth Systems

Much of NMS's Earth Systems collection focuses primarily on geological and mineralogical collections from around Scotland but there is a selection of material from the Caribbean. There are 74 records from the region, including mineralogy and fossil examples.

There is an example of phosphorite from Aruba that was donated by J & J Cunningham, Edinburgh, in 1895 (G.1895.70.1). John and James Cunningham were artificial manure merchants from Leith and produced compound fertilisers using guano and superphosphate.⁴⁴ This example is described as containing 82% phosphate of lime. It is likely that it was originally imported for use in the business and may have been of significant interest to the museum.

There is also a collection of cnidarian specimens from Admiral Milne in 1819 (G.1819.18). This is Admiral David Milne (1763-1845), a Royal Navy officer from Edinburgh. He was based in the West Indies from 1779 to 1783 and involved in many naval campaigns in the region including the Battle of Frigate Bay, near St Kitts in 1782. In 1796 he participated in the British annexation and colonial occupation of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, now part of modern-day Guyana. These colonies were previously under the imperial control of the Netherlands and the Dutch West India Company. Between 1816 and 1819 Milne was Commander-in-Chief of the British North American and West Indian Station in Bermuda. He also gathered stalagmite material from Admiral's Cave, Bermuda, and returned to Scotland shortly after. NMS staff reported that this material was deaccessioned and noted for disposal around the 1960s, though it still exists in stores. Milne was a friend of Professor Robert Jameson at the University of Edinburgh, who also had an interest in geology. Jameson agreed to present his Bermudan material to the University

⁴² Cock, M J W (2003). 'On The Number of Moths (Lepidoptera) that Occur in Trinidad and Tobago'. *Living World, Journal of The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club*, 49-58.

⁴³ Lamont & Callan (1927). *Moths New to Trinidad, BWI*:

https://dn790002.ca.archive.org/0/items/biostor-176074/biostor-176074_djvu.txt

⁴⁴ Anon (no date). 'J. and J. Cunningham'. *Grace's Guide*:

https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/J._and_J._Cunningham

Museum. It was included in the collection that formed the basis of the Industrial Museum of Scotland in 1854.⁴⁵

An example of a fossilised anthozoa specimen was donated by G Govan (dates unknown) in 1862 (G.1862.38.57). It is part of a collection gathered by Lieutenant Colonel Ninian Imrie (1750-1820). Imrie served in the Royal Regiment of Foot in Minorca and Gibraltar and had an interest in geology. He corresponded with a network of geologists around the world and was a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh from 1798. His collection includes examples from the Mediterranean and Scotland. Imrie's Nevis material was possibly sourced from James Webbe Tobin (1767- c.1814), an abolitionist, or his father James Tobin, a plantation owner (c.1736-1817). James Webbe Tobin was a political radical and took a leading role in the 1810 trial 'The King v Edward Huggins senior Esq' against the plantation owner Edward Huggins. Huggins owned the Mountravers estate in Nevis. His cruelty towards the enslaved people on his estate quickly became known and he was taken to trial for his violence.⁴⁶ The trial lasted ten days and the jury pronounced Huggins not guilty due to a technicality in the Leeward Islands Amelioration Act (1798). The elder James Tobin was interested in natural sciences and was a member of the Linnean Society. He was a strong advocate for slavery and an absentee plantation owner of the Stoney Grove estate in Nevis and had enslaved 213 people.⁴⁷ It is unclear how either the father or the son collected this material or the nature of their relationship to Colonel Imrie. It is likely that this specimen was collected by the elder James Tobin, who was in Nevis at the time it was collected, though more research is needed to verify this information.

Paleobiology

The Dominican amber collection at NMS was mostly acquired by purchase in the Dominican Republic, with 12 acquisitions made between 1981 and 2019. Ten of the specimens were donated. The amber is Miocene in age, 16 million years old.

Most of the Dominican amber collection was acquired by NMS to obtain a good representative collection of the diverse insects and other inclusions contained within the specimens. Most of the specimens were acquired in two batches. The first, comprising 32 specimens, was purchased in 2013 for a temporary exhibition, *Amazing Amber*, at the National Museum of Scotland that year. The second, comprising 30 specimens, was acquired in 2019 at the 8th International Conference on Fossil Insects, Arthropods and Amber, held at Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. Two new fly species have been named so far, and it is likely that other undescribed species are present in the collection.

⁴⁵ Summers, D (no date). *The Amazing Story of the Admiral's Stalagmite*: 3: <https://new.ackma.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/82/The-Amazing-Story-Of-The-Admirals-Stalagmite-David-Summers.pdf>

⁴⁶ This source contains vivid descriptions of violence towards Black people. Mentions of their treatment were used as evidence during the trial against Edward Huggins.

Eickelmann, C (2026). *The Mountravers Plantation Community, 1734 to 1834*. Part 2, Chapter 7: <https://seis.bristol.ac.uk/~emceee/mountraversplantationcommunity.html>

⁴⁷ UCL (no date). 'Stoney Grove' *Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery*: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/estate/view/12237>

Notable donors

- Janet Alice Chalmers, née Lorimer (1857-1946)
- John Couston (1864-1936)
- Sir Andrew Smith, MD (1797-1872)
- Lieutenant Colonel Ninian Imrie (1750-1820)
- The Amber World Museum
- Edward Chitty (1804-1863)
- Sir Norman Lamont (1869-1949)
- Robert MacAndrew (1802-1873)

Areas for further research

Further detailed study could be carried out on the contemporary collections of Dominican amber (G.2019) to identify new species present.

Research on the invertebrate collections was conducted using NMS's online database. Many of the specimens from the Caribbean are not represented in the catalogue. Whole collections are represented by one record, which is common practice for entomology collections. The numbers given are therefore likely to be only a small proportion of what is held and further study may yield a much greater number.

Human remains

NMS holds two skeletal replicas of ancestral human remains originating from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Although they are not treated as natural history specimens, they were not included in the first *Reveal and Connect* report and so have been included here. Respecting the original ancestors from whom these casts were created, they have not been included in the data of this report. Both casts were originally in the Department of Natural History of the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art (now National Museums Scotland). This reflects outdated museological practice, and these collections are now cared for by the Global Arts, Cultures and Design Department.

One cast was presented to the museum in 1862 by the Army Medical Museum at Fort Pitt in Chatham, Kent (Z.1862.36.36). Fort Pitt was constructed during the Napoleonic Wars with a medical museum established by Sir James McGrigor (1771-1858) in 1816. The museum gathered scientific collections for study, including geological, botanical, and zoological material from around the world, including the Caribbean, South Africa and the 'East Indies'.⁴⁸ It is likely that this cast was acquired by McGrigor and later donated to the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art ahead of the Army Medical School's closure in 1863.

The other cast was purchased from Alex Stewart (c.1818-c.1881) in 1864 (Z.1864.9.1). Dr Alex Stewart was curator of the Phrenological Museum in Edinburgh

⁴⁸ Bowen, M, B Whiston and M Cooper (2022). 'Britain's forgotten military medical school at Fort Pitt, Kent (1860-1863)'. *Journal of Medical Biography* 30/4: 262.
<https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/downloads/Bowen-et-al.pdf>

between 1856 and 1877. Now considered a pseudoscience, phrenology was often used to justify scientific racism, particularly in debates regarding the emancipation of African people. This skull cast was possibly on display at the original Phrenological Museum at 1 Surgeon Square, now the Old Surgeons Hall at the University of Edinburgh.⁴⁹

Regions and countries represented

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Caribbean (unspecified)	Andrew S Clark & Co McDuff Carfrae John J Dalgleish H E Dresser Louis Dufresne Miss Inglis Robert MacAndrew Esq Wood, Omerod & Co Sir Andrew Smith MD Professor Thomas S Traill Dr William Wright	212	Echinoderms, reptiles
Anguilla	Archibald Geikie	1	Geology
Antigua	Thomas Brown Esq	22	Birds, insects, geology

⁴⁹ Kaufman, M H and S Blomfield (2002). 'The Museums of the Edinburgh Phrenological Society'. *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*, New Series 5: 19.
https://oldedinburghclub.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BOEC_NS5_2002_The_Museums_of_the_Edinburgh_Ph.pdf

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
	Mrs Burgess R L Davies Sir Andrew Smith MD Gavin Young		
Aruba	J & J Cunningham William Frederick Henry Rosenberg	2	Amphibians, geology
The Bahamas	Andrew Buckham J J Dobbie John W Moir Esq H C Fulton G B Sowerby	75	Birds, cnidarians, foraminiferans, molluscs, palaeontology, poriferans, reptiles
Barbados	Dr F B Archer C M Cowan Colonel H W Feilden Mrs S Grossmith Dr John Alexander Harvie-Brown John W Moir Esq F G Pearcey Sir Andrew Smith	116	Birds, foraminiferans, mammals, molluscs, reptiles, other vertebrates

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
	University of Edinburgh		
Belize	Mr A S Gray	2	Fish
Bermuda	<i>Challenger</i> Expedition Clara S Ludlow Robert MacAndrew Sir John Murray Sir Charles Wyville Thomson	36	Cnidarians, diatoms, molluscs, poriferans
Cayman Islands	Trustees of British Museum	10	Molluscs
Cuba	H E Dresser H B Landers Robert MacAndrew Esq Sir Andrew Smith MD	107	Amphibians, birds, geology insects, mammals, molluscs, reptiles
Curaçao	Dr F Krantz	1	Geology
Dominica	Sir Andrew Smith MD Symington Grieve Esq Hon Walter Rothschild Watkins & Doncaster	31	Birds, crustaceans, insects, mammals, molluscs, reptiles
Dominican Republic	Contemporary collectors	467	Amber, geology, insects, reptiles

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
	Sir Andrew Smith MD		
Grenada	Trustees of British Museum J J Dalgleish J J Dobbie John W Moir William Frederick Henry Rosenberg	35	Birds, insects, molluscs
Guadeloupe	Royal Scottish Museum, Science and Art Department	1	Insects
Guyana	Lady Janet Alice Chalmers John Couston Miss Lumsden Rev John Lindsay W J Plowden-Wardlaw	307	Amphibians, birds, fish, insects, reptiles
Haiti	Trustees of British Museum	1	Insects
'Hispaniola' (Haiti/Dominican Republic)	Ernest H Short E C Stuart Baker	2	Birds
Honduras	Louis Dufresne Wilhelm Schlüter	17	Crustaceans, insects, molluscs
Jamaica	James Adams Esq Andrew S Clark & Co	637	Amphibians, birds, crustaceans, echinoderms, fish, insects, mammals, molluscs, plants, poriferans, reptiles

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
	Trustees of British Museum Hon Edward Chitty Miss Cooper J J Dalgleish Esq J J Dobbie H E Dresser Louis Dufresne Symington Grieve Esq Miss May Jeffrey-Smith Mrs Kerr Mrs Robert Kerr John R Linley Robert MacAndrew Esq Dr John MacFarlane Hon Walter Rothschild Sir Andrew Smith MD Charles A Souper and Richard Souper		

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
	Wood, Omerod & Co		
Martinique	Capt R E Foulker Robert MacAndrew Esq Sir Andrew Smith MD Contemporary collectors	10	Birds, cnidarians, molluscs, poriferans, reptiles
Nicaragua	Major Gavin Thompson	1	Molluscs
Puerto Rico	H E Dresser Louis Dufresne Robert MacAndrew Esq	29	Birds, cnidarians, geology, molluscs, poriferans, other invertebrates
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Colonel Imrie J C Johnston Esq	6	Palaeontology, reptiles
Saint Lucia	Robert MacAndrew Esq John W Moir Esq	11	Birds, fish, insects, molluscs
Saint Martin/Sint Marteen	Andrew S Clark & Co	11	Insects
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Trustees of British Museum Dr William Speirs Bruce Sir Andrew Smith MD Watson & Sons	128	Bird, echinoderms, fish, geology, insects, molluscs, poriferans, reptiles

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Saint Croix, US Virgin Islands	Maxwell Smith	4	Birds, molluscs
Saint Thomas, US Virgin Islands	Trustees of British Museum J J Dobbie William Friedrick Henry Rosenberg	5	Echinoderms, reptiles
Suriname	James Duncan	22	Insects
Tortola, British Virgin Islands	Robert MacAndrew Esq	5	Insects, molluscs
Trinidad and Tobago	Julius Boos Mr Andrew Buckham Miss J E Brown Mrs Burgess Sir Norman Lamont John W Moir Esq Dr Alex Peddie Hon Walter Rothschild Dr William Serle Sir Andrew Smith MD G D Smooker Watkins & Doncaster	211	Amphibians, birds, cnidarians, geology, insects, molluscs, reptiles, other invertebrates
Turks and Caicos	Clara S Ludlow F H Watkins	9	Molluscs, poriferans

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Venezuela	Contemporary collectors	2	Molluscs

Published information

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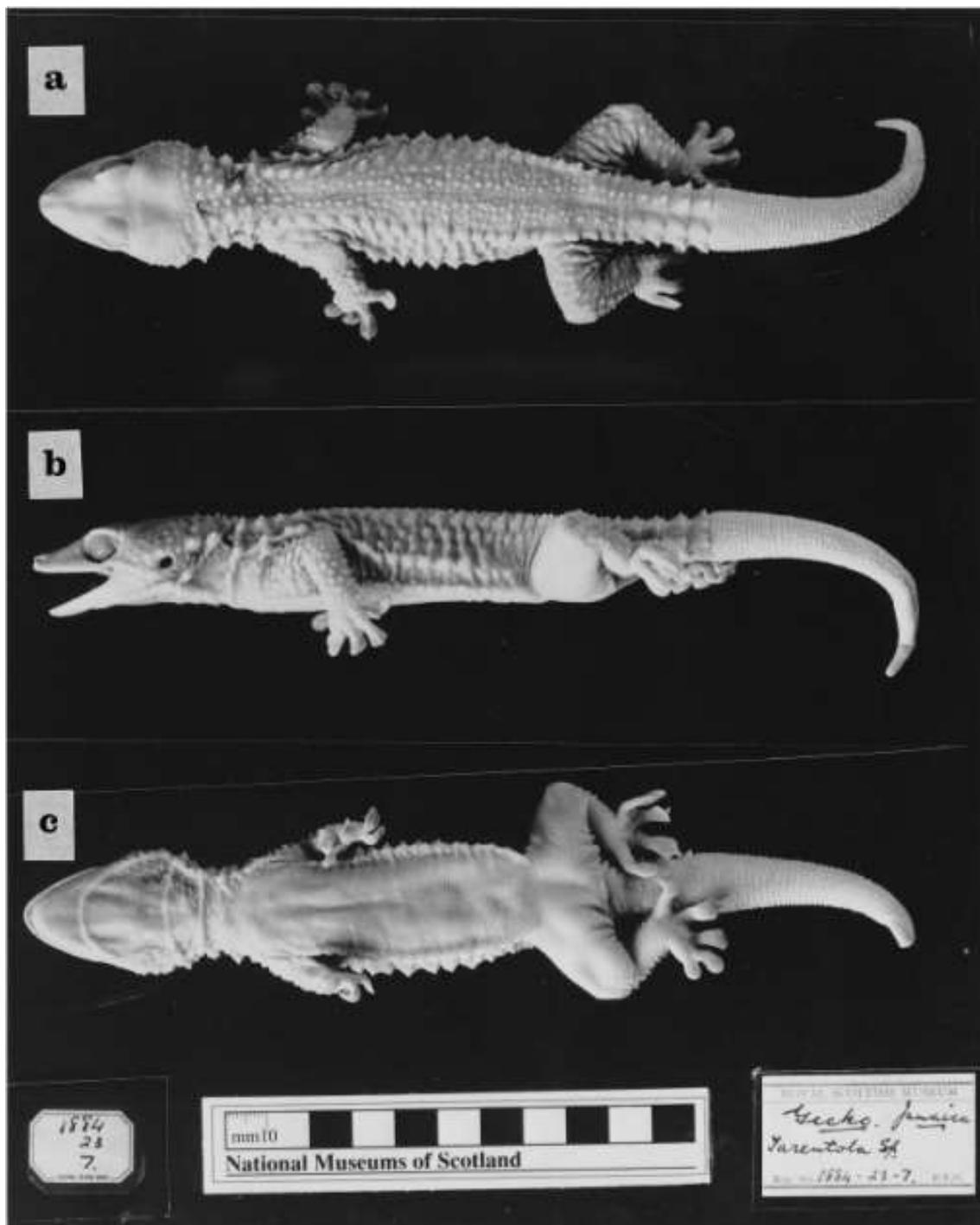
Selected object images



Head of swordfish, *Xiphias gladius*, West Indies, Z.1830.29. © National Museums Scotland



Jamaican giant galliwasp, *Celestus occiduus*, Jamaica, Z.1859.13.39A. © National Museums Scotland



Jamaican giant gecko, *Tarentola albertschwartzi*, Jamaica, Z.1884.23.7. © National Museums Scotland



Parasitic wasp and gall midge, *Ipsseptemmyia rossi*, caught on strands of spider silk in Dominican amber, Dominican Republic, G.2013.5.10. © National Museums Scotland



Cuban painted snails, *Polymita picta* and *Polymita versicolor*, Cuba, no number. © National Museums Scotland



Heart urchins, *Meoma ventricosa*, The Bahamas, Z.1889.66.6. © National Museums Scotland



Lophocampa citrina, female, Trinidad, Z.1950.16. © National Museums Scotland



Lamontia calibana, Trinidad, Z.1950.16. © National Museums Scotland

Paisley Museum, Renfrewshire Museums Service, One Ren

Contact paisleymuseum@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Location of collections

Paisley Museum
High Street
Paisley
PA1 2BA

In Storage

The Secret Collection
9 High Street
Paisley
PA1 2AE

Size of collections

6 records

Selected objects

- Radiolaria, *Podocyrthis* sp., Barbados, 2012.167.1
- Radiolaria, Barbados, 2012.171.275
- Diatom, Puerto Rico, 2012.171.634

History of the collection

Paisley Museum, opened in 1871, was Scotland's first municipal museum. It was funded by Sir Peter Coats, a partner in the large firm of thread makers J&P Coats, which was founded by his father, James Coats. The museum originally housed large collections amassed by the Paisley Philosophical Institution, which was founded in 1808. In 1882, art and sculpture galleries were added, and the building was further extended in 1901 and 1933. The first curator was Morris Young (1822-1897), an entomologist with a particular interest in Coleoptera who bequeathed his library and a legacy of money for the upkeep of his collections.

At the time of writing, Paisley Museum is closed for major redevelopment, due to reopen in 2026.

Overview of the collection

Due to the redevelopment of Paisley Museum, this report was compiled using a digital survey of specimens and the collections database. It is possible that unregistered specimens could be found in the collection, though more research is needed.

Six specimens were identified in the collection, five diatom and radiolaria slides from Barbados and one from Puerto Rico. Two of the examples from Barbados (2012.171.275 and 2012.171.811) and the specimen from Puerto Rico (2012.171.634) were created by W Watson & Sons, an optical instrument manufacturing business based in London that was founded by William Watson (d.1881). It is likely that the slides at Paisley Museum were purchased. There is little provenance information, but the company name provides a general date range for their creation. After William Watson's death, the company name changed from W Watson & Son to W Watson & Sons after ownership transferred to his son, Charles Henry Watson (d.1938). The company underwent another name change in 1908 to W Watson & Sons Ltd. The microscope slides include the company name used in the period 1883-1908 so it is likely they were produced around this time. It is unclear how the company procured scientific specimens and further research could uncover their suppliers.

There is also a microscope slide from Barbados (2012.167.1) from Richard Suter (1864-1959), a schoolteacher and microscopist from England. He started his slide-making business from his family home in Tottenham around 1887. He often advertised in local newspapers for exchanges of micro-photos and specimens to be mounted on slides, which is likely how he received this material.⁵⁰

Notable donors

- W Watson and Sons
- Richard Suter (1864-1959)

Areas for further research

Given that this review was compiled using online data, it is possible that further specimens could be found in storage.

Regions and countries represented

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Barbados	W Watson and Sons Richard Suter	5	Microscope slides
Puerto Rico	W Watson and Sons	1	Microscope slide

⁵⁰ Stevenson, B (2021). 'Richard Suter, 1864-1959'. *Microscopist*: <https://microscopist.net/SuterR.html>

Selected object images



Radiolaria, *Podocyrta* sp., Barbados, 2012.167.1. © OneRen, the trading name of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited



Radiolaria, Barbados, 2012.171.275. © OneRen, the trading name of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited



Diatom, Puerto Rico, 2012.171.634. © OneRen, the trading name of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited

Perth Museum, Culture Perth and Kinross

Contact collections@culturepk.org.uk

Location of collections

On display

Perth Museum
St John's Place
Perth
PH1 5SZ

In storage

Perth Art Gallery
78 George Street
Perth
PH1 5LB

Size of collections

>170 specimens

Online collections

[Culture Perth and Kinross online collections](#)

Selected objects

- *Cicadidae* *indet.*, Belize, 1989.184.5819
- African green vervet monkey, *Cercopithecidae* *indet.*, (possibly *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*), Saint Kitts, 1993.660.2
- Lepidoptera from James Miller, *Trinidad*, no number
- *Datura* *sp.*, Jamaica, 2005.27.5386
- Sugar cane, *Saccharum officinarum*, Barbados, 2005.27.9126

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. When the Society disbanded in 1914, it gifted the building and its collection to the city. Massively extended in the 1930s, it became Perth Museum and Art Gallery, and it showcased the city's principal collections. Following a major redevelopment project, a new Perth Museum opened in 2024 in the former City Hall.

