Exchange relations between Fijians and Euro-Americans (1774-1854), with reference to museum collections

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Volume II: Appendices

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Introduction to the object-files

The following files have been extracted from a working database, initially built for comparison and analysis purposes. In link with what has been exposed in chapter 6, this device was conceived as a website. It was built using only open source solutions, based on Joomla® website design tool. The main plugin is Sigsiu Online Business Index (SOBI)®, which has been modified to allow an easier management of the objects. All of the information and architecture are stored in a local mysql database, which would allow an easy transfer to an online version on the web if wanted.

This is a work in process.

There is one file for each artefact illustrated in volume I, chapters 1-5 (see list of illustrations). The files have been arranged alphabetically, according to their current location, and subsidiary sorted by object types.
AM-Breastplate-14867

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © AM

**Designation:** Breastplate  
**Vernacular Name:** Civa  
**Use(s):**Chiefly chest ornament

**Current location:** Auckland Museum - Auckland (New Zealand)  
**Current inventory number:** 14867  
**Other numbers:** O202

**Description:** Very interesting and unusual breastplate. Sun-like arrangement of 6, originally 7, rectangular pieces of pearlshell (mother-of-pearl) around a central disk also in pearlshell. These are nailed onto a *civa* breastplate (a breastplate in the shape of a large oyster shell) made of whalebone. One of the rectangular elements now missing. Upon the central disk of pearlshell there is a piece of whale ivory, also with a solar shape. It is nailed to the two other materials (whalebone and pearl shell). This patterns reminds some *masti* or tapa cloth decorative patterns (*senivutu*). All around the “sun” in pearl shell goes two metal wires that look like they have been sawn onto the breastplate. The whalebone breastplate itself is nice. It shows the usual serrations on its rounded edge while the triangular top part is plain. Those designs are evocative of an actual oyster shell, called *civa* in Fiji. The bone has been well worn, polished, oiled and probably smoked, as one can guess from the nice reddish patina at the back of the artefact. Where the serrations and rim in light relief stop, two holes have been drilled for suspension purpose. Nowadays, two little pieces of European cord link the breastplate to rough braided cord in coconut fibres(?). Two pieces of metal wire are visible at the base of each cord; maybe reminiscent of an old display(?). Nail remains were the pearlshell piece is missing. The ivory piece has been pierced at its top and broken. It too has a polished and smoked aspect. This may be an example of how highly valued material could be reused and reassemble into a new valuable artefact (*iyau*). The reference to Micronesia probably comes from a disputable provenance attributed to a quite similar whalebone plate in the Museum’s collection (AM n°15873). Such whalebone breastplates are likely from Western Polynesia (see Clunie 1986: fig.116; 2013:167). Wire rotten and partially damaged and missing. Pearlshell damaged. Rivets intact.  
**Dimensions:** 15cm ø. Ivory section 3,5cm ø. Pearlshell circular piece 7,5cm ø; Rectangular piece of pearlshell about 2cm long

**Previous collections/owners:** T. W. Leys Memorial Collection  

**Related documentation:** AM's catalogue card  
**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 18th June 2010
**Designation:** Breastplate  
**Vernacular Name:** Civatabua  
**Use(s):** Chiefly chest ornament  

**Current location:** Auckland Museum - Auckland (New Zealand)  
**Current inventory number:** 31496  
**Other numbers:** Accession number: 128150, Oldman n°600

**Description:**  
Nice breastplate (*civatabua*). 9 pieces of whale ivory assembled in the shape of a large oyster shell (*civa*). The assemblage technique is neat. It visible from front of the object, although carefully hidden by mean of tiny pieces of ivory, plugged in attachment holes. The back shows a very nice reddish patina that may indicate that the ivory was smoked and oiled as is often the case for prestigious pieces, and that the artefact was frequently worn as a body ornament. The strings that mend the pieces together seem to be the originals. From the back, traces of the carver’s tools are visible. On its rounded edge the breastplate is carved with small serrations at intervals and a light rim. The top part is flat with a little rim almost worn out. One tiny triangular piece of ivory seems to be missing at the top. The AM's catalogue indicates ten pieces of ivory. Braided cord of *vau* (hibiscus) inner bark attached to the top of the artefact.  

**Materials:** Whale ivory, vegetable fibres, including hibiscus bast (*vau*)  
**Dimensions:** 24.5 x 28 cm

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Previous collections/owners:** Deposit Department of Internal Affairs in 1950. Ex-Oldman collection  

**Related documentation:** AM's catalogue card  
**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 23rd June 2010

**Notes and comments:** In permanent display in June 2010
AM-Breastplate-31498

Designation: Breastplate
Vernacular Name: Civavonovono
Use(s): Chiefly chest ornament

Current location: Auckland Museum - Auckland (New Zealand)
Current inventory number: 31498
Other numbers: 523; Accession number 128150

Description: Nice breastplate (civavonovono). Central piece of pearlshell, nicely cut and polished, framed with six pieces of whale ivory and inlaid with four pieces of whale ivory. One piece has a solar or flower shape, and there are one star and two birds. They are arranged symmetrically onto the shell, which creates a nice contrast of colours. The ivory have been nicely carved and polished to perfectly fit the shell. The assemblage technique is precise, inspired from Samoan/Tongan canoe builders’ techniques. It is not visible from the front. The surface of the shell is damaged in its superior part. Some original fibres, used to mend the pieces together, seem to have been replaced in museum.

Materials: Oyster pearlshell, whale ivory, vegetable fibres

Provenance: Fiji islands
Previous collections/owners: Deposit from Department of Internal Affairs-1950. Ex-Oldman collection (n°523)

Related documentation: AM’s catalogue card
Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 23rd June 2010

Notes and comments: On display in 2010
AM-Club-31837

Photo by S. Leclerc-Caffarel © Auckland Museum

Designation: Club

Current location: Auckland Museum - Auckland (New Zealand)
Current inventory number: 31837
Other numbers: Accession number 128150

Description: Long wooden club, carved from one piece dark hardwood. Long shaft topped with a rounded conical head. The head and top of the shaft are carved with hatchings in low relief. The shaft flares up at both extremities. The base is carved with dots in the shape of 11 triangles.

Provenance: ?
Previous collections/owners: Oldman collection

Related documentation: Catalogue card of the Auckland Museum
Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 21st June 2010

Notes and comments: From card: "Extremely old specimen reputed to have been brought to England by Captain Vancouver in 1795." NB: Vancouver did not visit Fiji.
BM-Breastplate-Oc1931.0714.32

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © BM

**Designation:** Breastplate  
**Vernacular Name:** Civatabua  
**Use(s):** Chest ornament for chiefs

**Current location:** British Museum - London (UK)  
**Current inventory number:** Oc1931.0714.32

**Description:**  
Fine specimen of *civatabua*, i.e. *civa* (shell/breastplate) made of *tabua* (whale ivory). The four pieces of ivory that compose that ornament are attached together by the mean of iron nails. This is a rather modern trend. Yet, the assemblage is very close from canoe building techniques illustrated by Clunie (1986: fig.23) and used on the earlier specimens of *civatabua* known (Clunie 1986: fig.117). Nails were much used on Fijian breastplates from the late 1840s onwards. A short cord of vegetable fibres go through three small lugs at the flat part of the breastplate.

**Materials:** Whale ivory, metal nails, vegetable fibres  
**Techniques:** Canoe building technique for planking  
**Dimensions:** 19.5x19.5cm; 1.5cm thick

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands  
**Previous collections/owners:** Allardyce collection, accessioned by BM in 1931  
**Labels/inscriptions:** Old label, stuck on modern museum tag, reads: "Obtained during 'Little War' (Fiji) from Rewa warrior who lost it at the sacking of Malawavali" + "Allardyce 1931" (in pencil)

**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 16th Sep 2011
BM-Club-Oc,LMS.191

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © BM

**Designation:** Club

**Current location:** British Museum - London (UK)

**Current inventory number:** Oc,LMS.191

**Other numbers:** Oc1890,Loan; Oc1911C27.191

**Description:** Tags says Samoa, which seems accurate due to triangular lug for attachment on butt of the club, which is rather typical of Samoan weapons. Shaft wrapped with magimagi cord on which many dangling strings are attached. Each terminates with one shell bead. There is a piece of white barkcloth underneath the magimagi lashing. Carved decoration on the top of the shaft. bowaitpovai like club (baseball bat shape). Dense hardwood, perhaps iron wood (?), quite light in colour. Carving seemed unfinished. A few cracks.

**Materials:** Hardwood (*nokonoko*?), coconut sennit (*magimagi*), shell discs

**Dimensions:** 106 cm long

**Previous collections/owners:**
London Missionary Society. On loan at the BM from 1890 and eventually accessioned by the BM in 1911.

**Related documentation:** Old catalogue card, for LMS loan to the BM

**Found:** Yes

**Seen:** Yes

**Examination/Search date:** 16th Sep 2011
BM-Headdress-Oc6612

Designation: Head ornament

Current location: British Museum - London (UK)
Current inventory number: Oc6612
Other numbers: Oc1870C0324.319; Oc1870C1.6612

Description: Headdress made of a structure of light wood and small sticks, wrapped with red wool and topped with (rooster's) feathers
Materials: Wood, wool, feathers
Dimensions: 71 x 20 (diametre) x 46 cm

Provenance: Rotuma
Date of collecting/exchange: 1865
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: J.L. Brenchley, voyage of the Curacoa (1865)
Previous collections/owners: Julius Lucius Brenchley

Bibliography:
Brenchley, J.L., 1873. Jottings during the cruise of H.M.S. Curacoa among the south Sea Islands in 1865, London: Longmans, Green.

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 16th September 2011
Designation: Miniature Temple
Vernacular Name: Burekalou

Current location: British Museum - London (UK)
Current inventory number: Oc1960,11.37

Description:
Built with same structure as other burekalou seen. Wood frame with magimagi coming out of top where a horizontal wood piece is lashed to top. Red seeds, some with a black bottom (diridamu or leredamu) along with Job's tears seeds. Interesting how seeds make patterns - similar to drawings of Fijian "oracles" seen in 1840 (Wilkes 1845, III:95). Clear coloured seeds seems to make the patterns, within those grey seeded lines are red seeds. Seeds are stuck onto frame with a vegetable paste, looks like there are 2 different types. One is possibly breadfruit paste, like the house from Kew (n°59911). Some traces of transparent glue evident - repairs? Many seeds missing from narrow sides of house. Open door on one side. Top beam was probably covered with seeds but most are missing now, except on back side. Seeds form a thick white border around bottom of roof. Back of house shows linear designs.

Materials: Wood, coconut sennit (magimagi), vegetable paste or gum, seeds (Abrus precatorius & Coix lacryma jobi)

Dimensions: 43cm high, 15cm wide and 8cm deep

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1860-61
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Collected by B. Seemann during his botanical mission to Fiji (1860-61).
Previous collections/owners:
Berthold Seemann; Kew Gardens (transferred to BM in 1960)

Labels/inscriptions:
Rectangular handwritten label in bag reads: "Oracle house covered with the seeds of Abrus precatorius and Leleracine(?)"


Found: Yes  Seen: Yes  Examination/Search date: 26th July 2011

Notes and comments:
Bigger than Kew's specimen, also from Seemann (n°59911).
Seemann described such items as follows (1862:377):

"The greyish bony involucres of the Sila, or Job’s tears (Coix Lacryma Jobi, Linn.), a grass growing in swamp and having the aspect of Indian-corn, as well as the seeds of the Diridamu, Qiridamu, or Leredamu (Abrus precatorius, Linn.), which resemble those of the Drala (Erythrina Indica, Linn.) in having a bright red colour and a black spot, are affixed with breadfruit gum to the outside of certain oracle boxes, of which Wilkes has given fair illustrations in his ‘Narrative of the U.S. Exploring Expedition.’ These boxes have a more or less pyramidal shape, and are kept in the temples, as the supposed abode of the spirit consulted through the priests.”
**Designation:** Breastplate  
**Vernacular Name:** Civavonovono  
**Use(s):** Breast ornament and status symbol.

