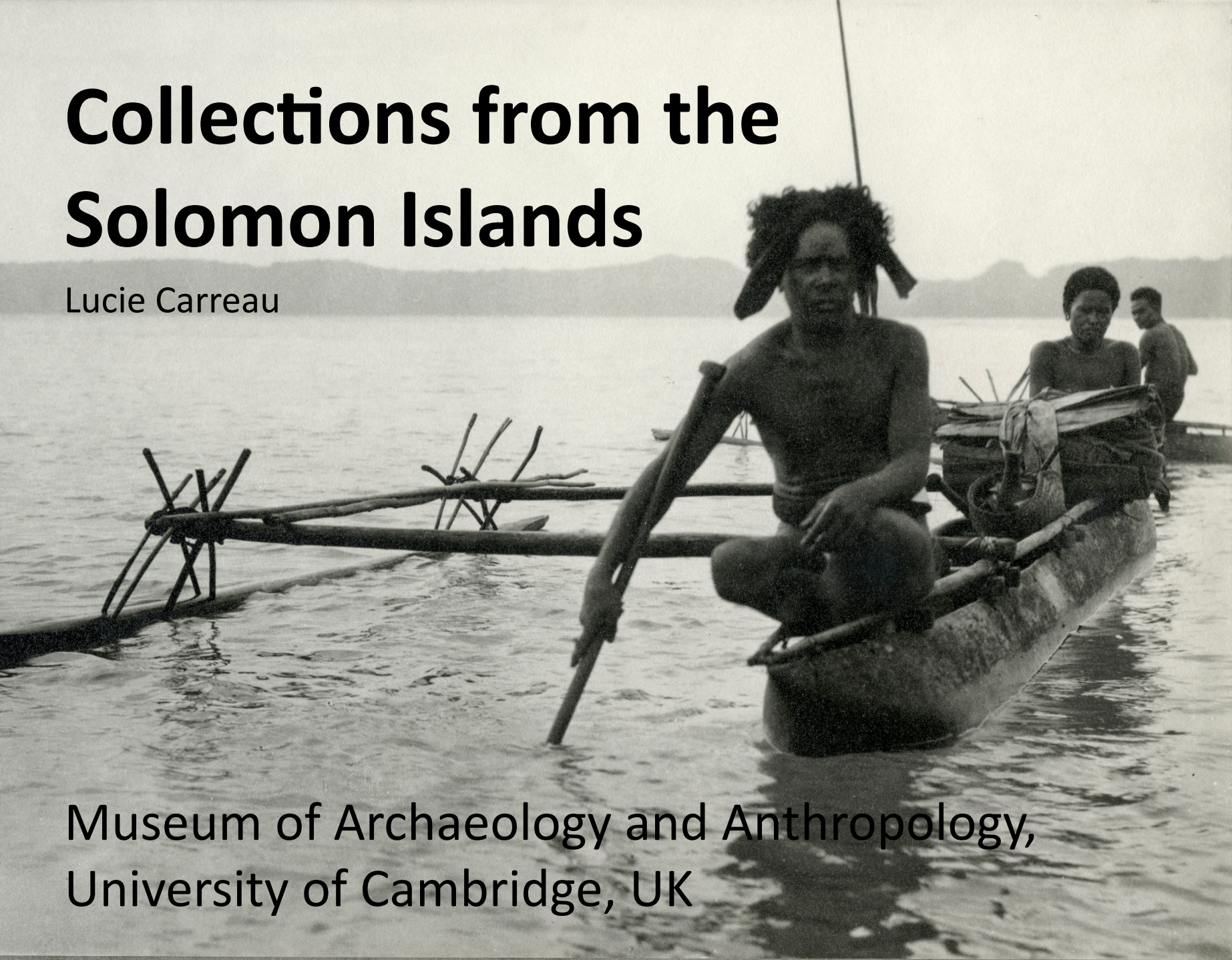


# Collections from the Solomon Islands

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## Acknowledgements

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Thanks to Mark Elliott for his advice and support, and to Arthur Elliott for his patience.

### (front cover) 'Outrigger canoe on Lake Tenggano'

Rennell Island, photographed by Norman Cathcart Deck, 1936 [P.10929.ACH1]

### (opposite) 'In the canoe house'

Owahara (Santa Ana), photographed by Norman Cathcart Deck, 1936 [P.3172.ACH1]

### (back cover) 'Auki, an artificial islet'

Malaita Province, photographed by Toshio Asaeda, 1933 [P.3196.ACH1]

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**archaeology**  
**anthropology**











**Bowl**

Provenance in the Solomon Islands unknown. Collection history unknown [Z 11055]



# Preface

Research on the Solomon Islands collection in the care of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge started in February 2015, as part of the project *Pacific Presences: Oceanic Art and European Museums*. Funded by the European Research Council, the project explores major ethnographic collections that entered European museums during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and have remained largely unstudied since.

The Solomon Islands collection in Cambridge is large, comprising over 2,500 objects and over 2,000 historical photographs. As research is still underway, I chose to use collectors – who could be identified through the Museum’s records – as a point of entry into the history of objects. This book does not suggest that this approach is the only or best path to improve our understanding and interpretation of these collections, but it is one that allows us to showcase a wide range of material.

Because most of the objects illustrated here came to the Museum long after

they were collected in the Pacific, the specificities of the encounters that led them to leave the Solomon Islands were at the very least ‘fragmented’ by the time they reached the Museum. The research undertaken as part of *Pacific Presences* is giving me the opportunity to re-assemble these fragments and unravel lost stories, by bringing together the Museum’s records, archival material held in Britain, the United States and the Pacific, as well as published sources. Each fragment of information recovered brings the object a step closer to the encounter that brought it to Cambridge.

The research has benefitted enormously from work by Reverend Michael Blain and colleagues on Anglican clergy in the South Pacific, available online as the ‘Blain Biographical Directory’. In many cases, it has been the only available source of information on some of the missionaries who donated collections to Cambridge. Similarly, recent research on the W.H.R. Rivers collection by Tim Thomas in 2012 has brought to light valuable information, on which I am drawing here.

This book is written for Solomon Islanders, in the Pacific and elsewhere, to introduce the collections of the Museum. It is not the result of a completed enquiry but a snapshot of the research to date, and an open door for others to engage with the collections. Objects found in museums are the products of, and sometimes even the catalysts for encounters. They connect people, spaces and times through the stories they embody and sometimes reveal in the course of research. The author and the Museum hope that this book marks a first step in increasing the visibility of the collection, opening up a dialogue between the Solomon Islands and Cambridge and for objects to be at the centre, once more, of encounters.

Lucie Carreau  
Cambridge, May 2016

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# A brief history of the collection from the Solomon Islands

The Museum of General and Local Archaeology and of Ethnology (now known as the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology) at the University of Cambridge was founded in 1883 and opened its doors to the public in 1884. The Museum's first curator, Baron Anatole von Hügel had a keen interest in Pacific peoples and the objects they produced. Between 1874 and 1878, he travelled to the Pacific, spending over two years in Fiji and briefly visiting Australia, New Zealand and Samoa. During his trip he formed a very large collection of objects which he donated to the Museum.

The first objects from the Solomon Islands to enter the collections was a set of three arrows given by Henry Bradshaw in 1885. Shortly after, the collection was augmented by donations from Sir Arthur Gordon, first Governor of Fiji, and his private

secretary, Alfred Maudslay. Both had spent several years in Fiji with Baron von Hügel and had promised their support to the establishment of a museum in Cambridge.

