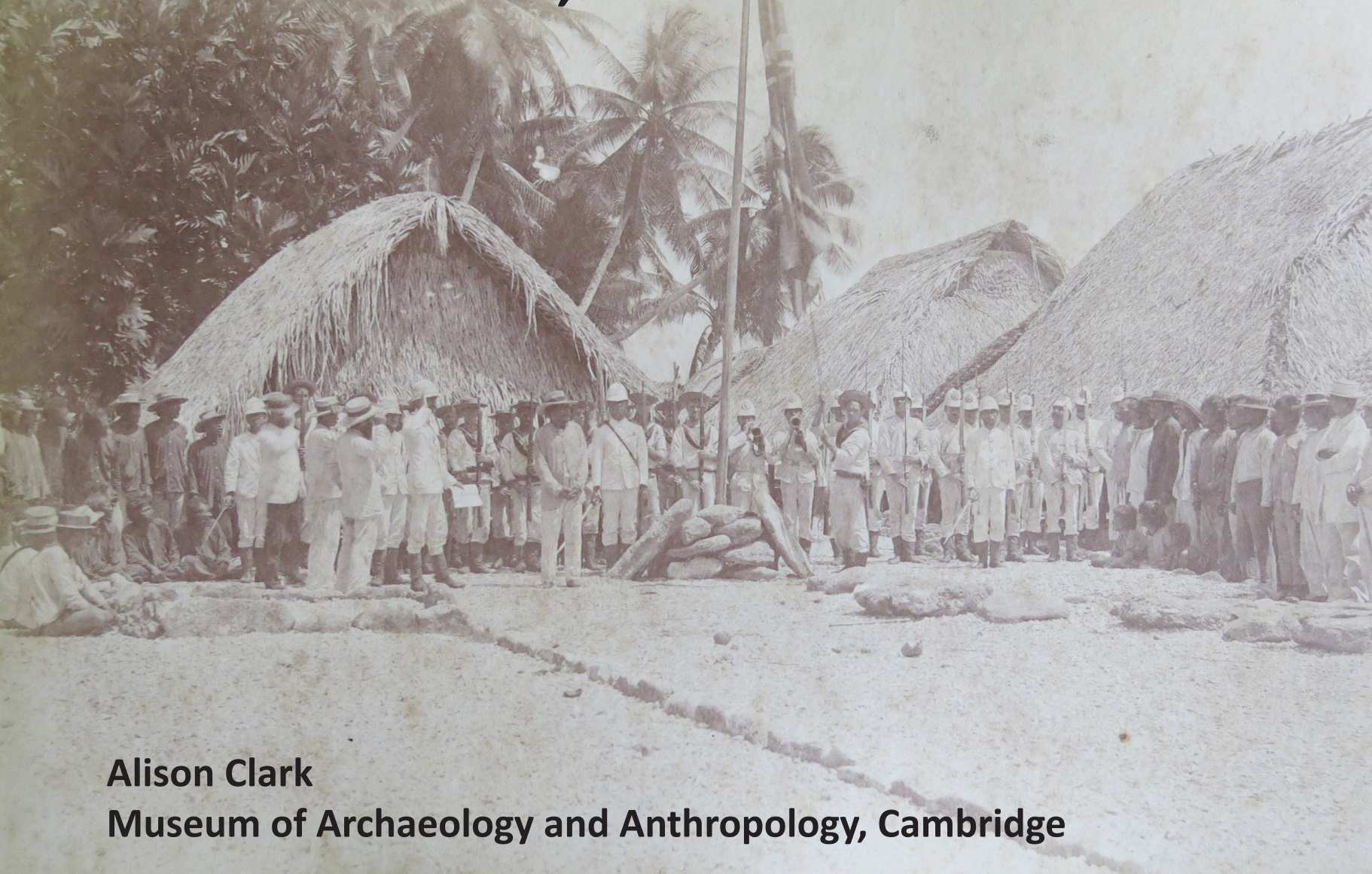


Collections from the H.M.S Royalist in Kiribati, 1892



Alison Clark

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge

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Acknowledgements

Object photography: Gwil Owen and Josh Murfitt

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Kiribati translation by Atiuta Mataiti 2016.

(Cover image) Untitled, Kiribati, Copyright Fiji Museum.

(Opposite) Fish Float, Z 9191, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge.

(Back cover image) Untitled, Kiribati, Copyright Fiji Museum.