**Current location:** Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Cambridge (UK)

**Current inventory number:** 1918.213.14  
**Other numbers:** Z 2730

**Description:** Large circular breastplate composed of six sections of whale ivory creating a circular frame around a central motif formed of a crescent-shaped piece of black-lipped oyster shell, a small triangular piece of turtle shell, and four geometrical pieces of whale ivory at the top (a large trapezoidal piece, a very small triangle, a large rectangle and a smaller rectangle). The right hand side of the pearlshell piece is heavily chipped. Along the outer edge, the width of the breastplate is serrated. At the top of the breastplate, two holes are used to secure two lengths of 3-ply plaited hibiscus fibre, tied together with a knot. The edges of the shell piece are pierced with very small holes and attached to small holes pierced in the width of the whale ivory at the back. European string, metal threads and lengths of old conservation mesh seem to be keeping the various elements of the breastplate in place. At the front, the whale ivory is of a light cream colour while at the back, it has a dark honey shade.  
(Description by Lucie Carreau, CUMAA, Oct. 2012)

**Materials:** Oyster shell (civa), metal threads, hibiscus fibres (vau), turtle shell, whale ivory, European cord  
**Dimensions:** [with cord:] 33.3 cm high; [breastplate:] 28 cm diameter max., 4.5 cm thick approx. (CUMAA)

**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Gordon most likely received it as a ‘royal’ gift from Cakobau. (Hooper 2006:252, cat. no.238)

**Previous collections/owners:** Tanoa Visawaqa (owner); Seru Epinesa Cakobau (owner); Sir Arthur C.H. Gordon (collector)

**Bibliography:**  

**Notes and comments:** “This large composite breastplate (civavonovono) is of the kind which began to be made in the early decades of the nineteenth century by Tongan/Samoan canoe builders working in the service of Fijian Chiefs. The techniques of manufacture of breastplates and canoe hulls are similar, with binding on the inside invisible from the outside. Clunie (1983) has identified this as the breastplate worn by Tanoa Visawaqa, Vunivalu of Bau and father of Seru Cakobau, when he was sketched by Alfred Agate during the Wilkes expedition’s visit to Fiji in 1840... Gordon most likely received it as a ’royal’ gift from Cakobau.” (Hooper 2006:252, cat. no.238)
Designation: Neck ornament

Current location: Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Cambridge (UK)
Current inventory number: Z2770

Description: Necklace of plaited hibiscus (possibly combined with ?European string or ?vegetable fibre); the plaited cord has been wound around a central fibre core to create a thick semi-circular section, knotted at each end with loosely twisted lengths of plaited ?European string or ?vegetable fibre extending to form the cords that tie around the neck. 19 lengths of plaited ?vegetable fibre or ?European string closely strung with white shell beads hang from the semi circular section. One bead carved from whale tooth is placed near the end of each shell-bead length followed by a small section of shell beads; these whale tooth beads vary in shape between circular, rectangular and square. Each length then terminates in a whale tooth carved in the shape of a fish. The fish carving has a bead shaped projection extending from the head, some of which have one or two lines carved around them, through which a hole has been drilled to pass the plaited cord through. The fifth shell-bead length from the left has two small sections of dark beads (one in the centre and one between the whale tooth bead and the fish carving) probably carved from coconut. The fish carving has broken off just below the bead shaped projection on the sixth shell-bead length from the left and there is also no whale tooth bead on this length. The seventh shell-bead length from the left has one dark coconut bead half way down the length. The eighth shell-bead length from the left has one dark coconut bead immediately above the fish carving. (Description by Lucie Carreau, CUMAA)

Materials: Whale ivory, vegetable fibres, including hibiscus bast (vau), shell, coconut

Dimensions: [when laid out:] 30 cm wide; 10.5 cm wide (of semi circular top section), 61.6 cm long (CUMAA)

Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1875 or 1876
Previous collections/owners: Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon, Governor of Fiji

Archives: Watercolour by Constance Gordon-Cumming in 1876

Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 15th March 2010
**Designation:** Needle  
**Use(s):** Looks like a needle (*isau*) rather than a scratcher (*imilamila*) because of the hole at its larger end

**Current location:** Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Cambridge (UK)  
**Current inventory number:** Z_2781_B  
**Other numbers:** 1923.H105

**Description:** Thin triangular piece of turtle shell. One end pointy, the other rectangular and pierced with one circular hole. Flat, and tapering towards pointed end.  
**Materials:** Turtle shell  
**Dimensions:** 13 cm long, 1.2 cm wide, 0.2 cm thick

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1870s

**Previous collections/owners:** Baron Anatole von Hügel, received by CUMAA 1923

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 15th March 2010
**CUMAA-Ornament-Z2716**

![Image of the ornamental object](Photo S.Leclerc-Caffarel © CUMAA)

**Designation:** Ear ornament  
**Vernacular Name:** Saunidaliga  
**Use(s):** see Clunie & Ligairi (1983)

**Current location:** Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Cambridge (UK)  
**Current inventory number:** Z 2716  
**Other numbers:** 1923.H108

**Description:** Hollowed out tube of shell curving slightly upwards at each end. There is a semi-circular chip on one edge and minor chipping on both edges. (Description Lucie Carreau, CUMAA)  
**Materials:** Shell  
**Dimensions:** 9.2 cm long; 1 cm diameter  
**Weight:** 29 g

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1870s  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Acquired by Baron Anatole Von Hügel  
**Previous collections/owners:** Von Hügel, Anatole  
**Labels/inscriptions:** '1923.H108.' and 'Z-2716' inscribed in black ink on the object

**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 15th March 2010

**Notes and comments:** Rare type of ear ornament. One specimen quite close in Salem (PEM E5363), acquired by B. Vanderford in the early 1820s
CUMAA-Pendant-Z2722G

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © CUMAA

**Designation:** Pendant

**Current location:** Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - Cambridge (UK)

**Current inventory number:** Z 2722 G

**Description:** Whale ivory pendant, in the shape of a turtle. The head of the turtle is pierced for suspension.

**Materials:** Whale ivory

**Dimensions:** 4.5 cm long, 3.4 cm wide

**Weight:** 10.6 g

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands

**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1870s

**Previous collections/owners:** Baron Anatole Von Hügel, donated to CUMAA in 1923

**Bibliography:**

**Found:** Yes

**Seen:** Yes

**Examination/Search date:** 15th March 2010
DNM-Rattle-I.1251

Photo from J. Walsh’s personal archives

**Designation:** Rattle  
**Use(s):** Oracle? (Wilkes 1845)

**Current location:** Danish National Museum - Copenhagen (Denmark)  
**Current inventory number:** I.1251  
**Other numbers:** Peale Catalogue Number: 1820; previous NMNH number: E003007

**Description:** COCONUT WITH HUSK CARVED AWAY LEAVING TWO RAISED RIDGES WHICH FORM A CROSS. THE EXPOSED UNDER LAYERS OF THE COCONUT WERE COVERED WITH RED SEEDS (*ABRA PRENTARIA*) WHICH WERE EMBEDDED IN A RESIN OR WAX. THERE IS A SMALL CORD OF BRAIDED COCONUT FIBER ATTACHED. THE DRIED INTERIOR OF THE COCONUT RATTLE WHEN SHAKEN. (Catalogue card: SI)  
This item has not been examined. Yet, by comparison with other seeded artefacts from Fiji, one may think that the seeds were *sila* or Job's tears (*Coix lacryma jobi*) and *diridamu* or *leredamu* seeds (*Abrus precatorius*), glued onto the object by mean of a vegetable gum made out of root crops or breadfruit (*uto*).

**Materials:** Coconut husk, vegetable resin or gum, seeds (*Abrus precatorius* and *Coix lacryma jobi*)

**Dimensions:** 16.5 x 11.5 cm (Walsh's personal archives)

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1840  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** US Exploring Expedition

**Related documentation:** Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: [http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)  
**Archives:** Peale catalogue (1846)  

**Seen:** No

**Notes and comments:**  
Exchanged with DNM and located there in the 1980s by Dr Jane Walsh (NMNH)  
In the early 1860s, Berthold Seemann described such objects as follows, just after a description of seeded miniature *burekalou*:

“Toys, consisting of cocoa-nut shells, and covered with these materials, are occasionally seen in the hands of native children, and they have rather a pretty effect.” (Seemann 1862:377-378)
Dunkerque-Mat-Blazy493

Photo by S. Leclerc-Caffarel © Musée des Beaux Arts, Dunkerque (France)

Designation: Mat

Current location: Musée de Beaux Arts - Dunkerque (France)

Current inventory number: Blazy 493

Description: Small rectangular mat of pandanus, finely woven, with decorative insertions of European fibres (wool?) of several shades. Fringed at both narrow ends.

Dimensions: 85 cm long

Provenance: Tonga islands

Place of collecting/exchange: Tongatapu

Date of collecting/exchange: 23rd March-9th April 1793

Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Voyage in search of La Pérouse, commanded by Antoine Bruni d'Entrecasteaux (1791-1794). D'Entrecasteaux and his men stationed off Tongatapu from 23rd March to 9th April 1793.

Bibliography:

Found: Yes

Seen: Yes

Examination/Search date: 19th May 2011

Notes and comments: Early artefact with European fibres instead of feathers
FM-Dolls-58.16-18

Photos S. Leclerc-Caffarel © FM

**Designation:** Dolls

**Current location:** Fiji Museum - Suva (Fiji)

**Object numbers/parts:** 3

**Description:** Three wooden dolls, with articulated limbs and wearing three different kind of Fijian dresses. One is dressed as a “Fijian girl” (58.18). She wears a liku skirt and a few Fijian-like ornaments made of glass beads (necklace and armlet). The second is dressed with a typically Fijian piece of dark masi, underneath which a small mat is visible (58.16). According to Derrick it was the outfit of women of rank, but the FM’s catalogue card reads: “figurine or doll, articulated limbs, black tapa cloth, dressed as a chief.” The last one (58.17) is wrapped in a gatu-like masi, i.e. a thick bark-cloth with rubbed designs (gatu vakatoga). Derrick suggested it was dressed “as a Fijian chief” (Larsson 1960:104). The catalogue card indicates: “dressed as a lady of high rank.” The features of their faces have been carved and painted. Their body is painted in brown. Their hair is now missing.

**Materials:** Wood, metal, glass beads, vau (hibiscus), barkcloth, pandanus (voivoi), pigments, paint

**Dimensions:** 58.16: 34 cm high; 58.17-18: 27 cm high

**Date of collecting/exchange:** Before 1854

**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Part of Lyth collection. R.B. Lyth was a Wesleyan missionary in Tonga and then Fiji (1839-1854)

**Previous collections/owners:** Richard B. Lyth

**Related documentation:** FM's catalogue cards, FM's register book (volume 1940-1977)

**Bibliography:**

**Found:** Yes
**Seen:** Yes

**Examination/Search date:** 26th April 2010
Description: Female figure, in dark heavy wood. She seems to be standing on a platform surrounded with cylindrical lugs, that served as hooks. The face is triangular and its features quite schematic. The body is more naturalistic. The arms have been cut off at the shoulders. The pubis hairs are represented in carving. At waist, the figure wears a small liku skirt, that seems to miss a lot of its original fringes. One of its ear lobe is dissented and seems to be large enough to welcome a ear ornament of some sort (saunidaliga). On the figure's back, two old labels are stuck on. Two holes underneath the base.

Materials: Wood, vegetable fibres

Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1854
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Acquired by R. B. Lyth, Wesleyan missionary in Fiji from 1839 to 1854

Related documentation: FM's register book (volume 1982-90)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 20th July 2010
Designation: Wooden Figure
Vernacular Name: Matakau

Current location: Fiji Museum - Suva (Fiji)
Current inventory number: 2000.547

Description: Wooden female figure, quite stubby, made of one solid piece of dense heavy wood. Its face is triangular. Two holes for the eyes. Underneath bears the inscription: "Given to John Hunt 1812-1848".
Materials: Wood

Date of collecting/exchange: Between 1838 and 1848
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Acquired by John Hunt, Wesleyan missionary in the Fiji islands from December 1838
Previous collections/owners: J. Hunt (1812-1848)
Labels/inscriptions: In pencil, underneath the figure's base: "Given to John Hunt 1812-1848"

Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th April 2010

Notes and comments: The original number of this item has been lost. In terms of style, it can be compared with one specimen at CUMAA (Z2812), illustrated by Larsson (1960:46, fig.15)
Designation: Shell pendant
Vernacular Name: iTaube ni vakamau; iTaubesici
Use(s): Used as a wedding ornament for the bride

Current location: Fiji Museum - Suva (Fiji)
Current inventory number: 82.300

Description: Shell pendant, made of a section of trochus shell (sici), carefully cut and polished in the shape of a circular boar tusk (batinivuaka), pointed at one end and rounded at the other. The pendant is pierced at its rounded end for suspension purpose.

Materials: Trochus shell (sici)

Provenance: Ono-i-Kadavu, Fiji Islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Waimaro
Date of collecting/exchange: 1982

Related documentation:
FM's register book, volume 1982-90: "i taube ni vakamau, i taube ni sici. Trochus shell pendant shaped like a boar tusk pendant by a mataisau of Vabea, Ono-i-Kadavu, who gave it as a wedding necklace for Bulou Salote who married Semisi of Lomai, Waimaro, 1966. Her grandmother made a string for it and tied it about her neck for the wedding. After the wedding it was kept wrapped in masi with other wedding artefacts, in a grass basket made by her grandmother for the purpose, and later in a bundle of mats. Presented by Semisi Baleca (66), m. Nateiwai(?), t.t. Nasalotu, Waimaro. Lomai 1982 (field n°1)."

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 26th April 2010
**FM-Telescope-78.1564**

![Image of Telescope](image)

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © FM

**Designation:** Telescope

**Current location:** Fiji Museum - Suva (Fiji)
**Current inventory number:** 78.1564

**Description:** Old European telescope, made of a wooden tube, glass lenses and metallic parts at both ends, lightly corroded.

**Materials:** Metal, wood, glass

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands

**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1840

**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** US Exploring Expedition, led by cap. Wilkes (1838-42). Spent several months in Fiji in 1840

**Previous collections/owners:** Ratu Mara, probably Mara Kapaiwai (d. 1859), Bauan chief and rebel, nephew of Tanoa Visawaqa and cousin of Cakobau, who had him executed in 1859. Vasu of Lakeba.

**Labels/inscriptions:**
In white on the side of the telescope:

```
" TELESCOPE OF RATU MARA
PRESENT FROM THE UNITED
STATES EXPLORING EXPEDITION 1838-42 "
```

**Found:** Yes
**Seen:** Yes

**Examination/Search date:** 19th April 2010
Göttingen-Barkcloth-OZ577

Source: Kaeppler 2009:202, fig.322.

**Designation:** Barkcloth

**Current location:** Institut für Völkerkunde der Universität - Göttingen  
**Current inventory number:** OZ 577  
**Description:** Small piece of Western Polynesian barkcloth, that seems to have been cut. It is decorated with painted chequered designs.

**Materials:** Barkcloth, pigments  
**Dimensions:** 82 x 100 cm

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Tonga islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1770s  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Cook's voyages in the 1770s

**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** No
**MQB_Paris-Necklace-72.56.730**

**Designation:** Necklace  
**Use(s):** Polished oyster shells of that kind (*civa*) were often worn as a single pendant but seldom so numerous on the same support. This object was probably very valuable prior to its exchange/collect with/by the crew the *Astrolabe*.