The foundation of Selwyn College in Cambridge in 1882 had a great impact on the collections from the Solomon Islands. The College was built as a tribute to the work of George Augustus Selwyn, first Bishop of New Zealand between 1841 and 1868 and founder of the Anglican Church of Melanesia. The first Master of the college, John Lyttelton hosted Bishop Selwyn's son, John Richardson Selwyn, himself Bishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia between 1877 and 1892, in Cambridge several times. On one of his visits, in June 1885, Baron von Hügel took him on a tour of the Museum. A couple of months later, he sent to the Museum a very large bowl

inlaid with mother-of-pearl, the first of many gifts from him and his family.

No doubt through the influence of Bishop Selwyn, many missionaries from the Anglican Church of Melanesia viewed the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology as a suitable repository for the collections they had brought back from Melanesia.

Missionaries were not the only contributors to the collection. In 1910-1911, William Rivers gave to the Museum several hundred objects and photographs he had collected with Arthur Hocart during his ethnographic expedition to the Western Solomons in 1908. In 1934, the Museum also received a large number of objects and photographs from Charles Templeton Crocker who was commissioned by the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco to lead an expedition





**Galleries of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 2012**

Photograph by Sir Cam.

of scientists to the Solomon Islands in 1933-1934. A significant part of the expedition was spent in the Polynesian outliers of Rennell and Bellona with shorter visits to various islands in Temotu Province, Sikaiana and Tikopia.

From the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the

Museum augmented the Solomon Islands collection buying from dealers in Britain and beyond as well as acquiring from auction houses. Objects from the archipelago were also sent from the British Museum in London and from the Australian Museum in Sydney in exchange for material from Fiji and elsewhere in the Pacific.

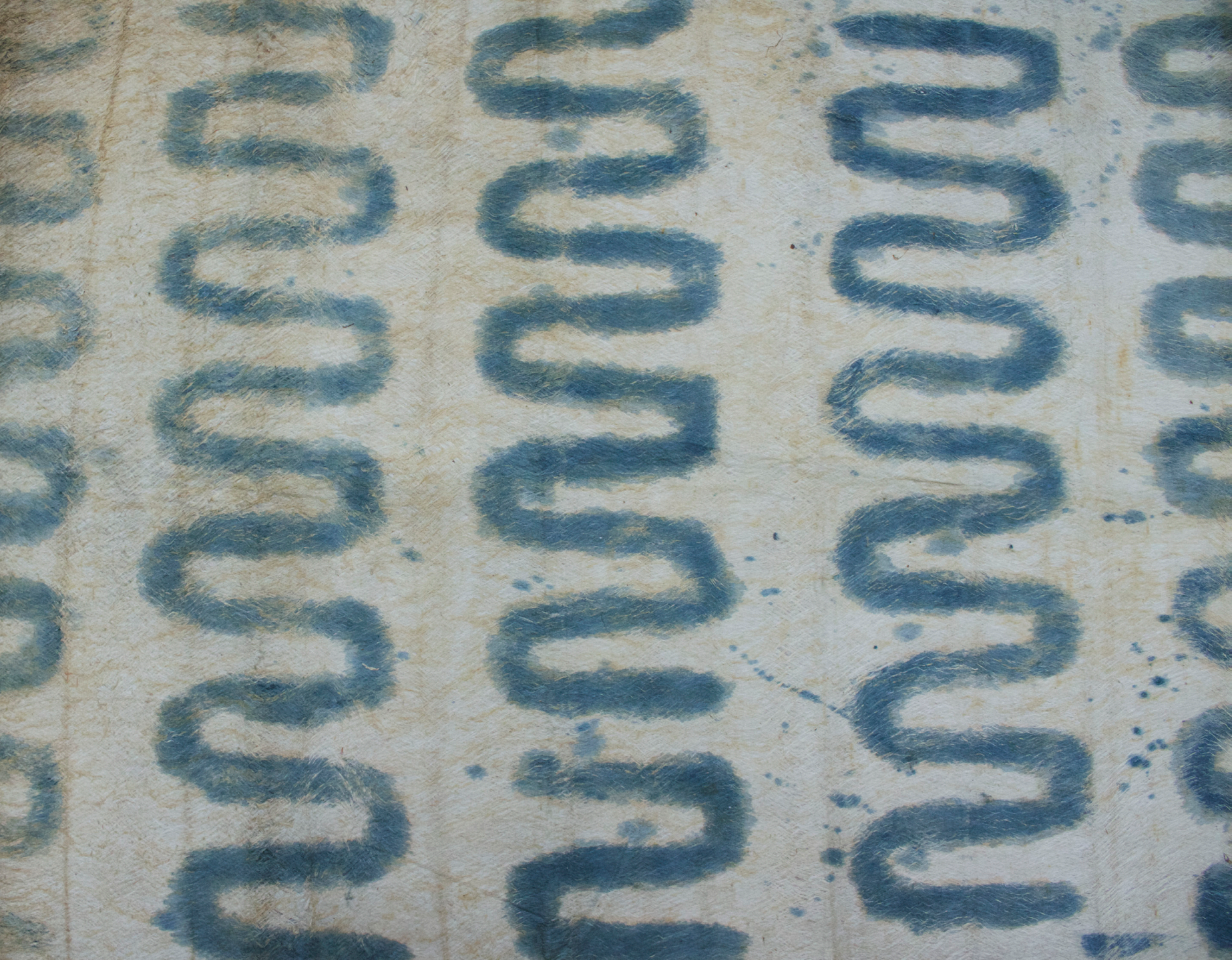


**Solomon Islands bowls on display, 2016**

The larger bowl was the first object given by Bishop John Selwyn. Photograph by L. Carreau

The disruption caused by the Second World War in the Pacific, but also at the Museum, brought the collections to a standstill. With the exceptions of a few isolated gifts, very little has been added to the collections since to showcase the creativity and skill of the inhabitants of the Solomon Islands.







# The founding collections

**(opposite) Detail of a barkcloth**

Collected by Bishop John Richardson  
Selwyn, date and place unknown  
[Z 5194]

# The Solomon Islands in Fiji

Most of the objects from the Solomon Islands in the Museum's founding collection were not actually collected in the Solomon Islands.

Baron Anatole von Hügel visited Fiji between 1875 and 1877 and took up residence at Government House in the old Fijian capitol of Nasova, Ovalau Island, where he befriended the Governor, Sir Arthur Gordon, his private secretary, Alfred Maudslay, and many other members of staff. Gordon, Maudslay and von Hügel were passionate about collecting Fijian objects but they also occasionally collected from other Pacific Islands they visited or from visitors they hosted.