Perth Museum's natural science collection was expanded by the Perthshire Society of Natural Science (PSNS, 1867). It focused on local flora and fauna but also covered the rest of the world with specimens from Britain and overseas. Members of

the society included Henry Coates (1859-1939), Dr Francis Buchanan White (1842-1894), Alexander Rodger (1869-1914), and Colonel Henry Maurice Drummond-Hay (1814-1896), all of whom had international scientific interests. Perth Museum's early collection gained a reputation for being one of the largest provincial displays of natural science. Local collections from Perthshire were housed in the main museum, separate from natural specimens from elsewhere in the world, which were housed in the 'Index Museum'.

Today the entire Culture Perth and Kinross collection is a Recognised Collection of National Significance.

Overview of the collection

Around 75% of the collection contains Caribbean specimens compiled by PSNS members during the development and early years of their Natural History Museum, which ran independently from 1881 to 1902, and then jointly with Perth Town Council. Since the 1970s, there was a significant shift in collecting to focus more on local flora and fauna. After this time, there were additions to the mollusc and Hemiptera collections and some historical donations, but little Caribbean material entered the collection.

There are around 173 records of Caribbean natural science material in the collection, with many specimens that have not been accessioned. Of the known number, the region with the most material is Nicaragua, with 48 specimens (27%) coming from Dr Francis Buchanan White's Hemiptera collection. Twenty-eight specimens come from Guyana, including those labelled Demerara and British Guiana (16%). Material from Jamaica and Panama each make up 10% of the collection. Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago each hold 5%-10% of the collection. Twelve regions each have less than 10 items (<5%), including Saint Thomas, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts, Cuba, Antigua, Cayman Islands, Grenada, and Haiti.

The largest collections are insects (47%) and botany (42%).

Zoology

Of the known Caribbean collection, almost all zoological specimens are insects. There are some marine invertebrates, including molluscs and Porifera, and a bird specimen from Guyana. The insects, all part of Dr Francis Buchanan White's Hemiptera collection, are from Nicaragua, Panama, Grenada, Cuba, French Guiana, and Guyana (1989.184). Buchanan White collected in Scotland and Europe, and he did not travel to any of these countries during his lifetime. He contacted collectors active in these areas who would send specimens to him. He was considered a leading authority on worldwide Hemiptera at this time.

An interesting specimen in the collection is the skull of an 'Old World Monkey' from Saint Kitts that was donated by Robert Couston (1923-1993). In his memoir, *Fly with the Bee Man* (1989), he states that it was collected by his grandfather in Basseterre, after it was shot. He buried the monkey but later exhumed the skull to take back to Scotland as a memento. Couston explains that it was painted gold to lessen the morbidity of the skull in the home environment. Though unidentified, this is most likely the skull of an African green vervet, *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, which was

introduced to Saint Kitts from West Africa around the 18th century. It is believed that they were brought by settler colonials as pets and fed on sugar cane at plantations. After the collapse of the sugar industry, population control dwindled, and their numbers started to grow exponentially. Over time, the vervet has become common across Saint Kitts and Nevis and is now regarded as an invasive pest by locals, causing damage to farms and personal property. Couston claimed to have briefly been a curator at Perth Museum in the 1940s. When he donated the skull, he also returned other items that had old museum labels on them. Because this era of the museum's history has been largely undocumented, there is little information to verify Couston's claims.

Another interesting specimen is the *Rupicola rupicola* from Demerara (1900.37), donated by Miss Jamieson in 1900. Agnes Jamieson (c.1842-1932) was a member of PSNS from 1878 until her death. She was the daughter of a prominent town councillor and magistrate, John Jamieson (1827-1900), who owned a clothing factory in Perth. On his death, Agnes inherited much of his estate, which could include the bird specimen featured. It is not known how it came into the Jamieson family's possession.⁵¹

Some Caribbean zoological material has not been accessioned, including a collection of around 400 butterflies, moths, and other insects brought from Trinidad by James Robert Miller (1875-1948). He was born on the island and owned Miller's General Stores in Port of Spain, founded by his grandfather. He returned to Scotland for medical reasons, settling in Crieff, Perthshire, in 1916. Most of his collection, donated in 2019 by his grandson, is British Lepidoptera, but around 400 specimens are said to have been collected in Trinidad. Museum staff reported that the cases have been arranged aesthetically rather than taxonomically. With this and the lack of taxonomic data attached to specimens, it is difficult to verify their locality without further research.

Botany

Some Caribbean material in Perth Museum's herbarium collection (2005.27) was compiled by the Perth Literary and Antiquarian Society (PLAS). Staff explained that there was a rivalry with the PSNS that inspired PLAS to gather natural material. The PLAS collection was derived from teaching material from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and University of Edinburgh, and includes specimens from across the Caribbean, including Cuba, Barbados, Saint Lucia, and Jamaica. Some specimens contain information from donors, including Richard Parnell (1814-1882) and Dr Gilbert McNab (1815-1859).

Gilbert McNab's collection was sent from Jamaica, where he had emigrated from Edinburgh in 1838 to work as a surgeon in the parishes of Kingston and St Ann. Many plants received from him are medicinal, for example, *Guaiaecum officinale* (2005.27.1640), the national flower of Jamaica, which is now endangered due to overexploitation of its health benefits. A label is attached to an example of *Datura*

⁵¹ Anon (1932). 'The Late Miss Agnes Jamieson'. *Perthshire Advertiser*, Wednesday 9 March: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000458/19320309/133/0012>

(2005.27.5386) describing it as a “nasty weed in my garden”, which could indicate the source of the specimens sent by Dr McNab.

Another interesting collection is a set of timber samples from Caribbean locations, including Saint Vincent, Guyana, and Barbados (1993.1118). Different handwriting and label styles suggest various donors for this collection but there is no further provenance information to expand on this. The uniform style of cuttings of each piece suggest they were commercial samples, either for private timber collectors or examples for building and construction. More research into this collection, as well as historical timber collecting and trading, may produce further information.

Geology

Perth Museum holds a small geological collection of specimens formerly housed in a museum at Glenalmond College and later used as teaching material. It includes pitch samples from La Brea, or Pitch Lake, in Trinidad (1987.106) but the date of this donation is unknown. Pitch Lake has a strong history with Trinidad’s indigenous communities, who used the pitch deposits as a resource before the arrival of European explorers in the 16th century.⁵² As Spanish and British colonial powers wrestled over control of Trinidad, multiple failed attempts were made to monopolise pitch refinement in the region. In 1857, oil was drilled from the lake for the first time, inspiring a new interest in La Brea by colonial economists.⁵³ By the turn of the 20th century, commercial oil production had taken over and La Brea had become a tourist attraction for those visiting from Britain.⁵⁴ It may be during this period of tourism that the Glenalmond College deposits were taken.

There is also a specimen of pitch, labelled ‘manjak’ from Vistabella Mine, also in Trinidad (1987.106.140). Vistabella functioned throughout the late 19th century until 1920, exploiting the post-emancipation landscape to employ ‘East Indian labourers’ on low wages. On 7th December 1904 an explosion resulted in the loss of 17 lives.⁵⁵ It can be assumed that this deposit was collected around the same time as the previously mentioned bitumen from Pitch Lake. Without provenance information to better understand geological material from Glenalmond, it is difficult to properly contextualise these specimens.

Associated material

Perth Museum holds an extensive archive of written material regarding both the PSNS and Literary and Antiquarian Society, including *Transactions* of PSNS from

⁵² Anon (no date). ‘Discovery of the Pitch Lake and its use’. *Lake Asphalt of Trinidad and Tobago (1978) Limited*: <https://trinidadlakeasphalt.com/history/discovery-of-the-pitch-lake-and-its-use/>

⁵³ Beeby-Thompson, A (1961). *Oil Pioneer: Selected experiences and incidents associated with sixty years of world-wide Petroleum Exploration and Oilfield Development*. London: Sidgwick and Jackson, 105-144.

⁵⁴ Anon (1905). ‘Noisome Industry: A Visit to the Pitch Lake of Trinidad’. *Falkirk Herald*, Wednesday 2 August: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0001907/19050804/119/0008>

⁵⁵ Homer, L B (2010). ‘Vistabella’s own mining disaster’. *Community Development Express*, 25th October, 9: <https://usc-tt.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17004coll12/id/16069/>

1870 to present, accession registers from 1881, and museum reports from 1901. Documented material allows greater context for many items in the collection and builds on the histories of Perth's rival museums at the end of the 19th century. While there is a clear focus on understanding the landscape of Perthshire, catalogue entries of foreign material show an interest in collecting the global natural world.

Copies of Dr Francis Buchanan White's correspondence, held at Perth Museum, include additional detail on his international contacts. James William Helenus Trail (1851-1919), for example, was a botanist based in British Guiana who sent Hemiptera from 'Brazil', an umbrella term he used to describe north-eastern Southern America, including Trinidad.

Notable donors

- Dr Francis Buchanan White (1842-1894)
- Gilbert McNab (1815-1859)
- Rev Robert Nicol Dickson (1878-1962)
- James Miller (1875-1948)

Areas for further research

Caribbean natural science material would benefit from further research to trace ownership and to identify species. The herbarium from Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and geological samples from Glenalmond College have limited data that makes them difficult to trace. Further research at the related institutions could uncover more provenance information.

During the visit, some unaccessioned molluscs listed in Henry Coates' 1925 catalogue were found in taxonomic order. These included some of Rev Robert Nicol Dickson's donation from the Cayman Islands and molluscs from D'Arcy Thompson at the University of Dundee. Closer research on the mollusc collection, using the number catalogue, may uncover more material from the Caribbean and around the world.

Most Hemiptera from the Dr Francis Buchanan White collection have not been fully identified and would benefit from close research. This is also the case for the James Miller collection, as there is limited data to identify Trinidadian species. Identification could help to geographically locate specimens.

Regions and countries represented

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Caribbean	Janet Carphin Henry John Carter Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	7	Mollusc, Porifera, plant, crustacean slides
Antigua and Barbuda	Alexander Lamond	1	Bird
Barbados	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	9	Plant
Belize	Colonial & Indian Exhibition, 1886	1	Insect
Cayman Islands	Rev Robert Nicol Dickson	2	Mollusc
Cuba	Dr Francis Buchanan White	2	Insect
Dominica	Christian Ferdinand Frederick Krauss Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	6	Plant
French Guiana	Dr Francis Buchanan White	2	Insect
Grenada	Herbert Huntingdon Smith	2	Insect
Guyana	Dr Alfred Herbert Bartley Miss Jamieson Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Robert Herman Schomburgk Dr Francis Buchanan White	25	Bird, insect, plant
Haiti	J Woody	1	Insect

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Honduras	Dr Francis Buchanan White	4	Insect, mineral
Jamaica	Dr Graham Dr Gilbert McNab Richard Parnell Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	17	Plant
Nicaragua	Hans Fruhstorfer Dr Francis Buchanan White	48	Plant
Panama	Dr Francis Buchanan White	18	Insect
Saint Lucia	Philip Anton Christoph Endress Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	3	Plant
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Robert Couston	1	Mammal
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	None	13	Plant
Trinidad and Tobago	Glenalmond College James Miller Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	Approx 400	Insect, mineral, plant
Saint Thomas, US Virgin Islands	George Stewardson Brady	1	Crustacean

Published Information

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Taylor, M A (1978). 'Perth Museum - Its History and Collections: A Brief Sketch'. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter* 2 (1): 20-22.

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Selected object images



Cicadidae *indet.*, Belize, 1989.184.5819. Reproduced with permission of Culture Perth and Kinross.



African green vervet, *Cercopithecidae* indet. (possibly *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*), Saint Kitts, 1993.660.2. Reproduced with permission of Culture Perth and Kinross.



James Miller entomology collection, no number. Reproduced with permission of Culture Perth and Kinross.



Datura sp., Jamaica, 2005.27.5386. Reproduced with permission of Culture Perth and Kinross.



Sugar cane, *Saccharum officinarum*, Barbados, 2005.27.9126. Reproduced with permission of Culture Perth and Kinross.

University of Aberdeen Collections

Contact collections@abdn.ac.uk

Location of collections

Zoology Museum
University of Aberdeen
Tillydrone Avenue
Aberdeen
AB24 2TZ

Size of collections

>331 specimens

Online collections

[University of Aberdeen online collections](#)

Selected objects

- French Cotton, *Calotropis procera* (*Asclepias volubilis*), Barbados, ABDUH:4/1361
- Asphalt, Trinidad, ABDUG Rock.0226
- *Mycetozoa*, Antigua, no number
- Noddy tern, *Anous stolidus*, The Bahamas, ABDUZ:73916
- Reticulated cowry helmet, *Cypræacassis testiculus*, Jamaica, ABDUZ:5815

History of the collection

The University of Aberdeen was formed in 1860 with the merger of King's College (founded 1495) and Marischal College (founded 1593). Given this long history, it is possible that parts of the collection are some of the earliest in Scotland. The Aberdeen Natural History Association was founded in 1845 by local specialists, including Dr William MacGillivray (1796-1852), with the intention of creating a museum to house their collections. Although this society ceased around the 1850s, much of their work influenced the original zoology museum and its growing collections.

The current museum in the Zoology Department is the display area for specimens from University of Aberdeen Collections. Specimens were amassed through 200 years of teaching and research activities by staff and students and donations from graduates and friends of the University. Collections at the museum are part of University of Aberdeen Collections, a Recognised Collection of National Significance.

Overview of the collection

331 specimens have been identified within University of Aberdeen Collections. Of these records, 260 (78%) come from contemporary collectors who are associated

with the University either as students or staff. The largest collection region is Jamaica with 147 records (45%), including mollusc, fish and plant material. 124 specimens come from Belize (38%). Seven regions, including Antigua, The Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, and Trinidad and Tobago, have less than 5% of the collection each. 2% of the collection has been attributed to the general Caribbean region.

Among the collections of historical and undated specimens, there are six known collectors. Some donors had a direct connection with the University, including Lady Sydney Charlotte Montagu Countess of Kintore (1851-1932) and Sir Alexander John Forsyth Reid (1846-1913).

Lady Montagu donated seed pods from an unidentified *Albizia* species from Barbados (ABDUZ:57880). She was the daughter of George Montagu, 6th Duke of Manchester (1799-1855). Her grandfather, William Montagu (1771-1843), served as Governor of Jamaica from 1808 to 1827, overseeing the abolition of the Slave Trade across the colony. Her father served in the Royal Navy on HMS *Larne* which was stationed in Jamaica. Lady Montagu's husband, Algernon Keith-Falconer, Earl of Kintore (1852-1930), was also a colonial governor in South Australia between 1889 and 1895. The Countess of Kintore also donated a significant collection of cultural and natural material from Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. It is unclear whether she collected in person or by employing networks of collectors.

A sample of bitumen, or pitch, from Trinidad was donated by Major General Sir Alexander John Forsyth Reid in 1907 (ABDUG: Min.6528). Reid was the brother of Robert Reid, Professor of Anatomy and Honorary Curator of the Anthropological Museum at the University of Aberdeen, 1906-1938. Alexander Reid studied at the University before joining the Indian Army in 1867. He served in the Bengal Native Infantry throughout his career and retired around 1904. In 1907, he travelled to the West Indies on RMS *Eden*, visiting Saint Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, and Trinidad.⁵⁶ Around this time, Pitch Lake, or La Brea, had become a famous attraction for tourists. It was leased by an American company for commercial oil drilling. The busiest season for drilling was between February and October, making it likely that Reid visited during this time. He may have retrieved his sample on site at La Brea or as a purchase.⁵⁷

There is an interesting collection of bird eggs from Robert Hay Fenton (1859-1926), a Scottish oologist and commercial clerk. It contains three noddy tern eggs, *Anous stolidus*, (ABDUZ:73916, ABDUZ:73917, ABDUS:73918) from The Bahamas. Fenton donated his collection to the University of Aberdeen in 1909, along with catalogues detailing how he gathered examples, including buying, personally collecting or receiving from other collectors. The three noddy tern eggs are described as having been collected in the Bahamas by D P Ingraham. This is possibly Captain David Powers Ingraham (1836-1904), an American soldier who served in the Michigan 9th Cavalry during the American Civil War. He later became a naturalist, collecting in the Bahamas between 1889 and 1900.

⁵⁶ Jackson, T B (1907). 'In the Island of Trinidad'. *The Queen*, Saturday 16 March: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0002627/19070316/356/0060>

⁵⁷ Anon (1907). 'The Pitch Lake in Trinidad'. *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, Tuesday 11 June: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000576/19070611/032/0005>

University of Aberdeen's herbarium contains pressed plants from regions in the Caribbean, including Jamaica and Barbados. Two specimens from Gordontown, Jamaica, were collected by John Ball (1818-1889). They are *Celosia virgata* (ABDUH:4/1624) and *Chamissoa altissima* (ABDUH:4/1625). Ball was an Irish politician and botanist who collected around the world, including in the Caribbean and South America in 1882. He served as Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies between 1855 and 1857. During his time in office, he influenced the scientific knowledge of colonial flora. His collections can also be found at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE).

There is also a French cotton specimen, *Calotropis procera*, originally identified as *Asclepias volubilis*, collected by Dr Wright in Barbados (ABDUH:4/1369). This could be Dr William Wright (1735-1819), a British physician and botanist. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh before serving as a surgeon's mate in the British Navy's Jamaica regiment. During his time in Jamaica, he purchased Orange-Hill estate and became an enslaver of around 33 African people.⁵⁸ He sold the estate in 1784 following the death of his business partner, Thomas Steel. By this time, he had become a known botanist and plant collector in Jamaica. If this specimen can be attributed to the same Dr Wright, it may have been collected during his visit to Barbados in 1796-1798.⁵⁹

A collection of Mycetozoa slides was found uncatalogued in the University's herbarium. They were gathered by Rev William Cran (1854-1933) whose notebooks are also part of the collection. It contains around 1,000 moulds, with roughly 20 coming from Antigua. Rev Cran served as a lecturer at the Wesleyan Seminary, now known as St John's Wesleyan Holiness Church.⁶⁰ Some of his collection was also sent to the Natural History Museum in London, including slides from Dominica.

There is also a collection of diatom slides that were found uncatalogued in the University's herbarium. It contains slides from around the world, including some from Panama. It is possible that this collection was gathered by Professor George Dickie (1812-1882), who was Regius Professor of Botany at the University of Aberdeen from 1860 to 1877. He would have received material for analysis and description, including from the *Challenger* Expedition (1873-1876). Some of Dickie's collection was sent to Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson at the University of Dundee after 1882, either through purchase or gift. Staff at the University confirmed that some of the handwriting on slides matches those in their collection. Further research across both institutions could verify whether the holdings in Aberdeen also originate from Dickie.

⁵⁸ Anon (no date). 'Dr William Wright, 1735-1819'. *UCL Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery*: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146663825>

⁵⁹ Stafleu, F A and R S Cowan (1988). *Taxonomic Literature: A Selective Guide to Botanical Publications and Collections with Dates, Commentaries and Types. Volume VII, W-Z*. Utrecht: Bohn, Scheltema & Holkema: 469:

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/33066809#page/529/mode/1up>

⁶⁰ McMurthrie, M (1972). 'The Old Skene Road'. *The Scots Magazine*, Friday 01 December: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000544/19721201/127/0065>

Associated material

University of Aberdeen Collections holds Sir Alexander Reid's personal scrapbooks and notebooks. They contain his own interpretations of British military operations, including the British engagement in the Haitian Revolution and colonial operations across the West Indies.

Archival records for the Earls of Kintore and associated families are available in the University of Aberdeen's archive. Lady Sydney Charlotte Montagu also donated cultural material from around the world, including Sudan, Ethiopia, Brazil, and Japan.

John Ball published *Notes of a naturalist in South America* (1887), which describes his visits to Barbados and Jamaica. In this he contextualises his tour, including interactions with local communities.⁶¹

Notable donors

- Major General Sir Alexander John Forsyth Reid KCB (1846-1913)
- John Ball (1818-1889)
- Lady Sydney Charlotte Montagu, Countess of Kintore (1851-1932)
- Dr William Wright (1735-1819)

Areas for further research

More research could be done on the collection of Robert Hay Fenton to uncover his network of collectors around the world. His catalogue contains details of some individuals and further work could yield information on their lives in each respective region.