**Current location:** Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)  
**Current inventory number:** 72.56.730  
**Other numbers:** 658 or 659; 2189-3215 or 2190-3216; 56.730; SG.56.730

**Description:** Necklace made of five polished oyster shells linked together with a vegetable fibre cord.  
**Materials:** Pearlshells; vegetable fibres  
**Dimensions:** 34 x 40 x 2.5 cm  
**Weight:** 341 g

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1827 (between 24 May and 11 June)  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Dumont d'Urville's first expedition on the *Astrolabe* (1826-29).

**Previous collections/owners:**  
- J.S.C Dumont d'Urville, who donated this object around 1830 to the French Royal Administration.  
- Naval Museum (Musée de Marine), Louvre, Paris. First inventory number 658 or 659 circa. 1830 (Duhamel du Monceau's inventory). Second inventory number in 1856: 2190-3216 or 2189-3215 (Morel-Fatio's inventory).
- National Museum of Archaeology (Musée d'Archéologie Nationale), Saint-Germain-En-Laye. Inventory number: 56.730.  
- Musée du Quai Branly, Paris. Inventory number: 72.56.730

**Related documentation:**  

**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** No

**Notes and comments:** This object and 72.56.731 were probably collected/exchanged at the same time. They have been often mixed in the inventories, which could explain the variations on the above-mentioned inventory numbers. This object is currently on display in the permanent exhibition of the Musée du Quai Branly (last seen in 2013).
Designation: Necklace
Use(s): Polished pearlshells of that kind (civa) were often worn as a single pendant but seldom so numerous on the same support. Exceptional polish and serrations. This object was probably very valuable prior to its exchange/collect with/by the crew the Astrolabe.

Current location: Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)
Current inventory number: 72.56.731
Other numbers: 658 or 659; 2189-3215 or 2190-3216; 56.731; SG.56.731

Description: This necklace is made of 4 polish and carved pearlshells. The shape of each shell may remind that of a turtle shell.
Materials: Pearlshells; vegetable fibres
Dimensions: 12 x 50 x 1.88 cm  Weight: 143 g

Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1827 (between 24 May and 11 June)
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Dumont d’Urville’s first expedition on the Astrolabe (1826-29).

Previous collections/owners:

- J.S.C Dumont d’Urville donated this object around 1830 to the French Royal Administration.
- Naval Museum (Musée de Marine), Louvre, Paris. First inventory number 658 or 659 circa. 1830 (Duhamel du Monceau’s inventory). Second inventory number in 1856: 2190-3216 or 2189-3215 (Morel-Fatio’s inventory).
- National Museum of Archaeology (Musée d’Archéologie Nationale), Saint-Germain-En-Laye. Inventory number: 56.731.
- Musée du Quai Branly, Paris. Inventory number: 72.56.731

Related documentation:
MQB’s online catalogue: http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1
Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: No
Notes and comments: This object and MQB 72.56.730 were probably collected/exchanged in the same time. They have been often mixed in inventories, which could explain variations of inventory numbers.
MQB-Club-72.53.436

Photo © MQB

**Designation:** Throwing club  
**Vernacular Name:** *iula tavatava vonotabua*

**Current location:** Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)  
**Current inventory number:** 72.53.436

**Description:** Throwing club made of dense hard wood of light colour, with two star-shaped incrustations of ivory (most likely whale ivory) at head and butt  
**Materials:** Hardwood (*iron wood, nokonoko?*), whale ivory  
**Dimensions:** 42.8 x 9.6 cm  
**Weight:** 621 g

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** Between 13th and 28th October 1838  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Acquired during Dumont d'Urville's second survey of Fiji (October 1838). Brought back to France on the corvette *Zélée*.

**Related documentation:** MQB's online catalogue: [http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1](http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1)  
**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 10th Feb 2010
MQB-Club-72.53.455

Photo © MQB

Designation: Club
Vernacular Name: Cali or Sali vividrasa

Current location: Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)
Current inventory number: 72.53.455

Description: Club made of hard wood. Its blade is pierced with two sets of affronted triangles. Its shafts is covered with fine braided of magimagi (coconut coir sennit), natural and black.
Materials: Hardwood (nokonoko), coconut sennit (magimagi), pigment
Dimensions: 116 cm long x 37 cm wide x 8 cm deep

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Between 13th and 28th October 1838
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Dumont d'Urville's second survey of Fiji (October 1838).


Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 11th February 2010

Notes and comments: This type of decor, with affronted triangles pierced through the blade of clubs, has been found only in 1830s-1840s museum collections, to date.
MQB-Club-72.84.269

Photograph © MQB

Designation: Club
Vernacular Name: Totokia vonotabua
Use(s): Battle hammer

Current location: Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)
Current inventory number: 72.84.269

Description:
Two-handed club made of iron wood (nokonoko). The club is inlaid with whale ivory at the base of its beak and below its bulbous head, on the top of the shaft. The inlays were very neatly made in the shape of stars and moon crescents, which matches an early period of making. When whale ivory was rare in Fiji, highly valued and chiefly manufactured by Tongan and Samoan craftsmen with a typical maestria. There is a large inlay, in the shape of a sun or star at the bottom of the shaft. The beak shows traces of an embedded piece, now missing. The shaft is undecorated.

Materials: Hardwood (nokonoko), whale ivory
Dimensions: 93 x 9.9 x 31 cm
Weight: 1850 g

Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1827
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Although its museum history is unclear, this item was most likely acquired during Dumont d’Urville’s first survey of Fiji in 1827. It was indeed represented in the atlas of d’Urville’s narrative (Dumont d’Urville 1830-35, Atlas I, plate XC).

Bibliography:

Found: Yes  Seen: Yes  Examination/Search date: 10th Feb 2010

Notes and comments: Rare and early item
MQB-Necklace-72.56.243

Designation: Neck ornament

Current location: Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)
Current inventory number: 72.56.243

Description: Necklace made of small cowry shells (*Umbilical ovula*), individually attached to a cord of braided white barkcloth (*masi*)
Materials: Shell, barkcloth
Dimensions: 12 x 26.5 x 3.8 cm

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Between 13th and 28th October 1838
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Acquired during Dumont d'Urville's second survey of Fiji (October 1838). Part of the collections transported by the *Zélée*

Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 10th Feb 2010
MQB-Necklace-72.56.245

Photo © MQB

**Designation:** Neck ornament

**Current location:** Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)
**Current inventory number:** 72.56.245

**Description:** Necklace made of a twisted cord of vau (inner bark of the *Hibiscus*), to which two rows of small white shells (from a kind of sea snails) are attached.

**Materials:** Shell, vegetable fibres (*vau*)

**Dimensions:** 11 x 22.5 x 3 cm

**Weight:** 74 g

**Provenance:** Fiji islands

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands

**Date of collecting/exchange:** Between 13th and 28th October 1838

**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Acquired during Dumont d'Urville's second survey of Fiji (October 1838). Part of the collections transported by the *Zélée*

**Bibliography:**

**Found:** Yes

**Seen:** No
MQB-Necklace-72.56.723

Photo © MQB

**Designation:** Neck ornament

**Current location:** Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)

**Current inventory number:** 72.56.723

**Description:** Necklace made of 25 lower jaws of flying-fox (*beka*) bats. These are carefully attached, one by one, to a cord of *vau* (*Hibiscus* inner bark).

**Materials:** Jaws of flying-fox bats, vegetable fibres, including *vau* (*hibiscus*)

**Dimensions:** 14.5 x 20 x 3.8 cm

**Weight:** 57 g

**Provenance:** Fiji islands

**Date of collecting/exchange:** Between 13th and 28th October 1838

**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:**

Acquired during Dumont d'Urville's second survey of Fiji (October 1838). Part of the collections transported by the *Zélée*.

From d'Urville's narrative: “The ornaments of the Viti islands are as in the Tongan islands, and almost in all the islands of Oceania, necklaces made of shells, pigs' tusks and rats' jaws...« (Dumont d’Urville 1841-54, IV :261)

**Bibliography:**


**Found:** Yes  **Seen:** Yes  **Examination/Search date:** 10th Feb 2010

**Notes and comments:** Rare artefact. Only one close specimen found in early museum collections, at the PRM, Oxford (1884.99.15).

*Beka* are likely to have been important *tabu* animals in some places of Fiji. In some places, their hunting was surrounded with *tabu* and, like shark and turtle fishing, it required specific skills (Clunie et al. 1983). In Rewa, their flight was also imitated in dances (*meke*) (Derrick 1957:17).
**Designation:** Drinking vessel  
**Vernacular Name:** saqa  
**Use(s):** Drinking vessel  

**Current location:** Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)  
**Current inventory number:** 72.56.733

**Description:** Earthen pot in the shape of a rounded crescent. The pot is carved with decorative incisions on its shoulders. Its surface is glazed, by the mean of a vegetable resin (makadre) applied on the pot before it cools down, after the firing. Red colour of earth  
**Materials:** Clay, resin (makadre)  
**Dimensions:** 19.5 x 28 x 18.8 cm  
**Weight:** 1268g  

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Most likely acquired by Eugène du Bouzet in October 1838 when he visited Fiji as the second-in-command of the corvette Zélée, commander Jacquinot. Expedition Dumont d'Urville  
**Previous collections/owners:** Collector, donor: Eugène du Bouzet. Collection given to the Naval Museum (Musée de Marine), Louvre (Paris) in 1873

**Related documentation:** MQB's online catalogue: [http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1](http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1)  
**Archives:** Old inventory of the Naval museum, Louvre (Morel Fatio II)  
**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** No  
**Examination/Search date:** 2007
MQB-Pottery-72.56.734

Designation: Drinking vessel
Vernacular Name: saqa
Use(s): Drinking vessel

Current location: Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)
Current inventory number: 72.56.734

Description: Earthen pot, in the shape of a rounded bottle, with decorative patterns on its upper part (shoulders). The surface is glazed, by the mean of a vegetable resin (makadre) applied on the pot before it cools down, after the firing.
Materials: Clay, resin (makadre)
Techniques: Pottery
Dimensions: 27 cm diameter x 31.8 cm high
Weight: 2269 g

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Between 13th and 28th October 1838
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Acquired during Dumont d'Urville's second survey of Fiji (October 1838), brought back to France on the Astrolabe

Related documentation: MQB's online catalogue: http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1
Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: No
Examination/Search date: 2007
**MQB-Shovel-72.53.446**

Photo © MQB

**Designation:** Spade

**Vernacular Name:** *iSivi*

**Current location:** Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)

**Current inventory number:** 72.53.446

**Description:** Shovel made of a kind of oyster shell of translucent, brown colour and a wooden shaft with a forked end, and another pointed. The shell is pierced of one large hole and attached to the wooden fork by means of coconut sennit cord (*magimagi*). The attachment is secured with coconut bast. The blade is broken in several pieces. The bottom of the shaft is damaged (one piece has broken off).

**Materials:** Shell, wood, coconut sennit (*magimagi*)

**Dimensions:** 65 x 15 x 4 cm

**Weight:** 285 g

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands

**Date of collecting/exchange:** October 1838

**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Dumont d'Urville second survey of Fiji (13th to 28th Oct 1838)

**Related documentation:** MQB's online catalogue: [http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1](http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1)

**Bibliography:**


**Found:** Yes

**Seen:** Yes

**Examination/Search date:** 10th Feb 2010
MQB-Shovel-72.53.447

Photo © MQB

**Designation:** Spade
**Vernacular Name:** *iSivi*

**Current location:** Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)
**Current inventory number:** 72.53.447

**Description:** Shovel made of an oyster shell of translucent, brown colour and a wooden shaft with a forked end. The shell is pierced of one large hole and attached to the wooden fork by the mean of a coconut sennit cord (*magimagi*). The attachment is secured with coconut bast, which seems to protect the shell from rubbing.

**Materials:** Shell, wood, coconut sennit (*magimagi*)
**Dimensions:** 17 x 82 x 4 cm
**Weight:** 314 g

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands
**Date of collecting/exchange:** Between 13th and 28th October 1838
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Dumont d'Urville's second survey of Fiji

**Related documentation:** MQB's online catalogue: [http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1](http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1)

**Bibliography:**

**Found:** Yes
**Seen:** Yes
**Examination/Search date:** 10th Feb 2010
MQB-Spear-72.84.302

Designation: Spear
Vernacular Name: Gadregadre

Current location: Musée du Quai Branly - Paris (France)
Current inventory number: 72.84.302

Description: Wooden barbed spear, made of one carved piece of wood. The barbs are underlined with shell discs, threaded onto small cords of vegetable fibres. From pictures, some of lashings could be made of coconut sennit (magimagi).

Materials: Shell, wood, coconut sennit (magimagi)?, vegetable fibres
Dimensions: 342 x 7.5 cm

Provenance: Fiji islands
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Unclear history

Related documentation: MQB's online catalogue: http://www.quaibranly.fr/cc/pod/recherche.aspx?b=1&t=1

Found: Yes
Seen: No
Examination/Search date: 2007-2011
Designation: Barkcloth
Vernacular Name: Gatu vakaviti

Current inventory number: E003271
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1449

Description: Large square piece of barkcloth. Its central part is decorated with light brown hatches, which alternate in several directions to form large intricate chevrons. Those appear in low contrast on the natural shade of the barkcloth. This type of decor is quite typical of Western Polynesian cloths (gatu), notably found in Tonga. Now, two extremities of this piece are covered with stencilled patterns, more typical of Fijian musi cloths, on about 50 cm. That combination of patterns considered rather Tongan on one hand and Fijian on the other is typical of the barkcloth production of the Eastern group of the Fijian islands (Lau). Barkcloths like this are called gatu vakaviti, i.e. gatu in the Fijian fashion/style.