In the 1870s, many Solomon Islanders worked on plantations on the island of Viti Levu. During his extensive travels, Baron von Hügel met a few of them, from whom he collected small portable objects that had been brought to Fiji as personal



## Watercolour painting of Solomon objects

This painting was made by Constance Gordon Cumming, artist and companion to Lady Gordon, the wife of the Governor during her stay in Fiji in 1875-1876. The objects represented were probably collected by von Hügel, Maudslay and the Governor in Fiji. The artist describes them as: 'bowl in laid with pearleshell', '2 gourds to hold lime for Betel chewing', 'A rain god', 'Fragment of canoe inlaid with pearl shell', 'cocoanut with pearl shell eyes' and 'Fish hook - pearl & tortoise shell' [D.98929.GCUM]





#### **Lime gourd and stick**

This lime gourd was collected in Fiji by Anatole von Hügel and represented on Constance Gordon Cumming's painting (opposite). [Z 11226]

items, or had been intended to use as trade for other goods. Some plantation owners had also made small collections of objects from the Solomon Islands and in some cases, von Hügel was able to purchase some of these items.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1876, Alfred Maudslay and Anatole von Hügel visited the *Daphne*, a labour vessel anchored at Levuka, near Nasova. It had just returned from the Solomon Islands bringing thirty-five people and a large collection of objects. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, the two men returned to the *Daphne* to purchase some of the collections. While we don't know exactly what they

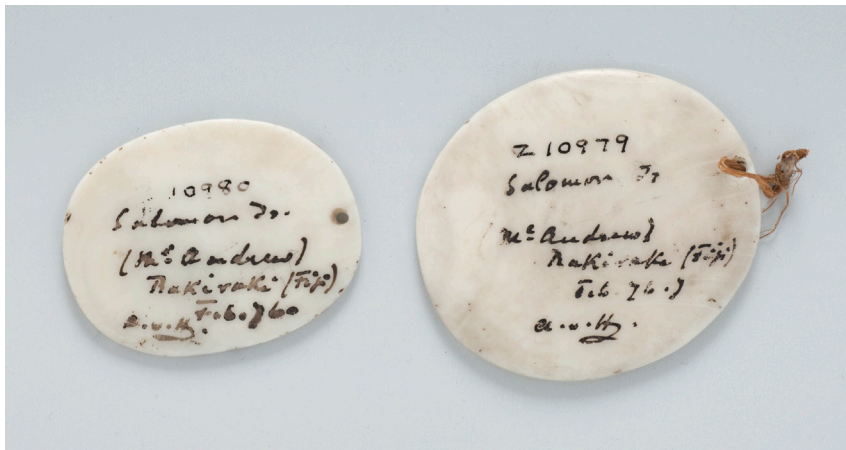
purchased that day, it is likely that a large part of the Solomon Island collections given to the Museum by Maudslay and von Hügel originated from this opportunity.

Sir Arthur Gordon's interest and involvement in Fiji was not limited to his post of Governor in Fiji (1875-1880) and New Zealand (1880-1882). Long after he had left the Pacific, he was arranging for the dispatch of Solomon Islands objects from the Pacific to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge, including a 16-foot (almost 5 metres) canoe which has held a central place in the Museum's gallery for many decades.



#### **Lime box**

Bamboo lime container collected by Sir Arthur Gordon, originally from Florida [Z 10840]



### Shell pendants

These pendants were collected by Baron von Hügel from Solomon Island labourers in a plantation in Rakiraki province, north coast of Viti Levu Island, Fiji in February 1876 [Z 10980 & Z 10979]



### Club

Purchased by Alfred Maudslay on the 22 September 1876 from the crew of the *Daphne*, a labour vessel returning from the Solomon Islands and anchored in Levuka [Z 6324]





**Four Solomon Island men paddling a binabina-type canoe in Suva Harbour, Fiji.**  
Photography by Caine & Company, date unknown [P.70318.ACH2]

# Bishop John Richardson Selwyn (1844-1898)

John Selwyn was born in the Bay of Islands in New Zealand, the son of George Augustus Selwyn, founder of the Melanesian Mission. He was educated at Eton College and later at the University of Cambridge (Trinity College). He was ordained a Deacon in 1869 and a Priest in 1879.

He joined the Melanesian Mission in 1873 and was elected Bishop of Melanesia in 1877. He worked tirelessly to develop the Melanesian Mission headquarters on Norfolk Island and took part in numerous visitations to the Mission's stations throughout the Diocese of Melanesia. In 1890 he had to resign from mission work due to illness and returned to England. He was elected Master of Selwyn College in Cambridge in 1893, a position he held until his death in 1898. During his time in Cambridge, he generously presented a large collection of objects to the Museum.

In 1877, Bishop Selwyn married Clara

Long-Innes who passed away five years later. In 1885, he married Annie Catherine Mort. After Bishop Selwyn's death in 1898, Annie continued to offer objects to the Museum. She also maintained her relationships to missionaries in the Pacific and was very influential in introducing them to the Museum's curator, Anatole von Hügel. In many cases, she facilitated the donations of their collections to the Museum.

## **(below) Head ornament**

Originally from San Cristoval [Z 10856]

## **(opposite left) Fish float and fishing gorge**

Collected in the Santa Cruz Islands [Z 11207]

## **(opposite right) Carved stone head**

A note in the Museum's record explains that this head is a sacred image of a tidalo or ghost deity and represent a tatooed woman. It was collected in Florida [E 1889.71]













**(left) Detail of a paddle**

A note in the Museum's collection suggest that this paddle was collected in Deni, Santa Cruz Islands. On one side, a man in a canoe is holding a gun  
[E 1900.185]

**(right) Female figure**

Donated by Mrs Selwyn in 1902.  
Collection place and date unknown  
[Z 11065]

**(opposite) Detail of a barkcloth**

Collected in the Santa Cruz Islands  
[E 1903.50]





**(top) Chief's ornament**

Worn across the shoulders. Originally from Malaita [Z 10818]



**(left) Dipper or spoon**

Coconut shell inlaid with mother of pearl. Originally from Ulawa [Z 10828]

**(opposite) Feather money**

A note in the Museum's register reads: 'a Norfolk Island pig was given in exchange for this belt in 1889'. Collected in the Santa Cruz Islands, 1889 [E 1901.208]











# Missionary collections

**(opposite) Canoes visiting the Melanesian Mission's ship *Southern Cross***

Photograph taken by John Watt Beattie, Santa Cruz Islands, 1906 [P.60755.ACH2]

# Reverend Dr Robert Henry Codrington (1830-1922)

Robert Codrington was educated in Wadham College, Oxford. He was ordained a Deacon in 1855.

He joined the Melanesian Mission in 1867. While he often participated in the annual Southern Cross voyage to the Diocese of Melanesia, he mainly worked in Norfolk Island where he was in charge of some of the teaching, but also of the kitchen, gardening and acted as an engineer in the construction of St Barnabas Chapel.

While he did not spend as much time in Melanesia as other missionaries did, he dedicated a lot of his time to the study of the languages and cultures of Melanesia, learning from his discussions with the Mission students on Norfolk Island.

He gave over 20 objects from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to the Museum in Cambridge between 1890 and 1919.







**(above) Forehead ornament**

An inscription on the back of the object reads: 'Anieta. Florida Solomon. Worn on the forehead. Native name Lago'. Rev. Dr Codrington donated this object to the Blackmore Museum in Salisbury from where it was transferred to MAA in 1937 [1937.285]

**(right) Container for valuables**

Small sterile coconut carved and polished in the shape of a porpoise. The opening of the mouth forms a cavity. Rev. Dr Codrington notes that this object was used as a trinket case for shell beads, porpoise tooth money etc. [E 1905.343]

**(opposite) Feather money ornament**

Rev. Dr Codrington describes this object as a 'feather money belt charm' from the Santa Cruz Islands. It is made of light wood and decorated with pigments and tassels of small seeds [Z 5284]



# Reverend John Still (1845-1914)

John Still, also known as 'Jack', was educated in Winchester and the University of Cambridge (Gonville and Caius College) where he met John Richard Selwyn in 1866, and graduated in 1871. He was ordained a Deacon in 1869 and a Priest in 1870.