Further work could be done on Rev William Cran and his activities in Antigua. It is possible that documentary material exists in local archives on his life in the Church before returning to Scotland. Research could yield information on how he procured his collection.

⁶¹ Ball, J (1887). *Notes of a Naturalist in South America*. London: K Paul, Trench & Co.

Regions and countries represented

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Caribbean (unspecified)	None	5	Insects, molluscs
Antigua	None	1	Geology
The Bahamas	Robert Hay Fenton A M Farquhar	5	Birds
Barbados	Sydney Charlotte Montagu, Countess of Kintore Dr Wright	9	Birds, plants, molluscs, Foraminifera
Belize	Contemporary collectors	124	Insects
Cuba	None	8	Molluscs
Honduras	None	2	Birds, geology
Jamaica	John Ball	147	Birds, fish, geology, plants, molluscs,
Nicaragua	None	1	Molluscs
Panama	None	11	Geology, molluscs
Puerto Rico	None	8	Molluscs
Spanish Grenada	None	1	Molluscs
Trinidad and Tobago	Major General Sir Alexander John Forsyth Reid	7	Foraminifera, geology, insects, molluscs
Venezuela	None	1	Geology

Selected object images



French cotton, *Calotropis procera* (*Asclepius volubilis*), Barbados, ABDUH:4/1361.
© University of Aberdeen CC-BY



Asphalt, Trinidad, ABDUG Rock.0226. © University of Aberdeen CC-BY



Slime moulds, Mycetoza, Antigua, no number. © University of Aberdeen CC-BY



Noddy tern egg, *Anous stolidus*, The Bahamas, ABDUZ:73916. © University of Aberdeen CC-BY



Cypraecassis testiculus, Jamaica, ABDUZ:5815. © University of Aberdeen CC-BY

University of Dundee Museum Collections

Contact museum@dundee.ac.uk

Location of collections

On display

D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum
Carnelley Building
University of Dundee
Dundee
DD1 4HN

In storage

Hawkhill House
University of Dundee
Dundee
DD1 4HN

Size of collections

>46 specimens

Online collections

[University of Dundee online collections](#)

Selected objects

- Queen conch shell, *Lobatus gigas*, West Indies, DUNUC 2468
- Purslane speedwell, *Veronica peregrina*, Jamaica, DUNUC 4987/4
- Jamaican anole, *Anolis garmani*, Jamaica, DUNUC 1334
- Yellow-bellied Elaenia, *Elaenia pagana*, Trinidad, DUNUC 1725
- Virginia opossum, *Didelphys virgininna*, Jamaica, DUNUC 1949

History of the collection

The University of Dundee's zoology collection was largely acquired by Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson (1860-1948), the first Professor of Biology at University College Dundee, who held the Chair from 1884 to 1917. Specimens were collected for educational and research use, including his seminal work *On Growth and Form* (1945), and the brief journal series *Studies from the Museum of Zoology in University College, Dundee* (1888-1890).

At the time, the museum received little funding to support its growth or management, so the collection depended on Thompson's methods of accumulating material. He

acquired specimens from around the world through a network of collectors, hunters and scientists who were active in the colonies. A great deal of his collection was undocumented, apart from acquisition highlights featured in annual reports in the *Calendar of the University College Dundee*. Following the demolition of the original museum in the 1950s, much of the collection was dispersed or destroyed, with the remainder forming the core collection of the University of Dundee's current museum. This means there is little detailed understanding of the current collection's provenance, especially specimens from the Caribbean.

As well the zoology collection, the University also developed a herbarium for botany teaching and research. This was initially built up by Thompson's colleague, Patrick Geddes, Professor of Botany 1888-1919, but few of the specimens he acquired survive. Various other plant collections were added up to the 1980s, mostly local vascular plants.

Overview of the collection

At the time of writing, 11 regions are represented in the collections, including Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname, Barbados, and the Bahamas. Six specimens (13%) have an unspecified location where the distribution range includes the Caribbean. The records are mostly from zoological specimens compiled during Thompson's curatorship, the diatom collection of George Dickie, and the Arbroath Horticultural and Natural History Society collection of plant specimens (1884-1935), donated after the Society was disbanded.

Although now part of the Herbarium, the diatom material is believed to have been part of Thompson's original zoology museum collection. Nearly half the current collection is diatom material attributed to the West Indies, Barbados, British Guiana, Demerara, and Panama (42%), presumably due to Thompson's notable interest in radiolaria. The collection was acquired through George Dickie (1812-1882), lecturer and later Regius Professor of Botany at the University of Aberdeen, who gathered and examined marine algae from around the world, including specimens found during the HMS *Challenger* Expedition (1873-1876).⁶² Like Thompson, Dickie may have collected some local specimens but may also have had a string of contacts who sold or gifted material to him for educational purposes. The detail of how he built this collection and how it ended up in Dundee is unknown.

Another significant collection is specimens in spirit collected by Johann Cesar VI Godeffroy (1813-1885) for the Museum Godeffroy, in 1861-1885, of which the known examples are a yellow-bellied sea snake, *Hydrus platurus*, from the West Indies (DUNUC 1414) and a rainbow boa, *Epicrates cenchris*, from Colombia (DUNUC 1438). The Godeffroy family owned a successful trading business that expanded across the world through the 18th and 19th centuries, including the export of textiles to the Caribbean and import of goods produced by enslaved people such as coffee and sugar. Difficulties in keeping the business afloat led to the trading company

⁶² Stevenson, B (2022). 'George Dickie, 1812-1882 "G.D."' <https://microscopist.net/DickieG.html>

being taken over in 1878, and the Museum Godeffroy closed in 1881.⁶³ After Godeffroy's death in 1885, his collection was dispersed to various museums, including the newly created Zoological Museum at University College Dundee, though it is not known how Thompson acquired it.

There is also a small collection of bird skins from Trinidad (<1%) that were received by Thompson in 1892 as duplicates from the British Museum, as noted in his annual report to the University College. According to the original labels, the birds were collected by multiple people and have different accession numbers, including a Carib grackle, *Quiscalus inflexirostris*, from 'ZSC' (DUNUC 1813) and a black-faced tanager, *Schistochlamys atra*, from 'Argent' (DUNUC 1817). ZSC most likely refers to the Zoological Society of London's collection. Thompson's report states that he received a "large one [donation] of many thousand specimens from the trustees"⁶⁴ which may have included more examples from Trinidad, though there are only four specimens in the current collection.

Associated material

The D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum is a collection of what remains of Thompson's original museum and contains specimens from around the world. It reflects late 19th and early 20th century collection practices and offers a rich, though incomplete, understanding of the University of Dundee's zoological interests under Thompson's curatorship. Some aspects have more provenance information than others, especially from excursions that Thompson himself undertook, including his 1896-1897 Bering Sea expeditions. Others, including the Caribbean collections, have very little data and would benefit from research to trace their history.

Correspondence between Thompson and his associates, held by the University of Dundee and University of St Andrews, can offer a deeper understanding of his connections across the natural science world, from specialists and private collectors to curators and scholars. The University of St Andrews collection contains over 30,000 letters written between Thompson and his correspondents (ms9013-29950; ms37781; ms40500-50169),⁶⁵ providing insight into his personal, academic, and professional life. Correspondents in Trinidad include Alistair Martin Adamson (ms9227) and Edward McCallum Callan (ms9323, ms45118, ms45119).

Of the original Godeffroy collection that remains, most originates from the Pacific Islands. This material was acquired by Dr Eduard Heinrich Graeffe (1833-1919), who supervised its collection for Museum Godeffroy. Little is known about who gathered the Caribbean material for the museum, or whether it was accumulated while the family was actively trading in the West Indies and sent to Hamburg for display.

⁶³ Hallerman, J (2007). 'Das Museum Godeffroy in Hamburg (1861 bis 1881) - Aufbau, Erfolg und Untergang' *Sekretar* 7/2: https://lght.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/sekretaer_2007_2-Hallermann-Museum-Godeffroi.pdf

⁶⁴ Anon (1892). 'Dundee University College, the Annual Report'. *Dundee Courier*, Thursday 30 June: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000162/18920630/016/0003>

⁶⁵ Thompson, D'Arcy Wentworth (c.1860-c.1975). 'Papers of D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, University of St Andrews Libraries and Museums, ms9013-29950; ms37781; ms40500-50169.

Notable donors

- George Dickie (1812-1882)
- Frederic Kitton (1827-1895)
- Captain Perry (c.1870s)
- A G Millar of Trinidad (c.1890s)
- Johann Cesar VI Godeffroy (1813-1885)

Areas for further research

At the time of writing, there is limited understanding of the full extent of Thompson's original Caribbean collection. A typescript copy of notes made by Thompson around 1902-1903 (University of Dundee Archive, US-SF 2/12/1/5) refers to multiple catalogues created externally, including a catalogue of crustaceans by his assistant W T Calman and a description of the 'most important' specimens. Without an official accession register, it is difficult to quantify what was collected at the original museum and even more so to trace provenance information for records where data has not been recorded elsewhere.

George Dickie's collection is of significance for further research as little is known about how he acquired algae from around the world. Beyond the Caribbean, there are specimens from South and East Asia, South America, and the Pacific. Other donors contributed to the collection, including Frederic Kitton and Captain Perry, and more collectors could be uncovered with further focus on the collection in its entirety. During this report, a collection of diatom slides was located at the University of Aberdeen, where Dickie was employed. Staff at the University of Dundee noted similarities in the University of Aberdeen Collections material and the collection held in Dundee. It is possible that both are from George Dickie's collection, though further research is needed to verify this.

Further interrogation of the duplicate Trinidadian bird skins from the British Museum may uncover provenance information on the original donors featured on the labels. Researching *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London* may provide more detail on when they were collected and by whom. It may also give an idea of other specimens given to Thompson that are no longer in the collection or may have been dispersed to other museums in Scotland.

Regions and countries represented

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Caribbean (unspecified)	Frederic Kitton	4	Mollusc
Antigua	None	1	Crustacean
The Bahamas	None	1	Echinoderm
Barbados	None	9	Diatoms, invertebrate
Guyana	None	5	Birds, diatoms, fish

Region/country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Jamaica	None	5	Mammal, plant, reptile, microscope slide
Panama	Johann Cesar Godeffroy VI	11	Diatom, plant, reptile
Saint Vincent	None	2	Echinoderm
Suriname	None	1	Mammal
Trinidad and Tobago	ZSC	7	Bird, insect
Virgin Islands	None	1	Echinoderm

Published Information

Jarron, M and P Dubrun (2021). *The Nature of Empire: Decolonising the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum*. Dundee: University of Dundee Museum.

Selected object images



Purslane speedwell, *Veronica peregrina*, Jamaica, DUNUC 4987/4. Reproduced with permission of University of Dundee Museums.



Queen conch shell, *Lobatus gigas*, West Indies, DUNUC 2468. Courtesy of University of Dundee Museums.



Jamaican anole, *Anolis garmani*, Jamaica, DUNUC 1334. Reproduced with permission of University of Dundee Museums.



Yellow-bellied elaenia, *Elaenia pagana*, Trinidad, DUNUC 1725. Courtesy of University of Dundee Museums.



Virginia opossum, *Didelphys virgininna*, Jamaica, DUNUC 1949. Courtesy of University of Dundee Museums.

The Watt Institution, Inverclyde Council

Contact wattinstitution@inverclyde.co.uk

Location of collections

On display

McLean Museum
15 Kelly Street
Greenock
PA16 8JX

In storage

McLean Museum
15 Kelly Street
Greenock
PA16 8JX

Greenock Municipal Buildings
24 Clyde Square
Greenock
PA15 1LY

Size of collections

>94 specimens

Online collections

[Inverclyde Council online collections](#)

Selected objects

- Lacebark, *Lagetta lagetto*, Jamaica, no number
- Hoatzin or Canje pheasant, *Opisthocomus cristatus*, Guyana, A388
- Candy cane snail, *Achatina virginea*, West Indies, G612
- Hooded parrot, *Pionopsittacus caica*, West Indies, A95
- Red-crowned ant-tanager, *Phoenicothera rubra*, West Indies, A101

History of the collection

Named after the inventor James Watt, the Watt Institution's collection is based on Greenock's history, providing a record of the town's local heritage and contribution to Scottish national history. The Watt Institution, comprising the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, the Watt Library, and Inverclyde Archives, is managed by Inverclyde Council. The Watt Library opened in 1837 and the Museum and Art Gallery, housing the collection of the Greenock Philosophical Society (1861) opened in 1876.

Greenock has been a 'custom house' port town for Glasgow since 1714, acting as a major port for ships travelling on the triangular routes Transatlantic Slave Trade. It also imported sugar and cotton produced on plantations across the US and Caribbean. Many significant donors to the collection include those involved in the sugar and cotton economies, including George Rogers MacDougall (1843-1917), a sugar merchant with estates in Port of Spain, Trinidad. A significant natural science collector and contributor to Greenock's early collections was Robert Lyons Scott (1871-1939), a game hunter who toured across the world, including to Kenya, Japan, Argentina, Mexico, and Trinidad, collecting game and armour for his private collection. He was one of the directors of the family-owned Scott's Shipbuilding and Engineering Company.

At the time of writing, the Watt Institution is closed for maintenance in preparation for the museum's 150th anniversary in 2026.

Overview of the collection

It was not possible to obtain a full inventory of the natural science collections for this review. Due to health and safety reasons, the collections held in the Municipal Buildings are largely inaccessible. This report has therefore been compiled using Inverclyde Council's online collections database and two visual surveys conducted in December 2025 and March 2026.

At the time of writing, 94 specimens were located though further investigation may yield additional results. 57 records (61%) have been labelled as 'West Indies' or have a general range that includes the Caribbean. The region with the largest collection is Guyana, with 13 specimens (14%). 25% of the collection has a locality attached. These regions include The Bahamas, Bermuda, Cuba, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. The largest collection types are molluscs (51%) and birds (40%).

An interesting collection is a set of bird mounts that were included in an exchange with the British Guiana Museum, now the Guyana National Museum, in 1924. Of the 12 birds mentioned in the exchange, seven could be found within the modern collection, including two examples of the hoatzin, *Opisthocomus cristatus* (A87, A88). It is the national bird of Guyana and is known locally as the Canje pheasant. They were particularly noted in the exchange as highly sought after by zoos and private collectors. By the time the mounts entered the McLean Museum's collection, no live Canje pheasants had been captured. It was highly sought after by British and American game hunters. In the summer of 1924, a team of American scientists and hunters were employed by London Zoo to capture a Canje pheasant.⁶⁶

There are three examples of fish hunted by Robert Lyons Scott (1871-1939) in Trinidad and three mounted jaws of a barracuda, *Sphyraena* (2001.239), a tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, (2001.240), and a blacktip shark, *Carcharhinus limbatus*,

⁶⁶ Anon (1924). 'Bird That Climbs: Hoatzin Hunt in South America'. *Dundee Evening Telegraph*, Monday 21 April:
<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000563/19240421/039/0004>

(2001.238) from Trinidad, described in his private catalogue.⁶⁷ These were caught during Scott's hunting tour of the West Indies in 1934. Scott was a notable shipbuilder and partner in the family-owned Scott's Shipbuilding & Engineering Company. Their ships travelled across the world, including the Americas, Africa, and Asia. He also spent much of his time game hunting in Africa, including Kenya and Zimbabwe. Much of his collection was bequeathed to the Museum and his private collection of arms and armour can be found at Glasgow Life's Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

A significant collection of birds was donated around 1892 by Mrs John Kerr of Heathfield. This is Helen Morrison Harper (c.1864-c.1930), who married into the Kerr sugar manufacturing family through John Kerr (c.1860-1905). The business was founded by his father, also John Kerr (1823-1872), a ship builder in Greenock whose trade ships travelled from the Clyde to the West Indies. In the 1850s, he entered a partnership with Abram Lyle (1820-1891) to create a sugar trade business, later purchasing Glebe Sugar Refinery Company in Greenock West. Little is known about Helen beyond her marriage to John Kerr in 1890. The collection may have been compiled by the elder John Kerr, bequeathed to his son, and later donated after their marriage. Around 40 birds are listed in the original trustee accounts as coming from 'South America'. Of those located in storage, general location information is provided on the mounts, including wide ranges across the Americas. Some, like the black-spotted barbet, *Capito niger*, from British Guiana (A66), have been associated directly to the Caribbean.

There is also another interesting example of calcite (no number) from Cuba, presented by Miss Leitch of Ardgowan Square. This could be Margaret Leitch (c.1832-1910) whose family was closely involved in the Greenock sugar trade. Her father, John Leitch (c.1788-1851), was a merchant and shipowner and her brothers, Patrick Walker Leitch (c.1825-1898) and John Leitch (c.1845-1920), were sugar brokers. Around the 1890s, they were both employed at Greenock's Sugar Exchange. Historically, Glasgow's sugar refining industry was centred within the city under the West India Association at the Royal Exchange. As Greenock became a central area for exporting raw sugar from places like the Caribbean, the Sugar Exchange moved from Glasgow to Greenock around the 1880s.⁶⁸

There is a small collection of birds and lepidoptera donated by George Rogers MacDougall (1843-1917), a sugar merchant with estates in Trinidad and Tobago. This includes two *Heliconius erato* specimens, *doris* (BU243) and *viridis* (BU242). MacDougall travelled frequently between North America and Scotland but was mostly based in New York. A collection of American birds collected by William Earl Dodge Scott (1852-1910) was also donated through MacDougall. Scott was an American ornithologist, based in New York, who worked as a taxidermist and curator

⁶⁷ Scott, R L (c.1939). *The R.L. Scott Collection of Big Game Heads: Catalogue of the Scott Collection of Mounted Heads and Specimens of Big Game and Game Fish*. Privately printed.

⁶⁸ Anon (1883). 'New Sugar Exchange for Greenock'. *Dundee Courier*, Wednesday 13 June: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000162/18830613/029/0003>

at Princeton University's biology museum. He visited Jamaica between 1891 and 1892 to study birds.⁶⁹

Associated material

Robert Lyons Scott was a prolific game hunter. Much of his collection was acquired in 1940 after his death, including birds and large game from Kenya and Zambia. Further investigation into the collection could uncover more specimens from the Caribbean donated by him.

Notable donors

- Mrs John Kerr, née Helen Morrison Harper (c.1864-c.1930)
- Robert Lyons Scott (1871-1939)
- George Rogers MacDougall (1843-1917)
- British Guiana Museum (1868-1966)

Areas for further research

Most known donors in this report have had a connection to the Caribbean through Greenock's sugar refinery and maritime industry. More research could be done on the sugar industry after emancipation, particularly where Greenock was still closely reliant on Caribbean labour. This is particularly the case for Glebe Sugar Refinery Company which held a significant monopoly on this industry and continued to use raw sugar cane into the 20th century, despite a steady decline in imports.⁷⁰

An archive for George Rogers MacDougall's estates is available through the University of West Indies Archives. Further research into these documents may help uncover the nature of his estates and how his position as a sugar merchant allowed him to operate around Trinidad and Tobago.

More research could be done to investigate the exchange between the British Guiana Museum and the McLean Museum. The 12 birds featured in the exchange have a distinct mount style and number written on their base that indicates they are part of a group. Further investigation could uncover the five specimens not located at the time of writing. Further work could also be done to establish the relationship between the two museums.

⁶⁹ Anon (1911). 'Obituary: Dr. A. B. Meyer, Dr. Carl Parrot and Mr. W. E. D. Scott'. *Ibis* 5, Ninth Series: 559.

⁷⁰ West Indian Royal Commission (1897). *Report of the West India Royal Commission with Subsidiary Report by D. Morris Esq. D.Sc, C.M.G and Statistical Tables and Diagrams and a Map*. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 156:
<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008420827>

Regions and countries represented

Region/Country	Major sources	Approximate collection size	Types of material
Caribbean (unspecified)	Mrs John Kerr George Rogers MacDougall	58	Birds, molluscs
Central America (unspecified)	None	2	Birds
The Bahamas	None	1	Birds
Bermuda	None	1	Birds
Cuba	Miss Leitch	4	Birds, insects, molluscs
Guyana	British Guiana Museum Herbert W Marsden	13	Birds
Honduras	None	3	Molluscs
Jamaica	William Blair	5	Molluscs, plants
Panama	None	1	Molluscs
Trinidad and Tobago	Robert Lyons Scott	5	Birds, fish
Venezuela	George Rogers MacDougall	1	Insects

Published information

Scott, R L (c.1939). *The R.L. Scott Collection of Big Game Heads: Catalogue of the Scott Collection of Mounted Heads and Specimens of Big Game and Game Fish*, privately printed.

Selected object images



Lacebark, *Lagetta lagetto*, Jamaica, unnumbered. Courtesy of The Watt Institution.



Hoatzin or Canje pheasant, *Opisthocomus cristatus*, Guyana, A388. Courtesy of The Watt Institution.



Candy cane snail, *Achatina virginea*, West Indies, G612. Courtesy of The Watt Institution.