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archaeology
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Shark's Tooth Weapon
Z7052 Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge

The H.M.S Royalist in Kiribati 1892

The objects and photographs in this book were acquired during the cruise of the H.M.S Royalist amongst what were then called the Gilbert Islands, between the 24th of May 1892 and the 24th of July 1892. The objects were collected by the ship's captain Admiral Edward Henry Meggs Davis (1846-1929), and the photographs were taken by an unknown crew member. The crew of the H.M.S Royalist was made up of the following people: Lieutenant Victorian William Jarvie Colquhoun, Staff Surgeon George D. Twigg, Paymaster William E.E. Read, Fleet Engineer Richard Irwin, Assistant Paymaster Duncan S.O. Grant, Gunner Robert Boulton, Boatswain Benjamin Crowther, and Carpenter William W. Woodley.

Born in Galway in 1846 Edward Henry Meggs Davis commanded the Australian station third class

cruiser, H.M.S Royalist, between 1890 and 1893. During this period he sailed around the western Pacific, stopping at Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands. Davis returned to his home in Bexhill, Sussex in 1894, departing again to command ships in Wales, Ireland and Jamaica, eventually retiring from service in 1905 on advancement to vice-admiral, being promoted post retirement to admiral in 1908. Davis married Ethel Mary Lambe in 1895 and together they had four children, Edward, Ranulph, John and Geoffrey. Davis died falling from a window in his house in Bexhill in 1929.

The H.M.S Royalist visited the following islands within Kiribati and met with the following chiefs,

declaring the islands British Protectorates: (in order) Tabiteuea May 24th 1892, Abemama May 25th 1892, Maiana May 26th 1892, Onotoa May 30th 1892, Arorae June 1st 1892, Nikunau June 2nd 1892, Beru June 2nd 1892, Nonouti June 4th 1892, Kuria June 6th 1892, Tarawa June 7th 1892, Marakei June 9th 1892, and Abaiang June 9th 1892. In a letter to the Admiralty, written on August 16th 1892 Davis reported that on the 27th of May 1892 on the island of Abemama, about 7 miles across the lagoon from Entrance Id., and in the presence of the King and his council and 300 islanders, he 'read the Proclamation declaring a British Protectorate over the Gilbert Islands from that date', and raised the Union Jack.

During his travels amongst the islands, Davis collected a wide

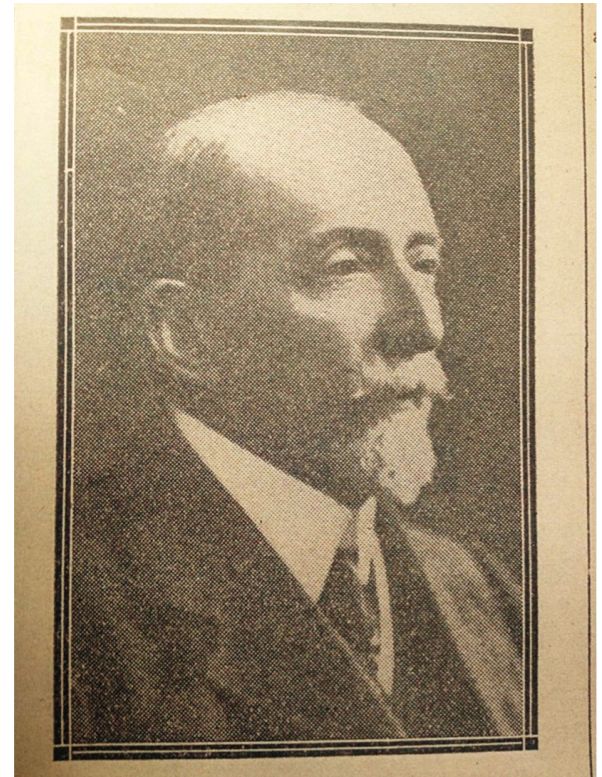
range of objects which can be seen in this book. We do not know how or from whom Davis collected objects but the proceedings of his voyage list several of the people he met including Paul of Abemama, Itaka Moaneba of Maiana, Tenmaten of Tarawa, Tentatoon of Marakei and Kaia of Abaiang. He wrote of Kaia, 'Kaia, the King, is a very intelligent man. He was very pleased at the Queen taking the island under her protection.' After meeting Paul on Abemama he wrote, 'the King having expressed a wish that his son might come on board for a few days, I thought it a good thing to let him see how things were managed in other islands.'