He joined the Melanesian Mission in 1873 and worked in Bauro between 1875 and 1878, from where he supervised work undertaken in Makira, Ulawa and Malaita. He resigned from the mission in 1878.

In 1901, Bishop John Richardson Selwyn's wife, Annie, introduced John Still to Anatole von Hügel, the curator of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, leading to the donation of part of his collection.

## **Fishing bait**

Bunch of red and yellow feathers used as fishing bait.  
Place and date of collection unknown [Z 6841]



**(above and right) Inlaid battle axe with metal blade**  
Originally from Florida [E 1901.163]







**(top left) Shell valuable**

Small shell valuable carved from tridacna gigas.  
Originally from Ysabel [E 1901.172]



**(top right) Pair of sandals**

Originally from the Santa Cruz islands [E 1901.184]



**(right) Shell ornament**

Originally from Ulawa [E 1901.174 C]

# Reverend Frederic Henry Drew (1880-1915)

Frederic Drew, also known as 'Harry', was educated in Oxford and originally worked as a bank clerk in Bedford.

He joined the Melanesian mission in 1903. He worked on San Cristoval between 1904 and 1909 and spent some time in the Santa Cruz Islands in 1908. He was ordained a Deacon in 1911 and returned to San Cristoval for a brief period before settling in the Banks Islands in 1911-12. He was ordained a Priest in 1913 and worked at Pamua school, on San Cristoval until 1915. He died of blackwater fever at sea in 1915.

His collection of about 100 objects, mainly from Makira, was purchased by the Museum in 1910.

## **(top) Nose ornament**

Collected in the Santa Cruz Islands, date unknown [Z 10612]



## **(bottom) Fish-hook**

Place and date of collection unknown [Z 6259]







**(above) Nose ornament**

Originally from San Cristoval [E 1910.156]

**(left) Canoe ornament**

One of the eyes is inlaid with a blue bead. Originally from Vella Lavella [E 1910.176]

# Reverend David Ruddock (1855-1920)

David Ruddock was educated at Lichfield theological college. He was ordained a Deacon in 1879. He joined the Melanesian Mission in 1880 and spent four years working in the Diocese of Melanesia, in particular in Savo and North West Guadalcanal. He was ordained a Priest in 1883 and resigned from the Mission for health reasons in 1884.

From 1900, he studied at the University of Cambridge (St Catherine's College) and obtained a degree in 1903.

His collection of about 50 objects from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu was purchased by the Museum in 1902.



## **(top) Barkcloth beater**

Made of stone and carved with grooves. Place and date of collection unknown [E 1902.197]

## **(bottom) Belt**

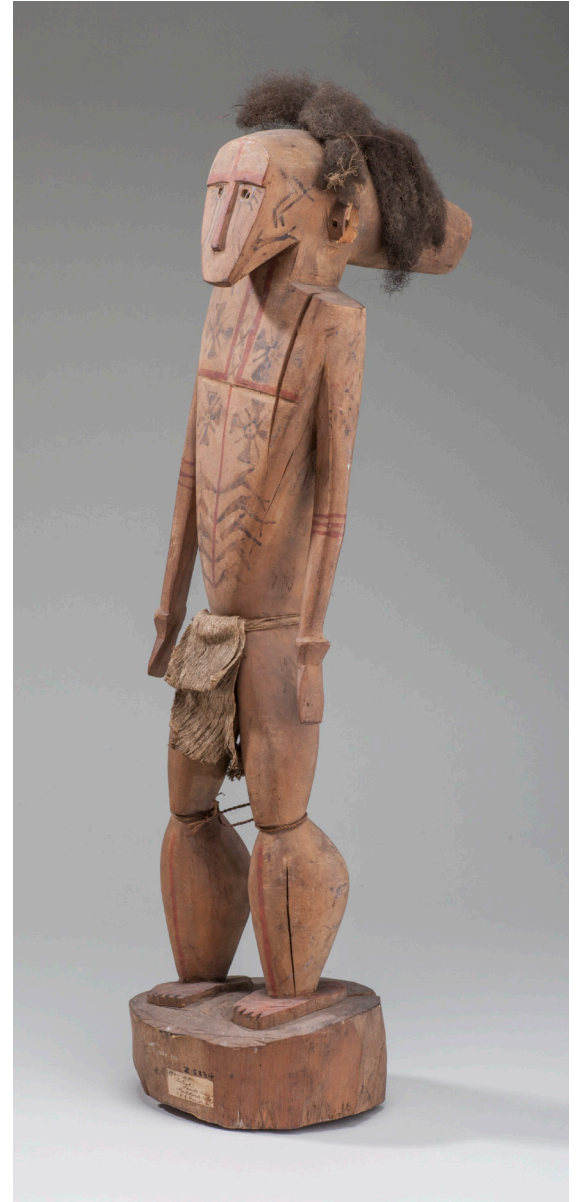
Belt with frigate bird design. Originally from Simbo [E 1902.188]

## **(opposite) Dukna figure**

According to the Museum's records, this figure was placed by a sick man to ward off death. Collected in the Santa Cruz Islands [E 1902.213]







# Reverend Dr Henry Palmer Welchman (1849-1908)

Henry Welchman trained in medicine at Queen's College, Birmingham and started practising as a doctor in Lichfield in 1877.

He joined the Melanesian Mission in 1888 and worked in the Santa Cruz Islands in 1889. He was ordained a Deacon in 1892 and a Priest in 1893. He worked extensively in Ysabel between 1890 and 1908 as well as in St Luke's College in Siota between 1896 and 1900. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Rev. Dr Welchman spent time in England, awaiting the completion of the new *Southern Cross*.

He visited the Museum in Cambridge where he met Anatole von Hügel, the curator, which led to the donation of about 15 objects from Ysabel in 1905. Reverend Dr Welchman died in Kaipito (Ysabel) in 1908 attended by his head teacher Samuel Devi.



## **Charm**

A note in the Museum's records suggests that this object was called 'najiri balisura' and used as a guide, protector and luck bringer during head-hunting expeditions. It was collected in Ysabel [E 1905.340]

## **(opposite) Fish-hook**

small hook of pearl-shell [Z 6281]

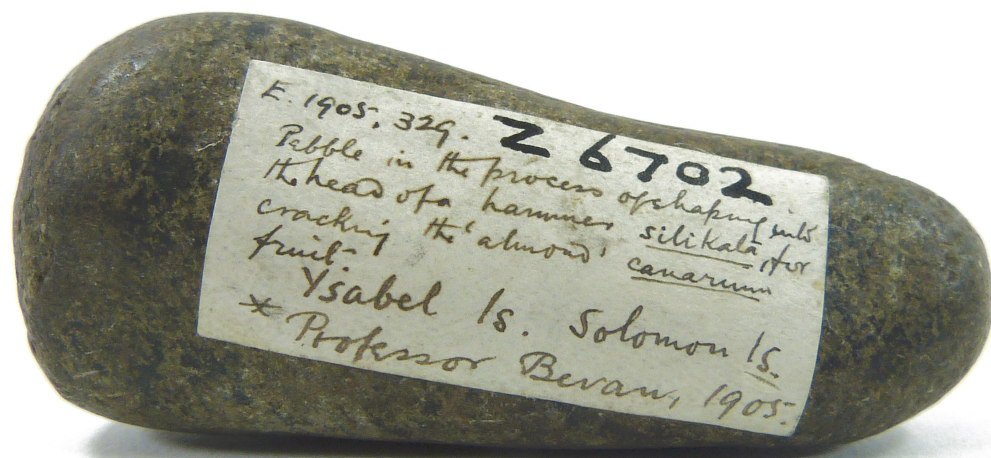
## **(opposite) Rasp**

The Museum's records call this rasp 'gügirí'. Made of wood, it is covered with ray skin. Collected in Ysabel [E 1905.325]

## **(opposite) Tool**

Stone tool in the process of being turned into the head of a hammer called 'silikata' for cracking the canarium fruit [E 1905.329]





# William Chamberlain O'Ferrall (1864-1935)

William Chamberlain was born in the United Kingdom but spent most of his young adult life in Melbourne, Australia.

