

# KNOT

KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:  
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS  
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

## Museo d'Arte Cinese ed Etnografico

Viale San Martino, 8, 43123 Parma (PR)

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## Introduction

The Museo d'Arte Cinese ed Etnografico was founded in 1901 by Saint Guido Maria Conforti, bishop of the city of Parma and founder of the religious order of the Xaverian Missionaries. The museum is an artistic and documentary repository of exceptional importance, the result of a long historical trajectory. From the late nineteenth century, the missionaries were present in China and, responding to the request of Saint Conforti, they periodically sent to Parma significant objects of local art and daily life, in order to celebrate the beauty of that culture and to bring peoples closer together. From the 1960s onwards the museum was enriched with ethnographic materials from other countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The Latin American collection consists almost exclusively of artefacts from the Kayapó people of Amazonia, from the Gorotire area of Brazil, assembled mainly thanks to the complete dedication of Father Renato Trevisan to this people. The museum also holds a small collection of archaeological material from Mesoamerica and the Northern Andes, about whose provenance and the period in which it was assembled little is known.

## Cultural Areas (tags)

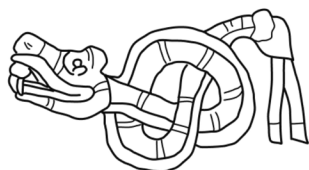
Mesoamerica; Northern Andes; Amazon

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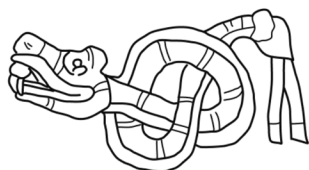
<b>Collection name</b>	Kayapó Collection
<b>Collector</b>	Pia Società di San Francesco Saverio per le Missioni Estere
<b>Cultural areas</b>	Amazon
<b>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</b>	Pará (Brazil)
<b>Description of the collection</b>	The collection consists of about seven hundred ritual feather ornaments and masks; about one hundred weapons, including bows, arrows, clubs and spears; and about fifty everyday-use objects.
<b>History of the collection</b>	The collection was assembled by missionaries of the Pia Società di San Francesco Saverio per le Missioni Estere between 1980 and 2000.
<b>Online database</b>	PatER
<b>Web page</b>	<a href="https://bbcc.regione.emilia-romagna.it/pater/search.do?value%28OGTF%29=Culture+extraeuropee+-+America&amp;page=1&amp;re=load">https://bbcc.regione.emilia-romagna.it/pater/search.do?value%28OGTF%29=Culture+extraeuropee+-+America&amp;page=1&amp;re=load</a>
<b>Bibliography</b>	

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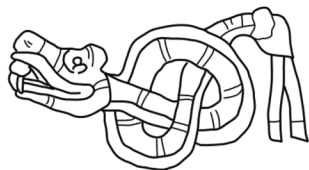
<b>Collection name</b>	Mexican Archaeological Collection
<b>Collector</b>	Pia Società di San Francesco Saverio per le Missioni Estere
<b>Cultural areas</b>	Mesoamerica
<b>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</b>	Teotihuacan (Mexico) Otomí (Mexico) Colima (Mexico) Nayarit (Mexico) Jalisco (Mexico) Veracruz (Mexico)
<b>Description of the collection</b>	The collection consists of about fifty archaeological objects, including terracotta figurines and domestic ceramic material: twenty-six pieces from the culture of the Gulf Coast, six from the Otomí culture and the remainder from the Colima-Nayarit, Jalisco and Totonac cultures.
<b>History of the collection</b>	No precise information is available on the history of this collection nucleus.
<b>Online database</b>	
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	

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<b>Collection name</b>	Tumaco-La Tolita Archaeological Collection
<b>Collector</b>	Pia Società di San Francesco Saverio per le Missioni Estere
<b>Cultural areas</b>	Northern Andes
<b>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</b>	Tumaco-La Tolita (Colombia)
<b>Description of the collection</b>	The collection consists of about forty objects, including terracotta figurines and domestic ceramic material from the Tumaco-La Tolita culture.
<b>History of the collection</b>	The collection was acquired by the museum in 2005.
<b>Online database</b>	
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	

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