Davis shipped the objects he collected back to London, England where he commissioned a local printer to publish a catalogue of his Pacific collection. Originally intending to sell the collection to a friend- who later declined to make the purchase- Davis found himself

tasked with selling the collection in order to fund his retirement. These objects were sold to museum and private collectors. In total Davis collected 259 objects from islanders and today these can be found in museums in the UK, mainland Europe, Australia and New Zealand. The photographs taken in Kiribati are now housed in an album in the Fiji Museum, Suva.

I hope that this book may be useful for people in the islands of Kiribati who are interested in the history of the islands and its material culture.

Alison Clark
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Edward Henry Meggs Davis, Bexhill Observer.



Untitled, Kiribati, Copyright Fiji Museum.

Te Boki ibukin te Community

Bwaai ma tamnei ake a rin n te boki aio, a karekeaki n tain butin te kaibuke ae arana H.M.S Royalist, rimarenan aaba ake a kinaki ngkoa n araia ae Gilbert Islands, n te ririki 1892 n bongin namwakaina aika 24 n Meei nakon 24 n Turai. Bwaai aikai a karikorikoaki iroun ana kaaben te kaibuke aio ae Kaben Admiral Edward Henry Meggs Davies (1846-1929), ao tamnei a raweaki iroun te kaimoa ae aki ataaki. E boni kaainaki te kaibuke aio irouia te koraki aikai: Lieutenant Victorian William Jarvie Colquhoun, Staff Surgeon George D. Twigg, Paymaster William E.E. Read, Fleet Engineer Richard Irwin, Assistant Paymaster Duncan S.O. Grant, Gunner Robert Boulton, Boatswain Benjamin Crowther, and Carpenter William W. Woodley. E bungiaiki I Galway n te ririki 1846, Edward Henry Meggs Davis e kamanta ke e kaben iaon teuana ana kateniua n rinan ni kaibuke

Aotiteria ae arana H.M.S Royalist, imarenan te ririki 1890 nakon 1893. Inanon ririki akai ao e ieie ni kabuta te Betebeke Maeao man karoko iaon aaba aika Wanuatu, Nukaretonia, Babua Nukini, Toromon, Biiti, Kiribati, Tuvalu ao Matiare. E karairaki nakon mwengana i Bexhill, Suxxes teuae Davis n te ririki 1894, ao n manga kitanna riki ngke e a manga kaben iaon kaibuke aika a ieie nakon aaba aika Wales, Ireland ao Jamaica. Inanon te tai ao e a uritaea man nakoana ni kaben Davies nte ririki 1905 ike e a kakibarakeaki nakon te nakoa ae te kauoman n bwakuaku n te Botaki n Buaka I taari, ao n manga kakerakeaki riki nakon te nakoa are te kabanea mai ieta ae te “admiral” imwain ae uritaea n te ririki 1908. E karaoa ana boraraoi Davis ma temanna te tia boreeti bwa a na boretinaki ana kataroka ke booki ae kaoti bwaai ake e karikorikoi man aban nako te

betebeke, iaan te kantaninga are e na kabonakoi nakon temanna raoraona. Ma n tokin te tai ao e a manga bita ana iango raoraona aio ao n aki kabooi bwaai aikai, ngaia are e a manga bon waaki Davies ni kabonakoi n tatabeuta nakoia koraki ake a nano iai bwa buokan aron maiuna. E mate Davis n te ririki 1929 ngke e bwaka man winton ana auti. N ana tai ni karoko i aban Kiribati tabeua, ao e kaitibo iai ma Uean ke unimwanen aaba aikanne ike e kamatoai bwa aban te korone ni Buritan. Aban Kiribati ake e karoko man kamatoai bwa aban Buritan n te tai anne bon: (man ae moan kawaraki ni karokoa ae kabanea n kawaraki), Tabiteua Meei 24 1892, Abemama Meei 25 1892, Maiana Meei 26 1892, Onotoa Meei 30 1892, Arorae Tuun 1 1892, Nikunau Tuun 2 1892, Beru Tuun 2 1892, Nonouti Tuun 4 1892, Kuria Tuun 6 1892, Tarawa Tuun 7 1892,