Materials: Barkcloth, pigments

Provenance: Lau, Eastern Fiji
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition (1838-42)

Related documentation:
Online SI catalogue: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
NMNH's database, for the department of anthropology: http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/

Archives: Peale Catalogue

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 6th July 2009
Designation: Basket, Satchel
Vernacular Name: Rubu

Current inventory number: E003239
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1841

Description:
Finely woven flat basket. The inner part is coarsely plaited with wider pandanus strips, natural colour, into a simple chequered board pattern. The outer part is finely woven into geometric patterns of narrow black and natural strips of pandanus (voivoi). These are so intricate that when you look at the rubu from various distances and angles, you see different levels of its décor. At the mouth, braided cords of magimagi complete the bag with handles.

Materials: Pandanus (voivoi), coconut fibre cord (magimagi), pigments

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition
Labels/inscriptions: Has original Peale tag

Related documentation: Online SI catalogue: 
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 7th July 2009
Designation: Basket, Satchel  
Vernacular Name: Rubu

Current inventory number: E003243  
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1868

Description: "RUBU," OR FINELY WOVEN, FLAT, PANDANUS LEAF SATCHEL. THE INTERIOR IS COARSELY WOVEN OF WIDER GAUGE PANDANUS STRIPS AND THE EXTERIOR IS FINELY WOVEN IN DECORATIVE GEOMETRIC PATTERNS IN DARK BROWN, BLACK AND NATURAL PANDANUS. THE DECORATIVE PATTERNS ARE CONTAINED WITHIN A CENTRAL BAND, WITH THE TWO OUTSIDE BANDS PLAIN. THE OPENING AT THE TOP IS TIED WITH A BRAIDED COCONUT FIBER CORD. (SI)

Materials: Pandanus (voivoi), coconut fibre cord (magimagi), pigments

Provenance: Fiji islands  
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands  
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840

Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition, collected by Robert E. JOHNSON
Previous collections/owners: Collector: Robert E. JOHNSON
Labels/inscriptions: HAS ORIGINAL PEALE TAG; ALSO ATTACHED TAG READS, "BY R.E. JOHNSON, EX. EX. BOX! 34, NO. 4". (SI)

Related documentation: Online SI catalogue:  
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm  
Archives: Peale Catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes  
Seen: Yes  
Examination/Search date: 17th June 2009
Designation: Basket, Satchel  
Vernacular Name: Rubu  

Current inventory number: E003251  
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1843  

Description: "RUBU," OR FINELY WOVEN, FLAT, PANDANUS LEAF SATCHEL. THE INTERIOR IS COARSELY WOVEN OF WIDER GAUGE PANDANUS STRIPS AND THE EXTERIOR IS FINELY WOVEN IN DECORATIVE GEOMETRIC PATTERNS EMPLOYING DARK BROWN, AND NATURAL PANDANUS. THE OPENING AT THE TOP IS TIED WITH A BRAIDED COCONUT FIBER CORD. (SI)  
Materials: Pandanus (voivoi), coconut fibre cord (magimagi), pigments  

Provenance: Fiji islands  
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands  
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840  
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition  

Related documentation: Online SI catalogue:  
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm  
Archives: Peale Catalogue (1846)  

Found: Yes  
Seen: Yes  
Examination/Search date: 13th July 2009
Designation: Basket, Satchel
Vernacular Name: Rubu

Current inventory number: E003302
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1846

Description: 'RUBU;' OR FINELY WOVEN, FLAT, PANDANUS LEAF SATCHEL. THE INTERIOR IS COARSELY WOVEN OF WIDER GAUGE PANDANUS STRIPS AND THE EXTERIOR IS MORE FINELY WOVEN IN DECORATIVE CHECKER-WORK IN BLACK AND NATURAL PANDANUS WITH AN OVERLAY OF MORE DELICATE GEOMETRIC DESIGNS IN A LIGHT YELLOW. THE OPENING AT THE TOP IS TIED WITH EIGHT CORDS OF BRAIDED COCONUT FIBER. (SI)

Materials: Pandanus (voivoi), coconut fibre cord (magimagi), pigments

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition, Collected by Thomas A. BUDD (SI)
Previous collections/owners: Collector: Thomas A. BUDD (SI)
Labels/inscriptions: ATTACHED LABEL READS, 'BY LIEUT BUDD EX BOX! 35'. (SI)

Related documentation: Online SI catalogue:
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale Catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th July 2009
**Designation:** Bracelet or Armlet  
**Vernacular Name:** Qato  
**Use(s):** Ornaments like those were worn on the upper arm, just above the elbow

**Current location:** National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)  
**Current inventory number:** E003167  
**Other numbers:** Peale Catalogue Number: 1662  
**Object numbers/parts:** 5

**Description:**  
Five specimens under the same number, two of them include one blue faceted glass bead each.  
FROM CARD: "BLACK WOODY TENDRIL OR FIBRE." OLD LABEL: "EACH CONSISTS OF A BUNDLE OF SMALL RATTAN-LIKE VEGETABLE FIBERS, CUT TO SAME LENGTH, AND BENT IN CIRCLET WITH ENDS OVERLAPPING, AND HELD BY AN INTERWOVEN KNOT OF SAME FIBER." (SI)  
**Materials:** Vine like fibres

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1840  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** US Exploring Expedition

**Related documentation:** Online SI catalogue:  
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm  
**Archives:** Peale catalogue (1846)

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 18th June 2009

**Notes and comments:** Similar to objects figured in a plate in Dumont d'Urville's first trip account, collected in 1827. Such artefacts are quite common in early museum collection from Fiji. The presence of glass beads is more exceptional and such faceted glass beads were mostly found in the US Exploring Expedition collection.
Designation: Club
Vernacular Name: Bowai

Current inventory number: E002852
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1966

Description
Wooden club, made of one piece of hardwood (nokonoko) in the shape of baseball bat (bowai). The base is broken in one place. The club is not decorated except for a double brand of braided coconut sennit cord (magimagi), onto which a few small shell beads, of white colour, have been threaded. Another brand of cord is visible above the first one, but it is made of other fibres and looks like an European cord (perhaps for attachment of an old tag, now missing).

Materials: Hardwood (nokonoko), vegetable fibres, shell
Techniques: Wood carving

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition

Related documentation:
Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
NMNH's database, for the department of anthropology: http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/

Archives: Peale catalogue

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th July 2009
**Designation:** Ceremonial club  
**Vernacular Name:** Siriti or Gagu  
**Use(s):** Ceremonial and dancing club (Clunie 2003:110, fig.4c-f)

**Current location:** National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)  
**Current inventory number:** E002855  
**Other numbers:** Peale Catalogue Number: 1944

**Description:** LIGHTWEIGHT WOODEN CLUB WITH AN OVAL-SECTIONED HANDLE, AND A BROAD, FLAT, INTRICATELY CARVED AND INCISED HEAD, WHICH IS SAID TO BE IN THE SHAPE OF A BUTTERFLY FISH. THE HANDLE IS COVERED WITH A PLAITED SLEEVE OF DARK BROWN AND NATURAL PANDANUS IN A CHECKERED PATTERN (SI)  
**Materials:** Light wood, vegetable fibre (pandanus)

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1840  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** US Exploring Expedition

**Related documentation:** Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:  
[http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)  
**Archives:** Peale catalogue (1846)  
**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 15th June 2009
Designation: War club  
Vernacular Name: *ulu tavatava*  
Male production  

Current inventory number: E002867  
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1974  

Description: Large throwing club made of very dense and dark wood. Seems to have been anointed. Carved at grip with typical *tavatava* or zigzag designs  
Materials: Hardwood, oil  
Techniques: Wood carving  

Provenance: Fiji islands  
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands  
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840  
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition  

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:  
[http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)  
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)  

Found: Yes  
Seen: Yes  
Examination/Search date: 20th July 2009  

Notes and comments: Problem with this number. Jane Walsh described a *totokia* club, now missing in the collection, under that ID.
Designation: Throwing club  
Vernacular Name: *iula tavatava vonotabua*

Current inventory number: E002884  
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 2247

Description: Fluted throwing club, made of hardwood, serrated at head and carved at grip with typical *tavatava* patterns. Traces of 8 ivory inlays on the top of the shaft and on the top button on the head. The club seems to have been anointed. Oil still comes out today, giving it a sticky, glazy patina.  
Materials: Hardwood, ivory, metal screw (bottom of club), oil

Provenance: Fiji islands  
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands  
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840  
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition  
Labels/inscriptions: Has original Peale tag, stuck on

Related documentation: Online SI Ex. Ex. cultural objects database:  
[http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)  
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes  
Seen: Yes  
Examination/Search date: 26th June 2009
Designation: Throwing club
Vernacular Name: Iula drisia

Current inventory number: E002889
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 2236

Description: Throwing club made of dense hardwood of brown reddish shade. The shaft flares up towards the bottom. The grip is undecorated. There are one tooth (canine? pig?) and one piece of ivory embedded into some natural cracks of the wood, on the head of the club. The tooth seems to have been carved to augment its serrated aspect. It has been described as two human teeth in the NMNH catalogue but it seems there is only one coherent tooth. The piece of ivory, roughly cut, can be found at the base of the head.
Materials: Wood, ivory (whale ivory?), tooth

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition
Labels/inscriptions: Has original Peale tag, stuck on

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)
Found: Yes
Seen: Yes

Examination/Search date: 23rd June 2009
Designation: Throwing club
Vernacular Name: *tula drisia*

Current inventory number: E003008
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 2238

Description: Throwing club made of dense hardwood. The head is entirely carved with *tavatava* designs and so is the grip.
Materials: Hardwood
Techniques: Wood carving

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition
Labels/inscriptions: HAS ORIGINAL PEALE TAG, ALSO WRITTEN ON CLUB, "EX EX" AND "BOX 24". PRESUMABLY THE BOX IN WHICH THE CLUB WAS ORIGINALLY SHIPPED (SI)

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 26th June 2009
Designation: Throwing club (replica?)
Current inventory number: E003097
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 2251

Description: Club made in the shape of a *iula tavatava* but in a quite light wood. Although its features seems to imitate a Fijian throwing club (*iula tavatava*), the club is not properly balanced, which means it could hardly be thrown. The overall shape is also quite awkward. Carving mimics traditional carved décors on head and at grip.

Materials: Wood

Techniques: Wood carving

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition
Labels/inscriptions: Stuck on label, at top of the shaft reads: "WAR...FIJI IDS. BOX 25 ORTH DEPT"
Has original Peale number stuck on the top of head.

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: [http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 23rd June 2009

Notes and comments: Appears to be an early "fake" or replica
Designation: Throwing club  
Vernacular Name: Iula tavatava  
Use(s): Notches on the shaft are most likely a count of ritual nights

Current inventory number: E003129  
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 2497

Description: Fluted throwing club made of dark hardwood. A number of notches along the shaft. Grip carved with tavatava designs. Seems to have been well handled.  
Materials: Wood 

Provenance: Fiji islands  
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands  
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840  
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition  
Labels/inscriptions: Has an original Peale tag, stuck on.

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:  
http://www.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm  
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes  
Seen: Yes  
Examination/Search date: 26th June 2009
Designation: Throwing club (fake? Or replica?)

Current inventory number: E003136
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 2232

Description: This artefact seems to imitate the feature of a iula tavatava but rather looks like an European piece of furniture. The way it is carved and its size do not match the characteristics of genuine Fijian artefacts. The head is carved in imitation to proper throwing clubs, but in lower relief. The shaft narrows down toward the butt, which is very unusual for Fijian throwing clubs, and is undecorated. A drilled hole at the bottom may be reminiscent from an old display. The proportions of this item does not allow it to be considered as a genuine iula tavatava

Materials: Wood
Techniques: Wood carving

Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition
Labels/inscriptions: WRITTEN ON CLUB, "BOX 24" - PRESUMABLY THE BOX IN WHICH THE CLUB WAS ORIGINALLY SHIPPED! (SI)

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 26th June 2009

Notes and comments: Appears to be an early "fake" or replica, perhaps the work of an European. There is another, very similar, item in the same collection (E3075)
Designation: Comb
Vernacular Name: iseru balabala

Current inventory number: E003191
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1786

Description: Elongated comb made of 12 sticks of black treefern wood (balabala), pointed at one end. One is now broken. The sticks are bound together by the mean of single-stranded sennit (magimagi). Its natural copper colour contrasts with the dark wooden parts. The lashing is made very neatly, into geometric designs, symmetrically arranged. At the top, there is a bow in pandanus (voivoi)

Materials: Treefern wood (balabala), coconut coir fibres (sennit, magimagi), pandanus (voivoi)

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition
Labels/inscriptions: Has original Peale tag stuck on

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.si.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 23rd June 2009
Designation: Cup
Vernacular Name: Bilo
Use(s): Cup for yaqona consumption

Current inventory number: E002989
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1575

Description: Cup made of half a coconut, carefully polished. A handle of knotted coconut sennit (magimagi) is attached to it.
Materials: Coconut shell, sennit (magimagi)
Dimensions (Metric): 8.2 cm diameter, 3 cm high (bowl), 8 cm wide (handle)

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition

Related documentation: Online SI catalogue: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 19th June 2009
**NMNH_Washington-Dish-E003356**

![Image](image_url)

Photo © SI

**Designation:** Dish  
**Vernacular Name:** Bavelo  
**Use(s):** Most likely a yaqona bowl

**Current location:** National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)  
**Current inventory number:** E003356  
**Other numbers:** Peale Catalogue Number: 1066

