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1

1896/8/4

Woven cover

Donated 1896

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

The flax *tapore* would have covered a *hāngi* or cooking pit which was a traditional cooking method using heated rocks.

2

239/11914

Pestle

Collected 1914

Gaua, Banks Island, Vanuatu

Used for pounding a pudding (*nalot*) of yam or taro in wooden dishes mixed with coconut milk.

3

E1263

Barkcloth

Early/ mid-19th century

Cook Islands

This rare cloth (*tapa*) of paper mulberry contains a distinctive motif of three multi-legged creatures.

4

72/1915

Canoe-shaped bowl

Early 20th century

South-east Solomon Islands

A communal commemorative feasting bowl inlaid with nautilus or conus shell.

5

332/1914

Cooking bowl

19th century

Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu

Coiled and hand-shaped, coated with slurried ochre then fired on an open brushwood fire. These rare pots are never placed on an open flame but instead on hot stones.

6

2/1956/1

Food bowl

Early 20th century

Huon Gulf, Papua New Guinea

The rich decorative carving is designed to please the ancestors and invite them to join the ceremonial feast.

7

33/1953/28

Tray

Early 20th century

Kookynie district, Australia

Made from eucalyptus wood this *pitchi* was used as a receptacle for gathering food, carrying water and winnowing seeds.

8

E1215

Pounder

18th century

Tonga

The pounder, or *tuki*, was used in the production of breadfruit mash. Collected by Captain James Cook.

9

83/1995

Pounder

19th century

Hawaii

Carved from basalt the common *pōhaku ku'i'ai* was used to pound taro root.

10

57/1926/70b

Basket

Before 1926

Solomon Islands

A common household food basket.

11

E1917

Coconut scraper

Acquired 1865

Solomon Islands

Tool to remove the flesh of the coconut. Acquired by John Gould Veitch on the HMS *Curaçoa*.

12

47/2010/2

Stone adze

19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Highly polished blade of volcanic stone. Acquired by RAMM through the Acceptance in Lieu scheme in 2008.

13

E1640

Adze head

19th century or earlier

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Highly skilled carvers effectively used stone adzes (*toki*) to build large canoes and other sculptures.

14

9/1945/63b

19th century or earlier

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

"He iti te toki e rite ana ki te tangata." A Maori proverb (*whakatauki*) that translates as *"though the adze be small, yet does it equal a man."*

15

6/1994/2

Adze head

Collected 1825 – 8

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Adzes of nephrite were highly prized, valued for its ability to take and maintain a sharp cutting edge.

16

573/2007/1

Adze head

19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Toki found when Bluff Harbour was dredged in October 1908.

17

110/1931/6

Adze head

19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Wood carvers were of noble birth and experts who were in great demand often travelling widely to build canoes, stores and meeting houses.

18

E1744

Adze

Before 1872

Tahiti

A hafted adze (ko'i) for dressing timber. Possibly acquired by Lt. Bond in 1792.

19

65/1920/14/1

Adze head

19th century

Torres Strait, Papua New Guinea

It is said that adze stones (*emoa*) were acquired from the sea bottom. They were shaped with a hammer stone then polished.

20

1891/7/2

Axe blade

19th century

Victoria, Australia

Made from the volcanic rock near Budj Bim (Mount Eccles) and used by the Gunditjmara people for chopping trees and butchering animals.

21

16/1996/1

Serrated hand-club

19th century

Samoa

This *nifo'oti* was developed out of steel-bladed cane knives and were valuable tools on sugar plantations.

22

71/1924/3

Rasp

Acquired 1912

Santa Cruz, Solomon Islands

Ray and shark skin was commonly used in the Pacific to smooth wood. Their skin is covered in teeth-like scales.

23

64/1974/23

Mallet

19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

This is a woodcarver's whalebone mallet with a tiki head carved into the handle.

24

E1228

Engraving tool

Before 1778

Tonga

Used to incise designs into wooden clubs and other objects. The tooth is bound to the handle with coconut fibre thread.

25

E1612

Neckrest

Collected 1843-5

Tonga

Carved from a single block of wood, neckrests (*kali*) are found all over the Pacific and come in different forms.

26

33/1953/1/2

Model stern post

Early 20th century

Aotearoa

A wood carver's skills are highlighted with this miniature *taurapa*.

27

E1651

Spear club

Donated 1876

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

The bodies of early *hani* were kept plain unlike this example which may have been made for ceremony of the export market.

28

81/1964/2

Lacebark purse

20th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

A modern *kete hohere*. Made from bark fibres of the ribbonwood tree (*Hoheria sp.*).

29

129/1972/21a

Hand fan

Collected 1878 - 1904

Samoa

This hand-woven fan (*ili fala*) is made from pandanus wefts with a bamboo handle.

30

81/1964/1/4

Headband

Early 20th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

A headband (*tipare*) made from hohere bark fibres and one of the first items made by novice weavers.

31

10/1949/2

Headdress

Early 20th century

Society Islands

Worn as part of a dance costume (*mora*) and made from hibiscus, job's tears, crab's eye seeds and cowrie shells.