Marakei Tuun 9 1892, ao Abaiang Tuun 9 1892. N ana reta are koreia n 16 bongin Aokati 1982, nakon te botaki ni mwakuri are e tabeakina te Buaka i taari (Admiralty), ao e ribotinna Admiral Davies bwa n 27 boning Meei 1892 iaon te aba ae Abemama, n te tabo ae 7 te kiromita raroana man te tabo are e rororake iai ana kaibuke inanon te nama, ao e tei imatan Uean te aba aio ao ana kauntira n ikotaki 300 unimwaanen te aba, ike ea wareka te katanoata nakoia bwa e a riki Abemama bwa aban te Korone ni Buritan man te bong anne ao man ararakea burakin Buritan. Inanon ana tai Admiral Davies n ieie imarenan aban nako Kiribati, ao e karikorikoi bwaai aika mwaiti aika a kona n nooraki tamneia inanon te boki aei n ai aron; kai ni buaka ke ambo, mwae n roroa aika a karaoaki man buuro, mwae n roroa aika a karaoaki man irannatu, koom n ira, taian tuu, wi ni kua, te kabaau, taian rere, te kunikai ni buaka ae karaoaki man te kora,

bwaene, iriba, onono ao bwaai n akawa n aekaia nako. E kaoki bwaai aikai nako Ronton I Engiran, ike a kabonakoaki nakon uman-ni -bong ao koraki ake a kaikoikoi aekan bwaai aikai.

Eaki ataaki bwa e kanga ni karekei ke mai iroun antai ae e karekei bwaai aikai Admiral Davis, ma n ana rekoti eke e korei inanon ana tai n mwamwananga, ao a oti araia aomata aika a mwaiti are e kaitibo ma ngaia n aroia Bauro ae tei Abemama, Itaka Moaniba kain Maiana, Tenmaten ae tei Tarawa, Tentatoon kaain Marakei ao Kaiea ae kain Abaiang. N ana koroboki ao e kamoamoa Kaiea are Uean Abaiang bwa “te aomata ae rangi ni wanawana, kioina ngkai e kukurei iroun te Uea n Aine mai Buritan n ana waaki ni mwanea Abaiang ao man kamena iaan ana tararua Buritan”. Imwin kaitiboon Davies ma Bauro are tei Abemama ao e korea rongorongona n aron aio; “E kaota nanona te Uea ae Bauro bwa e tangira natina te mwaane bwa e

na irira n ieie nakon aban Kiribati ake tabeua. I nora tamaroan te iango aio ngkai e na kona n reke ana tai n nori aron waaki ni kairiri ma barongaaan aia botannaomata aaba ake tabeua.”

Botan mwaitin bwaai ake e karikorikoi mai irouia kain te aba Admiral Davies, bon uabubua nimabwi ma ruaia (259). A kona n noraki bwaai aikai inanon umwa-ni-bong n abaa aika Buritan, te aono n Eurobe, Aotiteria ao Nutiran. Tamnein Kiribati ake a raweaki n te tai anne, a kawakinaki ngkai inanon te boki n tamnei n ana umwa –ni –bong Biti n kawana ae Suva.

Au kantaninga bwa te boki aei e na manena nakoia kaain Kiribati ake iai nanoia ni kan ataa rongorongon ma katein abaia n taai aika bwakanako ao bwaai ake a kakaraoi kaain abaia rimoa.

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Armour | Onea ni Buaka

In a letter to the curator of the British Museum in 1903, Admiral Davis wrote about the coconut fibre armour with the stingray breastplate, noting that 'this is the only armour so protected I saw in the whole group, I believe it is very rare or was when I got it in '92'.



Untitled image, Kiribati, Fiji Museum.



Coconut fibre and stingray skin armour, Oc1904,0621.29, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



Puffer fish helmet, Oc1904,0621.28, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



(Opposite):
Coconut fibre cuirass,
BM Oc1894,-.218,
Copyright the Trustees
of the British Museum.



Coconut fibre
trousers, 10891,
Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest
Museum.

(On this page):

Coconut fibre belt,
10639, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest
Museum.

Coconut fibre sleeves,
10892, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest
Museum.





(Clockwise from left to right): Porcupine fish skin belt, 30.40, Copyright Horniman Museum. Puffer fish skin helmet, Oc1894,-.219, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum. Coconut fibre helmet, 10641, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Weapons | Bwaai ni Buaka

Admiral Davis describes the weapons in Kiribati as, 'sharks teeth spears and swords, also complete suits of armour made of rope from the cocoanut fibre. Occasionally fighting belts are worn over these made from the skin of a stingray.'



Shark's tooth weapon, 15883, Auckland Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira.



Shark's teeth weapon, 15883, Auckland Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira.