**Description:** Bowl made of one piece of fibrous wood, probably *vesi* wood. Pointed lug at front for passage of the *watabu* or sacred cord that designate the most important individual in the *kava* circle. This specimen has pointed ends. Four short feet.  
**Materials:** Wood (*vesi*)  
**Techniques:** Wood carving  
**Dimensions:** 43 cm long x 23.5 cm wide; 8.5 cm high

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands, Vanualevu, Bua Bay  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1840, June 8th  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** US Exploring Expedition, collected by Titian R. PEALE  
**Previous collections/owners:** Collector: Titian R. PEALE, the ornithologist of the Expedition and also the one in charge of the catalogue for the ethnographic collections  
**Labels/inscriptions:** HAS ORIGINAL PEALE TAG; ALSO WRITING READ UNDER ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT SAYS, "FEEJEE DISH, 1066, T.R. PEALE SANDALWOOD BAY ISL OF VENUA LEVU JUNE 8TH, 1840". (SI)

**Related documentation:** Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:  
[http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)  
**Archives:** Peale catalogue (1846):  
"Wooden dishes used by the Samoans for anointing themselves with cocoanut-oil"

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 14th July 2009

**Notes and comments:** Although this item has an original Peale tag stuck on, there is a discrepancy between the Peale catalogue and the actual artefact, as well as with the supposed place of acquisition (Samoa on one hand and Bua Bay, Vanualevu on the other, as written on the bowl itself).
Designation: Dish
Vernacular Name: Sedrenibete
Use(s): Probably an oil dish or a priest's dish for ritual consumption of yaqona (Clunie 2003: fig. 137)

Current inventory number: E003584
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 937

Description: Wooden dish, carved in the shape of a double canoe (drua). Most likely vesi wood, which was regarded sacred in early times in Fiji
Materials: Wood (vesi)
Dimensions: 53 cm at the longest, 26.5 cm wide, 5.5 cm high

Place of collecting/exchange: Tonga islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm

Archives: Peale catalogue (1846):
"937 — Wooden dish made in the form of a double Canoe, and used by Tongan Islanders in anointing their bodies with cocoa-nut oil — which being poured on the dish made to the Size of the open hand, is found to be a convenient toiled article"

Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 15th June 2009

Notes and comments: A number of vesi made wooden dishes were made in Eastern Fiji, where vesi trees grow, and exported to Tonga as well as to other parts of Fiji
Designation: Earlobe plug/ear ornament  
Vernacular Name: Saumidaliga

Current inventory number: E003050  
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1661

Description: Ear ornament made of a circular piece of light wood, ornamented with faceted glass beads of various colours (blue, green and transparent). These are attached to the ring of wood by mean of a string of vegetable fibres, onto which they are threaded. Some of those beads are now missing. The front of the wooden ring, where the beads are, is decorated with incised lines.

Materials: Light wood, glass beads, vegetable fibres  
Techniques: Wood carving  
Dimensions: 3.2 cm in diameter by 1.9cm in depth (Clunie & Ligairi 1983)

Provenance: Fiji islands  
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition  
Labels/inscriptions: "Fiji" + current SI's catalogue number written in black on the inner part of the object.

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:  
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm  
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)  

Bibliography:  

Found: Yes  
Seen: Yes  
Examination/Search date: 19th June 2009

Notes and comments:  
Early example of use of faceted glass beads. These are quite frequent in the Wilkes collection from Fiji.
Designation: Male wooden figure
Vernacular Name: Matakau

Current inventory number: E002996
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1817

Description: Carved wooden figure, male, with one hand at chest and the other at waist. The figure's legs seem to have been cut off, perhaps to separate it from the support on which it used to stand (see E2999). Their end is now rounded. Triangular face. Broken ear ornament on right ear.
Materials: Wood
Techniques: Wood carving

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition, collected by Samuel B. ELLIOTT (SI)
Previous collections/owners: Collector: Samuel B. ELLIOTT (SI)

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 30th June 2009

Notes and comments: This item seems to form a pair with one female figure in the same collection (E2999). Although they are made of a different wood, they show similar features.
Designation: Female wooden figure
Vernacular Name: Matakau

Current inventory number: E002998
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1816

Description:
Female wooden figure, standing. It seems it used to wear a turban (isala) of fine white barkcloth from which only pieces remain, stuck on the head of the figure.
Dark heavy wood. Quite naturalistic in its features.
Materials: Wood, barkcloth
Techniques: Wood carving
Dimensions: Approx. 45 cm high

Place of collecting/exchange: Vanua Levu, Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840

Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Acquired on Vanualevu by T.R. Peale, from the US Exploring Expedition:
“On the way from Vaturua to Matainole, a piece of consecrated ground was passed, on which were mounds of stone, with a rude idol, dressed with a turban and the Feejee hair-pins. The idol was surrounded by clubs set up edgewise, and many spears, arrows, trinkets, cocoa-nuts, &c, lay around, which had evidently been placed there as offerings. A large party of natives, who were with our gentlemen, on seeing them approach it, deserted, excepting a man and boy, who, contrary to the others, seemed anxious for them to partake of the offerings which lay about, and offered to sell the idol, which was bought for a paper of vermilion. Neither of them, however, could be tempted to touch a single article himself, although they had no objection to our gentlemen doing so. On the next day, Mr. Peale returning from his jaunt took his purchase and carried it on board.” (Wilkes 1845, III:227-228)

Previous collections/owners: T.R. Peale
Labels/inscriptions: OLD PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS ORIGINAL PEALE TAG ON FOREHEAD OF FIGURE.(SI)

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 29th June 2009
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Designation:</strong></th>
<th>Female wooden figure</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vernacular Name:</strong></td>
<td>Matakau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current location:</strong></td>
<td>National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current inventory number:</strong></td>
<td>E002999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other numbers:</strong></td>
<td>Peale Catalogue Number: 1818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong></td>
<td>Carved wooden figure, female, with hands at waist and chest. Made of one piece of dark wood. Dark coating, perhaps from being anointed. It is standing on a kind of serrated platform, with a small lug underneath as if it was supposed to be plugged into something else.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Materials:</strong></td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Techniques:</strong></td>
<td>Wood carving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provenance:</strong></td>
<td>Fiji islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of collecting/exchange:</strong></td>
<td>1840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Circumstances of collecting/exchange:</strong></td>
<td>US Exploring Expedition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Labels/inscriptions:</strong></td>
<td>OLD PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS ORIGINAL PEALE TAGON FOREHEAD.(SI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documentation:</strong></td>
<td>Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: <a href="http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm">http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm</a></td>
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<td><strong>Archives:</strong></td>
<td>Peale catalogue (1846)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Seen:</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Examination/Search date:</strong></td>
<td>30th June 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes and comments:</strong></td>
<td>This item seems to form a pair with one male figure in the same collection (E2996). Although they are made of a different wood, they show similar features.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Designation: Male wooden figure

Current inventory number: E003275
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1819

Description: STANDING MALE FIGURE CARVED IN RELIEF FROM A PLANK OF WOOD. THE HEAD AND FACE ARE REALISTICALLY RENDERED, WITH INDICATIONS OF A TURBAN COVERING THE HAIR. THERE ARE ALSO INCISED GEOMETRIC DECORATIONS ON THE BACK OF THE PLANK. THE BOARD HAS THREE HOLES ALONG ONE SIDE, PRESUMABLY ATTACHMENT. (SI)

Materials: Vesi wood
Techniques: Wood carving
Dimensions: 105 cm high

Provenance: Rewa, Vitilevu, Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Rewa, Vitilevu, Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 30th June 2009
**NMNH_Washington-Flute-E002902**

![Flute Image](image)

Photo © SI

**Designation:** Nose flute  
**Vernacular Name:** Bituucu

**Use(s):** "Nose-flutes were played by both sexes, providing soothing background music when resting, or while courting. The stop arrangement varied locally (...) The player blew obliquely from one nostril into the uppermost row of five stop holes, blocking the other nostril with thumb or forefinger, and opening and closing the second stop with a finger. The other hand held the bottom of the flute, its fingers blocking and clearing he lowers two stop holes to vary notes. The central ring of stops was left open. Tunes played were soft and plaintive, running only two or three, or at most, four notes." (Clunie 2003: 56)

**Current location:** National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)  
**Current inventory number:** E002902  
**Other numbers:** Peale Catalogue Number: 1721

**Description:** Bamboo flute made of one bamboo internode, with a row of five holes on one side. The central hole is part of a perpendicular four-hole ring. Surface decorated with carved and burnt designs including geometrical forms, and representations of ships and guns. This decoration is organised in several sections, all along the flute. The bird-like designs around the holes remind the frigate bird.  
**Materials:** Bamboo (bitu)  
**Techniques:** Wood carving, pyrography

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1838  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** US Exploring Expedition

**Labels/inscriptions:**  
- Remains of an old paper label glued on the flute: "Bows and arrows..."
- Has an original Peale number label.

**Related documentation:** Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: [http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)  
**Archives:** Peale catalogue (1846): 1714 to 1725: "Flutes made of bambu, played by blowing with the nostrils by the Fijians."

**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 19th June 2009

**Notes and comments:** The ships represented on the flute could be Wilkes' vessels, but no evidence has been found so far that could confirm or contradict this hypothesis.
NMNH_Washington-Headband-E003031

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © SI

**Designation:** Head ornament

**Use(s):** OLD EXHIBIT LABEL READS: "WORN ONLY BY CHIEFS - MUTHUATTA." (SI)

**Current location:** National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)

**Current inventory number:** E003031

**Other numbers:** Peale Catalogue Number: 1807

**Description:** Headband made of a piece of pandanus leaf (voivoi), onto which red feathers (kula) have been glued by some mean (dark thick coating). One end of the headband has broken off and is now missing.

**Materials:** Pandanus (voivoi), feathers (kula), glue

**Provenance:** Fiji islands

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Macuata, eastern Vanualevu, Fiji Islands

**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1840

**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** US Exploring Expedition

**Labels/inscriptions:** Has original Peale tag stuck on.

OLD EXHIBIT LABEL READS, "NARROW HEAD-BANDS OF PANDANUS LEAVES, FITTED WITH CORDS OR TIES OF SAME, & ORNAMENTED ON EXTERIOR WITH RED FEATHERS - WORN ONLY BY CHIEFS - MUTHUATTA." (SI)

**Archives:** Peale catalogue (1846)

**Bibliography:**

**Found:** Yes

**Seen:** Yes

**Examination/Search date:** 13th July 2009

**Notes and comments:**

In May 1843, Thomas Williams, a Wesleyan missionary, described such headbands used as head ornaments during a solevu, along with other valuables. That event was held at Lakeba in presence of Bau visitors, including Cakobau:

"The ornaments of the dancers as well as of the musicians were chiefly native, and, excepting two orange cowries and the frontlets composed of the scarlet feathers of a kind of cockatoo found about Rewa, they were worthless. The property from Bou comprised two handsome spears, more than 30 clubs wrapped with fine cynet, 20 whales' teeth, an immense root of yangona and several hundred fathoms of *lichi* or *masi* from Kandavu. The dance, as usual, had quite a warlike character." (Henderson 1931:164)
NMNH_Washington-Headband-E003034

Designation: Head ornament
Use(s): OLD EXHIBIT LABEL READS, "WORN ONLY BY CHIEFS - MUTHUATTA." (SI)

Current inventory number: E003034
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1806

Description: Headband made of a piece of pandanus leaf (voivoi), onto which red feathers (kula) have been glued by some mean (resin?). Broken at both ends. Has been conserved. One piece still attached, one now missing. Some feathers now missing.

Materials: Pandanus (voivoi), feathers (kula), glue (resin?)

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Macuata, eastern Vanualevu, Fiji Islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm

Bibliography:

Notes and comments:
In May 1843, Thomas Williams, a Wesleyan missionary, described such headbands used as head ornaments during a solevu, along with other valuables. That event was held at Lakeba in presence of Bau visitors, including Cakobau:
"The ornaments of the dancers as well as of the musicians were chiefly native, and, excepting two orange cowries and the frontlets composed of the scarlet feathers of a kind of cockatoo found about Rewa, they were worthless. The property from Bou comprised two handsome spears, more than 30 clubs wrapped with fine cynet, 20 whales' teeth, an immense root of yangona and several hundred fathoms of lichi or masi from Kandavu. The dance, as usual, had quite a warlike character." (Henderson 1931:164)
Designation: Head ornament
Use(s): From NMNH's catalogue card: dancing ornament

Current inventory number: E23985

Description: From old label: “SMALL STICKS WRAPPED WITH COTTON, ORNAMENTED ON ONE END WITH CHICKEN FEATHERS, ARRANGED IN SHAPE OF FAN AND HELD TOGETHER BY STIFFENING-BAND, THE LOWER ENDS BEING LOOPED TO GO OVER STICKS OR SPITS BOUND TOGETHER TO FORM A COMB. THE COMB GOES IN HAIR AND HOLDS HEAD-DRESS ON IN VERTICAL POSITION..."
Materials: Wood, cotton or barkcloth, feathers
Dimensions: "fan" 71 cm, "comb" 23 cm (SI)

Provenance: Fiji islands
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Collected by US Consul I. Brower
Previous collections/owners: Isaac M. Brower

Found: Yes
Seen: No
Examination/Search date: 14th July 2009

Notes and comments: Seems to bear resemblances with other feathered headdresses from the region, including one specimen collected during the US Exploring Expedition (1840) at Somosomo, Fiji (ET136).
Designation: Headdress


Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 2483

Description: Headdress. Rigid structure made of small sticks, wrapped in barkcloth of natural and darken shade and topped with feathers, most of them now missing.