Hooded parrot, *Pionopsittacus caica*, West Indies, A95. Courtesy of The Watt Institution.



Red-crowned ant-tanager, *Phoenicothera rubra*, West Indies, A101. Courtesy of The Watt Institution.



Jamaican lacebark, *Lagetta lagetto*.
Image courtesy of The Watt Institution

Caribbean Natural Science Collections in Scottish Museums Conclusion

Results and conclusions

The eleven collections reviewed during *Reveal and Connect: Caribbean Natural Science Collections in Scottish Museums* highlight the scale and diversity of natural science material from the Caribbean currently held in Scottish museums. The characterisations in this report begin to form a picture of what these collections hold, acquisition patterns, and connections between collections. What follows is a review of findings, a summary of potential future research directions, and an analysis of provenance patterns.

Review of findings

To date, around 5,220 records have been identified as coming from the Caribbean. A total of 37 countries are represented across the region. The largest regional holdings of 22% are recorded from Jamaica. Other sizeable collections are attributed to Trinidad and Tobago (20%), Guyana (9%)⁷¹, Dominican Republic (8%), Barbados (6%), and Suriname (4%). Smaller collections also originate from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (3%), Belize (3%), Cuba (3%]), and The Bahamas (2%). A total of 29 countries have been identified as having 1% or less of the total, including Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Martinique, the Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, the US Virgin Islands, Haiti, and Grenada.

Around 10% is noted as coming from the general region of the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

The largest collection holding is zoological material, which covers around 85% of the total, including vertebrates (30%) and terrestrial and marine invertebrates (55%). Smaller collection holdings cover botany (8%), palaeontology (4%), and geology (3%).

Research potential and further considerations

This report should be understood as a starting point for dialogue on how natural science collections reflect Scotland's role in the British Empire and the legacies of colonialism. Below are some considerations for further research though this is not an exhaustive list of potential ways to engage with this material. The summaries that follow outline broad themes that connect multiple collections around Scotland.

It should be acknowledged that these themes reflect current European research interests, which may not be shared by descendent and diaspora communities. Research agendas of people from the Caribbean and the diaspora in the UK remains an overarching priority for future work. Continued and active engagement is required

⁷¹ This includes records labelled as British Guiana, Berbice, and Demerara.

to centre these voices and facilitate new modes of research and anti-colonial museum practice.

Natural science collections

Herbaria and living collections in botanical gardens

Among collections containing herbaria sheets, it is common to see evidence of exchange between botanical gardens active during the 19th century, most notably the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Public botanic gardens around Britain had existed since the 17th century, acting first as physic gardens with a focus on medicinal botany. As the Linnaean system became the standard for classification, botanic gardens became hubs for scientific study, experimentation, and a display of the vastness of the British Empire.⁷² Botanic gardens offered space for colonial officials to experiment in introducing new species to colonies, such as the introduction of breadfruit to the Caribbean through Saint Vincent Botanical Gardens in 1793.⁷³

Colonialism and climate change

Several collections allude to examples where settler colonialism in the Caribbean had a direct impact on biodiversity, species survival, and habitat destruction. One example is the contributing impact that invasive species have had on endemic species, particularly in Jamaica. The giant galliwasp at the Hunterian, University of Glasgow, the Jamaican ameiva at Glasgow Life Museums, and the black racer at National Museums Scotland all represent this history. In part due to the introduction of the Indian mongoose to protect sugar plantations, many endemic species have suffered severe population decline.

Colonial careers

Collections gathered by doctors, merchants, and colonial officials contextualise the ways that mobility across the British Empire provided opportunities for scientific exploration. For surgeons such as Dr Gilbert McNab (1815-1859), Dr William Wright (1735-1819), and Dr Robert Graham (1786-1845), botany was a field of study alongside medicine. Many doctors coming from the University of Edinburgh later travelled around the Caribbean amassing a plant collection to cultivate and send back to Britain. This is also where donations from women appear most often. Wives or daughters of colonial officials took up scientific collecting as a hobby, one example being Lady Janet Alice Chalmers (1857-1946) whose husband, Sir David Patrick Chalmers, was Chief Justice of British Guiana. Sugar, wine, rum, fruit and vegetable

⁷² Nielsen, V (2023). 'The colonial roots of botany - legacies of empire in the botanic gardens of Oxford and Kew'. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 38/6: 696-712.

⁷³ Ferguson, J (2025). 'Breadfruit, Bligh & botanic gardens | On this day'. *Caribbean Beat*: <https://www.caribbean-beat.com/issue-190/breadfruit-bligh-botanic-gardens-on-this-day>

merchants are also represented in collections. Many lived in the Caribbean for some time, including Nicol Anderson (1858-1939) and James Miller (1875-1948). Others who may not have travelled to the region but shipped material in their cargoes, included Wood, Ormerod & Co (c.1920) and Caw, Prentice, Clapperton and Co (c.1880-1900).

These collections offer opportunities to explore the political, economic, and social contexts surrounding natural sciences, particularly where it may intersect with local populations in the Caribbean.

Local agency and hidden Caribbean lives

Provenance research has uncovered the silence of local voices in the Caribbean. Exclusion of local voices has led to significant knowledge gaps, resulting in the misidentification of specimens and a lack of detailed information. While biographies of Scottish collectors contextualise the history behind these records, there is a significant lack of information on local knowledge of flora and fauna. The only instance where indigenous populations have been recorded as collectors was John Couston's (1864-1936) donation of bird skins from Guyana at National Museums Scotland. It is very likely that there are more instances hidden within archival records, personal accounts, and correspondence. Further research might reveal more references to people in the Caribbean who assisted or were employed to collect natural material. It is likely they will remain hidden, though consideration could be given to engaging contemporary Caribbean perspectives with this material.

Caribbean lives cannot be found in physical collections but can be found hidden within the stories of other people, such as enslavers and scientists. Dr William Fergusson, born in Jamaica and later Governor of Sierra Leone (1795-1846), was a close friend of Sir William Jardine (1800-1874) in Dumfries. Petronella Hendrick from Suriname (1829-1917) was born enslaved and later manumitted to work as a nurse for Robert Kirke in Burntisland. She would have lived in his household while he amassed his large collection, but little else is known about her.⁷⁴

Collecting networks

Many specialists stayed in Britain and received material from people who sent collections to them for identification and analysis. In many instances, these networks included people who lived in, travelled to, or visited the Caribbean. Detailed research into correspondence between key specialists in Scotland can uncover the names of collectors they were in contact with. For example, Francis Buchanan White (1842-1894) and Dr George Arnott Walker Arnott (1799-1868) have documented records that detail some of the individuals collecting for them. Dr Gilbert McNab, a medical

⁷⁴ Mabon, H (2020). 'Pete -Who Was She?'. *Burntisland Heritage Trust*: <https://burntisland.net/hendrick-petronella.htm>

surgeon in Jamaica (1815-1859), sent specimens to institutions including Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh where his father, William McNab (1780-1848), and brother, James McNab (1810-1878), served as curators. In correspondence with the Botanic Garden, McNab details plant exchanges between himself and other prominent botanical collectors in the Caribbean, including Robert Schomburgk (1804-1865) and William Hunter Campbell (1814-1883).

Contemporary collecting

Contemporary collections offer a different perspective on how natural material continues to be gathered from the Caribbean. For many Scottish institutions, global collecting began to wane around the turn of the 20th century to focus more on endemic wildlife in the area. For others, particularly universities that offer natural science programmes, expeditions to the Caribbean are still a common part of their studies. Contemporary collections also offer insight into preparing natural material for the tourist trade, such as turtle shells and molluscs. Though not physically present in any collection, research could uncover the ways that neo-colonialism in the Caribbean gives way to illegal extraction of natural material, including plants, birds, and molluscs. Further work can be done to explore how poaching currently operates in the region.

Dispersed collections

Many collections have been dispersed across institutions within and outside Scotland. Some examples include personal collections dispersed posthumously, such as that of William Jardine in Dumfries. Margaret Cavendish-Bentinck, Duchess of Portland (1715-1785), amassed a large collection of natural material which was sold at auction after her death. Others include specimens exchanged between institutions, such as specimens from the British Museum, now the Natural History Museum, found at the Universities of Dundee, Aberdeen and St Andrews, and National Museums Scotland. In some instances, further archival research across organisations could help to navigate gaps in provenance and provide more context to their fragmented histories.

Documentation and access

Scientific language and local knowledge

The Linnaean system of classification has had a worldwide impact on scientific nomenclature. In doing so, the language of taxonomy has erased the people who would have named and understood material long before its discovery by European scientists. Historical indigenous names may still be used in certain regions of the Caribbean and species may have local names common to contemporary groups. Building relationships and working alongside Caribbean partners across the region could help to uncover these names. Indigenous communities are still present across

the Caribbean region, including the Taino and Kalinago. In consultation with relevant groups, indigenous knowledge could offer greater insight into the cultural significance of natural science material.

Documentation updates

Some collection labels and databases use historical colonial names that are considered inaccurate and make it difficult to trace specimens back to definitive locations. For example, some material includes old names such as British Honduras (Belize), names of entire colonial regions such as Netherlands Antilles (now Saba, Aruba, Sint Maarten, Curaçao, and Sint Eustatius), or islands such as Hispaniola (Haiti or Dominican Republic). Locality names could be updated to improve searchability where possible.

Records without provenance data

Across multiple collections, it is common to find material where the historical acquisition data is no longer assigned to it. This may be due to issues with documentation such as loss, destruction or lack of records management of Caribbean collections. In many cases, the locality information can attribute records to the Caribbean, but in others it offers only general ranges that include the region, or speculative localities. Consideration could be given, in consultation with relevant groups, to how to engage with material that is unattached to its contextual histories.



Bird skins from Suriname.
© CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collections

Caribbean Natural Science Collections in Scottish Museums Provenance

Provenance

Most collections featured in this report were accessioned between the late 18th and 20th centuries, reflecting Scotland's relationship with the burgeoning field of natural science and the expansion of the British Empire. There are exceptions, including The Hunterian, University of Glasgow; University of Aberdeen Collections; and National Museums Scotland, which all contain contemporary collections. This is due mostly to ongoing research projects.

To date, approximately 290 colonial collectors and donors have been identified across all eleven collections. There are around 30 contemporary collectors. Of the records with notable provenance, around 50 collectors and donors could not be traced and may benefit from further research. Around 10% of the total holdings has unknown provenance. This is either because the name given is not traceable, or no collector information is present on labels or accession records.

By mapping material across Scotland, it is possible to understand how the histories behind these collections have been shaped by wider imperial interests. Below, emerging trends in provenance have been identified, along with a summary of the geographical arrangement of identified collectors across the review.

Sources of Caribbean natural science material can be broadly divided into the following intersecting categories.

Scientific specialists

Many collectors present in this review were known and respected as natural science specialists. Interest in the natural sciences, previously exclusive to wealthy people, began to develop rapidly in the 19th century. The Linnean Society, founded in 1788, is the oldest society dedicated to the field of natural history, but this period saw an explosion of regional and local societies. The Natural History Society of Glasgow, now Glasgow Natural History Society, was established in 1851, the Perthshire Society of Natural Science in 1867, and the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History Society in 1862. While still reserved for those with the mobility, wealth and leisure to take part, it became an accessible field of study and a recognised profession. Some would participate in fieldwork or receive specimens from around the world to build vast taxonomic collections.

Common across most collections are specimens from the *Challenger* Expedition of 1872-1876. This deep-sea dredging mission to find species new to science has been well documented and is still celebrated for its influence on modern research. Donations by Sir Charles Wyville Thomson (1830-1882), Sir John Murray (1841-1914), and Frederick Gordon Pearcey (1857-1927), who all joined the expedition and managed the collection after their return, can be seen across multiple museums.

Some specialists were directly involved with the colonial system in the Caribbean, as doctors or military personnel, as discussed below. Others worked in the region because of their expertise as natural scientists. Carrington Bonsor Williams (1889-1981) was an entomologist who trained at the London School of Tropical Medicine to assist with the Royal Army Medical Corps. Around 1914, he was employed by the Colonial Office to investigate the sugar cane froghopper, *Tomaspis saccharina*, a common pest in Trinidad. He also travelled to other sugar plantations across Grenada, Guyana, Suriname, Costa Rica, Panama, and Tobago.⁷⁵

Many naturalists at the time were based in the UK and may not have visited the Caribbean. They may have been interested in a particular collection, like Dr Francis Buchanan White (1842-1894) who collected global Hemiptera to amass a taxonomic index of species. Others were curators of natural history museums in universities, such as Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson (1860-1948) and William Carmichael MacIntosh (1838-1931). In many cases these curators had strong relationships with other institutions and scientific enthusiasts from whom they received or exchanged specimens.

Sugar merchants and plantocracy

In some instances, collectors belonged to, or were descendants of, planter classes in the Caribbean. Most held estates before 1833 and applied for compensation from the British government after the emancipation of enslaved African people. James Kirk of Tobago (1800-1874) owned the Glamorgan, Roxburgh, and Betsey Hope estates and enslaved around 100 people. Sir Norman Lamont (1869-1949) inherited multiple estates in Trinidad, including Cedar Grove, which had been owned by the Lamont family since 1809.⁷⁶ Dr William Wright (1735-1819) owned Orange-Hill estate in Jamaica for around ten years, enslaving around 33 people, before selling it in 1784. After the emancipation movements, sugar planters across the Caribbean took measures to maintain their economic interests in the region. Some maintained their estates by cultivating other crops or starting new businesses, while others used the indentureship system to supplant the loss of free labour. Robert Kirke of Suriname and Burntisland (1815-1894) continued to exploit the delayed abolition of slavery in Dutch colonies until 1863. He inherited the Waterloo and Hazard estates from his uncle, James Balfour (1777-1841), and later bought the Nursery plantation in 1890. By 1863, he had returned to Scotland to settle in Greenmount House, which was built using wood from Suriname. His sons took over management of the estates,

⁷⁵ Wigglesworth, V (1982). 'Carrington Bonsor Williams'. *Biographical Memoirs of the Fellows of the Royal Society* 28:

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/rsbm/article/doi/10.1098/rsbm.1982.0025/88448/Carrington-Bonsor-Williams-7-October-1889-12-July>

⁷⁶ Young, G (2008). 'Clan Lamont Gathering 2008'. Presentation: <https://clark-debisschop.co.uk/tng/histories/Clan%20Lamont%20gathering%202008.pdf>

but sugar production declined and, by 1935, all Robert Kirke's plantations had closed.⁷⁷

Inherited wealth from the plantation industry gave people the mobility to explore new interests in the Caribbean. Norman Lamont also served as Governor of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (ICTA), 1921-1945, a predecessor of the University of West Indies Faculty of Agriculture. Friedrich William Urich (1870-1938) was a descendant of Christian and Anselm Gerold, owners of the Mon Chagrin and Matilda estates in Trinidad. Born on the island, he was a professor at ICTA and a co-founder of the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club.

Militia

The Caribbean has acted as a stage for military conflicts between colonial powers since their first landing in 1492. Annexations of regions occurred frequently, including the failed Scottish Darien Scheme in Panama in the 1690s and the British seizure of Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Guadeloupe, and Martinique during the Napoleonic Wars (1797-1810). The uprisings of enslaved African people to seize their own freedom also brought British military intervention. The successes of the Haitian Revolution made British politicians and planters fearful that it would inspire others to take their own freedom.⁷⁸ Developments in tropical medicine were instrumental in treating disease among military personnel to maintain imperial power. For example, Sir James McGrigor (1771-1858), celebrated as the father of army medicine, worked as surgeon general across the Mediterranean before working in the Army Medical Service department and reforming its practices.⁷⁹

Other military personnel who were interested in natural sciences may have used their position in the army to travel and gather collections. This includes Colonel Henry Wemyss Feilden (1838-1921), Colonel Ninian Imrie (1750-1920), and Arthur Murray Farquhar (1855-1937). Sir Alexander John Forsyth Reid (1846-1913) had served in the British army in South Asia, particularly in Pakistan. During his retirement he travelled across the world, including a cruise to the West Indies in 1907.

Church ministers

Missionaries from various Christian denominations were active in the Caribbean from the 16th century. Ministers stationed overseas contributed to the worldwide collection of natural science specimens and showed a keen enthusiasm for the field. Some

⁷⁷ Alston, D (no date). 'Robert and David Kirke' *Enslaved Africans & Scottish enslavers*: <https://www.spanglefish.com/slavesandhighlanders/index.asp?pageid=607903>

⁷⁸ Sheridan, R B (1982). 'From Jamaican Slavery to Haitian Freedom: The Case of the Black Crew of the Pilot Boat, Deep Nine'. *The Journal of Negro History* 67/4: 328-339.

⁷⁹ Herron, J and J Dunbar (2018). 'The British Army's contribution to tropical medicine'. *Clinical Medicine* 18/5: 380-383.

lived in the Caribbean for some time, including Rev Andrew Bailey (1832-1903) at the Lucea United Presbyterian Church, Jamaica, and Rev William Cran (1854-1933) at St John's Wesleyan Holiness Church, Antigua.

Doctors, surgeons and physicians

Across all collections, many specialists studied medicine at the University of Glasgow and particularly the University of Edinburgh, before developing careers in the medical field. Since the creation of physic gardens in the 16th and 17th centuries, botany had been established as a required subject for medical practitioners. Tropical regions threatened colonial settlers with illness and diseases they were not equipped for. Indigenous Caribbean groups would have known how to use local plants for medicinal purposes. Doctors, medical professionals and botanists trafficked from West Africa would have utilised their own scientific knowledge to adapt to the Caribbean environment. These knowledge systems, removed from British accounts of advancements in tropical medicine, are likely to have been used by settlers to strengthen scientific knowledge.

Dr Gilbert McNab (1815-1859), a surgeon in Kingston and St Ann's, was renowned for his understanding of Jamaican flora. In correspondence with curators at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, he sent plant material that would be useful for scientific research or public benefit. As a doctor, his close contact with local people meant he likely shared knowledge with others who are not named and therefore missing from this narrative. Dr John McFarlane (d.1865) was also a doctor, based in Montego Bay, Jamaica. It is not known whether he specialised in any fields of natural science, but his collection of various species implies a scientific interest.

Those in medical fields often had other related professions, either working as army surgeons or professors of medicine or botany. Sir Andrew Smith (1797-1872), John Hutton Stenhouse (1865-1931), and Dr William Wright (1735-1819) all served as surgeons in the Royal Navy or British Army. Dr Clara Southmayd Ludlow (1852-1924), the first woman to publish studies of mosquito-borne disease in the US, served as Director of Entomology at the Army Medical Museum in Washington DC to advance studies of parasitology.

Commercial traders in Scotland and the Caribbean

A significant number of Scottish merchants and companies are represented across the total holdings. Many were based in larger cities, such as Edinburgh and Glasgow, and imported goods from the Caribbean. Some even spent time in the Caribbean before starting commercial trade in Scotland. Nicol Anderson (1858-1939), for example, was originally from Glasgow but spent some time between the 1860s and 1870s in Berbice, in modern-day Guyana. After his return, he founded a

liquor company, Nicol Anderson and Co, in c.1880. It is not known what he did in Berbice, besides gathering a sizeable collection, though it is possible he spent this time either learning the trade or networking for the purpose of trading. Others include Frederick Lorkin (1831-1901) who travelled to Antigua sometime between the 1850s and 1860s, possibly for a similar reason, and operated a wine trading company in Glasgow. James Grierson (dates unknown) worked for Adam Pierson & Co, a rum importing company that shipped from places like Suriname. Trading companies with ships travelling to and from the Caribbean are also present. Caw, Prentice, Clapperton and Co (c.1880-1900) imported fruit and vegetables to Glasgow throughout the later 19th century. In correspondence with Glasgow museums in 1900, they noted that their collection of bird skins had been held on their ships for a few years. Andrew S Clark & Co, based in Edinburgh, was a fruit, flower and vegetable grocer, shipping bananas from the Caribbean. They also donated a large collection, probably gathered on their ships over time from places like Jamaica and Saint Martin.

Some specimens, particularly reptiles and insects, were donated to institutions after being found imported with fruits and vegetables, typically bananas. The international banana shipping industry from the Caribbean began towards the end of the 19th century.⁸⁰ By the start of the 20th century, merchant passenger-banana ships, known as banana boats, were a common occurrence in Scotland.⁸¹ Most donors of this sort of material lived in, or close to, port cities such as Glasgow and Edinburgh. In some instances, specimens were donated by those known to be interested in natural science, such as Robert Service (1844-1911) and Lewis Gordon Esson (c.1862-1931). It is possible that banana boats were used to intentionally transport captured specimens. In many other cases donations were made by people who found specimens within a shipment of bananas. This included fruit merchants such as Veitch, Moir & Erskine (1920s) and Wood, Ormerod & Co (1922), or individuals such as Richard Tomlinson (1842-1930), Miss Inglis, and John Young Lockhart (1862-1943). It is likely that this importation of living material was accidental.