(Left) Shark's teeth weapon, 15885, Auckland Museum
 Tamaki Paenga Hira. (Above) Shark's teeth weapon, 10838,
 Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Shark's teeth weapon, 10839, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

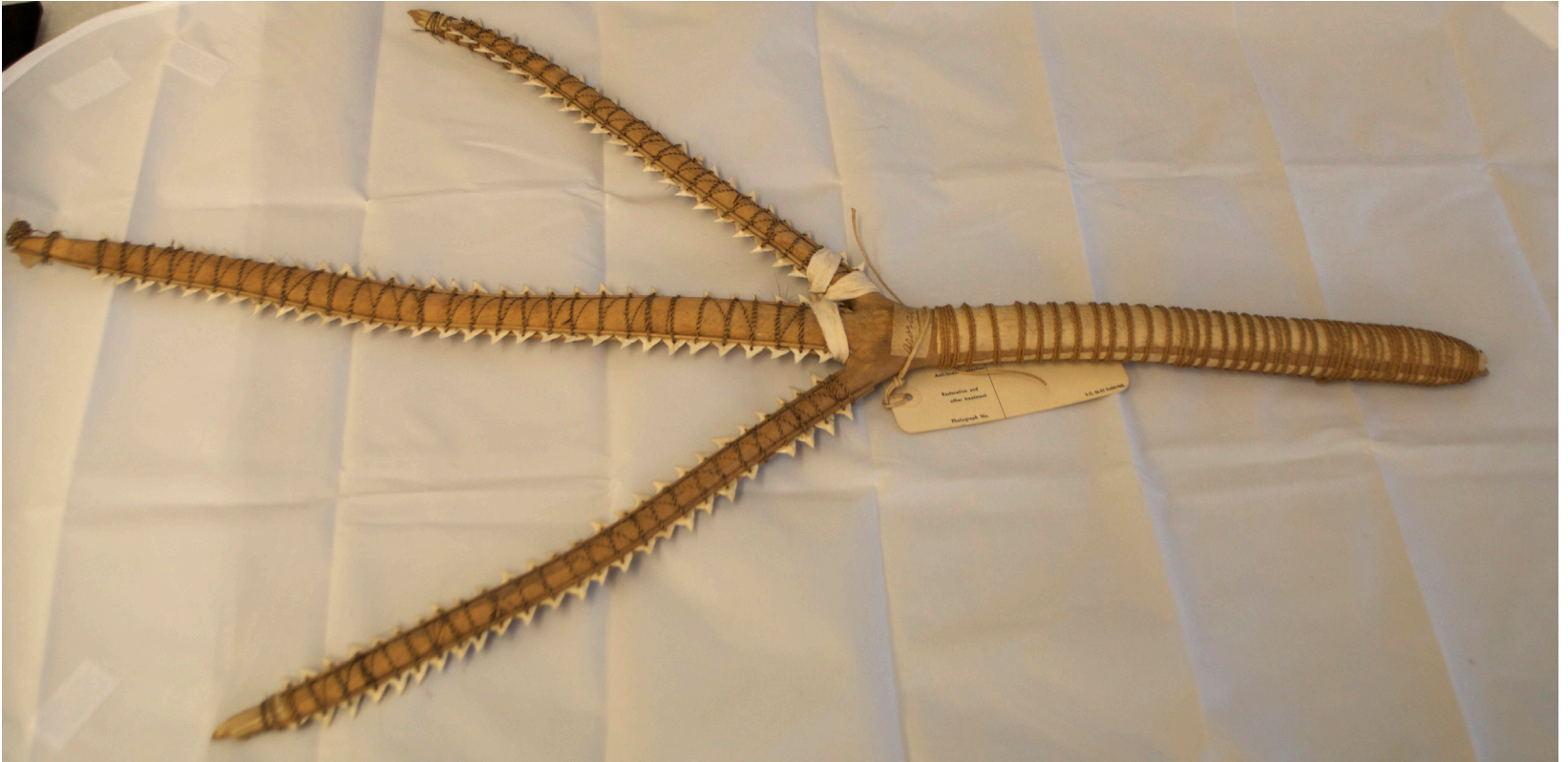


Fish jaw, 10842, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



(Above) Shark's teeth weapon, 10840, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum. (Right) Palm wood club, 2008.26, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge.





Palm wood and shark's teeth sword, Oc1894,-.217, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



(Left) Palm wood club, BM Oc1894,-.215, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.

(Below) Palm wood club, BM Oc1894,-.216, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.





(Above) Shark's teeth weapon,
Oc1894,-.235, Copyright the
Trustees of the British Museum.



(Right) Shark's tooth weapon,
Oc1894,-.236, Copyright the
Trustees of the British Museum.





(Opposite top) Shark's teeth weapon,
Oc1904,0621.24, Copyright the Trustees of the
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(Opposite bottom) Shark's tooth weapon,
Oc1904,0621.25, Copyright the Trustees of the
British Museum.

(Left above) Palm wood club, 10832, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

(Left below) Palm wood club, 10833, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.





(Above) Palm wood club, 10834, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

(Left) Shark's teeth weapon, 10836, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

(Right) Shark's teeth weapon, 10837,
Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

(Below) Shark's teeth weapon, 30.34i,
Copyright Horniman Museum.





(Top image) Shark's teeth weapon, 30.34ii, Copyright Horniman Museum.

(Bottom image) Shark's teeth weapon, Oc1894,-.234, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.

Canoes and Fishing | Taian waa

As a member of the Navy Admiral Davis would have taken an interest in Kiribati seafaring vessels and fishing, and he describes how 'their outrigger canoes are built of planks cut from the cocoanut tree sewn together with twine made of cocoanut fibre, the seams being corked with pandanus leaves. The canoes have large matting sails and lie very close to the wind.'



Model Canoe, 10848, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



(This page) Fishing float, line and hook, 30.37, Copyright Horniman Museum.

(Opposite, clockwise from top right) Fishing float, line and hook, Oc1894,-.227, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.

Fishing float, line and hook, 10926, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

Fishing float, line and hook, Oc1980,Q.946 Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.

Fishing float, line and hook, Oc1894,-.226 Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



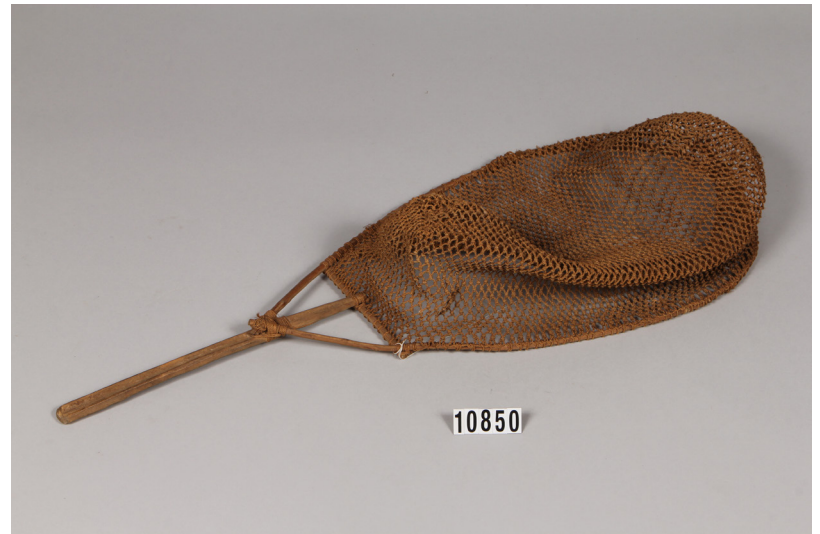


(Clockwise from bottom right)

Fishing net, 1085, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

Sinker, 10835, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

Sinker, Oc1904,0621.27 Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



Tools and Household Objects

Davis collected a small number household objects and tools that would have been used in daily life. The objects on the following pages would have been used by people carrying water, building canoes, sewing thatch for the roofs of houses, and by tattooists or tufunga ta'utau. The object seen below is described by Davis in his catalogue as a 'cocoa nut fibre mat'; it has been suggested that this is a door mat.



Mat, 10895, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Water container, Oc1894,-.224, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



Water container, Oc1894,-.225, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



(Clockwise from top right) Tool, 10843, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum. Tool, 10845, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum. Tool, 10844, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum. Tattooing tool, 10841, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

(Clockwise from top right)

Tool, 10846,
Copyright
Rautenstrauch-
Joest Museum.

Rasp, 10847,
Copyright
Rautenstrauch-
Joest Museum.

Tattooing tool,
1906.66.1, Pitt
Rivers Museum,
University of
Oxford.



Whale's Teeth



The bones and teeth of whales are found incorporated into many of the objects in the collection of the *H.M.S Royalist*. Ten of these whale's teeth attached to coconut fibre cords were collected and all are described by Davis in his catalogue as 'neck ornaments'.

(this page, clockwise from left) Whale's tooth ornament, 15875, Auckland Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira. Whale's tooth ornament, 1913.65.36, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford.





Whale's teeth
ornament,
15886, Auckland
Museum Tamaki
Paenga Hira.

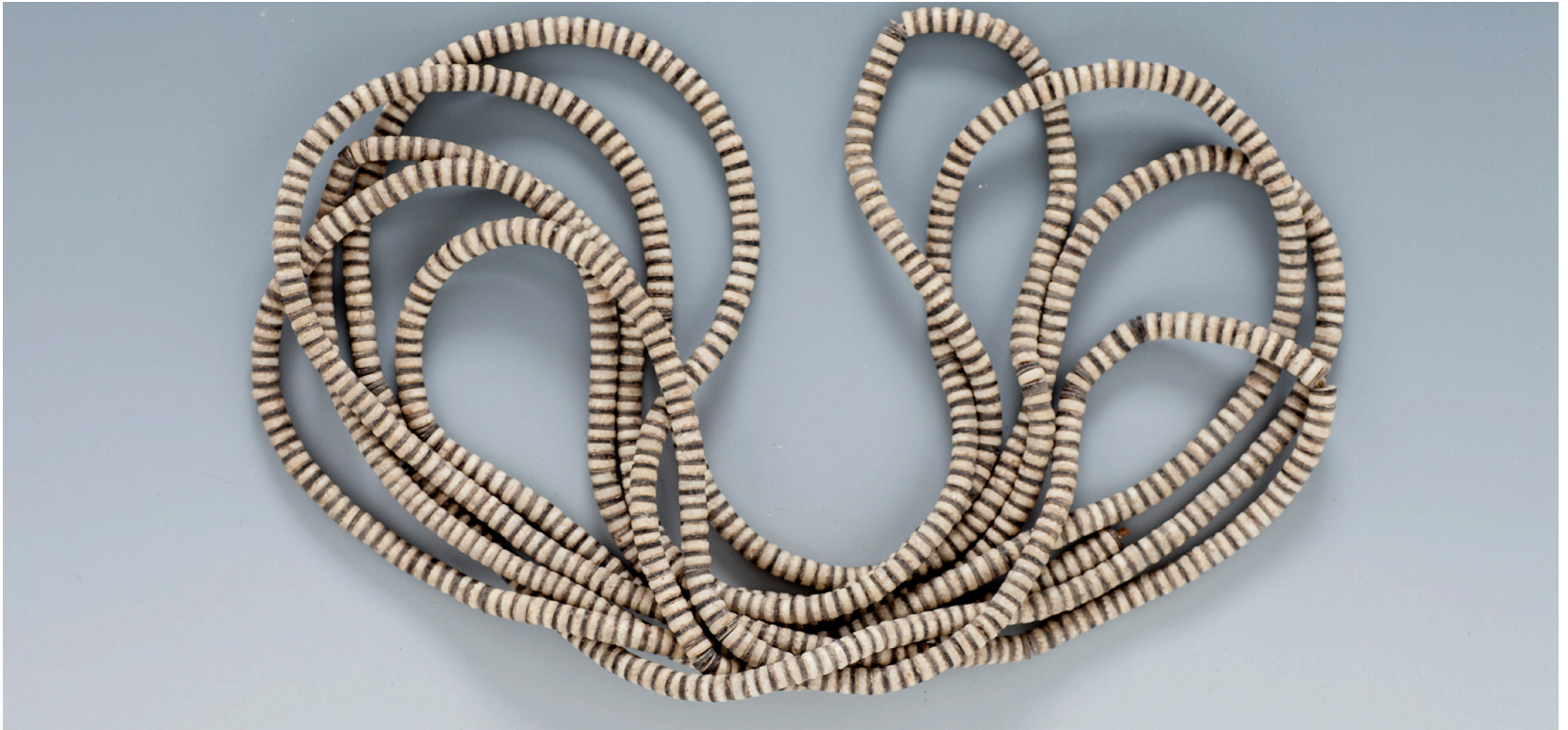


Whale's teeth
ornament, 30.38,
Horniman Museum.



Shell Valuables

The objects in this section are often described in museums as shell money, however many were also worn as belts. They are carved from palm wood and chama shell. Each wood and shell bead would have been individually carved or chipped, drilled, threaded together and then ground together. The whiteish colour on the palm wood beads is from the shell.



(Above) Shell valuable, E 1904.42 E, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge. (Opposite, clockwise from top right) Whale's tooth, 11097, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum. Whale's tooth, 1913.65.38, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford. Whale's tooth, 1913.65.36, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford. Whale's tooth, Oc1894,-.254, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



(This page top right)
Shell valuable, E
1904.42 D, Museum
of Archaeology
and Anthropology,
Cambridge.

(This page bottom right)
Shell valuable, E
1904.42 A, Museum
of Archaeology
and Anthropology,
Cambridge.

(Opposite, clockwise
from top right)
Shell valuable,
1913.65.39.1, Pitt Rivers
Museum, University of
Oxford.
Shell valuable,
1913.65.39.2, Pitt Rivers
Museum, University of
Oxford.
Shell valuable,
1913.65.39.2, Pitt Rivers
Museum, University of
Oxford.
Shell valuable, 6.31,
Copyright Horniman
Museum.





Shell valuable,
E 1904.42 B,
Museum of
Archaeology
and
Anthropology,
Cambridge.



Shell valuable,
E 1904.42 C,
Museum of
Archaeology
and
Anthropology,
Cambridge.



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(Clockwise from top)
Shell valuable, 30.18, Copyright
Horniman Museum.

Shell valuable, 12377, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

Shell valuable, 12378, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

(Opposite)
Skirt, 10888, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

Clothing and Personal Ornaments | Onono/Kunikai Bwai ni katamaroa

In his notes from Kiribati Davis describes the clothing in Kiribati as 'the reed or grass petticoat being the general dress, many of the young girls still wearing the tiuti. In some of the islands mats are used as the only dress by the men'. Admiral Davis also observed that 'the ornaments on Kiribati are few, necklets made of small shells, porpoise, sharks and occasionally human teeth are worn. The necklet mostly in use by both men and women consists of girls hair plaited very finely. The young men of fashion use, to keep their mats in position, a girdle of girls hair plaited into rope sometimes an inch or more in circumference. Plaiting this hair from short lengths of about 8 to 12 inches long and mat making form the chief industry of the women. Hats, baskets and fans are also made, but not of a very fine description.'





(This page) Untitled, Kiribati, Copyright Fiji Museum.

(Opposite) Skirt, 10886, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.





(This page from top)
Skirt, 10889, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

Skirt, 10899, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

(Opposite left to right)

Skirt, 10896, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.

Skirt, 10926, Copyright
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.





Skirt, 10890, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Tooth necklace, 10870, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Tooth necklace, 11049, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Tooth necklace 11053, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Tooth necklace, Z 7194 A, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge.



Fake wooden tooth necklace, 15874, Auckland Museum
Tamaki Paenga Hira.



Tooth necklace, Z 7197, Museum of Archaeology and
Anthropology, Cambridge.



Tooth necklace, 11052, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Human hair necklace, Oc1894,-.242, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



Human hair necklace, Oc1894,-.243, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



Human hair necklace, E 1904.44, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge.



Human hair necklace, 6.30, Copyright Horniman Museum.



Human hair necklace, 10874, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Human hair necklace, Oc1894,-.241, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



(Clockwise from top right) Shell neck ornament, Oc1894,-.249, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum. Shell neck ornament, Oc1894,-.251, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum. Shell neck ornament, 6.29, Copyright Horniman



(Clockwise from top right) Shell neck ornament, 10869, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum. Shell neck ornament, Oc1894,-.248, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.

(Clockwise from top right)

Conus shell neck ornament, Oc1894,.253, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



Conus shell neck ornament, 10867, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Conus shell neck ornament, Oc1894,.252 Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



Conus shell neck ornament, 15876, Auckland Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira.





Conus shell neck ornament, 10866, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Conus shell neck ornament, 1906.66.2, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford.



(Above) Dance belt, 10872, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



(Left) Dance belt, Oc1904,0621.21, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum.



(Above) Shell ornament, E 1904.45, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge.

(Left) Hair ornaments, D24, Powell-Cotton Museum.

Weaving

Davis collected 14 baskets, 8 fans and 19 mats from Kiribati. Unfortunately we do not know where most of the mats collected in 1892 are now. Davis worked almost entirely with men during his time in Kiribati and this may account for the small number of woven items found in the collection. The woven objects in the collection are made from a mixture of pandanus and human hair string.



(Above) Fan, D82c, Powell-Cotton Museum. Fan, D82d, Powell-Cotton Museum. Fan, 82b, Powell-Cotton Museum. (Opposite) Basket, 10876, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.





Basket, Oc1894,-.232, Copyright the Trustees of the British Museum



Basket, 10876, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



Basket, 10878, Copyright Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum.



(Clockwise from top right)

Fan, D83a, Powell-Cotton Museum.

Fan, D83b, Powell-Cotton Museum.

Fan, D83c, Powell-Cotton Museum.





(This page)

Fan, D83g, Powell-Cotton Museum.

(Opposite, clockwise from right)

Fan, D83f, Powell-Cotton Museum.

Fan, D83e, Powell-Cotton Museum.

Fan, D83d, Powell-Cotton Museum.