Materials: Wooden sticks, barkcloth, feathers, pigments

Place of collecting/exchange: Somosomo, Fiji islands

Date of collecting/exchange: 1840

Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Given to Charles Wilkes, commander of the US Exploring Expedition, by Tui Cakau Yavala at Somosomo, in 1840 (Wilkes 1845, 3:160).

Related documentation:
Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
NMNH's database, for the department of anthropology: http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/

Archives: Peale catalogue

Bibliography:

Found: Yes
 Seen: Yes

Photo of old display © NMNH, SI

**Designation:** Hook

**Use(s):** Food hanger

**Current location:** National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)

**Current inventory number:** E003000

**Other numbers:** Peale Catalogue Number: 1573

**Description:** Wooden hanger in the shape of a human figure, above which a wooden disk can be added to protect the food from rats etc. Both elements, the figure and the disk are made of the same wood, blackened. The figure and hooks are made of one piece of wood. It looks as though the figure would be standing of an platform surrounded by 5 small cylindrical projections, onto which baskets could be suspended.

**Materials:** Wood

**Techniques:** Wood carving

**Provenance:** Fiji islands

**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1840

**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** US Exploring Expedition

**Related documentation:**

Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: [http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)

NMNH's database, for the department of anthropology: [http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/](http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/)

**Archives:** Peale catalogue (1846)


**Found:** Yes

**Seen:** Yes

**Examination/Search date:** 20th July 2009
Designation: Mask  
Vernacular Name: Matavulo  

Use(s): This item, or a similar one, was seen dancing during a club dance (meke vau) at Levuka, Ovalau Island, in May 1840. The members of the US Exploring Expedition who attended the dance described the masked dancers as "Fijian clowns". Yet, Clunie and Ligairi demonstrated that such masks were more likely to be "spirit masks" in comparison with posterior practices (Clunie and Ligairi 1983: 70).

Current inventory number: E002910  
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1813  

Description: Helmet mask made of an inner basketry work of a rattan like creeper (walaki vine). Onto that inner structure, a realistic face (mata) made of coconut bast (vulo) has been attached, as well as tufts of human hair for the beard, moustache and hair. That technique is quite similar to that of a number of Fijian wigs (ulumate). Several shades of hair can be observed.

Materials: Coconut bast, human hair, rattan like creeper (walaki vine)

Place of collecting/exchange: Ovalau, Fiji islands  
Date of collecting/exchange: 24th or 25th of May 1840  

Circumstances of collecting/exchange: The acquisition of this item, and that of a quite similar one (E2914), followed the above-mentioned meke vau or club dance, ordered by Tui Levuka in May 1840. In his narrative, Wilkes explained that, at the end of the dance, all clubs were piled up in front of him and his men, as a demonstrative offering from Tui Levuka (Wilkes 1845:197-200). The masks were likely acquired at the same time, or shortly after.

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm  
NMNH's database, for the department of anthropology: http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/  
Archives: Peale catalogue  
Bibliography:  

Found: Yes  Seen: Yes  Examination/Search date: 30th June 2009

Notes and comments: Rare item
** NMNH_Washington-Mask-E002914 **

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © NMNH, SI

**Designation:** Mask  
**Vernacular Name:** Matavulo

**Use(s):** This item, or a similar one, was seen dancing during a club dance (*meke vau*) at Levuka, Ovalau Island, in May 1840. The members of the US Exploring Expedition who attended the dance described the masked dancers as "Fijian clowns". Yet, Clunie and Ligairi demonstrated that such mask were more likely to be "spirit masks" in comparison with posterior practices (Clunie and Ligairi 1983: 70).

**Current location:** National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)  
**Current inventory number:** E002914  
**Other numbers:** Peale Catalogue Number: 1814

**Description:** Helmet mask made of an inner basketry work of a rattan like creeper (*walaki* vine). Onto that inner structure, a realistic face (*mata*) made of coconut bast (*vulo*) has been attached, as well as tufts of human hair for the beard, moustache and hair. That technique is quite similar to that of a number of Fijian wigs (*ulamate*). Several shades of hair can be observed. The face shows traces of a black pigment and bright yellow turmeric.

**Materials:** Coconut bast, human hair, rattan like creeper (*walaki* vine), pigments

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Ovalau, Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 24th or 25th of May 1840

**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Circumstances of collecting/exchange: The acquisition of this item, and that of a quite similar one (E2910), followed the above-mentioned *meke vau* or club dance, ordered by Tui Levuka in May 1840. In his narrative, Wilkes explained that, at the end of the dance, all clubs were pilled up in front of him and his men, as a demonstrative offering from Tui Levuka (Wilkes 1845:197-200). The masks were likely acquired at the same time, or shortly after.

**Related documentation:**  
Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:  
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm  
NMNH's database, for the department of anthropology: http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/  
Archives: Peale catalogue

**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 30th June 2009

**Notes and comments:** Rare item
Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)

Designation: Neck ornament
Vernacular Name: Bulikula
Use(s): Chest ornament worn by individuals of chiefly rank

Current inventory number: E002994
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1581

Description:
Necklace made of a golden cowry shell (bulikula), strung to a braided cord, with several strands of vegetable fibres. The different strands are bound together by means of small rings of pandanus leaves (voivoi). According to old card, shell would be Cyprian Aurantia.

Materials: Shell (bulikula), vegetable fibres, including pandanus (voivoi)
Dimensions: Cord: 71 cm; Cowry shell: 9.5 x 5.5 cm

Provenance: Fiji Islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji Islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition
Labels/inscriptions: Has original Peale tag stuck on

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 18th June 2009

Notes and comments:
Similar to another item in the same collection (E2993)
Designation: Neck ornament

Current inventory number: E003045
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1600

Description: Necklace made of Harpa shell, strung to a cord of vegetable fibres (probably roga (Pipturus argentus)). On the cord, 8 faceted glass bead at intervals. Cord seems to have been cut at both ends.

Materials: Harpa shell, glass beads, vegetable fibres (Pipturus argentus)

Dimensions: Shell approx. 4.5 cm long

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 20th July 2009

Notes and comments: Faceted glass beads are frequent on Fijian artefacts from the Wilkes collection
Designation: Neck ornament
Vernacular Name: Vorovoro

Current inventory number: E003168
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1630

Description: Necklace made of small cowry shells, *bulileka* (*Ovula costella*), cut lengthwise and threaded onto a twisted cord of *roga* inner bark (*Pipturus argentus*)
Materials: Cowry shells (*Ovula costella*), vegetable fibres (*Pipturus argentus*)

Provenance: Fiji islands?
Place of collecting/exchange: Malolo, Western Fiji island
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition. Old catalogue card indicates Malolo as a place of provenance

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 18th June 2009
Designation: Neck ornament

Current inventory number: E003173
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1634

Description: Neck ornament, more likely than a belt as written on catalogue card. It is made of *Olivae* shells, individually attached to a braided cord of barkcloth (*masi*) and blackened and natural strands of *magimagi*, by mean of tiny twisted strings of *magimagi* left natural

Materials: Shells, coconut sennit (*magimagi*), barkcloth (*masi*)
Dimensions: 56 cm long

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 19th June 2009
NMNH_Washington-Necklace-E003179

Designation: Neck ornament

Current inventory number: E003179
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1649

Description: Necklace made of swine's teeth, one faceted glass bead and shell discs, threaded onto a twisted string of vegetable fibres
Materials: Pig's teeth, shell discs, faceted glass bead, vegetable fibres

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 23rd June 2009
Designation: Necklace

Current inventory number: E003660
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 740

Description: "NECKLACE OF CARVED WHALE IVORY BEADS AND AMBER GLASS. SEVEN OF THE IVORY BEADS ARE ROUGHLY BARREL SHAPED, TWO ARE MORE OR LESS OVAL, AND THE SMALL AMBER COLORED GLASS BEADS ARE STRUNG BETWEEN THE IVORY. THE VEGETABLE FIBER CORD DISINTEGRATED AT SOME TIME IN THE PAST AND WAS REPLACED WITH COTTON STRING." (SI)

Materials: Whale ivory, glass beads

Place of collecting/exchange: Marquesas islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition, collected by D. SMITH (SI)
Previous collections/owners: Collector: D. SMITH (SI)
Labels/inscriptions: Has original Peale tag

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846): "Necklace made of Whale teeth by the native of the Marquesa's Islands."

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 8th July 2009

Notes and comments: There are a few of such specimens in Fijian early collections from the late 1830s, but their provenance is uncertain. It seems that such necklaces or forms circulated a lot throughout the South Pacific. Here the Fijian attribution seems to have been given in Washington, after the early catalogue work by Peale.
Designation: Neck ornament

Current inventory number: E23918
Other numbers: Accession number: 5306

Description:
From cat. card: "OLD LABEL: "ELEVEN TEETH OF SPERM WHALE, PHYSETER MACROCEPHALUS, BOUND TOGETHER AT ROOTS WITH STRINGS OF VEGETABLE FIBER, WRAPPED WITH RED COTTON CLOTH; TIED AROUND NECK BY MEANS OF CORDS OF TWISTED AND PLAITED VEGETABLE FIBER." LONGEST TOOTH, 6”; GREATEST DIAMETER, 1 5/8", LENGTH 15”)."
The teeth are pierced at both ends, which may indicate they were previously used as ceremonial teeth for presentation (tabua)

Materials: Whale's teeth, vegetable fibres, cotton cloth

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Levuka, Ovalau, Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1877
Previous collections/owners: Isaac M. Brower, U.S. Consul in Fiji

Related documentation:
Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
NMNH's database, for the department of anthropology: http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 18th June 2009
**Designation:** Ear ornament  
**Vernacular Name:** Saunidaliga  

**Current location:** National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)  
**Current inventory number:** E003002  
**Other numbers:** Peale Catalogue Number: 1659  

**Description:** Ear ornament made of a section of cone shell (*cava - Conus marmoreus*). At the narrow end the rim is ornamented with incised lines.  
**Materials:** Shell (*Conus marmoreus*)  
**Dimensions:** 6 cm diameter x 5 cm high  

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1840  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** US Exploring Expedition  

**Related documentation:** Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: [http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)  
**Archives:** Peale catalogue (1846)  
**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 15th June 2009  

**Notes and comments:** Rare item from early museum collections.
NMNH_Washington-Pendant-E003049

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © SI

Designation: Pendant
Vernacular Name: Batinivuaka
Use(s): Old catalogue card reads: "for the forehead" but this is unlikely. More probably a chest ornament, which the Peale catalogue confirms.

Current inventory number: E003049
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1650

Description: Pendant in the shape of a crescent, made of two curved tusks (bati) of pig (vuaka). The tusks are assembled by the mean of a strip of masi cloth secured with a twisted cord of magimagi. Broken at one end.
Materials: Pig/Boar tusks (batinivuaka), vegetable fibres, coconut sennit (magimagi), barkcloth (masi)
Dimensions: Inner diameter: 10.3 cm

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition
Previous collections/owners: Old exhibition label indicates: "Collected by C. Erskine, on Expedition"
Labels/inscriptions:
Has original Peale tag, stuck on

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 19th June 2009

Notes and comments: A number of objects like this one were described and represented in early accounts (especially from Dumont d'Urville's voyages) but only a few of them were found in museum collections. It is possible that their rather fragile attachment did not last; the tusks would have been hardly identifiable once separated. That type of pendants is also found elsewhere in the Pacific, including in New Zealand.
Designation: Hair pin
Vernacular Name: imilamila
Use(s): Hair pin and scratcher

Current inventory number: E003194-1

Description: long hair pin made of a stick of treefern (balabala), decorated at top with single-stranded magimagi and topped with a tiny roll of pandanus. The latter imitates actual rolls of dry pandanus leaves, used for storage.

Materials: Treefern wood (balabala), coconut sennit (magimagi), pandanus (voivoi)

Dimensions: 41.9 cm long, ornamented part = 24.8 cm, 1.3 cm wide at top

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition

Related documentation: NMNH's online catalogue, for the Anthropology Department: http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 19th June 2009

Notes and comments: The item E3194-0 is a comb (iseru balabala)
Designation: Pottery
Vernacular Name: saqa
Use(s): Drinking vessel

Current inventory number: E002816
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1741

Description: Earthen vessel in the shape of a double canoe (drua). The two "hulls" are linked together by a large hollow handle. Pointed projection on the superior part of the vessels and handle. The surface is glazed, by mean of a vegetable resin (makadre) applied on the pot before it cools down, after the firing. One hole on the side of one "hull" and pouring spout on the other. Two more holes at the top of the handle, for filling?

Materials: Clay, resin (makadre)

Techniques: Pottery

Provenance: Fiji islands

Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands

Date of collecting/exchange: 1840

Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database:
http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm

Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 14th July 2009
Designation: Roll of coconut sennit
Vernacular Name: Magimagi

Current inventory number: E003314
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1733

Description: Large roll of coconut sennit braided cords, of two colours. The way it is made forms typical lozenge patterns
Materials: Coconut husk fibres (magimagi), pigments

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 20th July 2009

Notes and comments: Such items were notably presented during solevu as prestigious gifts and valuables (iyau)
Designation: Skirt  
Vernacular Name: Liku  

Current inventory number: E003253  
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1288  

Description: Skirt made of strips of vau (inner bark of hibiscus) of dark red and brown colour, and white barkcloth. The upper part consist in a waistband of woven hibiscus. The lower part is made of numerous strips of red vau, which give its volume to the skirt. Upon these, there is a very neat sheet of plaited white masi and dark brown vau. These material are woven into a fine chequered pattern.  
Materials: Vegetable fibres, barkcloth  
Dimensions: 94 cm long without attachment part, 21 cm wide  

Provenance: Fiji islands  
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands  
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840  
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition  
Previous collections/owners: T.R. Peale  
Labels/inscriptions: HAS ORIGINAL PEALE TAG; ALSO AN ATTACHED LABEL READS, "T.R. PEALE". OLD EXHIBIT LABEL "LIKU OR WOMAN'S GIRDLE" (SI)  

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: [http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)  
Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)  

Found: Yes  
Seen: Yes  
Examination/Search date: 17th June 2009
Designation: Skirt  
Vernacular Name: Liku

Current inventory number: E003308  
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1379

Description: Skirt made of woven strips of hibiscus inner bark (vau) and barkcloth. The lower part of the skirt shows four superposed layers, of different length and shade. The top and third one of these layers are in white masi cloth, the two others show the natural golden shade of the vau. Upper part of the skirt consists in a large waistband of woven vau, with a dominant golden shade.