He was ordained a Deacon in 1892 and a Priest in 1893. In 1897, he joined the Melanesian Mission and worked in the Santa Cruz Islands until 1902. He became head of the Vureas Training College in the Banks Islands between 1903 and 1906, and again from 1920 to 1921.

He donated a collection of about 300 objects to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in 1920, half of which were collected in the Santa Cruz Islands. It is unclear how the second half, collected in other parts of the Solomon Islands, came to be in his possession.

## **Chest ornament**

Made of tridacna gigas and turtle-shell, said to be called 'Tema'. Collected in the Santa Cruz Islands between 1897 and 1902 [1920.682]





**Pestle and mortar**

Used for the areca nut. Collected in the Santa Cruz Islands between 1897 and 1902 [1920.735]

**Paddle (detail)**

Wooden paddle decorated with a bird motif. Originally from Florida. Date of collection unknown [1920.536]

**Bowl**

Wooden bowl with mother-of-pearl inlays. Originally from Ulawa. Date of collection unknown [1920.538]



# Brother Edmond Bourne (unknown-1931)

Edmond Bourne joined the Melanesian Mission as a layman in 1903. Most of his work was conducted in Bugotu in 1904-1906, 1909-1911 and 1912-1917.

He acted as informant for W.H.R. Rivers during his fieldwork in the Solomon Islands in 1908, providing terminology for tracing genealogies and ancestry in the Nggao language, Nggao District, Ysabel. Brother Bourne also worked briefly in the Santa Cruz Islands in 1911-1912. He resigned in 1917.

In 1921, Brother Bourne sold his home in England and moved to Palestine. Before his departure, he offered his collection of Solomon Islands artefacts (mainly from Ysabel and the Santa Cruz Islands) to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge and the Russell-Coates Museum in Bournemouth.





**(opposite top) Pendant**

Pearl-shell pendant decorated with frigate birds' heads and an incised fish  
[1921.565.20]

**(opposite bottom) tool**

Made from the tooth of a dugong  
[1921.565.31]

**(right) Canoe ornament**

A note in the Museum's records describe this object as a 'wind god'  
[1921.565.40]

**(below) Pendant**

Made from conus shell  
[1921.565.15]



# Reverend William Henry Edgell (1873-1960)

William Edgell originally trained as a Cadet in the Royal Navy between 1887 and 1888. From 1893, he studied at Saint Augustine's College in Canterbury and, in 1896, was accepted for missionary work in the Diocese of Melanesia. He was ordained a Deacon in 1897 and a Priest in 1899. Most of his missionary work took place in Vanuatu between 1897 and 1905.

In 1923, he presented the Museum with a small collection of objects from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The letter listing the items is entitled 'Curios from Norfolk Island' which suggests that Reverend Edgell might have collected objects from the Melanesian Mission students and from other missionaries during his time at the headquarters of the Mission on Norfolk Island, rather than acquiring things directly in the Islands. Following his death in 1960, his descendants presented additional objects to the Museum.

## Shell money

[Z 31484]

## Lime gourd

While it resembles examples from the Santa Cruz Islands, Rev. Edgell notes that this lime gourd was probably collected on Malaita or Ysabel [Z 31643]







#### Four fish-hooks

Rev. Edgell mounted these fish-hooks on card, providing descriptions on how they were used. In the letter he sent to the Museum to describe the collection and on the card onto which the objects were attached, he notes that the larger hooks, made of mother-of-pearl and turtle-shell are used 'for catching bonito trailed after a canoe in the water,' while the smaller mother-of-pearl ones are used 'for casting and jerking the fish into the canoe' [from left to right: Z 31633, Z 31630, Z 31631, Z 31632]

# Bishop Henry Hutchinson Montgomery (1847-1932)

Born in India, Henry Montgomery was educated at Harrow school and the University of Cambridge (Trinity College). He was ordained a Deacon in 1871 and a Priest in 1872. After holding several posts in Britain and with his ordination as a Bishop in 1889, Henry Montgomery became Bishop Tasmania, a post he held until 1901.

Between the 19<sup>th</sup> of August and the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1892, he undertook a three-month pastoral visitation of the Diocese of Melanesia in the *Southern Cross*. Having borrowed a camera from John Watt Beattie, a renowned photographer from Hobart in Tasmania, Bishop Montgomery, Rev. Dr Welchman and Rev. Arthur Brittain documented their journey. They visited Norfolk Island, a number of islands within the current Province of Temotu, San Cristoval [Makira], Malaita, Guadalcanal, Ulawa, Florida, Ysabel and New Georgia before making their way south to visit Mission schools in Vanuatu.



**(top) ornament**

Collection place and date unknown  
[1929.570]



**(left) ornament**

Collection place and date unknown  
[1929.571]

**(opposite) Head ornament**

Said to have been collected by Bishop Montgomery in Guadalcanal in 1892 during his survey of the Melanesian Mission stations [1929.569]











# Visitors, explorers & researchers

**(opposite) Detail of sash**

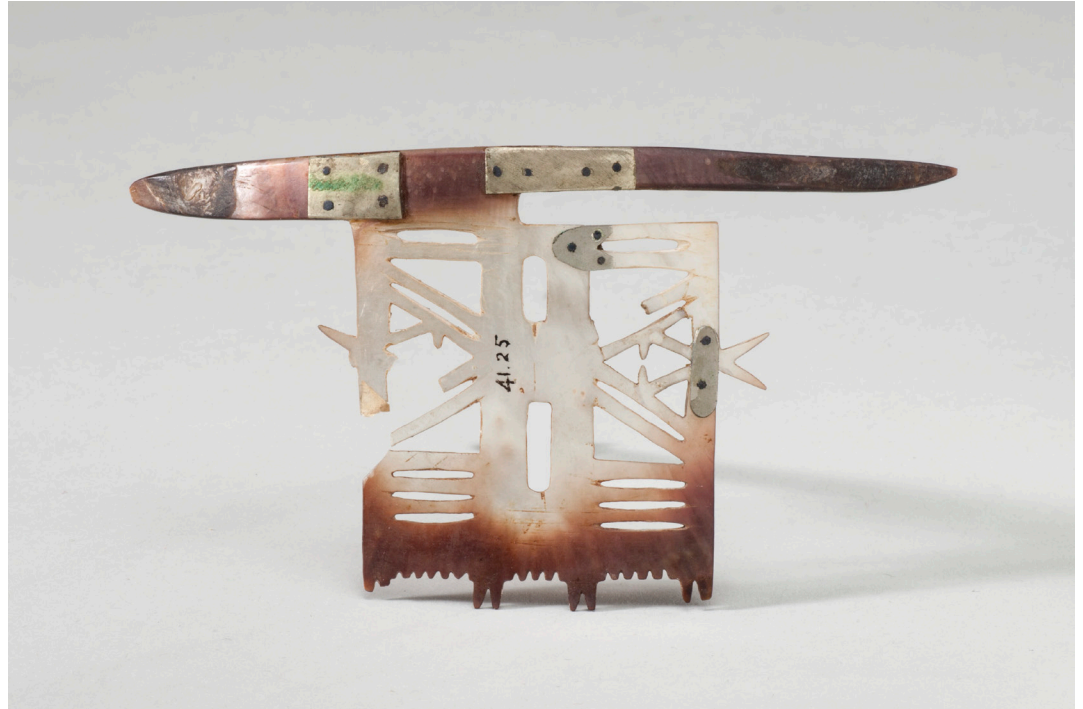
Collected in Sikaiana by the Templeton  
Crocker Expedition in 1933  
[1934.312]

# Walter Coote (dates unknown)

Walter Coote travelled for four years in Asia, the Pacific and South America in the late 1870s and early 1880s and published two books relating his experiences: *Wanderings, South and East* (1882) and *The Western Pacific* (1883).

His journey across the Pacific took him to Australia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Fiji, Hawai'i, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and New Caledonia. Walter Coote met Bishop John Selwyn during his visit to Norfolk Island and was offered to join the *Southern Cross* on one of its annual visits through the Diocese of Melanesia. It was during this time that he formed the collection now in the care of the Museum.

Upon his return to Europe, he arranged his collection into glass cases in his home in Huntingdon, near Cambridge. In 1940, his daughters, Mrs Barkley and Mrs Hornsby, donated the collection to the Museum.



## **Nose ornament**

Collected in the Santa Cruz Islands, c. 1880.  
broken and repaired with metal strips  
[1941.25]

## **Small ornament**

Collection place unknown, c. 1880 [1941.25]





# The Percy Sladen Trust Expedition (1907-1908)

The Percy Sladen Trust Expedition to Melanesia took place in 1907-1908 when three individuals, William Halse Rivers, Arthur Maurice Hocart and Gerard Camden Wheeler travelled to the Solomon Islands to conduct ethnographic research. Camden quickly left the group to undertake work in the Shortland Islands and Bougainville Straits. Rivers and Hocart focused their research on the island of Simbo but also surveyed other areas of the Western Province.

Rivers (1864-1922) originally trained as a medical doctor at the University of London and later developed specific interests in neurology and psychology. He became connected to the University of Cambridge in 1893, as a Fellow Commoner at St John's College, later to become a Fellow. In 1898, he was invited to join anthropologist Alfred Cord Haddon's Expedition to Torres Strait, where he conducted medical research as well as recording genealogies. The experience he gained and the methodology he developed

shaped the 1907-1908 expedition to the Solomon Islands.

Hocart (1883-1939) read ancient history and philosophy at the University of Cambridge and went on to study psychology and phenomenology in Berlin. Although often left in the shadow of Rivers, recent research conducted by Tim Thomas shows that he was a remarkably thorough ethnographer in his own right.

During their visit to the Solomons, Rivers and Hocart formed a large collection of objects and photographs which they donated to the Museum in Cambridge, probably just before the First World War. Recent research on the expedition conducted at the Museum by Tim Thomas is bringing together dispersed collections and archival documents, revealing the remarkable levels of documentation implemented by the two men and re-activating stories and histories associated to particular individuals, places or objects.







**(top) Barkcloth**

An old label associated to this object and kept in the Museum's records notes that this barkcloth was made by Hilu, the wife of Nendo. Collected in Simbo in 1908 [Z 264 D]

**(right) Double figure**

Very small wooden carving representing two men back to back. Collection place unknown. Collected in 1908 [Z 226]



**(opposite) Male figure**

Collected in Simbo, in 1908 [Z 218]







### **Lime box**

Incised with foreign vessels and visitors. Collected in Ranongga Island, 1908 [Z 148]

### **Female figure**

Figure of a woman. Collected in Simbo in 1908 [Z 217]

### **(opposite) Carving**

Fragment of carved shell plaque, originally from a skull house. Collection place unknown. Probably collected in 1908 [1922.1091]





**'Portrait of Mule Hembala'**

Probably photographed by Arthur M. Hocart in Simbo in 1908.  
[P.69192.WHR]



**'Portrait of Kundaite'**

Probably photographed by Arthur M. Hocart in Simbo in 1908.  
[P.69226.WHR]





**'Portrait of Amu'**

Amu was the wife of Liati Lavata, a chief of Ove District, Simbo. Probably photographed by Arthur M. Hocart in Simbo in 1908.

[P.69252.WHR]



**'Portrait of Nangu' [Nanggu]**

Probably photographed by Arthur M. Hocart in Simbo in 1908.

[P.69221.WHR]

# Templeton Crocker's Expedition to the Solomon Islands, 1933-1934

Led and partly funded by wealthy sailing enthusiast Charles Templeton Crocker, the 1933-1934 Templeton Crocker Expedition visited the Solomon Islands on the *Zaca* between the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 1933. Accompanied by a small team of scientists, the expedition's main goal was to conduct research in the field of natural history and healthcare in partnership with the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. In addition to carrying out their scientific research, expedition members formed large collections of ethnographic objects and many of them took photographs of the places they visited, the people they encountered and the events they witnessed. Throughout the journey of the *Zaca*, Toshio Asaeda, a Japanese artist employed at the California Academy of Sciences, documented the activities of the expedition producing thousands of photographs as well as ethnographic films and drawings.

Upon his return from the Pacific in 1934, Charles Templeton Crocker sent a collection of over 300 objects and 700 photographs, along with a few notes and drawings to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge. Despite the fact that a few of the places Templeton Crocker visited are misspelt, the objects and photographs are exceptionally well documented and, in many cases, enhanced the Museum's collection by bringing to light areas of the Solomon Islands that were not represented before, such as Rennell and Bellona, Sikaiana or Anuta.

While fragments of the collections formed during the expedition can be found in Cambridge and at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, most of the material was divided between the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum in Honolulu and the Field Museum In Chicago where they remain today.



**Ear ornament**

Decorated with glass beads and small teeth.  
Collected in Tai Lagoon, Malaita in 1933  
[1934.224]

**(opposite left & right) Dance clubs**

Collected in Malaita in 1933.  
[1934.323 & 1934.322]











**(above) Ear ornaments**

Four ornaments. The one on the left is made of barkcloth and stained with turmeric. The others are made of wood. Collected in Bellona in 1933. [1934.260, 1934.263, 1934.264 & 1934.265]

**(right) Nose ornament**

Ornament of turtle-shell. Collected in the Reef Islands in 1933 [1934.295]

**(opposite left) Dance paddle**

The decoration of this object is unfinished. Collected in Anuta in 1933 [1934.511]

**(opposite right) Headrest**

Collected in Anuta in 1933 [1934.505]









**(opposite from left to right) Sashes**

Said to be worn by women during pregnancy. The Museum records that these sashes are made from hibiscus bark.

Collected in Sikaiana by the Templeton Crocker Expedition in 1933 [1934.311; 1934.312; 1934.313]

**(top) Man and wife**

The man is wearing a necklace of plaited human hair. His wife is wearing a woven pregnancy sash similar to those illustrated on the page opposite. Probably photographed by Toshio Asaeda in Sikaiana in 1933 [P.4220.ACH1]

**(bottom) Women weaving**

Group of women weaving a sash similar to those illustrated on the page opposite. The warp is set up on posts. Probably photographed by Toshio Asaeda in Sikaiana in 1933 [P.4229.ACH1]







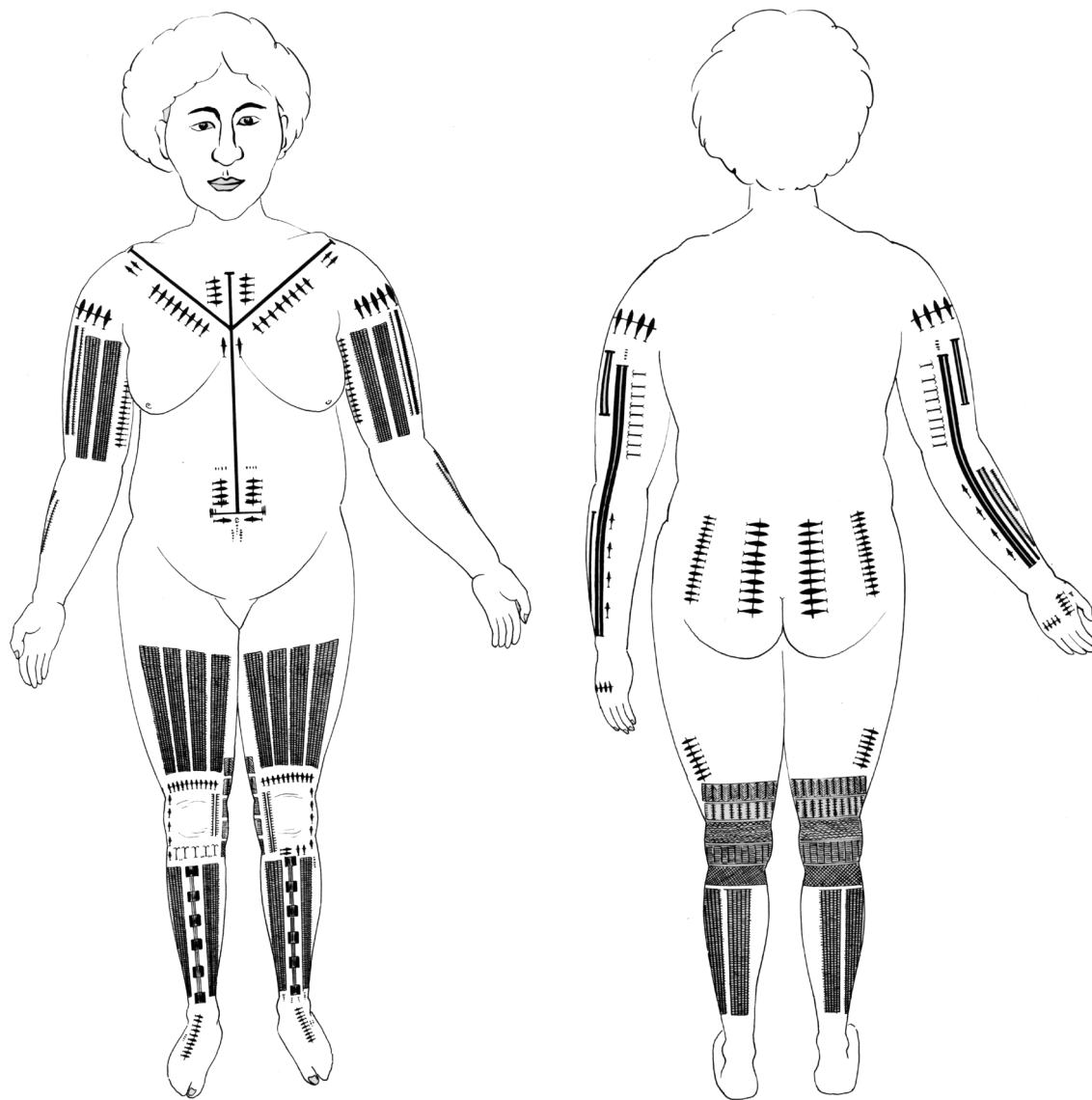
**(opposite) 'Men dancing. Santa Catalina'**

Photograph taken by Toshio Asaeda during the Templeton Crocker Expedition, 1933 [P.3164.ACH1]

**(right) 'Tattoo on woman's legs. White Sands. Kunggava Bay'**

Photograph taken by Toshio Asaeda on Rennell Island during the Templeton Crocker Expedition, 1933 [P.4410.ACH1]





### Drawings

These drawings were probably the work of Toshio Asaeda, the photographer of the Templeton Crocker Expedition. It is likely that they were not made on the spot but inspired by photographs that were taken during the expedition's visits.

There are twenty six drawings recording male and female tattoo motifs from the Island of Anuta (3), Rennell (10) and Bellona (13).

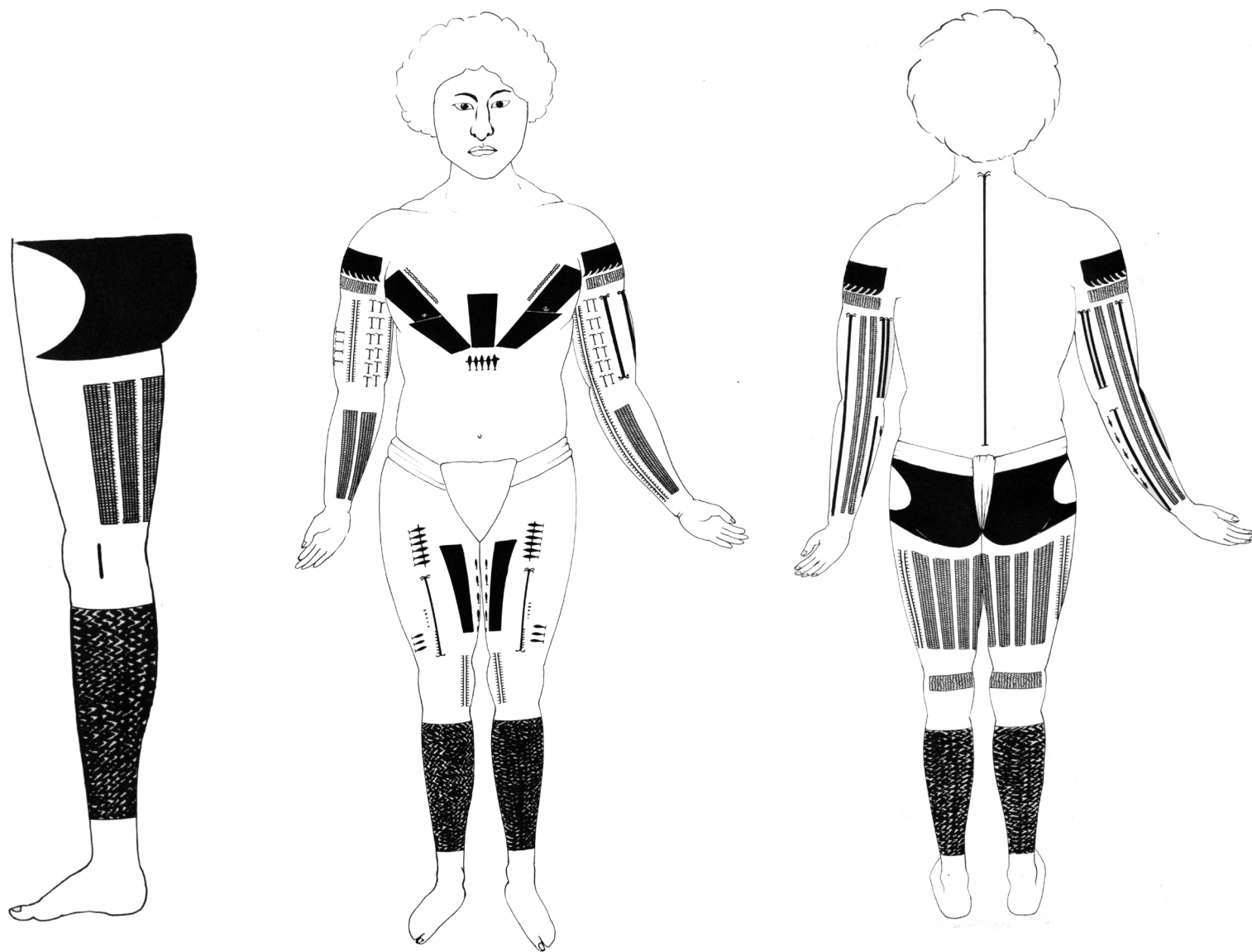
The different tattoos recorded may have indicated a difference in age or social status.

(left & right) 'Rennell woman A'

(opposite left) 'Bellona leg'  
(opposite centre & right) 'Bellona Man A'

[OA1/2/10]











# Collectors, dealers & auction houses

**(opposite) Detail of a shell arm ornament**

Purchased from the sale of Sir Robert Herbert's collection in 1905. Sir Robert was the first Premier of Queensland, Australia  
[E 1908.292]

While the core of MAA's collection from the Solomon Islands was donated by individuals who had been actively engaged in missionary, research or travel activities in the Pacific, a significant amount was purchased directly in Britain.

From the late 19th century on, a number of dealers, private collectors and auction houses were acquiring and selling artefacts from the Pacific. London-based dealers W.D. Webster and W.O. Oldman regularly sold objects to Anatole von Hügel, curator of the Museum. Von Hügel and supporters of the Museum also attended sales organised by Stevens Auction Rooms in London or more locally, following the dispersal of an estate, purchasing artefacts that were not yet represented in the collection, or would complement the existing collection.

Sourced directly from individuals who had travelled to the Pacific, bought in local curiosity shops or exchanged with museums in Britain and beyond, these objects had often circulated so much that by the time they were

purchased by curators and benefactors to MAA, their connection to the Solomon Islands – where and when they were collected, from whom, how – was fragmentary at best.

However, the lack of documentation surrounding these objects does not mean that they should be excluded from research on the collections, or only exhibited for their visual qualities. In some cases, the fragment of an old label or an almost invisible pencil mark or incision might indicate the place where an object was made or collected. In many ways, these objects force researchers to look harder, or to look differently at objects, to interrogate traces of use, pay close attention to patterns, make comparisons with other items in the collection and in other museums. Each tiny fragment of information recovered brings us a step closer to the moment where the object changed hands somewhere in the Solomon islands, and to the story of that moment of encounter.



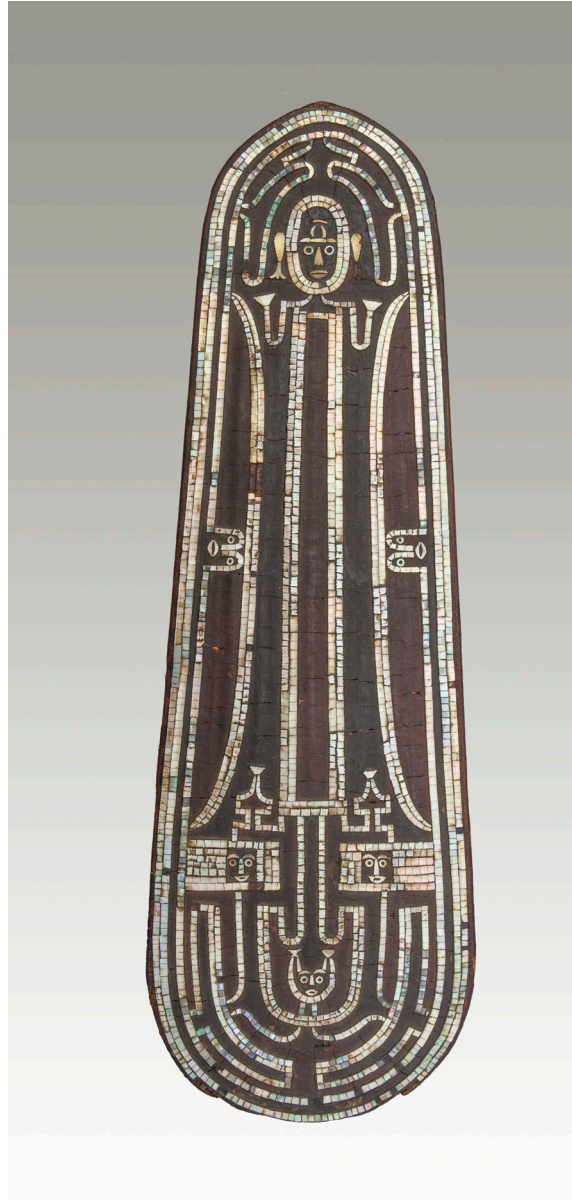
### **Fish-hook**

Until recently, the only thing that was known about this fish-hook was that it came from the Solomon Islands. A closer investigation of the object revealed that it is very lightly incised on the back with an almost invisible inscription 'Gavutu 1903 Solomon'. This inscription is consistent with others found on material collected by Charles Morris Woodford, Resident Commissioner in the Solomon Islands between 1896 and 1915 [Z 32092 C]



**(left and right) Inlaid ceremonial shields**

These two shields were purchased by Anatole von Hügel, the first curator of the Museum from W.D. Webster, a London-based dealer in ethnographic material in 1904. Nothing is known of the previous lives of these shields. While they seem to have had independent lives - one is varnished, the other is not - the similarities of the designs are rather striking and might suggest that these shields were made by the same group of craftsmen [E 1904.135 A & B]





**Food bowl**

Original place and date of collection unknown. Purchased from the sale of Sir Robert Herbert's collection in 1905 [E 1905.58]





### **Paddle**

Decorated with carved and painted motifs on both sides. Originally from Ysabel. Before it came to the Museum, this paddle was in the collection of Frank Hyams, a jeweller based in London and Dunedin, New Zealand. It was sold at Stevens Auction rooms in 1907 [E 1907.592]



**Figure with bowl**

The head has been hollowed to be used as a container and the face carved with representations of tattoos. Place and date of collection unknown. Purchased from the sale of Sir Robert Herbert in 1905 [E 1905.55]

**(opposite) Necklace**

Original place and date of collection unknown. Purchased from London dealer W.O. Oldman [Z 31505]







**Ceremonial mace**

Original place and date of collection unknown.  
Purchased from the sale of Sir Robert  
Herbert's collection in 1905 [E 1907.578]

**(opposite) Dukna figures**

Previously in the collection of Harry Beasley.  
Purchased by Beasley from F. L. Jones, a trader  
in the Santa Cruz Islands, in the 1930s  
[1954.79 A & 1954.79 B]