Natural history dealers, taxidermists and auction houses

Dealers in natural history material became popular sources for the purchase of collections. Professional companies sold various kinds of material, including dry and wet specimens, skins and mounts and often provided taxidermy services. The most popular sources include Rowland Ward Ltd in London (1870-c.1970) and Ward's Natural History Establishment in Rochester, New York (1862-1906). Both offered vast collections and supplied material to museums, including the British Museum, now the Natural History Museum, and the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art,

⁸⁰ Anon (no date). 'The Banana Trade'. *Southampton Stories*: <https://southamptonstories.co.uk/story/the-banana-trade/>

⁸¹ Jeffrey, R (2017). *Giants of the Clyde: The Great Ships and the Great Yards*. Edinburgh: Black & White Publishing.

now National Museums Scotland. Taxidermy by Ward's in Rochester can be seen in other collections, mounted by individuals before donation or by institutions after acquisition. Other dealers included independent taxidermists like Herbert Walter Marsden (c.1841-1919), in Gloucester, and MacDuff Carfrae (1809-1843) in Edinburgh. Louis Dufresne (1752-1832) was a taxidermist and curator at the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle in Paris, France, and sold his personal collection to what would become the original holdings of National Museums Scotland. Private sellers across Britain also sold material, including William Doherty Cutter (1847-1929) and Bryce McDurdo Wright Snr (1814-1874) and Bryce McDurdo Wright Jnr (1850-1895) in London. An entomologist, referred to as W Buthn (dates unknown), operated out of the Caribbean in either Trinidad or Jamaica, selling Lepidoptera and other insect specimens. Purchases of living material were also made through zoos and menageries. Edward Henry Bostock (1897-1932), owner of the original Scottish Zoo in Glasgow, routinely sold material to museums in Glasgow.

Private collectors

Since the late 18th century, those with wealth and capacity would often amass their own private collections and donate or bequeath the material to museums. This included Robert Kirke of Burntisland (1815-1894), Sir Andrew Smith (1797-1872), and William Hunter (1718-1783). Walter Rothschild (1868-1937) ran a museum from the Rothschild family home in Tring, collecting himself and employing collectors to gather material on his behalf. His museum was open to the public from 1892 until 1937, when most of the collection was bequeathed to the British Museum, now the Natural History Museum.

Other private collectors include individuals interested in science who were in the Caribbean region for an extended period, either as travellers or residents. John Maxwell (1822-1899) travelled widely in later life, including to Trinidad 1875-1876, to gather a collection of beetles and butterflies. James Miller (1875-1948) was similarly in Trinidad collecting butterflies and terrestrial invertebrates. Born in Port-of-Spain and the owner of Miller's General Stores, he amassed a sizeable collection before retiring to Crieff in Perthshire.

Women

Across all collection holdings, there are approximately 39 female donors. Eleven individuals cannot be traced, particularly those whose first names were not included in accession registers. As the field of natural sciences grew, women took part as hobbyists, amateur scientists and recognised specialists. They were not allowed to join natural history societies but, as the 19th century progressed, women such as Miss Jamieson at Perthshire Society of Natural Science (c.1942-1932) and Janet Carphin in the Conchological Society (1836-1913) became permanent members.

Female specialists are also evident across the collection holdings. Fanny Hope Taylor (1835-1881) was a botanist active in Jamaica in the 1850s. She collected ferns, which had become a subject of scientific and aesthetic interest during the Victorian era. Information about her life is scarce, though she was recognised in the field as a respected botanist. Dr Clara Southmayd Ludlow (1852-1924) was an entomologist active in the US, specialising in mosquito taxonomy. She is recognised as the first woman to publish studies on this and the occurrence of mosquito-borne disease.

Aristocratic women had the wealth and connections to acquire their own collections, often employing networks of collectors to gather international material. Margaret Cavendish-Bentinck, Duchess of Portland (1715-1785), assembled one of the largest private collections of the 18th century. Her collection, housed in her London residence, was known as the Portland Museum. As a member of the landed gentry, it is likely that her family profited from the systems of the slave trade. Rosalie Caroline Chichester (1865-1949) had the means to explore conchology, creating a sizeable collection in her private home in Devon. She is known for purchasing some of Hugh Coomber Fulton's (1841-1962) collection but travelled frequently to gather material for herself.

Women were often near to the political, economic, and cultural apparatus of colonialism. Helen Morrison Kerr (c.1860) and Margaret Leitch (c.1832-1910) were both related to sugar refiners active in Greenock during the late 19th century. Their collections may have been gathered using the same transportation ships bringing cane sugar from the Caribbean. It is also likely that they travelled to the region, though this is not documented.

Collector/donor localities

The tables below document the general geographic locations of collectors. This data was compiled throughout the second phase of *Reveal and Connect* and offers a glimpse of the histories that are present within relevant collections. It is not a definitive look at those featured across collections but instead provides a snapshot for further research.

Scotland	Number of collectors
Edinburgh	60
Glasgow	35
Dumfries and Galloway	7
Fife	7
Lothian	5

Scotland	Number of collectors
Aberdeen	5
Argyll and Bute	4
Perth	3
Perthshire	3
Greenock	3
Aberdeenshire	2
St Andrews	2
Stirlingshire	2
Scottish Borders	2
Dundee	1
Hamilton	1
Kilmarnock	1
Moray	1
Port Glasgow	1
Total	145

Rest of UK	Number of collectors
England	57
Belfast	1
Total	58

The Caribbean	Number of collectors
Jamaica	10
Trinidad and Tobago	9
Guyana	4
Dominica	1
Puerto Rico	1

The Caribbean	Number of collectors
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1
Tortola	1
Turks and Caicos	1
Total	28

International	Number of collectors
USA	10
Germany	7
France	1
South Africa	1
Total	19



Egg of noddie tern, *Anous stolidus*, the Bahamas.
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Caribbean Natural Science Collections in Scottish Museums Knowledge Sharing Visit

Knowledge Sharing Visit

In May 2026, the *Reveal and Connect* project hosted in Scotland three colleagues from partner organisations in the Caribbean: Cherrie Parris-Bourne (Registrar and Curator of Collections, Barbados Museum and Historical Society), Dionne Newell (Senior Research Officer, Entomology, Natural History Museum of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica) and Zaheer Hosein (Curator, University of the West Indies Zoology Museum, Department of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies). Cherrie, Dionne and Zaheer were nominated to participate by Caribbean-based members of the project Advisory Group. During the week-long visit they were hosted by project staff and Scottish partner museums to undertake collection visits at National Museums Scotland, Perth Museum, Glasgow Life Museums, and The Hunterian, University of Glasgow.

The aim of the visit was to promote collections-based cross-cultural knowledge exchange between Caribbean and Scottish partners. Cherrie, Dionne and Zaheer provided a unique and expert insight into the collecting histories, significance, and relevance of Caribbean natural science collections in Scotland. The week culminated in a public knowledge sharing event, hosted by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, at Kelvin Hall in Glasgow. The event shared the early results of the *Reveal and Connect* project through presentations by partner museum, including Dumfries Museum.

The event concluded with presentations from Dionne, Cherrie, and Zaheer that reflected on the past week and the project more generally. They then joined a panel discussion with the Project Curator, Tasmin Evans, and the Project Director, Dr John Giblin. The visit was successful in making more visible, and highlighting the importance of, Caribbean natural science collections in Scotland and informing decision-making around the legacy of this stage of *Reveal and Connect*, including the delegation's desire for a reciprocal knowledge-sharing event in the Caribbean.

Reflections from Caribbean colleagues

Zaheer Hosein

My participation in the *Reveal and Connect* programme in Scotland was both professionally rewarding and personally enlightening. Prior to the visit, I was somewhat intimidated by the prospect of engaging with institutions whose collections are significantly larger and more established than those of the UWI Zoology Museum. While the UWIZM is the largest zoological collection in Trinidad and Tobago, it remains comparatively small when viewed alongside the extensive collections held by Scottish museums.

However, meeting the various curators, collection managers, and museum professionals quickly put this into perspective. Despite the differences in scale, I was

struck by how many challenges we share. Issues relating to collections care, storage, documentation, digitisation, conservation, public engagement, and resource limitations were common themes throughout our discussions. The experience reinforced the idea that we are all working toward similar goals, often facing similar obstacles, simply separated by geography and, in some cases, levels of available resources.

I was also deeply encouraged by the warm reception we received from our Scottish colleagues. The openness with which they shared their experiences, expertise, and challenges created a genuine sense of partnership and mutual respect. These interactions highlighted the value of international collaboration and demonstrated the important role that relationships play in advancing museum practice.

I was particularly pleased to have participated in discussions surrounding the repatriation and reconnection of Caribbean natural heritage. While these conversations were valuable, I believe there is significant potential for this aspect of the partnership to be developed further. Continued dialogue and collaboration in this area could yield meaningful outcomes for both Caribbean and Scottish institutions.

The visit has strengthened my enthusiasm for future collaboration between our institutions. As an example, I am currently working to source an Oilbird specimen for [National Museums Scotland], and the necessary permission letters have already been submitted. This initiative represents another opportunity to build collaborative relationships and strengthen the connections established during the programme.

Overall, the *Reveal and Connect* experience was invaluable. It broadened my perspective, fostered new professional relationships, and reinforced the importance of international cooperation in preserving, understanding, and sharing our natural heritage. I look forward to continuing and expanding these collaborations in the years ahead.

Cherrie Parris-Bourne

I truly appreciated the transparency shown by colleagues in sharing the behind-the-scenes work that powers museum operations. While I was impressed by the resources on display - such as bespoke climate-controlled storage, specialized collection supplies, and larger staff complements - it was clear that we share many of the same challenges. These include collections that exceed storage capacity, limited staff time, and fragmented documentation leading to unprovenanced items. We are isolated but not unique.

It is heartening to see the CNS project acknowledge that institutional catalogues often fail to reflect the Indigenous communities, knowledge, or individuals who collected the specimens. By inviting me and my Caribbean partners to contribute to the catalogue data, you are taking meaningful steps to redress past omissions. This



Microscope slide of *Radiolaria*, Barbados.
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Caribbean Natural Science Collections in Scottish Museums Appendices

Appendices

Total records by region/country

Region/country	Total estimated collection size	Museums holding material	Collection total per museum
Unknown ⁸²	13	The Dick Institute	13
Caribbean / Antilles / West Indies (unspecified)	413	Dumfries Museum	1
		Glasgow Life Museums	111
		NMS ⁸³	212
		Perth Museum	7
		University of Aberdeen	5
		University of Dundee	4
		University of St Andrews	15
		Watt Institution	58
Central America (unspecified)	17	Glasgow Life Museums	10
		University of St Andrews	5
		Watt Institution	2
South America (unspecified)	4	University of St Andrews	4
Anguilla	2	The Hunterian	1
		NMS	1
Antigua and Barbuda	53	Glasgow Life Museums	5
		The Hunterian	22
		NMS	22
		Perth Museum	2

⁸²This collection requires further research to identify its collection to species level.

⁸³ National Museums Scotland.

Region/country	Total estimated collection size	Museums holding material	Collection total per museum
		University of Aberdeen	1
		University of Dundee	1
Aruba	2	NMS	2
The Bahamas	122	Dumfries Museum	4
		Glasgow Life Museums	18
		The Hunterian	9
		NMS	75
		University of Aberdeen	5
		University of Dundee	1
		University of St Andrews	9
		Watt Institution	1
Barbados	292	Glasgow Life Museums	10
		The Hunterian	132
		NMS	116
		Paisley Museum	5
		Perth Museum	9
		University of Aberdeen	9
		University of Dundee	9
		University of St Andrews	2
Belize	138	Glasgow Life Museums	12
		NMS	1
		Perth Museum	1
		University of Aberdeen	124
Bermuda	57	Glasgow Life Museums	11
		The Hunterian	8

Region/country	Total estimated collection size	Museums holding material	Collection total per museum
		NMS	36
		University of St Andrews	1
		Watt Institution	1
Cayman Islands	14	The Hunterian	2
		NMS	10
		Perth Museum	2
Costa Rica	41	Glasgow Life Museums	41
Cuba	136	Glasgow Life Museums	12
		The Hunterian	3
		NMS	107
		Perth Museum	2
		University of Aberdeen	8
		Watt Institution	4
Curaçao	1	NMS	1
Dominica	39	Glasgow Life Museums	2
		NMS	6
		Perth Museum	31
Dominican Republic	469	Glasgow Life Museums	1
		The Hunterian	1
		NMS	467
French Guiana	42	Glasgow Life Museums	5
		The Hunterian	35
		Perth Museum	2
Grenada	43	Glasgow Life Museums	5
		NMS	35

Region/country	Total estimated collection size	Museums holding material	Collection total per museum
		Perth Museum	2
		University of St Andrews	1
Guadeloupe	1	NMS	1
Guyana (Berbice/Demerara/British Guiana)	491	Dumfries Museum	2
		Glasgow Life Museums	111
		The Hunterian	19
		NMS	307
		Perth Museum	26
		University of Dundee	5
		University of St Andrews	8
		Watt Institution	13
Haiti	4	Glasgow Life	1
		NMS	1
		Perth Museum	1
		University of St Andrews	1
Hispaniola (Haiti/ Dominican Republic)	2	NMS	2
Honduras	28	Glasgow Life Museums	2
		NMS	17
		Perth Museum	4
		University of Aberdeen	2
		Watt Institution	3
Jamaica	1,142	Glasgow Life Museums	220
		The Hunterian	110
		NMS	637
		Perth Museum	17

Region/country	Total estimated collection size	Museums holding material	Collection total per museum
		University of Aberdeen University of Dundee University of St Andrews Watt Institution	147 3 3 5
Martinique	12	Glasgow Life Museums The Hunterian NMS	1 1 10
Netherlands Antilles	1	Glasgow Life Museums	1
Nicaragua	50	NMS Perth Museum University of Aberdeen	1 48 1
Panama	59	Glasgow Life Museums The Hunterian Perth Museum University of Aberdeen University of Dundee Watt Institution	17 1 18 11 11 1
Puerto Rico	38	NMS Paisley Museum University of Aberdeen	29 1 8
Saint Kitts and Nevis	21	Glasgow Life Museums The Hunterian NMS Perth Museum	3 11 6 1
Saint Lucia	17	Glasgow Life Museums	2

Region/country	Total estimated collection size	Museums holding material	Collection total per museum
		The Hunterian	1
		NMS	11
		Perth Museum	3
Saint Martin/ Sint Maarten	11	NMS	11
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	170	Glasgow Life Museums	20
		The Hunterian	6
		NMS	128
		Perth Museum	13
		University of Dundee	2
		University of St Andrews	1
Saint Croix, US Virgin Islands	4	NMS	4
Saint John, US Virgin Islands	5	The Hunterian	5
Saint Thomas, US Virgin Islands	6	NMS	5
		Perth Museum	1
Suriname	199	Glasgow Life Museums	117
		The Hunterian	59
		NMS	22
		University of Dundee	1
Tortola, British Virgin Islands	5	NMS	5
Trinidad and Tobago	1,029	Dumfries Museum	2
		Glasgow Life Museums	148
		The Hunterian	633
		NMS	211
		Perth Museum	8
		University of Aberdeen	7

Region/country	Total estimated collection size	Museums holding material	Collection total per museum
		University of Dundee	7
		University of St Andrews	8
		Watt Institution	5
Turks and Caicos	9	NMS	9
Venezuela	20	Glasgow Life Museums	16
		NMS	2
		University of Aberdeen	1
		Watt Institution	1
Virgin Islands (unspecified)	1	University of Dundee	1
Total	5,223		

List of museums by size of collection

Museum	Approximate collection size
National Museums Scotland	2,535
The Hunterian, University of Glasgow	1,059
Glasgow Life Museums	902
University of Aberdeen Collections	329
Perth Museum, Culture Perth and Kinross	173
Watt Institution, Inverclyde Council	94
Museums of the University of St Andrews	58
University of Dundee Museum Collections	45
Dick Institute, Ayrshire360	13
Dumfries Museum, Dumfries and Galloway Council	9
Paisley Museum, Renfrewshire Museum Service, OneRen	6

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Manicina areolata Ehrnb.
Bahamas

Tortugas rose coral, *Manicina areolata*, Bahamas.
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Caribbean Natural Science Collections in Scottish Museums Donors

Donors

Donor/ collector index

Adams, James (1846-1924)

Coal and clay manufacturer based in Fife. His family owned a mine and factory complex at the Hill of Beath, manufacturing coal, clay and ceramics. Adams was a member of the Royal Microscopical Society and the Edinburgh Field Naturalists. After his company was sold to the Fife Coal Company in 1889, he retired, most likely to pay more attention to his scientific interests.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Aikman, Jessie Robertson Blackie (c.1855-1938)

Wife of a physician, Dr Kenneth Blackie Aikman, originally from Scotland but living in Surrey. They travelled frequently together, including across the Mediterranean.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Anderson, Nicol (1858-1939)

Originally from Glasgow, he was a wine merchant who travelled to Barbice between the 1860s-1870s before returning home. He acted as an agent for breweries in Scotland and England, including John Jeffery & Co in Edinburgh and James Eadie & Co in Burton-on-Trent, before establishing his own company, Nicol Anderson & Co, around 1885. His company was known for the Bailie Nicol Jarvie whisky and regularly traded spirits through Greenock.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Andersonian Museum (1831-1887)

Opened as part of Anderson's College, Glasgow, a predecessor of University of Strathclyde. It displayed scientific collections that had been bequeathed by John Anderson (1726-1796).

Associated Museum: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Andrew S Clark & Co

Fruit and vegetable trading company, based in Edinburgh. Their collection was donated by an A Bain, who was described as a manager of its banana department.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Archer, Dr Francis B (1803-1875)

Born in Belfast, he studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh before becoming a prison surgeon. He had an interest in conchology and began a large personal collection that was later dispersed to museums around the UK. He was one of the founding members of Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society and was the first president of the Liverpool Natural History Society.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Army Medical Museum, Chatham (c.1816-1863)

Medical Museum at Fort Pitt, Chatham, Kent. Operated by the Army Medical School, it was established by Sir James McGrigor around 1816. The Museum gathered anatomical material, natural sciences and medical equipment and became a centre for studying military and tropical medicine. In 1863, it moved to Netley, Hampshire, along with the Army Medical School.

See also: McGrigor, Sir James

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Arnott, Dr George Arnott Walker (1799-1868)

Regius Professor of botany at the University of Glasgow. He worked with global networks of botanists, including William Jackson Hooker, to examine plant specimens new to science. The orchid genus *Arnottia* was named after him.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Bailey, Rev Andrew (1832-1902)

Minister of the Lucea United Presbyterian Church in Manchester, Jamaica.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Balfour, John Hutton (1808-1884)

Professor of botany at the University of Glasgow (1841) and the University of Edinburgh (1845). He also worked as Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Ball, John (1818-1889)

An Irish politician who devoted much of his later life to the study of the natural world. He served as Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1855-1857. In

1882, he voyaged to Central and South America from London, stopping in Barbados, Haiti and Jamaica before heading further south. In his 1887 account of his journey, he remarks on Black populations of the islands after emancipation, perpetuating racist beliefs regarding their intelligence, ambition and manners.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Bannerman, David Armitage (1886-1979)

Chairman of the British Ornithologists' Club and President of the British Ornithologists' Union. After graduating from Cambridge University, he travelled globally including Africa, the Caribbean and South America.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Bartley, Dr Alfred Herbert (1900-1984)

English doctor born in Egypt and raised in India. He may have studied medicine between Mumbai and London around the 1930s. While his connection to the Caribbean is unclear, he spent some time in North America before moving back to Britain through Leith, Edinburgh, in 1956.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Beddard, Frank Evers (1858-1925)

English zoologist, he was known for his work on annelids and served as a naturalist on the *Challenger* Expedition Commission, 1882-1884. He was appointed prosector at the Zoological Society of London, responsible for the dissections of animals and later as a lecturer in biology at Guy's Hospital, London.

Associated Museum: Museums of the University of St Andrews

Bishop, Thomas George (1846-1922)

English Coleoptera collector and tea merchant whose collection was donated to The Hunterian, University of Glasgow by his son and grandson in 1923, shortly after his death. He worked as an office boy for Joseph Tetley & Company before becoming a travelling tea merchant in and around Scotland. He founded Cooper & Co's grocery shop, which became one of the leading grocery chains in Scotland.

Associated Museum: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Blair, Dr Hugh Moray Sutherland (1901-1986)

Ornithologist and medical practitioner originally from Durham. He collected bird eggs and worked in partnership with other British ornithologists, including John Harvie-Brown (1844-1916) and David Bannerman (1886-1979).