32

89/2000

Woven bag

Date unknown

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

A hand-woven bag (*kete*) made from *kiekie*, a climbing plant. Dyed black but is now faded.

33

129/1972/16

Lidded basket

Collected 1878 - 1904

Samoa

Developed from the common household basket (*taga*), woven from fala pandanus (*Calophyllum inophyllum*).

34

48/1943/2

Container

Donated 1943

Tokelau Islands

A lidded *tuluma* or storage container for the home, also used for holding fishing equipment.

35

345/1914

Purse

Collected 1894

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

A plain *kete muka* of flax made in the traditional finger weaving technique (*whatu*).

36

81/1964/3

Poi

20th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

It is said that poi were once used by warriors to strengthen wrists and improve coordination skills.

37

352/1914

Poi

Collected 1894

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

A light ball of *raupō* (*Typha orientalis*) used in performance to help render tribal histories and genealogies.

38

E1278

Bracelet

Collected 1776 - 80

Hawaii

Bracelet (kupe'e ho'okalakala) worn in pairs by male dancers. These items evoke the masculine power of boars which are linked to major gods.

39

29/1921/7 and 240/1914

Beaters

19th century

Hawaii (left) Cook Islands (right)

Women would rhythmically beat soaked bark fibres on a wooden anvil to produce barkcloth.

40

59/2000/3-4

Stamps

20th century

Hawaii

Bamboo stamps (*'ohe kapala*) are applied to plain barkcloth (*kapa*) to create fine geometric motifs.

41 - 45

Combs

19th and 20th centuries

In the Pacific, hair styles varied and combs were worn to enhance a person's appearance. Combs were also made from bamboo, coconut fibres and orchid stems.

41

31/1926/2

hair comb (*faa*)

Malaita, Solomon Islands

42

57/1926/50

hair comb (*faa*)

San Cristobal, Solomon Islands

43

E1918

hair comb (*helu*)

Tonga

44

57/1926/49

hair comb (*faa*)

San Cristobal, Solomon Islands

45

E1920/1

hair comb

Santo, Vanuatu

46

83/2005/1

Hair ornament

Early 20th century

Santa Cruz, Solomon Islands

A man's hair ornament of red bird feathers worn for dances or used as money.

47

31/1926/3/1-2

Ear ornaments

Donated 1926

Malaita, Solomon Islands

Worn through the earlobes these *fa'i 'au gwaroa* are made of coconut fronds (red) and orchid stems (yellow).

48

E1650; 63/1926/6; 29/1950/9b

Ear ornaments

19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

"Ahakoa he iti he pounamu" is a Maori proverb (*whakatauki*) which means *"although it is small it is precious."*

Nephrite (*pounamu*) was a prestigious and highly valued stone that it was used to forge relationships through trade and exchange. This group includes ear ornaments (*kuru*), one of which is in the shape of an adze.

49

E1774

Mat

Traded 1792

Tahiti

The plaited mat (*pe'ue*) was sat or slept on or served as a partition. However, they were also used to contain the power of the sacred and were used as sacrificial offerings for deities. Fine mats were worn as ponchos. This example is made from woven pandanus fibres.

50

72/2008/124

Poncho

19th century

Tahiti

This fringed poncho (*tiputa*) is made from hisbiscus fibre (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) and was worn in wet weather because of its durability compared with those made from barkcloth.

51

3/1902

Dance skirt

19th century

Samoa

This is a *titi fala*, a dance skirt made from pandanus fibres. The natural colour dyes used include the *nonu* tree (*Morinda citrifolia* - red), turmeric (yellow), clay (brown) and candlenut soot (black).

52

7/1983/4/1

Dance skirt

Donated 1983

Tuvalu

This *titi* is made from pandanus fibres but utilises imported dyes. Colour use often reflects status or group membership of a village, church or school.

"Tuvalu tau gana ko tuo lagaifakalaga" was a phrase used in 2014 to promote Tuvaluan culture and the environment. This phrase means *"Tuvalu your language keeps your culture and identity afloat."*

53

39/1935/14

Dance skirt

Late 19th century

Cook Islands or Tahiti

A hand-woven *titi* made from hisbiscus fibre. A similar style of decoration has been found on Fijian and samoan dance skirts.

54

129/1972/30

Dress

Collected 1878 - 1904

Samoa

A barkcloth dress (*fa'aofu*). Acquired by the Rev. John Marriott, a missionary based at the Malua Institution.

55 - 61

Bow and arrows

19th century

Archery was important for hunting and warfare on many western Pacific islands. This activity relied on local materials such as mangrove roots, palmwood and plant fibres.

55

E1821

Bow (*dakai*)

donated 1875

Fiji

56

E1262

Arrow

donated 1867

Fiji

57

245/1014

S-shaped bow

collected 1897

Vanuatu

58

E1162/1

Bone arrow

donated 1881

Vanuatu

59

14/2004

Bow

19th century

Solomon Islands

60

89/1934/91

Arrow

donated 1934

Solomon Islands