Materials: Vegetable fibres (hibiscus), barkcloth (masi)

Provenance: Fiji islands  
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands  
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840  
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition  
Labels/inscriptions: Has original Peale tag stuck on

Related documentation: Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm

Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes  
Seen: Yes  
Examination/Search date: 7th July 2009
NMNH_Washington-Skirt-E003310

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © SI

**Designation:** Skirt

**Current location:** National Museum of Natural History - Washington D.C. (USA)
**Current inventory number:** E003310
**Other numbers:** Peale Catalogue Number: 1285

**Description:** Skirt made of a woven waistband of narrow strips of pandanus (*voivoi*). The lower part consists in large strips of pandanus leaves, dyed in several shades (about 5 cm wide).
**Materials:** Pandanus (*voivoi*)
**Dimensions:** 218 cm long x 23 cm wide

**Provenance:** Fiji islands
**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1840
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** US Exploring Expedition

**Related documentation:** Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: [http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)
**Archives:** Peale catalogue (1846)

**Found:** Yes
**Seen:** Yes
**Examination/Search date:** 17th June 2009

**Notes and comments:** Quite unusual specimen from early museum collection. A close item, from the same period, at the American Museum of Natural History (New York) (ST/3792)
Designation: Skirt
Vernacular Name: Liku

Current inventory number: E004524
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1329

Description: Skirt, made of woven strips of hibiscus inner bark (vau). There have several shades, masterly superposed into a chess board pattern in the lower part (black and natural colour of the vau). Upper part consists in a large waistband of woven vau, with a dominant reddish shade.
Materials: Vegetable fibres, including vau (inner bark of Hibiscus)

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition
Previous collections/owners: Collector: Titian R. PEALE (SI)
Labels/inscriptions: HAS ORIGINAL PEALE TAG, THERE ARE ACTUALLY TWO PEALE NUMBERS ON THIS SPECIMEN, #1329 AND #1330 (SI)

Archives: Peale catalogue (1846)

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 20th July 2009
Designation: Wig  
Vernacular Name: ulumate; ulucavu

Current inventory number: E002909  
Other numbers: Peale Catalogue Number: 1809

Description: Wig made of human hair, attached to a wicker work frame. A fall of tobe ringlets at the back. These were indicative of high status (e.g. chief, great warrior).  
Materials: Human hair, reed, coconut sennit (magimagi)  
Dimensions: tobe approx. 20 cm long

Provenance: Fiji islands  
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands  
Date of collecting/exchange: 1840  
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: US Exploring Expedition

Related documentation:  
Online SI Ex.Ex. cultural objects database: [http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/usexex/navigation/Anthropology/object_explore.cfm)  
NMNH's online catalogue, for the Anthropology Department: [http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/](http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/)

Archives: Peale catalogue (1846): "1809-1812: Wigs showing the usual Style of dressing the hair by the Fiji's. On the death of friends or relatives, it is customary to cut off the hair close to the head. These wigs are worn on the expiration of the term of mourning, until the natural hair grows back again: the wigs are made of natural hair dyed and Curled according to the fashion of the day."

Bibliography:  

Found: Yes  
Seen: Yes  
Examination/Search date: 30th June 2009

Notes and comments: Rare item, with tobe ringlets. Very well preserved.
Designation: Belt

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E30492

Description: Belt made of woven strips of pandanus (voivoi), some natural and the others darkened.
Materials: Pandanus, pigments

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1830-52
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Probably acquired by Captain B. Wallis of Salem, bêche-de-mer trader, active in the South Pacific 1830-52.
Previous collections/owners: Capt. B. Wallis via George Swan and Heirs; received by PEM 24 Oct. 1952

Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009

Notes and comments:
The Swan collection actually comprises three belts of this kind (E30492-94). These are quite similar to an object associated with Dumont d’Urville’s second voyage (1837-40) and now kept in La Rochelle (H.3397, see Leclerc 2008, II:371). They may also remind chequered sheaths of pandanus that sometimes adorned clubs from the same period, notably gugu and kiakavo dance clubs (Clunie 2003:104, fig.1c).
**PEM-Bracelet-E30515**

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © PEM

**Designation:** Armband, Armlet, Bracelet  
**Vernacular Name:** Qato  
**Use(s):** Armlet, worn on the upper arm, just above elbow

**Current location:** Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)  
**Current inventory number:** E30515

**Description:** Arm ornament made of braided magimagi. It forms a double loop with a large knot  
**Materials:** Coconut sennit (magimagi)  
**Dimensions:** Approx. 9 cm diameter. Knot about 3cm wide

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** 1830-52  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Probably acquired by Captain B. Wallis of Salem, bêche-de-mer trader, active in the South Pacific 1830-52.  
**Previous collections/owners:** Capt. B. Wallis via George Swan and Heirs; received by PEM 24 Oct. 1952

**Related documentation:** PEM's catalogue card  
**Bibliography:**  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 13th August 2009

**Notes and comments:** This is a rare type. Similar artefacts exist in a kind of vine, rigid fibre.
Designation: Armbands, Armlets, Bracelets
Vernacular Name: Qato
Use(s): Ornaments like those were worn on the upper arm, just above the elbow
Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5177
Other numbers: M2843

Description: Ornaments made of a kind of vine
Materials: Vine like creeper
Dimensions: Approx. 10 cm diameter

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1831
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Most likely acquired by captain Kinsman, from Salem. Kinsman was in command of the brig Quill, and visited Fiji in 1829 for bêche-de-mer

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009

Notes and comments: Such items are quite frequent in early museum collections from Fiji
**Designation:** Breastplate  
**Vernacular Name:** *Civa*

**Current location:** Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)  
**Current inventory number:** E5281  
**Other numbers:** M2661

**Description:** Breastplate made of a large oyster shell (*civa*), polished and perhaps cut to give it a more pointy shape. It has a yellowy, copper glaze. Originally, there must have been two holes, one of each side of the thick part, but one is now broken. These holes served for the suspension of the plate round the neck. We cannot be sure that the cord is the original. The cord catalogued under the same number as the plate is a braided cord of vegetable fibres, blackened on the outside with what looks like a quite thick coating.

**Materials:** Vegetable fibres, oyster shell (*civa*)

**Dimensions:** Approx. 13 x 12.6 cm

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Place of collecting/exchange:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** Before 1823  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Likely acquired by captain B. Vanderford in Fiji, during one trading expedition in search for sandalwood (in the 1820s)  
**Previous collections/owners:** Perhaps acquired during the voyage of the *Roscoe* (1821-23), brig from Salem, captain B. Vanderford

**Related documentation:** PEM's catalogue card

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 13th August 2009
Designation: Breastplate
Vernacular Name: Civa
Use(s): Chest ornament

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5282

Description: Small polished civa shell (oyster pearlshell) with two holes on flat part for suspension and serrations all around the circular edge. White iridescent glaze. Some serrations look worn out.
Materials: Oyster pearlshell
Dimensions: 7 x 7.9 cm

Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009
**PEM-Club-E4807**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © PEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Designation:</strong> Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vernacular Name:</strong> Vunikau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use(s):</strong> This is likely to have been a ceremonial artefact, as the shell wrapping made it not functional any more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current location:</strong> Peabody Museum Harvard - Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current inventory number:</strong> E4807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other numbers:</strong> M 4411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Vunikau two-handed club, cover all over with <em>magimagi</em> strings onto which tiny shell discs have been individually attached. Two glass beads are also visible at the head of the club, one blue and the other white.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Materials:</strong> Hardwood (<em>nokonoko</em>), coconut sennit (<em>magimagi</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dimensions:</strong> 108.5 cm long and 11.8 cm for the diameter of the head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Place of collecting/exchange:</strong> Fiji islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of collecting/exchange:</strong> Before 1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Circumstances of collecting/exchange:</strong> Acquired by Captain Eagleston or his men before 1832, during bêche-de-mer trading expedition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Previous collections/owners:</strong> Eagleston, John Henry. Donated to Essex Institute in 1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documentation:</strong> PEM's catalogue card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Found:</strong> Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seen:</strong> Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Examination/Search date:</strong> 13th August 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes and comments:</strong> Note on cat. card by Fergus Clunie, in May 1982, reads: &quot;very rare shell wrappings&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Designation: Throwing club
Vernacular Name: iula gasau
Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E4873

Description: On catalogue card, Clunie wrote: “probably the rarest of Fijian throwing club. The name suggests it is modelled after the throwing dart used in the tiqa game, as does its shape” (see also Clunie 2003:143, fig.21i-j). This item has an entirely carved surface, partitioned in several registers in which tavatava and hatching patterns alternate. The carving technique, in graffito (?), might suggest a Tongan origin, which would also match the period of acquisition better.

Materials: Wood
Techniques: Wood carving
Dimensions: 55 x 5.4 cm

Provenance: Tonga islands (?)
Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1826
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Probably collected by a bêche-de-mer trader from Salem

Previous collections/owners:
Donor: Mr. Gerry
Received: 1826

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card
Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009
**PEM-Club-E4875**

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © PEM

**Designation:** Club

**Current location:** Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)

**Current inventory number:** E4875

**Other numbers:** M38

**Description:** Club made of a long shaft (over 178 centimetres), onto which a spherical head, carved with small conical projections, seems to have been embedded (information from cat. card)

**Materials:** Wood

**Techniques:** Wood carving

**Dimensions:** 178.5 cm

**Provenance:** ?

**Date of collecting/exchange:** Before 1812

**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:**

Acquired by William P. Richardson, sandalwood trader from Salem (Mass.)

**Related documentation:** PEM's catalogue card

**Found:** No

**Seen:** No

**Examination/Search date:** 11th August 2009

**Notes and comments:** Unusual club. Uncertain provenance.
Designation: Throwing club
Vernacular Name: *iula tavatava*
Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5067

Materials: Hardwood
Techniques: Wood carving
Dimensions: 44.5 x 8 cm

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1831
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Most likely collected by a bêche-de-mer trader from Salem
Previous collections/owners:
Donor: Samuel Edgerly
Received between 1821-1831

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009
Designation: Club
Vernacular Name: Kinikini
Use(s): Clunie described such clubs as chief’s or priest’s artefacts (Clunie 2003:127).

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5108
Other numbers: M2671

Description: This specimen is over 122 centimetres long and 32 centimetres broad. The picture on the catalogue card shows strips of vegetable fibres, most likely from pandanus leaves (voivoi), at the top and bottom of its shaft.

Materials: Wood, pandanus (voivoi)
Dimensions: 122 x 32 cm

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1823
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Most likely acquired by Benjamin Vandreford, a trading captain from Salem (Mass.), employed in sandalwood, and then bêche-de-mer trade.

Related documentation: PEM’s catalogue card
Bibliography:

Found: No
Seen: No
Examination/Search date: 10th August 2009
Designation: Club
Vernacular Name: Cali or sali
Use(s): Likely to have been an important artefact, highly valuable.

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5111
Other numbers: M 4411

Description: Cali two-handed club made of hardwood (nokonoko). The blade has two perforations in the shape of affronted triangles. Such a décor can be observed on clubs from the 1830s on. The shaft is covered with sennit lashing, onto which small shell discs have been threaded. The lashing is a bit lose towards the grip.
Materials: Hardwood (nokonoko), coconut sennit (magimagi), shell discs
Techniques: Wood carving, lashing
Dimensions: 107.5 x 29.3 cm

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: On PEM's cat. card, F. Clunie suggested an acquisition circa. 1860.

Related documentation: PEM's cat. card

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009
Designation: Coconut
Use(s): From cat. card: "If Fijian, probably a coconut tabu symbol?? F. Clunie"

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E30547
Other numbers: Accession number: 12 762

Description: From cat. card: "Husk left on eye end. Large end exposed. Length of two-strand twisted coir line secured around nut at junction with husk." Cord damaged. One piece cut off.
Materials: Coconut
Dimensions: Approx. 18 x 20 cm

Date of collecting/exchange: 1830-52
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Probably acquired by Captain B. Wallis of Salem. Active in the South Pacific 1830-52.

Previous collections/owners: Capt. B. Wallis; George Swan and Heirs; received by PEM 24 Oct. 1952

Related documentation: PEM's cat. Card

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 10th August 2010
Designation: Comb
Vernacular Name: i seru balabala
Use(s): From Clunie’s note on catalogue card: likely to have been a priest's ornamental comb

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5150

Description:
From catalogue card: "Long black teeth, bound together by brown sennet in tasteful triangular and hour-glass design; middle teeth shorter, which gives the handle its two horned shape."
Note from F. Clunie, in pencil, on catalogue card: "i seru balabala - composite comb (i seru) made of strips of tree fern (balabala) wood bound together with single strand magimagi (coconut husk fibre). I doubt a woman's - more likely man's, and most likely a priest's. Not a functional comb - purely ornamental, worn with handle upright at back of head, handle projecting above hair. 1801 collection date suspiciously early. F. Clunie, Fiji Museum, May 1982."