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Boos, Julius (1946-2010)

Naturalist from Trinidad and Tobago, specialising in botany and entomology. He became a natural scientist shortly after school and was a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club. In 2009, a species of *Anthurium* new to science was named after him, *Anthurium boosii*. The Boos family was originally from Germany and lived in New York before moving to Trinidad. His grandfather, Julius Edward Boos (1878-1926), was described as a cocoa planter living in St Augustine.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Bostock, Edward Henry (1858-1940)

Owner of Scottish Zoo and Variety Circus, opened in Glasgow in 1897. Born in Buckingham in 1858 to a menagerie-owning family, he was the son of James Bostock, a wagoner in Wombwell's Menagerie. After marrying George Wombwell's niece, James set up his own company, Bostock and Wombwell's Menagerie, in 1867. In 1883, Edward Bostock created E H Bostock's Grand Star Menagerie and later bought his father's company after his death. He toured throughout Scotland, 1894-1896, before opening the permanent zoo in 1897. He was a member of Glasgow City Council, 1908-1911, and a fellow of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland after 1909. He donated 'exotic' animals to universities, museums and scientific institutions. In July 1919, Bostock sold the Scottish Zoo buildings but continued his touring menagerie until he retired in 1932. After his retirement, he sold most of his animals to London Zoo.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Brady, George Stewardson (1832-1921)

English zoologist and Professor of Natural History at the Hancock Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He wrote reports on the ostracods and copepods collected on the *Challenger* Expedition, 1872-1876.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Briglmen, Andrew Francis (1894-1968)

Dental surgeon based in Edinburgh.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

British Guiana Museum (1868-1966)

Colonial museum funded by the British government and based in Georgetown, Guyana. It was renamed the Guyana National Museum after the country's independence in 1966.

Associated Museum: The Watt Institution

The British Museum (Natural History Museum)

At various points, exchanges and gifts have taken place between institutions in Scotland and the British Museum, now the Natural History Museum. Duplicates were sent to, for example, the University of Dundee, through Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, and the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art, now National Museums Scotland.

Associated Museums: National Museums Scotland; University of Dundee Museum Collections; Museums of the University of St Andrews

Brown, Henry Hilton (1856-1927)

Solicitor who also served as Procurator Fiscal of Midlothian County and Cupar.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Brown, Jane Elizabeth (c.1883-1980)

Brown lived in Trinidad and travelled frequently between Scotland, England and the Caribbean. Her father, George Brown (d.1936), worked in Trinidad as an architect, returning to Scotland after 1920.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Brown, Thomas of Lanfine and Waterhaughs (c.1774-1853)

Scottish surgeon with an enthusiasm for botany, mineralogy and palaeontology. While employed as Deputy Professor of Botany at the University of Glasgow, he received gifts and purchased material but began field collecting around Scotland from 1816. It is unclear how he obtained material from the Caribbean, though it is likely to have been purchased.

Associated Museums: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow; National Museums Scotland

Bruce, Dr William Speirs (1867-1921)

British naturalist, polar scientist and oceanographer. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, particularly supporting John Murray (1841-1914) to examine and classify specimens from the *Challenger* Expedition. He led the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, 1902-1904.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Buchanan, Dr Thomas Drysdale (1818-1893)

General practitioner and surgeon. In an obituary, he is described as having visited America twice. He served for some time as chairman of the Medical Committee of the Barony Parochial Board in Glasgow.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Buchanan White, Dr Francis (1842-1894)

First president of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science and integral to the founding of its Natural History Museum. He was interested in Hemiptera and aspired to create a world-famous index collection. He travelled frequently to collect specimens around Britain and Europe, including a tour with his wife on their honeymoon in 1866. He had a network of colleagues and enthusiasts active in regions around the globe who sent material to him in Perth.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Campbell, William Hunter (1813-1883)

Botanist from Scotland. He was a founding member of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh in 1836 and worked as honorary secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society of British Guiana in Demerara. He worked as a plant collector for several colleagues, including William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865) at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Carfrae, MacDuff (1809-1843)

Taxidermist from Edinburgh. He is described in 1841 as working as an 'animal-preserver' at the College Museum, which likely refers to the museum at the University of Edinburgh.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Carphin, Janet (1836-1913)

Conchologist from Edinburgh. She was a member of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science from 1893 until her death in 1913.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Carter, Henry John (1813-1895)

Surgeon and naturalist from Devon, working predominantly as an army surgeon in Bombay (now Mumbai) India. He took an interest in natural sciences, including geology, palaeontology and zoology, with a special interest in sponges. He produced research studies in zoology and had a significant number of taxa named after him.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Cavendish-Bentinck, Margaret, Duchess of Portland (1715-1785)

Member of the landed gentry, she was known as one of the richest women of her time and owner of one of the largest private natural history collections. Her collection was held at Bulstrode Hall, Buckinghamshire, known as the Portland Museum. After her death, her collection was sold at auction in London in April 1786.

Associated Museum: University of Aberdeen Collections

Caw, Prentice, Clapperton & Co (c.1880-1900)

Shipbuilding company based in Glasgow whose shipping routes included Trinidad and Demerara.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Chalmers, Lady Janet Alice, née Lorimer (1857-1946)

Wife of Sir David Patrick Chalmers (1835-1899), Chief Justice of British Guiana. Lord and Lady Chalmers had six children who were cared for by their Guyanese nurse, Joanna Herbert (b.1845). The family would have lived in Georgetown, Guyana, where the Supreme Court resides. They returned to Edinburgh in 1894, accompanied by Joanna. Little is known about Joanna's life.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Chichester, Rosalie Caroline (1865-1949)

The only child of Sir Alexander Palmer Bruce Chichester (1842-1881) and Rosalie Amelia Chamberlayne (c.1843-1908). She was interested in shells from an early age and travelled on a family yacht across Europe to collect specimens. She created a private museum in Arlington Court estate, which she inherited in 1886, that included shells, curios and art pieces. Towards the end of her life, she bequeathed Arlington Court to the National Trust. Chichester founded the Barnstaple branch of the Women's Citizen's Association in 1918 and served as its president. She also travelled globally

including to Australia and New Zealand. After the death of the shell collector, Hugh Coomber Fulton, she purchased part of his collection from his widow, later selling it to Albert Edward Salisbury (1876-1964).

See also: Hugh Coomber Fulton

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Chitty, Edward (1804-1863)

Lawyer who lived for a time in Jamaica. He was a notable conchologist and worked closely with Charles Baker Adams (1814-1853), who was interested in species from the Caribbean. Together they described and named several Jamaican species that were new to science.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Christison, Professor Robert (1797-1882)

Toxicologist, physician and medical officer based in Edinburgh. He served as the president of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh for two periods, 1838-1840 and 1846-1848. Christison was an authority on poisons and toxicology and is cited as the first person to describe renal anaemia. Christison is especially known for his strong opposition to women studying and qualifying in medicine and publicly campaigned against the Edinburgh Seven.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Clancey, Philip A (1917-2001)

Ornithologist and curator specialising in birds of South Africa. Originally from Glasgow, Clancey joined the expeditions of the British soldier, Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen (1878-1967) in 1948-1949 to study birds across West Asia, northern and eastern African and South Africa. In 1950, he became curator of the Natal Museum in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, *uMgungundlovu* in Zulu. From 1952 to 1982, he served as Director of Durban Museum and Art Gallery and president of the Southern African Museums Association.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Clench, Dr William J (1897-1984)

American malacologist and curator of molluscs at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Colonial and Indian Exhibition (1886)

Exhibition held in South Kensington to encourage pride and commerce across the British Empire. Its displays were arranged geographically, with special catalogues covering the regions in more detail. The West Indies and British Honduras collections included natural science specimens; animal skins, economic botany, prepared products, and timber.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Couston, John (1864-1936)

Lawyer and wholesale stationer. He visited British Guiana, 1889-1890 and collected birds across its borders with Brazil. At the point of donating his material, it is described that local indigenous people were collecting with him. They were likely employed to assist the expedition.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Couston, Robert (1923-1993)

Expert and advisor on beekeeping at the East of Scotland College of Agriculture. According to his autobiography, he worked as an assistant curator at Perth Museum and Art Gallery between 1945 and 1949.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Cowan, Charles Menzies (1872-c.1946)

Manager of the Inveresk Paper Mills in Musselburgh, which was owned by his family. He also served as second lieutenant in the 6th Volunteer Battalion, Royal Scots in 1893.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Cran, Rev William (1854-1933)

Lecturer at Wesleyan Seminary, Antigua, and collector of mycetozoa.

Associated Museum: University of Aberdeen Collections

Cross, William (1840-1900)

Menagerie owner and animal trader based in Liverpool. He donated animals to museums around Britain, including in Liverpool and Glasgow.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Cuming, Hugh (1791-1865)

Prolific conchologist described as having amassed one of the largest and most valuable private shell collections.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Cutter, William Doherty (1847-1929)

A 'curiosity' dealer from London. He sold scientific and cultural material from his business in Great Russell Street, London, which was founded by his father. Operating throughout the late 19th century, the Cutter family supplied material to institutions such as the British Museum.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Dalgleish, John James (1836-1921)

Landowner based in Fife. He served as Justice of the Peace in Dunfermline in 1854.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Damon, Robert Ferris (1836-1929)

Natural history dealer based in Weymouth. He began a dealership in natural history specimens in Weymouth with his father, Robert Damon (1814-1889), who was a conchologist and geologist. They supplied museums throughout Europe, American and Australia. Their interest was particularly in local shells and geology, but they probably exchanged or bought material from other dealers.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Dickie, George (1812-1882)

Regius Professor of botany at the University of Aberdeen, 1860-1877. He received material for analysis and description, including specimens from the *Challenger* Expedition, and amassed a large diatom collection. Part of this collection was sent to Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson at the University of Dundee.

Associated Museums: University of Dundee Museum Collections; University of Aberdeen Collections

Dickson, Rev Robert Nicol (1878-1962)

Missionary for the Church of Scotland Foreign Missionary Committee. Throughout the early 20th century, he took multiple trips to the Caribbean,

including Barbados and Jamaica, possibly taking up residence in one of the parishes.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Dobbie, James Bell (c.1863-1934)

Banker for the Royal Bank of Scotland with an amateur interest in ornithology. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1897.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Dresser, Henry Eeles (1838-1915)

Ornithologist, originally from Thirsk, Yorkshire. He travelled to the Baltics where his father wanted to set up in the timber trade. Here, during his teenage years, Dresser had an interest in birds, skins and eggs and began collecting for himself. He became a blockage runner for a Liverpool merchant, Arthur Bower Forwood (1836-1898), who was involved in numerous shipping companies across the Atlantic, including the West India and Pacific Steam Ship Co and the British and Foreign Marine Insurance Co. He smuggled goods to and from the US during the American Civil War, through the Rio Grande to southern Confederate states including Texas. Here he supported trade for raw cotton to be brought back to mills in Lancashire, exploiting the labour of enslaved people. While in America, he shot birds and brought them back to England, amassing a collection of around 400 skins from Texas alone. He was a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, the Linnean Society and the Zoological Society of London. He produced publications on ornithology, including the *Eggs of the Birds of Europe* series (1905-1910).

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Dudgeon, Patrick (1817-1895)

The eldest son of Robert Dudgeon, a Liverpool merchant and one of the founders of the Royal Insurance Company. He pursued a career in trade and commerce, leaving school at the age of sixteen to work for Turner & Co. He worked and traded in China and Japan from 1833 to 1849, retiring to Scotland in 1850. During his time in China, he began collecting minerals and on his return to Scotland continued to amass an international mineral collection, predominantly through purchase. He also maintained a Scottish mineral collection which was mostly collected on trips with another famed Scottish mineralogist, Matthew Forster Heddle. With Heddle, he was a founder member of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain. Dudgeon was also a magistrate in the counties of Kirkcudbrightshire and Dumfriesshire, Deputy-Lieutenant of the Stewartry, and Chairman of the Dumfries and Maxwelltown Observatory.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Duerden, Dr James Edwin (1869-1937)

British zoologist and curator. He was employed as a Demonstrator in Zoology and Palaeontology at the Royal College of Science for Ireland, 1893-1895. He served as curator at the Institute of Jamaica from 1895 until around 1902. Here he studied Jamaican marine zoology, including anemones and corals, and is credited as one of the earliest people to work in the Institute's science division.

Associated Museum: Museums of the University of St Andrews

Dufresne, Louis (1752-1832)

Ornithologist, museum curator and taxidermist from France. He was one of the naturalists on the *Astrolabe* voyage in 1785, an explorative voyage sent out by King Louis XVI. Inspired by the expeditions of James Cook two decades earlier, they travelled to Madeira, Tenerife, Trinidad, Brazil, Alaska and China. Dufresne disembarked at Macau, China, and the *Astrolabe* disappeared in 1788, presumed shipwrecked. Dufresne became a taxidermist and later curator at the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, France. There he popularised the use of arsenic soap for preservation. He amassed a sizeable collection of natural material, including vertebrates, terrestrial and marine invertebrates, and fossils. His collection was purchased in 1819 by the University of Edinburgh and was later part of the original Industrial Museum of Scotland collection, 1854.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Dunn, Hugh Shaw (1842-1915)

Engineer and colliery manager based in Kilmarnock.

Associated Museum: The Dick Institute

Edward Gerrard & Sons (1853-c.1960)

London-based taxidermy firm. Edward Gerrard (dates unknown) was originally an attendant at the British Museum's Zoological Department, now part of the Natural History Museum. They first started selling large game taxidermy, and developed a reputation for their art. Later in the 19th century, they included small mounts, anatomical models and artefacts. Their clients included the British Museum, Natural History Museum Dublin, and Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Eggeling, William Julius (1909-1994)

Botanist and naturalist with a particular focus on forestry in Uganda. After studying at the University of Oxford, he worked in the Uganda Forest

Department (1931-1940s) and The Uganda Society. The Uganda Society, founded in 1923, was a colonial society based on cultural and scientific studies in the region. His interest in Ugandan forestry was to support and establish new revenues of economic production in the region, particularly in rubber and fuel. As Assistant Conservator of Forests in British-controlled Uganda, he assisted the establishment of Eucalyptus plantations near Kampala. During this time, he also became a prolific plant hunter, gathering around 3,800 botanical specimens for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the British Museum. After his retirement and return to the UK, he served as co-founder of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, 1964.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Endress, Philip Anton Christoph (1806-1831)

Pharmacist and plant collector from Germany. He collected for the Unio Itineraria, the German society that explored scientific collection, identification and study of plant specimens. Endress mostly explored Europe, and his connection to the Caribbean is unclear.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Esson, Lewis Gordon (c.1862-1931)

Naturalist and taxidermist from Aberdeen. His collection was featured at the 1892 Aberdeen Industrial Exhibition in 1892 where he received 2nd prize in the Natural History section. He also offered to sell his collection to Aberdeen Town Council.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Evans, William Edgar (1851-1922)

Ornithologist and actuary to the Scottish Widows Fund. Born at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), where his father, William Wilson Evans, was curator, William gained early exposure to botany but later turned his attention to birds. He was elected Fellow of Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1884. His son, also William Edgar Evans (1882-1963), became a botanist and served as Assistant in Charge of the Herbarium at RBGE (1919-1944).

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Farquhar, Captain Arthur Murray (1855-1937)

British Royal Navy officer with an interest in ornithology. He collected birds from the Pacific. His grandfather was Arthur Farquhar of Newhall, Aberdeen (1772-1843) who commanded HMS *Blanche* in the West Indies and was involved in the 1831-1832 Baptist War in Jamaica. The uprising was an 11-day rebellion by enslaved African people, led by Samuel Sharpe, to seize their

freedom. Arthur Murray Farquhar appears in Trinidad in 1895, working with the colonial office in Port of Spain.

Associated Museum: University of Aberdeen Collections

Feilden, Colonel Henry Wemyss (1838-1921)

Army officer and amateur naturalist with a focus on botany and ornithology. Originally from Kildare, he fought in the Indian Rebellion in 1857 and volunteered for the Confederates under the army of Tennessee during the American Civil War, 1861-1865. He later served in the First and Second South African Wars, 1881 and 1900. During his time in the British Army, he also served as a naturalist on the British Arctic Expedition, 1875-1876. He collected geological, zoological and botanical specimens. He also conducted ornithological work with John Alexander Harvie-Brown (1844-1916).

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Fenton, Robert Hay (1851-1926)

Egg collector and commercial clerk from London. He is known for purchasing the egg of the extinct great auk at a 1909 auction at Steven's Rooms in London for 190 guineas. It was presented to the University of Aberdeen along with his large egg collection. He extensively catalogued his collection, which includes names of collectors who gifted, sold or exchanged eggs with him.

Associated Museum: University of Aberdeen Collections

Fruhstorfer, Hans (1866-1922)

German insect and shell trader and entomologist, specialising in Lepidoptera. He travelled around the world to collect material, including Brazil, Sri Lanka, Java, the United States, Oceania, Japan, China and India. Fruhstorfer provided material for entomologists in Britain, including Dr Francis Buchanan White (1842-1894).

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Fulton, Hugh Coomber (1861-1942)

Dealer in shells, working in partnership with George Brettingham Sowerby III (1843-1921) from the 1890s until 1916. Fulton arranged collection sales including the Barclay collection (1891) and the du Burgh collection (1918). Throughout the early 20th century, he visited the Americas to study at museums and work with famed collectors. The South African shell *Cypraea fultoni*, was named after him and his type collection can be found in the Natural History Museum and at the National Museum of Wales. He was a member of the German Malacozoological Society and the Malacological Society of London. After his death, his collection was largely sold. Part was

sold to Rosalie Caroline Chichester (1865-1949) and Albert Edward Salisbury (1876-1964).

See also: Sowerby, George Brettingham; Salisbury, Albert Edward; and Chichester, Rosalie Caroline

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Geikie, Sir Archibald (1835-1924)

Geological surveyor and geologist. He was appointed director of the Geological Survey in Scotland, 1867.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Gillespie, Thomas Hailing (1876-1967)

Founder of Edinburgh Zoo and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. He originally qualified as a solicitor but was inspired to establish a zoo in Scotland. Under his direction, the Scottish National Zoological Park was established in 1913 and he served as director until 1950.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Girdwood, George (c.1864-1927)

Stationer living in Dundee.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Glasgow and West of Scotland Technical College (1887-1964)

Predecessor of University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. It was formed after a merger of the Anderson's Institute, the College of Science and Arts, Allan Glen's Institution, the Young Chair of Technical Chemistry, and Atkinson's Institution. It was merged again in 1964 with the Scottish College of Commerce to form the University as it exists today.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Glen, David Corse (1824-1892)

Engineer from Paisley. He formed the company Glen and Ross, which was known for manufacturing the 'Rigby' steam hammer. He was also a keen enthusiast of mineralogy and was a member of the Geology Society of Glasgow. He is believed to have started collecting in 1858, likely through purchases and gifts. In 1886 he purchased a sizeable mineral collection from the estate of Archibald Thomas Frederick Fraser (d.1884).

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Glenlivet Distillers Co (1824-present)

Scotland's oldest legal distillery, founded in 1824.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Godeffroy, Johann Cesar VI (1813-1885)

Collector, curator and trading business owner. The Godeffroy family owned a global trading business, including the exportation of goods such as coffee, cotton and sugar from the Caribbean and Americas, cultivated by enslaved African people. Johann used the expansion of his family's company to feed his enthusiasm for natural science, amassing a large collection of material from around the world. He owned the largest private natural history collection in the world in the Godeffroy Museum, which he established in Hamburg, Germany, in 1861. In 1878, the family's trading business was taken over, threatening the Godeffroy Museum. It closed in 1881 and the collection was dispersed after Johan's death.

Associated Museum: University of Dundee Museum Collection

Grabham, Michael (d.1938)

Medical practitioner based in Kingston, born in Jamaica and died in Portugal. His father was English, and he studied in London. He arrived in Jamaica between 1891 and 1892, possibly with the support of Daniel Morris, curator at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He was listed as a medical officer at Kingston's General Hospital and Victoria Jubilee Hospital. Trained in botany, with an interest in entomology, he was interested in working towards the establishment of a laboratory for microscopical work at the Institute of Jamaica. In personal correspondence with Daniel Morris, he expressed disdain that 'natives and settlers do not take more care with their horticultural practices'.⁸⁴ In 1905, he was the joint author of *The Mosquitoes, or Culicidae, of Jamaica*, at the Institute of Jamaica, and was listed as part of the Government Medical Service.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Graham, Dr Robert (1786-1845)

Scottish physician and botanist, originally from Stirling. He studied at the University of Glasgow and then the University of Edinburgh, graduating in 1808. He qualified as a surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, relocating to Glasgow to practise at the Royal Infirmary. He lectured in botany at the University of Glasow in 1816 and was pivotal in the creation of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens. In 1820 he became Professor of Botany and

⁸⁴ Grabham, M (1892). 'Letter from Michael Grabham to Daniel Morris; from Kingston, Jamaica; 30 May 1892'. *Jstor Global Plants*:
<https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.visual.kldc13706>

Medicine at the University of Edinburgh and served as Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 1820-1845.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Gray, Thomas (1820-1910)

Prolific shell collector and describer of species new to science.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Grierson, James (dates unknown)

Merchant employed by Adam Pierson and Co in Glasgow. They imported sugar, rum and other goods from the Caribbean around the late 19th century.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Grierson, Thomas Boyle (1818-1889)

Curator based in Thornhill, Dumfries. He gathered a sizeable collection of cultural and natural science material at his museum in Thornhill with assistance from a network of scientists and collectors. His museum was established in 1869 and opened in 1872. After his death, the established Trust lacked adequate funds to maintain the collection, and it was dispersed in 1965. Institutions around Scotland hold material from Grierson, though most was successfully taken in by Alfred E Truckell at Dumfries Museum.

See also: Truckell, Alfred E

Associated Museums: Dumfries Museum; The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Grieve, Symington (1850-1932)

Scottish naturalist, known for his work on the great auk. He travelled to Dominica in 1906 and published *Notes Upon the Island of Dominica* (1906).⁸⁵

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Guilding, Rev Lansdown (1797-1831)

Naturalist and theologian based in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Guilding is known for his work on Caribbean flora and fauna, particularly his publication *An Account of the Botanic Garden in the Island of St. Vincent*, 1825. He corresponded with scientific specialists in Britain, including William Jackson Hooker who around this time was curator of the Botanic Garden in Glasgow.

⁸⁵ Grieve, S (1906). *Notes Upon the Island of Dominica*. London: A & C Black:
<https://archive.org/details/notesuponisland00griegooq>

He became director of Saint Vincent's botanic garden around the time of his publication. The garden in Saint Vincent was established in 1765 and is the oldest in the Caribbean. It was created to offer a place to experiment on and acclimatise introduced plants of medical and commercial interest.

Associated Museums: Glasgow Life Museums; National Museums Scotland

Harvie-Brown, John Alexander (1844-1916)

Scottish ornithologist and naturalist. As a wealthy landowner, he could afford to pursue his interest in natural science. He undertook expeditions around Europe and in the Arctic Ocean, including Norway, Russia, Finland and Transylvania. He wrote publications on the migration of birds (1879-1887) and other reports on fauna around Scotland, including the Hebrides, and Europe.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Heath, Edward Alfred (1839-1907)

English pharmacist and amateur entomologist. Originally from Devon and educated in Taunton, he set up a pharmacy in London. He took up natural science as a hobby, with a significant interest in beetles and local fauna. In 1884, he was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society. Around 1894, the *Proceedings of the Linnean Society* show that he was collecting global species, including a *Goliathus giganteus* beetle from West Africa. He became a recognised collector of Coleoptera and provided specimens for institutions such as the British Museum and Walter Rothschild's museum in Tring. Heath's collection was known as one of the largest collections in Britain during this period. After his death, his material was dispersed, particularly through an auction held at Stevens Auction Rooms in London. A large portion was acquired by Thomas George Bishop (1846-1922), from Glasgow, who then donated it to The Hunterian, University of Glasgow.

Associated Museum: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Henry, George (1868-1937)

A wine and spirit merchant from Edinburgh. Henry is described in census records as being a licensed grocer and his business operated in Lawnmarket, Old Town.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Hewitt, Vivian Vaughan Davies (1888-1965)

Welsh aviator. Known for his collection of 13 eggs and four mounted skins of the extinct great auk. His bird sanctuary at his home in Anglesey is now managed by the North Wales Wildlife Trust.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Hickson, Sydney John (1859-1940)

Zoologist from London. He is known for his research applying Darwin's theories of evolution to genetics, morphology and embryology and expanding the field of biology. In 1888, he toured Canada, Mexico and the US, possibly collecting natural material.

Associated Museum: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Hunter, William (1718-1783)

Scottish physician, anatomist and obstetrician. He was born into a family of surgeons, including his father John Hunter (c.1662-1741) and his younger brother, also John Hunter (1728-1793). He studied medicine at University of Glasgow but moved to London to train in anatomy and pursue his scientific career. In London, he became physician to Queen Charlotte and supported the delivery of George IV. He also became a Fellow of the Royal Society and was appointed Professor of Anatomy to the Royal Academy. During this time, around 1765, he began collecting medical, cultural and natural material, working closely with a network of specialists who used his material for scientific research. After his death, his collection was bequeathed to the University of Glasgow, serving as the foundation for The Hunterian Museum, named after him.

Associated Museum: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Imrie, Ninian, Lt Colonel (1750-1820)

Imrie served in the Royal Regiment of Foot in Minorca and Gibraltar. He became interested in geology after meeting mining geologist John Hawkins in Istanbul and travelling with him to Cyprus. On his return to Gibraltar, and promotion to Lt Colonel, he wrote and published the first geological description of the Rock of Gibraltar (1798). Imrie corresponded with respected geologists of the time, including James Hutton and John Walker, and became a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1798. Imrie died in 1820, leaving much of his estate to his sister Marjory.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Ingall, Thomas (1800-1862)

Banker at the Bank of England, with a particular interest in entomology. Ingall was one of the original members of the Entomological Club (1826).

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Inglis, Miss

Either Mary Walkingshare Inglis (1837-1912) or her daughter Alice Mary Inglis (1860-1940). Both lived in Edinburgh with Elizabeth's husband Robert Inglis.

Robert was a publisher for the Gall & Inglis printing company that specialised in cartography and astronomy.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

J & J Cunningham (1845-1928)

John and James Cunningham (dates unknown) were manure merchants based in Leith, Edinburgh. They produced a range of compounded fertilizers using guano and superphosphate. In 1928, they were incorporated into Scottish Agricultural Industries.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Jamieson, Miss Agnes (c.1842-1932)

Daughter of town councillor and magistrate, John Jamieson (1827-1900). She was a member of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science from 1878 until her death.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

O E Janson & Son

Founded by Oliver Erichson Janson (1850-1926) and taken over by his sons. Janson came from a family of entomologists, with a particular interest in Coleoptera, and continued the family natural science business after his father's death. They provided entomology specimens and related supplies to museums around Britain, including the British Museum.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Jardine, Sir William (1800-1874)

Naturalist based in Dumfries with an interest in ornithology. He served as first president of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society from 1862 until his death. He edited forty volumes of *The Naturalist's Library*, which focused on ornithology, mammalia, entomology and ichthyology. Jardine had a particular interest in birds of Tobago and collected widely through networks of enthusiasts on the island, including James Kirk. Shortly before his death, he was in the process of creating a publication on the birds of Tobago.

See also: James Kirk

Associated Museums: Dumfries Museum; National Museums Scotland

Kerr, (nee Harper) Helen Morrison (c.1864-c.1930)

The wife of John Kerr (c.1860-1905), a ship owner and sugar merchant based in Greenock West. His father, also John Kerr (1823-1872), was a partner in Glebe Sugar Refinery Co and was deeply involved in the post-emancipation sugar trade in the Caribbean. Glebe Sugar House was constructed around 1811 as Greenock's fifth sugar manufacturing building. John Kerr's family remained in the refining business until the 20th century, taking over the company between 1881 and 1929. Helen Morrison Harper, later Kerr, was the daughter of a gentleman from London. She was listed as a spinster when she married John in Kensington in 1890. After her husband's death, she remarried in 1912. Very little is known about her after her second husband's death, but her name is included on the passenger list of a ship bound for Quebec in 1929.

Associated Museum: The Watt Institution

Kirk, James (1800-1874)

Born in Perth, Kirk moved to Tobago in 1825 to work as a manager on a plantation estate. He later owned the Glamorgan, Betsey's Hope and Roxburgh estates, enslaving around 100 people across the three plantations. He was interested in the wildlife of Tobago and routinely sent bird specimens to Sir William Jardine in Dumfries, Scotland.

See also: Jardine, William

Associated Museum: Dumfries Museum

Kirke, Robert (1815-1894)

Plantation owner and enslaver in Suriname. He is considered one of Scotland's last enslavers as he was able to exploit the Netherlands' late abolition of slavery in 1863. He owned the Hazard and Waterloo estates, bequeathed by his uncle, James Balfour (1777-1841), and the Nursery estate. He is estimated to have enslaved over 300 people.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Krantz, Friedrich (1859-1926)

Supplier of natural science material and equipment. He was the owner of Krantz - Rheinisches Mineralien-Kontor, a geology supply company founded by his uncle, August Krantz, in 1833. August had a sizeable collection of minerals and had built up a strong network of interested collectors to sell to. Friedrich Krantz succeeded in 1888 and in 1891 bought the company from August's son-in-law.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Krauss, Christian Ferdinand Friedrich (1812-1890)

German scientist and collector. He operated primarily in Cape Town, South Africa.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Lamont, Sir Norman (1869-1949)

The last Baronet of Knockdow, Argyll, and a government official of Trinidad and Tobago. He was the nephew of John Lamont (1782-1850), who built his wealth in the early 19th century on the trade of enslaved people and ownership of Trinidad plantations, including Cedar Grove. The vastness of his fortune and infamy of his treatment of enslaved Africans made him one of the most prolific planters on the island. Norman Lamont was born in Scotland but inherited the plantations of John Lamont in 1907. He served on the Board of Agriculture and introduced the ideas that led to the establishment of the Imperial College of Agriculture.

Associated Museums: National Museums Scotland; Glasgow Life Museums

Lawrence Jnr, John (b.1861)

Wine and spirit merchant from Glasgow. According to Post Office directories, his business was at 41 Finnieston Street.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Leitch, Miss Margaret (c.1831-1910)

There is little information available on Margaret Leitch. Her family was heavily involved in Greenock's sugar trade. Her father, John Leitch (c.1788-1851), was a merchant and shipowner. Her brothers, Partrick Walker Leitch (c.1825-1898) and John Leitch (c.1845-1920), were sugar brokers at the Sugar Exchange, which moved from Glasgow to Greenock in the 1880s.

Associated Museum: The Watt Institution

Lindsay, Rev John (c.1862-1943)

Minister of the United Free Church of Scotland, practising in Bathgate, Lothian.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Lockhart, John Young (1862-1943)

Commercial trader and commission agent based in Kirkcaldy, Fife.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Lorkin, Frederick (c.1832-1919)

Wine merchant living in Glasgow. He may have travelled to the Caribbean, including Antigua, to study the wine trade between the 1850s and 1860s.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Love, John Orr (1857-1893)

Government officer for Baramanni in modern day Guyana. In 1893, shortly before his death, he was appointed Commissioner of Guyana.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Ludlow, Dr Clara Southmayd (1852-1924)

First woman to publish studies on the taxonomy of mosquitoes and occurrence in mosquito-borne disease. She studied at Mississippi Agricultural & Mechanical College (1897-1901) before working in Manila to study tropical medicine at the Army Surgeon General's Office. In 1908, she was elected to the American Society of Tropical Medicine, becoming the first woman and first non-physician member of the Society. Ludlow served as head of the Department of Entomology at the Army Medical Museum and Library in Washington DC, 1920-1924.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Lumsden, Miss Agnes Lowson (1871-1946)

From Fife, Miss Lumsden is described in census records as unmarried and living on her own means. She appears to have travelled frequently to the Mediterranean and Canada, but there are no records of her visiting the Caribbean. The size of her entomology collection suggests she was an enthusiast.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

MacAndrew, Robert (1802-1873)

Son of a fruit and shipping merchant, originally from Scotland, who later settled in London. He took over the business in 1819 before founding MacAndrew & Co, a ship-owning business in London. He later moved to Liverpool where he became involved in the study of natural history. Business trips around the Mediterranean inspired him to become a shell collector. He became a fellow of the Linnean Society in 1847 and The Royal Society in 1853.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

MacDougall, George Rogers (1844-1917)

A sugar merchant originally from Greenock but based predominately in New York, USA. He served as manager of the Watt Library, McLean Museum and Watt Hall. In 1891 he formed a sugar trading partnership with Julius Caesar Czarnikow (1838-1909) in New York. They operated estates in the Caribbean, including Cuba and Trinidad.

Associated Museum: The Watt Institution

MacDougall, Miss Mary (dates unknown)

This is possibly Mary Ann McDougall (1848-1919) who was born in the British West Indies. In 1866 she married Ralph James Forbes Leith, a health official, in Carriacou. More research is required to determine her identity.

Associated Museum: Museums of the University of St Andrews

MacFarlane, Dr John (d.1865)

Doctor living in Montego Bay, Jamaica. He appears in the 1861 Almanac as a medical practitioner from Edinburgh and Montego Bay. The record can be viewed here: <https://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/Members/al61c05.htm>

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Marsden, Herbert Walter (c.1841-1919)

Taxidermist from Gloucester or Bath. He sold material for private collectors and institutions, especially bird skins and bird mounts.

Associated Museums: National Museums Scotland; The Watt Institution

Maxwell, John (1822-1899)

Justice of the Peace for Glasgow. He travelled frequently with his wife, including to Trinidad around 1875. He amassed a large collection of foreign beetles and butterflies that were bequeathed along with his estate, Baillieston House, to his nephew, John Maxwell Scott-Maxwell. Scott-Maxwell later studied engineering at the University of Glasgow and donated the collection to the Hunterian, University of Glasgow in 1905.

Associated Museum: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

McIntosh, William Carmichael (1838-1931)

Professor of natural history and curator of the University of St Andrews Museum Collections. He was responsible for managing and rearranging the collection that had not previously been cared for by a scientific specialist.

Associated Museum: Museums of the University of St Andrews

McNab, Dr Gilbert (1815-1859)

Doctor and botanist. Originally from Edinburgh, he emigrated to Jamaica around 1837, operating as a surgeon and health officer first in Kingston and then St Ann's Bay. He assisted Dr James McFadyen (1799-1850), another surgeon and botanist on the island. McFadyen was keen to establish a botanical garden in Jamaica and published a two-volume study, *Flora of Jamaica*, in 1837. McNab was from a notable botanical family. His father, William McNab (1780-1848), held appointments at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh where Gilbert's brother, James McNab (1810-1878), succeeded him. Gilbert most likely had a strong network of natural science curators and plant collectors to send his collections to. The presence of his examples from Jamaica has contributed to multiple collections, including Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Glasgow Life Museums and Perth Museum, exemplifying his role as a specialist in the mid-19th century.

Associated Museums: Glasgow Life Museums; Perth Museum

McGrigor, Sir James (1771-1858)

Known as the father of army medicine, McGrigor is also credited for introducing the stethoscope to military practice. He received medical training at the University of Edinburgh, 1789, and was appointed as a military surgeon from 1793 to 1799. He served as Surgeon-General during the Peninsular Wars in Spain and Portugal. After returning to Britain, he served as Director-General of the Army Medical Service, 1815-1851. During this time, he established the Army Medical Museum at Fort Pitt, Chatham, Kent.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Miller, James Robert (1875-1948)

Grocer of Scottish heritage, born in Trinidad. He inherited Miller's General Stores in Port of Spain, which had been founded by his grandfather. He was interested in terrestrial invertebrates, particularly Lepidoptera, and collected widely during his time on the island. He returned to Scotland in 1916 and settled in Crieff, Perthshire.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Milne, Admiral Sir David (1763-1845)

Scottish Royal Navy Admiral, born in Edinburgh on 25th May 1763. He joined the Royal Navy in May 1779 as a midshipman and served in the West Indies from 1779 to 1783. In 1796 he participated in the capture of the Dutch colonies of Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice, becoming the British governor of Netherlands Guiana. Milne was Commander-in-Chief of the British North

American and West Indian Station, based in Bermuda, for three years, ending in the summer of 1819 when he retired to Scotland and briefly became MP for North Berwick.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Moir, John William (1851-1940)

Game hunter and plantation owner, based in Malawi. Originally educated at the University of Edinburgh, 1877-1878, he emigrated to Central Africa to partake in game hunting and ivory trading. In 1877 he and his brother, Frederick Lewis Maitland Moir (1852-1939), were employed by the African Lakes Company and appointed as joint managers to establish a permanent location in the region. During this time, local groups attempted to block their settlement and resist occupation. They were unsuccessful and the company was established in Malawi in 1878. He left Africa, presumably returning to Scotland, and did not come back to Malawi until 1893. At this time, he acquired tobacco estates owned by the Buchanan Brothers company, which was established around 1892 following the deaths of its original owners. Moir went on to become a prominent tea planter and his land ownership extended to 3.4 million acres by the time he retired in 1900.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Montagu, Lady Sydney Charlotte (1873-1930)

Countess of Kintore, Aberdeenshire. She was the granddaughter of William Montagu who served as Governor of Jamaica, 1808-1827, and oversaw the abolition of the transatlantic trade of enslaved Africans across the colony. She and her husband, Algernon Keith-Falconer, Earl of Kintore and colonial governor in South Australia, amassed a large natural history collection from around the world. Material came from Australia, New Zealand and Canada, and included cultural material as well as natural specimens.

Associated Museum: University of Aberdeen Collections

Muir, Richard (1862-1931)

Biomedical scientist in Edinburgh. He served as a 'lab boy' from the age of 13 in the Pathology Department of the University of Edinburgh. Muir was elected a non-medical and non-university educated member of the Pathological Society of Great Britain.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Murray, Sir John (1841-1914)

Considered the father of Oceanography. Murray assisted in the preparation of scientific apparatus for the 1872-1876 *Challenger* Expedition under Charles Wyville Thomson. He assisted research by collecting samples, making

observations, and improving instruments and was later appointed Chief Assistant at *Challenger* Office in Edinburgh where he managed and organised the collection. Between 1880 and 1895, he published *The Report on the Scientific Results of the Voyage of HMS Challenger, 1880-1895*.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Palmer, Dr Edward (1829-1911)

English botanist and archaeologist. He was most active in the Americas and travelled to Nassau in the Bahamas to study algae species between March and August 1874.

Associated Museum: Dumfries Museum

Parnell, Richard (1818-1882)

English doctor, zoologist and botanist who co-founded the Edinburgh Botanical Society in 1836. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh following nomination by Sir William Jardine (1800-1874). He conducted a tour of Jamaica and the surrounding Caribbean around 1839-1840.

Associated Museums: National Museums Scotland; Perth Museum

Paterson, George Keppie (1861-1942)

Medical practitioner, obstetrician and physician for maternity welfare. He graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1882 before furthering his studies across Europe. He was a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the British Medical Association. He also went on various global medical missions. He served in the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society from 1890 and travelled to the Caribbean, North Africa, Egypt and Palestine.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Pearcey, Mr Frederick Gordon (1857-1927)

Specialist in foraminifera. He joined the *Challenger* Expedition, 1872-1876, as a taxidermist and scientific assistant. After the voyage, he served as an assistant to Charles Wyville Thompson and John Murray at the *Challenger* Office at the University of Edinburgh.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Peddie, Dr Alex (1810-1907)

President of Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh 1878-1879. He worked as apprentice under James Syme (1799-1870), who rented a house as a

private hospital before being appointed to the Royal Infirmary. Peddie was the founder of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh (1867) and Edinburgh Dental Hospital (1878).

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Petrie-Hay, Alexander Kynoch (1879-1952)

Scottish merchant living in England. He is described in the 1901 Scottish census as a commercial traveller and, later, in the 1911 English census as a manager of a distilling company. Around the time of his 1935 donation to the Royal Scottish Museum, Petrie-Hay was travelling frequently as a merchant to the Caribbean, including Barbados and Antigua. In 1937, he travelled to Antigua on the newly launched SS *Inkosi*, a refrigerated cargo liner for importing trade goods between Britain and the Caribbean.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Plowden-Wardlaw, Wilfrid James (1905-1993)

Ornithologist from Hampshire, England. He graduated as a doctor from Cambridge University in 1924 but went on to pursue his passion for ornithology. He travelled extensively, including Scotland, Vancouver, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and New Zealand. His collection can also be found at the Natural History Museum, London.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Praeger, William Emilius (1863-1936)

Irish naturalist living in Michigan, USA. He served as Professor of Biology at Kalamazoo College between 1906 and 1936. In an obituary published by Kalamazoo College, he was described as possessing a garden and conservatory, which was bequeathed to the college after his death.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Reid, Alexander John Forsyth (1846-1913)

Army officer from Aberdeen. He studied at the University of Aberdeen before joining the Indian Army in 1867, serving in the Bengal Native Infantry. He received KCB honours for his service and retired in 1904. After this point, he travelled widely, including a cruise to the West Indies in 1907.

Associated Museum: University of Aberdeen Collections

Robertson, David (1806-1896)

Scottish naturalist and founder of the University Marine Biological Station in Millport.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Robertson, Hannah, née Alston (1826-1910)

Naturalist, originally from the Isle of Man, specialising in foraminifera. The wife of David Robertson (1806-1896), she had a keen interest in marine invertebrates and assisted her husband with his work in Cumbrae. She worked on multiple dredging excursions and collected marine fossils around Scotland, Orkney and Norway. She was an Honorary Member of the Glasgow Natural History Society in 1901 and founding member of the Marine Biological Association of the West of Scotland.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Rose, Agnes (c.1833-1918)

Daughter of Alexander Rose (1786-1860), lecturer in mineralogy and geology at Queen's College, Edinburgh.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Rosenberg, William Frederick Henry (1868-1957)

Collector and natural history dealer. He was employed by interested parties to provide bird skins, particularly for the Rothschild family. Rosenberg collected for Walter Rothschild (1868-1937), especially in Colombia and Ecuador in 1896. He operated as a dealer of natural material in Tring and later in London.