Materials: Wood from tree fern (balabala) and coconut sennit single strand (magimagi)
Dimensions: 37.7 cm long

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: early 1800s

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009

Notes and comments: Similar club, with darkened teeth bound together with a single strand of natural magimagi found in the Wilkes collection (1840, NMNH, Washington D.C.)
Designation: Comb  
Vernacular Name: iseru balabala

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)  
Current inventory number: E5170  
Other numbers: E.I. 365

Description: Comb made of 14 sticks of treefern wood (balabala), pointed at one end. Their top parts are bound together by means of single-stranded coconut sennit (magimagi). The teeth of the comb are black and the magimagi lashing keeps its natural copper-like colour. The comb is topped with a split piece of bone, which is exceptional.  
Materials: Treefern wood (balabala), coconut sennit (magimagi), bone  
Dimensions: 17.1 cm long, bone 5.7 cm

Provenance: Fiji islands  
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Unknown  
Previous collections/owners: Mrs Crandall. The PEM's catalogue card indicates a possible date of registration in the 1820s

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card. Note by F. Clunie: "iseru balabala — tree fern (balabala) wood. Split bone cap very unusual."

Found: Yes  
Seen: Yes  
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009

Notes and comments: The top bone and flared shape give this comb the allure of a small burekalou
Designation: Comb

Vernacular Name: iseru sasa

Use(s): Ornamental comb, worn at the back of the head

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)

Current inventory number: E30525

Other numbers: Accession number: 12 762

Description:
Comb made of coconut palms mid-ribs (sasa) lashed together by the mean of extremely fine single-stranded magimagi of dark colour (E30525). Intertwined within the magimagi fibres there are a few glass beads, precisely distributed onto the woven décor. On the top of one of the longest teeth, there is a small white cowry, and another might be missing from the opposite side.

Materials: coconut palm mid-ribs (sasa), coconut sennit (magimagi), glass beads

Provenance: Fiji islands

Date of collecting/exchange: 1830-52

Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Probably acquired by Captain B. Wallis of Salem, bêche-de-mer trader, active in the South Pacific 1830-52.

Previous collections/owners: Capt. B. Wallis via George Swan and Heirs; received by PEM 24 Oct. 1952

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card, with note by Clunie about the use of such combs

Bibliography:

Found: Yes

Seen: Yes

Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009
Designation: Nose flute
Vernacular Name: Bituucu

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E30523

Description: Nose flute made of one internode of bamboo (bitu) and entirely decorated with scratched and burnt incisions

Materials: Bamboo
Techniques: Pyrography
Dimensions: Approx. 60 cm long

Provenance: Fiji Islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1830-52
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Probably acquired by Captain B. Wallis of Salem, bêche-de-mer trader, active in the South Pacific 1830-52.
Previous collections/owners: Capt. B. Wallis via George Swan and Heirs; received by PEM 24 Oct. 1952

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009
PEM-Handle-E46995

Designation: Handle
Vernacular Name: Matakilagi
Use(s): Probably the handle of a chiefly staff (matakilagi), rather than that of a walking stick (ititoko) (Clunie 1982)

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E46995
Other numbers: E.I. 3024

Description: Tubular piece of walrus ivory, carved. Three groups of rounded disks on the top, middle and bottom of the item. One piece of ivory. Hollow base. Rounded knobs at the top. Carved with typical tavatava (zigzags) patterns, which suggest a Fijian provenance in spite of an unusual shape and use of walrus ivory.

Materials: Walrus ivory
Techniques: Carving
Dimensions: 21.5 cm long; 3.6 cm diameter

Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1831
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Probably during the voyage of the Quill, captain Kinsman of Salem (Clunie 1982)
Previous collections/owners: Captain J. Kinsman (Clunie 1982)

Related documentation: Catalogue card of the PEM. Note in Fergus Clunie's handwriting reads: "Listed in E.I.M. catalogue under 3024 / Probably handle of a chief's walking staff: matanakilagi. I have heard of ivory handled ones, but never seen one. Walrus tusk imported as giant whale teeth by Salem traders — made into tabua ceremonial whale teeth, headrests, wassekaseka necklace components, etc. etc. / Fergus Clunie, Fiji Museum, May 1982"

Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 10th August 2009
Designation: Neck ornament
Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5161
Other numbers: M2655

Description: Necklace made of small conical shells, of grey shade (a variety of sea snails). These shells are strung on a vegetable fibre, quite rigid.
Materials: Vegetable fibre, shells
Dimensions: 9 cm in diameter

Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1823
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Most likely acquired by Benj. Vanderford during voyage of the Clay, which visited Fiji in 1822 in search for sandalwood but also located bêche-de-mer.

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009
Designation: Neck ornament

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5164
Other numbers: M4346

Description: Necklace made of a twisted cord of hibiscus bast (*vau*), to which a number of pendants in mother-of-pearl are attached by mean of another kind of vegetable fibre, single-stranded. Five pendants consist in long strips of mother-of-pearl, of triangular or rectangular shape. Some of them may have been broken at their end. The other pendants have the shape of small animals, with four legs around a rounded body, most likely turtles.

Materials: Mother-of-pearl, vegetable fibres including *vau* (hibiscus inner bark)

Dimensions: Longest pendant: 8.5 cm

Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1832
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Probably collected during a trading expedition, when Salem merchants were looking for bêche-de-mer and turtle shells in Fiji

Previous collections/owners: Donor: J.W. Cheever. Cheever in a redundant name in the naval history of Salem, but more research need to be done on this particular individual (initials J.W.)

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009

Notes and comments: Very interesting object, which illustrates formal connexions between ivory necklaces and pendants and artefacts made of mother-of-pearl like this one.
**Designation:** Neck ornament  
**Current location:** Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)  
**Current inventory number:** E5206  
**Other numbers:** M2851

**Description:** necklace made of a braided cord in vegetable fibres — possibly roga (Pipturus argentus), found on prestigious Fijian ornaments (Clunie 2003:fig.105). Two rows of pink olivae shells are attached to this cord, at short intervals, which creates an impression of density and fluidity at the same time.  
**Materials:** Vegetable fibres, shells  
**Dimensions:** One shell about 2 cm long

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** Before 1831  
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Probably acquired by J. Kinsman, commander of the Quill from Salem. In Fiji in 1829 for bêche-de-mer.  
**Previous collections/owners:** Donor: J. Kinsman between 1821 and 1831

**Related documentation:** PEM's catalogue card  

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 13th August 2009
Designation: Neck ornament

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E30509
Other numbers: Accession number: 12 762

Description: Neck ornament made of a braided cord of vegetable fibres, into which tiny glass beads of lavender shade have been threaded.
Materials: Vegetable fibres, glass beads
Dimensions: Approximately 46 cm long

Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: 1830-52
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Probably collected by captain Wallis, of Salem (cf. note on catalogue card)

Previous collections/owners: Captain B. Wallis; George Swan and his heirs (donors to PEM in 1952)

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 11th August 2009

Notes and comments: Similar beads observed in other collections, notably on combs in Maidstone (UK) in the Brenchley collection (1865)
Designation: Needle
Vernacular Name: Saulaca
Use(s): Sail needle

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5260
Other numbers: M4568

Description: Pointed narrow piece of human bone, with a large eye at one end. Concave on one side
Materials: Human bone
Dimensions: 32 cm long

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1834
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Probably collected by a bêche-de-mer trader from Salem, in Fiji
Previous collections/owners: Donor: J.B. Knight, i.e. probably John B. Knights of the brig Spy

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card
Archives:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009

Notes and comments: Rare item in early collections
Designation: Ear ornament
Vernacular Name: Saunidaliga
Use(s): see Clunie & Ligairi (1983)

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5363
Other numbers: M2652

Description: Ear ornament made of a white tubular piece of shell(?), carved with serrations and little crosses at both extremities
Materials: Shell(?)
Dimensions: 6.1 cm long; 2.3 cm diameter

Provenance: Fiji islands
Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1823
Circumstances of collecting/exchange: Acquired by Benjamin Vanderford, sandalwood trader from Salem, probably during voyage of the Clay (in Fiji in 1822)
Previous collections/owners: Benjamin Vanderford

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card. Note by Clunie (1982): "sau-ni-daliga - ornament worn through lobe of ear — by both sexes. Every Fijian was required by religion to have the ears pierced and expanded for a plug. Extremely rare type."
Bibliography:

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 13th August 2009
Designation: Spade
Use(s): Note on PEM's cat. card: "Very rare turtle spade used to break up soil and build yam mounds, after ground initially broken by digging sticks. Warren Osborn, one of Eagleston's clerks, mentioned in his journal that they were buying these tools in vast quantities from Fijians for the turtle shell blades, turtle shell being so valuable at that time. Very rare artefact. F. Clunie, May 1982."

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E4887
Other numbers: Original number: M4408

Description: Shovel, made of a long stick to which a turtle shell blade is attached
Materials: Wood, turtle shell, vegetable fibres
Dimensions: 160.5 cm long; width of blade: 18.8cm

Place of collecting/exchange: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: Before 1832

Previous collections/owners: Probably collected by Cap. J.H. Eagleston or his men, bêche-de-mer traders (see note by Clunie on cat. card)

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card

Found: No
Seen: No
Examination/Search date: August 2010
PEM-Spear-E4984

Photo S. Leclerc-Caffarel © PEM

**Designation:** Spear

**Vernacular Name:** Tikau  
Use(s): Rare artefact, with shell wrappings. Probably a prestigious spear, reserved to people of high rank.

**Current location:** Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)  
**Current inventory number:** E4984

**Description:** Wooden spear, made of one piece of hardwood. Its point is skilfully carved. The top of the spear is wrapped with shell discs in several places, to underline the carving. The shell disks are threaded onto what looks like an European cord, made of non identified vegetable fibres. not magimagi (coconut sennit) as indicated on the catalogue card.  
**Materials:** Shell, wood, vegetable fibres  
**Dimensions:** 310 cm long

**Provenance:** Fiji islands  
**Date of collecting/exchange:** Note in F. Clunie's hand indicates a possible date of acquisition "circa 1840"

**Related documentation:** PEM's catalogue card

**Found:** Yes  
**Seen:** Yes  
**Examination/Search date:** 13th August 2009
Designation: Temple model
Vernacular Name: Burekalou
Use(s): Small temple, used as a receptacle to the god's essence. F. Clunie's note on PEM's cat. card: "bure kalou — kept in sacred part of temple — sometimes contained small wood or ivory idol."

Current location: Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, Massachusetts (USA)
Current inventory number: E5037
Other numbers: M4601

Description: Burekalou model. Structure in light wood but mostly built up in coconut sennit (magimagi), coiled and woven. This artefact has a double roof, which is very unusual. F. Clunie wrote on catalogue card: "double roof probably unique." The top beam of both roofs, as well as the door frame, are decorated with shell discs, similar to those sometimes seen on early ceremonial weapons.
Materials: Shell beads, wood, coconut sennit (magimagi)
Dimensions: Approx. 110 cm high

Provenance: Fiji islands
Date of collecting/exchange: before 1835
Previous collections/owners: Jos. Winn, Jr. (donor). Received by Essex Institute in 1835

Related documentation: PEM's catalogue card

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 11th August 2009

Notes and comments:
In permanent display at the PEM in 2009.
No information found about that artefact in possibly related logs, to date.
PRM-Necklace-1884.99.15

Designation: Neck ornament (?)
Use(s): Old label attached to the object reads: "Used as a currency in some Melanesian Islands"

Current location: Pitt Rivers Museum - Oxford (UK)
Current inventory number: 1884.99.15

Description: Necklace (?) made of approximately 70 half-jaws of flying-fox bats (beke). These lower jaws have been cut lengthwise and they are pierced at their rear part to allow the passage of a string of twisted vau (inner bark of the Hibiscus).
Materials: Jaws of flying-fox bats, vegetable fibres, vau (hibiscus)

Provenance: Fiji islands
Previous collections/owners: From Pitt Rivers' old collection

Related documentation: PRM's online catalogue: http://objects.prm.ox.ac.uk/pages/PRMUID130661.html

Found: Yes
Seen: Yes
Examination/Search date: 18th February 2010

Notes and comments: Another artefact made of flying fox’s jaws exists in the early collection from Fiji at the Quai Branly (72.56.723). It was collected during Dumont d’Urville’s second passage in Fiji (1838). This one seems to be a necklace, where 25 jaws (intact) are attached individually to a twisted cord of red vau (hibiscus).
**Designation:** Spear

**Current location:** Pitt Rivers Museum - Oxford (UK)
**Current inventory number:** 1886.1.1508
**Other numbers:** Forster 68

**Description:** Barbed spear made on one piece of dark hardwood and wrapped with coconut sennit.

**Materials:** Hardwood, coconut sennit

**Dimensions:** 3075 mm x 58 mm (PRM)

**Place of collecting/exchange:** Tonga islands
**Date of collecting/exchange:** Between 2 and 7 October 1773 or between 26 and 29 June 1774
**Circumstances of collecting/exchange:** Cook's second voyage (1772-75)

**Previous collections/owners:**
Johann Reinhold Forster and George Forster (field collectors)
Ashmolean museum, from January 1776. Transferred to PRM 19 April 1886.

**Related documentation:**
PRM's online catalogue: [http://objects.prm.ox.ac.uk/pages/PRMUID25875.html](http://objects.prm.ox.ac.uk/pages/PRMUID25875.html) (for archives, display history and related publications)
The Forster Collection at the PRM: [http://objects.prm.ox.ac.uk/forster/resources.html](http://objects.prm.ox.ac.uk/forster/resources.html)

**Bibliography:**

**Found:** Yes
**Seen:** No