See also: Rothschild, Walter

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Rothschild, Nathaniel Charles (1877-1923)

Conservationist and naturalist, with a significant interest in entomology. He created the 'Rothschild List' in 1914, which detailed 284 sites across Britain considered suitable for nature reserves. He established Wicken Fen in 1899, Britain's first nature reserve and previously a popular site for naturalists. It is now under the care of the National Trust. He collected over 260,000 fleas that are now part of the collection at the Natural History Museum, London. Rothschild described 500 fleas that were new to science. During an expedition to Shendi, Sudan, in 1901, he collected a specimen of the rat flea, *Xenopsylla cheopis*, which carries the Bubonic plague vector. He described and published the species in 1903.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Rothschild, Walter (1868-1937)

Naturalist and banker. From a young age, he aspired to run a zoological museum and collected animals from around the world at the Rothschild family home in Tring Park. After studying zoology at Cambridge, he travelled across Europe and North Africa to collect animals. Due to health issues, he hired taxidermists, librarians and scientists to curate his collections, which included millions of specimens. Hundreds of species have been named after him, including Rothschild's giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi*. His private museum, opened to the public in 1892, was one of the largest natural history collections in the world. Rothschild was also involved in the foundation of the British Trust for Ornithology in 1932. In 1937, his museum and contents were bequeathed to the British Museum, and the Walter Rothschild Zoological Museum is now part of the Natural History Museum.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Rowland Ward Ltd (1870)

Natural history dealers and taxidermists. The firm was established in 1870 by James Rowland Ward (1848-1912) in Piccadilly, London. It became a trustworthy source for birds, big game and trophies. It also sold commercial furniture and decorations made with natural material. By the end of the 19th century, Rowland Ward supplied material from across the British Empire and was established as a valuable resource for purchasing international specimens for private collectors and public institutions.

Associated Museums: Glasgow Life Museums; The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

The Royal Army Medical College

Established in 1907 at Millbank, London, on the site now occupied by Tate Britain. Training for army medical staff had previously been undertaken at the Army Medical School at Fort Pitt, Chatham, Kent, before moving to Netley in 1863. The Royal Army Medical Corps was formed in 1898 and development of the college started shortly after.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Rutley, Frank (1842-1904)

English geologist and petrographer. He studied at the Royal School of Mines, London, but worked predominantly in the Lake District, Cumbria.

Associated collection: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Salisbury, Albert Edward (1876-1964)

Engineer based in London. He is credited as the inventor of the bar electric fire, immersion heater, and mercury arc lamp. Salisbury also had a keen interest in conchology and malacology. He purchased the collection of Hugh Fulton (of Sowerby & Fulton) in 1946, claiming over 25,000 specimens. Salisbury was elected as a member of the Conchological Society in 1906, and served as its president, 1943-1945. He also served as president of the Malacological Society of London, 1933-1936.

See also: Fulton, Hugh Coomber

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Schlüter, Wilhelm (1828-1919)

German dealer of natural science collections at das Naturwissenschaftliche Institut. His company is regarded as the first commercial source for scientific and teaching materials in Germany. He sold a wide range of material, including vertebrates, invertebrates, microscopical slides, and models.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Schomburgk, Robert Hermann (1804-1865)

Scientific collector, originally from Germany but worked for networks across Britain. He carried out studies around South America and the Caribbean and served as British Consul in colonial government missions in the Dominican Republic and Thailand. Between 1828 and 1835, he was living across what is now known as the US and British Virgin Islands (BVI). In 1830, his amateur survey of the island of Anegada, BVI, gained recognition from the Royal Geographical Society. He was employed to conduct an expedition and survey of British Guiana, 1835-1839. His interest in botany flourished and he found many plants new to science, including orchid species. His report was used to fix colonial boundaries between British Guiana and Venezuela; a provisional boundary, known as the Schomburgk line, was established until the late 19th century.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Sclater, Dr Philip Lutley (1829-1913)

English zoologist, with an interest in ornithology. He is credited with identifying the key zoogeographic regions of the world, including Palaearctic, Aethiopian, Indian, Australasian, Nearctic and Neotropical. These regions are still used in scientific research.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Scott, Robert Lyons (1871-1939)

Engineer and game hunter based in Greenock. He worked as Director and Chairman of Scotts' Shipbuilding and Engineering Company from 1898 until his death. He collected natural history specimens and cultural material, with a particular interest in large game. His collection of weaponry, armour and hunting trophies was kept in his home. He conducted multiple global tours including to Norway, Canada, Kenya, Sudan, India, Trinidad, Mexico and Nigeria. His natural material was bequeathed largely to the McLean Museum at The Watt Institution, and his arms, armour and books were given to the Corporation of Glasgow, now Glasgow Life.

Associated Museum: The Watt Institution

Scouler, Dr John (1804-1871)

Born in Glasgow and educated at Kilbarchan and the University of Glasgow. He moved to Paris and studied at Jardin des Plantes before moving to England. He was appointed surgeon and naturalist aboard the *William and Ann* on its expedition from London to the Columbia River, crossing Maderia, Rio de Janeiro and the Galapagos between 1824 and 1826. Scouler then worked as a surgeon on the *Clyde*, a merchant vessel for Calcutta that touched at Madras and Cape Horn. He was appointed Professor of Geology and Natural History and Mineralogy at the Andersonian University, now University of Strathclyde. In 1834 he was appointed professor of mineralogy to the Royal Dublin Society. He retired in 1854.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Serle, Rev Dr William (1912-1992)

Studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and in 1937 was appointed as a doctor in the Colonial Service for Nigeria where he lived for 20 years before returning to Edinburgh to study as a minister. Serle was ordained in 1959 and served in Aberdeen for 28 years.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Service, Robert (1854-1911)

Secretary of Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, 1870-1882. He was appointed vice president in 1902 and honorary vice president in 1907. Service was also a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, Edinburgh Field Naturalists' and Microscopic Society, Natural History Society of Glasgow, Andersonian Society, and British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Shelswell, Eileen Margaret (1926-2016)

A zoologist who studied for her PhD on parasitology at the University of St Andrews in partnership with Rutgers University.

Associated Museum: Museums of the University of St Andrews

Smith, Sir Andrew (1797-1872)

Inspector General of the Medical Department of the British Army and a zoologist. Smith was born in Hawick, Roxburghshire, and studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. After joining the army as a surgeon in 1820 he was stationed in South Africa and remained there until 1837. During this time Smith carried out various African expeditions and collected zoological specimens. He returned to England in 1837 and served as Principal Medical Officer at Fort Pitt, Chatham, Kent. He also worked as personal assistant to Sir James McGrigor (1771-1858). Later, he became Inspector-General and Superintendent of the Army Medical Department.

See also: McGrigor, Sir James

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Smith, Herbert Huntingdon (1852-1919)

American naturalist and conchologist. He collected insects and shells in Saint Vincent, Grenada, Trinidad and the Windward Islands (southeastern Caribbean) under the instruction of The Royal Society.

Associated Museum: Perth Museum

Smith, Maxwell (1888-1961)

Amateur conchologist from New York. He was also a member of the Malacological Society of London, 1908-1912.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Smooker, George Douglas (1884-c.1920)

From Hampshire. Little is known about his life, though he appears on passenger lists as a planter in Trinidad. His father, George Michael Smooker (1853-1916), was described in census records as a tobacconist.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Souper, Charles Alexander (1879-1975)

From London, Souper is described as a professor of music and possibly taught privately.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Souper, Edward (b.1877)

Brother of Charles Alexander Souper. They both likely served in the British Army during the First World War.

See also: Souper, Charles Alexander

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Sowerby, George Brettingham III (1842-1921)

Owner of Sowerby and Fulton with Hugh Coomber Fulton (1861-1942). He was an illustrator of natural material but was colour blind so many illustrations were coloured by one of his daughters, Jessie or Edith. His father, George Brettingham Sowerby II, was a conchologist and illustrator.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Stenhouse, John Hutton (1865-1931)

Scottish ornithologist. He studied medicine at the University of Aberdeen where he also took courses in zoology and developed his interest in birds. He worked as a ships doctor on multiple vessels, allowing him to study birds of the Arctic and Patagonian regions. He joined the Royal Navy in 1887 as a medical officer, travelling widely and studying birds across the Mediterranean and North Sea, Pacific Ocean, East Asia, Bermuda and Saint Vincent. He later settled in Edinburgh and conducted field work across Scotland. Stenhouse also contributed to the collections of the Royal Scottish Museum, now National Museum of Scotland.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Steven, Robert Heron Maxwell (1875-1911)

Banker and landowner. Steven came to Dominica around 1907, having bought the Belvedere estate from a Philip Cox in 1906. Belvedere, part of St Patrick parish, had historically been a plantation. In 1834, it was reportedly owned by a Nicholas Morau who had enslaved 166 people. Morau also owned the Tranquillity estate, also in Dominica, with 54 enslaved people living on the plantation. Philip Cox's obituary in *The Dominica Guardian* described it as still being used for agriculture. Robert Steven was described as previously dealing with banking business in India before moving to Dominica. He was

present in the 1891 Scottish census, living in Edinburgh, and was living in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1906.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Stewart, Duncan (1844-1904)

Founder of Duncan Stewart and Co in Glasgow. He was educated at the University of Glasgow and trained at an engineering firm under his father, where he became interested in sugar refining machinery. He founded his firm around 1864, working with firms with sugar estates in the Caribbean. He worked in the region as an engineer, allowing him to gather experience of sugar operations. Stewart was responsible for introducing hydraulic pressure cylinders to sugar cane mills. After returning to Glasgow around the 1870s, he expanded his markets globally, launching firms across Egypt, Australia, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Stuart-Baker, Edward Charles (1864-1944)

Ornithologist, illustrator and police officer. He served in the Indian Police Service, 1883-1911, rising to Inspector-General by the end of his career. While living in India, he hunted big game and studied local birds. He built a sizeable collection of Indian bird eggs and published ornithological studies. Part of his collection was donated to the Natural History Museum.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Suter, Richard (1864-1959)

Schoolteacher and microscopist based in England. He operated his slide-making business from his home in Tottenham, advertising exchanges for microscopes and requesting material for slides.

Associated Museum: Paisley Museum

Taylor, Fanny Hope (1835-1881)

Botanist from England. She worked or lived in Jamaica between 1852 and 1854, specialising in ferns. Several species endemic to Jamaica were likely named after her, including *Diplazium taylorianum*. She is credited as the first person to locate *Pityrogramma schizophylla*.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Templeton-Anderson, Annie (1889-1980)

Private collector and Town Councillor, also known as Nance. She was born and raised in Helensburgh. She served as Town Councillor of Helensburgh

and was the first woman to serve as Bailie, or magistrate, in the local burgh court. She collected widely, including cultural and natural material and fine art. After her death, her sons established the A T Anderson Trust to manage the bequest of her collection to the town of Helensburgh. She was also a relative of James Templeton (1802-1885) who in 1839 founded the Glasgow firm of James Templeton & Co, one of the leading carpet manufacturers of the 19th and 20th centuries. Templeton had previously travelled to Mexico to study the cotton trade. Members of the Templeton family appear to be living in Demerara throughout the 19th century, though the detail of their connection to the region is not known. Templeton-Anderson's collection originates from this area, and more research could uncover a possible personal connection to Demerara and the Guyanese region.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Thomas Christy & Co

Agricultural business operating in London. It was founded by Thomas Christy (1831-1905), a botanist and pharmacologist. He was born into a family of hat manufacturers. In 1852, he filed a patent for an invention to improve hat and fabric weaving. At some point between 1853 and 1870, he lived in China, possibly to study pharmacology. When he returned, he became a drug and pharmaceutical merchant, operating out of London. He later filed patents for advancements in commercial industry, including incubators, ammoniacal works, and apparatus for ventilation on ships.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Thompson, D'Arcy Wentworth (1860-1948)

Naturalist and curator. He served first at University College, Dundee, building up a collection for a museum of zoology for teaching and studying purposes. With a large network of colleagues, scientific enthusiasts and collectors, he amassed a teaching collection that was considered one of the largest of its kind in the UK. In 1917, he left Dundee to become Chair of Natural History at the University of St Andrews. His original museum in Dundee was demolished in 1956, with much of the collection being dispersed or lost. His surviving collection remains at the University of Dundee. He is most known for his seminal work *On Growth and Form* (1945).

Associated Museums: University of Dundee Museum Collections; Museums of the University of St Andrews

Thomson, Sir Charles Wyville (1830-1882)

Naturalist, professor and chief scientist of the *Challenger* Expedition, 1872-1876. After his return, he took charge of the *Challenger* Office at the University of Edinburgh to manage and analyse the collection.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Thomson, Georgianna Elder Bruce (c.1848-1911)

Wife of James Newall Thomson. She was the youngest daughter of George Gower Bruce (c.1796-c.1870), who was described in the 1861 Scottish census as a retired clerk of civil service.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Thomson, James Newall (1849-1903)

Individual from Nassau, the Bahamas. According to the 1891 Post Office directory, he was employed at 186 West George Street, Glasgow. At this time, the solicitors firm Messrs Keydens, Strang and Girvan operated from this address. He was possibly born or raised from a young age in the Bahamas.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Thomson, Lady Jane Ramage (1827-1911)

Wife of Charles Wyville Thomson, 1854. She was the daughter of Adam Dawson, Deputy Lieutenant of Linlithgowshire, and Helen Ramage

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Ticehurst, Dr Claud Buchanan (1881-1941)

Surgeon and ornithologist from Suffolk, England. He pursued an interest in birds and was elected to the British Ornithologists' Union in 1903. Between 1917 and 1920, he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and was posted to India. Here he pursued his interests and studied the birds of the region. After his retirement, Ticehurst travelled frequently with friends and associates around Europe and North Africa.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Tobin, James

This may refer to James Tobin (c.1736-1817) or his son, James Webbe Tobin (1767-184). Tobin Snr was an absentee owner of the Stoney Grove estate in Nevis but mostly lived in England. He was interested in natural sciences and was a member of the Linnean Society.

James Webbe Tobin was a political radical and strongly opposed his father's views on slavery. He took a leading role in the Huggins case of 1810 against Edward Huggins at Mountravers estate. After moving to Nevis in 1809, he lived there for the remainder of his life.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Traill, Professor Thomas Stewart (1781-1862)

Scottish physician and zoologist. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and practised in Liverpool from 1803. He was also interested in natural history. In 1822, he led a campaign against the British Museum to improve the storage of its natural history collection, including the original bequest from Hans Sloane. He also supported the work of John James Audubon (1785-1851) who arrived in Liverpool around 1826 seeking a publisher for *The Birds of America*. Audubon named Traill's flycatcher after him. In 1973 it was determined as being two species, *Empidonax alnorum* and *Empidonax traillii*. Between 1831 and 1832, he was involved as a local physician during the 1826-1837 cholera pandemic, which spread globally, reaching across Asia, Europe and into the Americas.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Truckell, Alfred E (1919-2007)

Curator of Dumfries Museum from 1948 to 1982. He oversaw the dispersal of Dr Thomas Grierson's museum in Thornhill, retrieving the collection for Dumfries Museum in 1965.

See also: Grierson, Thomas Boyle

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Urich, Frederick William (1872-1937)

Entomologist of German heritage, born in Trinidad. He was a professor at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture and co-founder of the Trinidad Field Naturalists Club. His family's presence on the island started in 1818, following the settlement of Christian and Anselm Gerold, his great-great uncles, who bought and managed the Mon Chagrin and Matilda plantations. They enslaved 73 people across both estates, receiving compensation in 1833 from the British government.

Associated Museum: Museums of the University of St Andrews

Veitch, Moir & Erskine (c. 1880s)

Fruit and vegetable merchants operating on Market Street, Edinburgh, from the late 19th century. They were bought by a private firm around the 1920s and branched out into further commercial trade.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Vaughan, Thomas Wayland (1870-1952)

American geologist. On behalf of the United States Geological Survey and United States National Museum, he surveyed the geology of the Caribbean,

including Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Panama between 1901 and 1923. He also studied corals, reefs and foraminifera of Florida and the Bahamas, 1908-1915, on behalf of the Department of Marine Biology at the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Associated Museum: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Waby, John Frederick (1848-1923)

Gardener and amateur botanist from England. He moved to Trinidad around the 1870s and to Guyana in 1878 to work as head gardener at the Botanical and Horticultural Gardens. He was an amateur collector who collected plants of interest across British Guiana, Barbados and other countries, sending on to British specialists, including Dr Scouler at the University of Glasgow and Sir William Thiselton-Dyer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Associated Museum: Glasgow Life Museums

Wardlaw-Ramsay, Rogert George (1852-1921)

British Army officer with an interest in ornithology. He was a member of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) with his uncle, Arthur Hay, Marquess of Tweeddale (1824-1878), who also served as its President. He was also an elected member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1872. After Hay's death, Wardlaw-Ramsay inherited his collection of birds.

Associated Museum: Museums of the University of St Andrews

Ward's Natural Science Establishment (1862-1928)

Taxidermy and natural science suppliers based at the University of Rochester, New York. It was founded by Henry Augustus Ward (1834-1906), professor of natural science, and provided a core resource for museums and private collections around the world.

Associated Museums: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow; University of Dundee Museum Collections; Museums of the University of St Andrews

Waterston, George (1911-1980)

Ornithologist and conservationist. Founder of Inverleith Field Club in 1929 and co-founder of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Watkins & Doncaster (1874-present)

An entomology supply business that was established by William Watkins (1849-1900) at his home in Eastbourne. It originally started as a butterfly farm for rearing global *Lepidoptera* species before moving to London in 1879. He

started a brief partnership with Arthur Doncaster before leaving the business. Doncaster became a well-known specialist on tropical butterfly species, working with institutions such as the British Museum.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Watkins, Frederick Henry (b.1859)

Commissioner of Turks and Caicos Islands. Originally from Edgbaston, Birmingham, he moved to the Caribbean before or around the 1880s as a colonial officer. He served as a school inspector in Saint Vincent, 1883-1889, and across the Leeward Islands, 1889-1899. He served as Commissioner of Montserrat, 1900-1906, and then for Turks and Caicos around 1910.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

W Watson and Sons (1937-c.1950)

Optical instrument manufacturing business based in London, founded by William Watson (d.1881).

Associated Museums: National Museums Scotland; Paisley Museum

Williams, Carrington Bonsor (1889-1981)

Agriculturalist and biologist. He studied biology and agriculture, later training at the London School of Tropical Medicine to assist the Royal Army Medical Corps to identify pathogenic medicine. Around 1915, he was contacted by the Colonial Office to study the sugar-cane froghopper, *Tomaspis saccharina*, a prevalent pest in the Caribbean. He worked in Trinidad, 1916-1921, to implement the introduction of a parasite to curb the froghopper population. He also travelled to other plantations across Suriname, Tobago and Guyana and, while in the region, he studied butterfly migration patterns. Returning to Scotland, he took up a lectureship in Agricultural and Forest Entomology at the University of Edinburgh.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Wise, Thomas (1854-1932)

Naturalist from Glasgow. He was interested in zoology, botany, geology and palaeontology and had a significant interest in molluscs.

Associated Museum: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Wood, Ormerod & Co (c.1920)

Fruit and vegetable merchants operating from Market Street in Edinburgh around the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Wright, Bryce McDurdo

Possibly Bryce McDurdo Wright Snr (1814-1874) or Bryce McDurdo Wright Jnr (1850-1894). They were in business together as shell and mineral dealers based in London. Their collection was auctioned] in 1875 at J C Stevens Auction House, London.

Associated Museum: National Museums Scotland

Wright, Dr William (1735-1819)

Physician and botanist. Born in Crieff, Perthshire, he studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh before serving in the British Navy's Jamaica regiment. He worked as a surgeon on plantations, including Orange-Hill estate which he purchased with his business partner, Thomas Steel. Wright and Steel enslaved 33 people. In 1774, he was appointed Surgeon General of Jamaica and in 1782, Physician in Chief. After Thomas Steel's death, Wright sold Orange-Hill and returned to Scotland. In 1796-1798, he joined an expedition to the Caribbean, led by Sir Ralph Abercromby (1734-1801), a British Army officer. Abercromby served as the newly appointed governor of Trinidad in 1797 after the British annexation of the island from Spanish settlers.

Associated Museums: Glasgow Life Museums; National Museums Scotland; University of Aberdeen Collections

Young, Professor J (1835-1902)

Regius Professor of Natural History at the University of Glasgow, and Keeper of the Hunterian Museum, 1866-1902.

Associated Museum: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow