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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia

Via Lazzaro Spallanzani, 1, 42121 Reggio Emilia (RE)

Form compiled by: Georgia Cantoni (curator of the ethnographic collections) and Silvia Chicchi (curator of the natural history collections).

Introduction

The earliest nucleus of the ethnographic collection of Reggio Emilia (the Antonio Spagni Collection, on display in the “Gaetano Chierici” Museum of Prehistory) was created on the initiative of Chierici himself, at a time when the new field of prehistoric studies was emerging and there was a growing interest in extra-European peoples based on theories inspired by an evolutionary conception of human history.

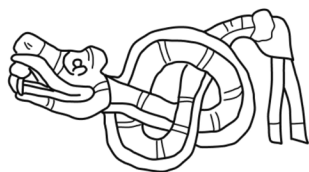
The ethnographic materials, which continued to arrive at the museum even after Chierici’s death in 1886, are now displayed in a new exhibition arrangement (1999) which integrates the Reggio collections with those from the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Parma, acquired in 1970 on the initiative of Giancarlo Ambrosetti. Reusing the existing nineteenth-century display space and cabinets, the narrative of the display begins with the Americanist collections: the Vincenzo Bonini Collection (1903–11) and the Luigi Luigi Collection (1895), both relating to material from Tierra del Fuego (currently under study); the materials from Amazonia, collected by members of the Schivazappa family: the consular agent Enrico Schivazappa gathered (1883–1888) materials relating to the Crichanà, Uaupés-Tucano, Paumary, Ticuna and Jivaro, while his nephews Enrico and Armando assembled materials mainly among the Carajà (1896–98). The most substantial group of objects is that of the Crichanà, on the Rio Yauaperi, a tributary of the Rio Negro, and includes ornaments, weapons, musical instruments and a terracotta bowl.

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From the Paumary of the Rio Purùs come a small canoe, combs and a series of openwork ornaments, important examples of feather art. Also noteworthy are the masks made of beaten bark fibre used in the female puberty rites of the Ticuna of the Rio Solimões.

From the Jivaro of the Rio Santiago in the Peruvian Amazon comes a reduced head (tsantsa).

To the Carajà and other populations of the Rio Araguaia belong a painted paddle, weapons, ornaments, pottery and pipes.

The display then continues with the pre-Columbian archaeological collections: the Chimú Peruvian vessels (1000–1450 AD) from the Biblioteca Popolare Collection; the Peruvian archaeological materials gathered by Enrico Mazzei (1884) on the central Peruvian coast, which include textiles, a work basket containing spindles and skeins of thread, and the upper part of a mummy; and, in addition, finds from the Mesoamerican and Colombian areas: jadeite beads (Eleonora Dall'Omo Collection) and clay figurines (Luigi Bruni Collection, 1901–8). Of particular note is a jadeite pendant known as an ave-pico, referable to the area of Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

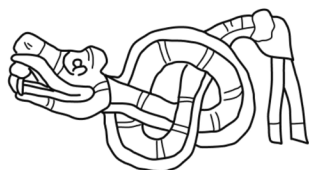
Cultural Areas (tags)

Great Plains; Mesoamerica; Central America; Northern Andes; Central and Southern Andes; Amazon; East-Central and Coastal Brazil; Austral America

Collection name	Antonio Spagni Collection
Collector	Spagni, Antonio (1809–1876)
Cultural areas	Great Plains
Ethnic group /	Lakota Sioux (USA)

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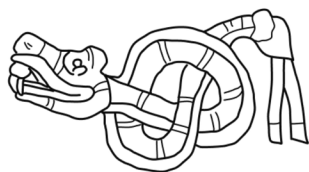
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community / cultural sphere	Cheyenne (USA)
Description of the collection	The Antonio Spagni collection consists of 26 objects: • two men's deerskin shirts, one of which is decorated with pictographs; • a pair of leggings; • a shoulder bag; • a quiver with bow and seven arrows; • a further nine loose arrows; • a stick decorated with glass beads and yellow horsehair, all of which Spagni states belonged to a Sioux tribal chief. • There is also a pipe with wooden stem and catlinite bowl, once accompanied by its wooden box (now lost) and a pipe cleaner, which belonged to a Cheyenne chief.
History of the collection	The materials from the Great Plains of North America reached Reggio Emilia in 1844 thanks to the patriot Antonio Spagni. Exiled after the failure of the uprisings of 1831, he spent several years in America engaged in various occupations, including that of "fur hunter". In this way he came into contact with the nomadic Sioux and Cheyenne peoples, with whom he lived for eighteen months.
Online database	PatER

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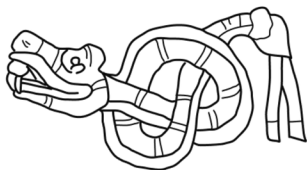
Web page	https://bbcc.regione.emilia-romagna.it/pater/loadcard.do?id_card=82065 https://bbcc.regione.emilia-romagna.it/pater/loadcard.do?id_card=82066 https://www.musei.re.it/collezioni/collezioni-del-palazzo-dei-musei/collezione-di-etnografia/raccolte-americanistiche/raccolta-di-antonio-spagni/ https://www.musei.re.it/archivio-qr/qr-52/
Bibliography	● Bertolini, A. 2007. “La raccolta Antonio Spagni del Museo Paleontologico ‘G. Chierici’ di Reggio Emilia”. In R. Piccioli (ed.), <i>I figli del vento. Gli Indiani delle praterie nelle collezioni ottocentesche</i>, pp. 79-87. Milano: Silvana Editoriale. ● Laurencich Minelli, L. 1992. <i>Indiani delle grandi pianure nella raccolta di Antonio Spagni</i>. Reggio Emilia: Comune di Reggio nell'Emilia. ● Laurencich Minelli, L., C. Taylor (1990). “Antonio Spagni and His Collection in Reggio Emilia.” <i>Plains Anthropologist</i>, 35(128), 191–204. ● Martella, A. 2022. “Antonio Spagni e la sua collezione”. In G. Cantoni (ed.), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio</i>

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	<i>Emilia.</i> Parma: Fondazione Manodori. ● Taylor, P.M., C. Marino. 2020. “Reassessing two nineteenth-century proto-ethnographic collections in Italian museums: Giacomo Costantino Beltrami (1779–1855) and Antonio Spagni (1809–1873).” <i>Journal of the History of Collections</i> 32(1), 2020, pp. 49–62.
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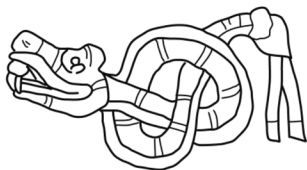
Collection name	Bernardino Biondelli Collection
Collector	Biondelli, Bernardino (1804–1886)
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Nahua (Texcoco, Mexico)
Description of the collection	Postclassic Nahua stone axe. Inventory no. 24534. Inventory date: last decade of the nineteenth century. Inventory name: Civico Museo Chierici di Paletnologia – General Catalogue (B2). The axe bears labels with the numbers 34, 58 and 4049.
History of the collection	In the Chierici inventory in which the artefact is listed under no. 4049 (also written on the object), the following note appears: «... Scarpello di pietra azteca, ritrovato

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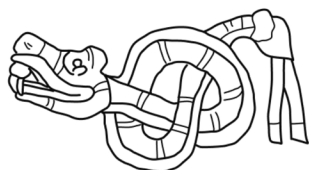
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	negli scavi del palazzo di Netzahualcoyotl, ... alla città di Texcoco- offerto al Ch. Sig. B. Biondelli dal suo amico A. A. Franco - quest'indicazione è di pugno del Franco, che la donò al Biondelli, ed era segretario dell'Ambasciata Messicana.» The object was acquired by the museum in 1874 (see the article signed by Don Gaetano Chierici in Italia Centrale, 28 March).
Online database	
Web page	
Bibliography	● Bertolini, A. 1978. Oggetti precolombiani nel Museo 'Spallanzani' di Reggio. <i>Bollettino Storico Reggiano</i>, a. XI, n. 38, marzo, pp. 113-122. ● Bertolini, A. 2022. Il “Nuovo Mondo”. Mesoamerica e America meridionale. In G. Cantoni (a cura di), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia</i>, pp. 27-63. Parma: Fondazione Manodori.

Collection name	Luigi Bruni Collection
Collector	Bruni, Luigi
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica; Northern Andes
Ethnic group /	Teotihuacan (Mexico)

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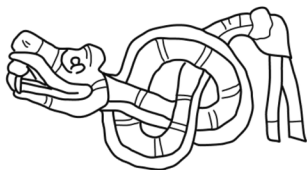
community / cultural sphere	Nahua (Mexico) Muisca/Chibcha (Colombia)
Description of the collection	This is a group of ethnographic materials, mostly ceramics, on deposit from the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Parma. The materials can largely be attributed to the Teotihuacan and Nahua/Aztec cultures of Mexico, but there are also materials from the Colombian area. The objects include: PR 000251 terracotta head with part of the body attached; PR 000114 ceramic head; PR 000113 ceramic head; PR 000111 ceramic head; PR 000115 ceramic head; PR 000110 Aztec fragment; PR 000097 terracotta figurine; PR 000096 terracotta figurine; PR 000116 terracotta objects with female protomes; PR 000108 human head in ceramic; PR 000117 rattles in the form of rattlesnakes; PR 000107 doll in war costume; PR 000106 whistle; PR 000109 strips of deerskin.
History of the collection	Objects collected before 1901 and placed on deposit in the museum by the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Parma in 1970. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Parma,

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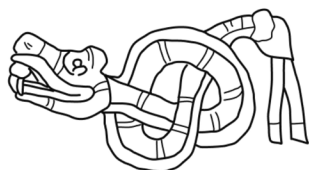
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	acquisition date 1969, resolution of the Municipal Council of 31 December, PG. 28527/1648 (Prot. 2446 of 1970), “Concessione in deposito ai Civici Musei di Reggio Emilia di collezioni etnografiche da parte del Museo Nazionale di antichità di Parma” – delivery of the materials on 21 January 1970, as recorded in the minutes attached to the communication filed on 28 January under no. 2236. The object entered the Museo di Parma in 1901 as a donation from Luigi Bruni (Museo Parma, Album doni, p. 152, item no. 16, and Giornale E / U – 17 April – Entry no. 5309).
Online database	PatER (under completion)
Web page	
Bibliography	● Bertolini, A. 2022. Il “Nuovo Mondo”. Mesoamerica e America meridionale. In G. Cantoni (a cura di), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia</i>, pp. 27-63. Parma: Fondazione Manodori.

Collection name	Eleonora Dall’Omo Collection
Collector	Dall’Omo, Eleonora
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group /	Maya (Mexico or Guatemala)

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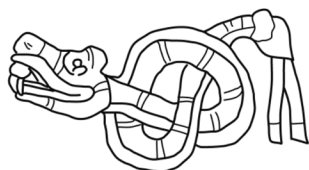
community / cultural sphere	
Description of the collection	Seventeen jadeite beads: seven cylindrical and seven spherical, in dark/light green and grey, threaded together to form an ornament/necklace; plus two cylindrical beads (one light-coloured and one red) and one ovoid bead in brown.
History of the collection	The beads were donated by Gabriele Romiti of Bologna in 2000, as recorded in the resolution of the Municipal Council of 14 February, PG. 2905/34, “Donazione di materiali etnografici di proprietà del Sig. Romiti Gabriele ai Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia”. As stated by the donor in the accompanying letter, the beads come from the collection that he assembled during numerous journeys undertaken from 1970 onwards.
Online database	
Web page	
Bibliography	● Bertolini, A. 2022. Il “Nuovo Mondo”. Mesoamerica e America meridionale. In G. Cantoni (a cura di), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia</i>, pp. 27-63. Parma: Fondazione Manodori.

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Collection name	Former Biblioteca Popolare Collection
Collector	Unknown
Cultural areas	Central and Southern Andes
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Chimú (Peru)
Description of the collection	The collection consists of four ceramic vessels.
History of the collection	The vessels were donated, before 1948, by the then Biblioteca Popolare, today the “A. Panizzi” Library of Reggio Emilia.
Online database	
Web page	
Bibliography	● Bertolini, A. 2022. Il “Nuovo Mondo”. Mesoamerica e America meridionale. In G. Cantoni (a cura di), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia</i>, pp. 27-63. Parma: Fondazione Manodori.

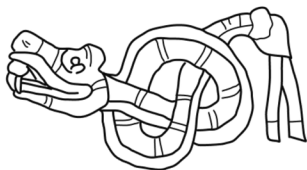
Collection name	Ernesto Mazzei Collection
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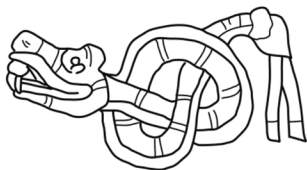
Collector	Mazzei, Ernesto
Cultural areas	Central and Southern Andes
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Chancay (Ancón, Peru)
Description of the collection	The collection consists of textiles, weaving tools and the mummy of a young woman.
History of the collection	The objects were gathered at Ancón by Mazzei in 1884 and reached Italy in 1893, where they were sold to the then Regio Museo Preistorico ed Etnografico, Rome (today Museo delle Civiltà). Some objects were later transferred to the Museo Nazionale Archeologico di Parma. From there, the collection was placed on deposit in Reggio Emilia in 1970, following the deaccessioning of the archaeological collections of the Museo di Parma.
Online database	
Web page	
Bibliography	● Bertolini, A. 2022. Il “Nuovo Mondo”. Mesoamerica e America meridionale. In G. Cantoni (a cura di), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia</i>, pp. 27-63. Parma: Fondazione Manodori.

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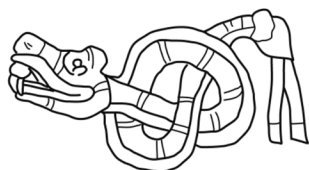
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	● Piombino-Mascati, D. 2022. Le mummie e il paleopatologo. In G. Cantoni (a cura di), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia</i>, pp. 64-69. Parma: Fondazione Manodori.
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Collection name	Enrico Schivazappa Collection
Collector	Schivazappa, Enrico (1847–1890)
Cultural areas	Amazon
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Crichanà (Rio Jauaperi, Brazil) Paumary (Rio Purùs, Brazil) Ticuna (Rio Solimões, Brazil) Peruvian Amazon (Río Santiago)
Description of the collection	• Crichanà of the Rio Jauaperi: ornaments, weapons, fishing net, musical instruments and pottery. • Paumary of the Rio Purùs: a very small ubà canoe, combs and openwork ornaments, important examples of feather art. • Ticuna of the Rio Solimões: tapa bark masks. • Peruvian Amazon (Río Santiago): a reduced head (tsantsa) of a Hambiza warrior chief.

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History of the collection	The consular agent in Pará, Enrico Schivazappa (1847–1890), gathered the objects between 1883 and 1887/1888 and later donated them to the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Parma. In 1970 the latter placed them on deposit in the Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Parma, acquisition date 1969, resolution of the Municipal Council of 31 December, PG. 28527/1648 (Prot. 2446 of 1970), “Concessione in deposito ai Civici Musei di Reggio Emilia di collezioni etnografiche da parte del Museo Nazionale di antichità di Parma” – delivery of the materials on 21 January 1970, as recorded in the minutes attached to the communication filed on 28 January under no. 2236.
Online database	PatER (under completion)
Web page	https://www.musei.re.it/collezioni/collezioni-del-palazzo-dei-musei/collezione-di-etnografia/raccolte-americanistiche/raccolta-schivazappa/
Bibliography	● Bertolini, A. 2022. Il “Nuovo Mondo”. Mesoamerica e America meridionale. In G. Cantoni (a cura di), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia</i>, pp. 27-63. Parma: Fondazione Manodori.

Collection name	Brothers Armando and Enrico Schivazappa Collection
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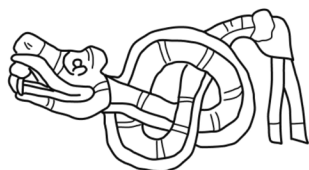
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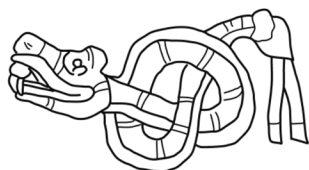
Collector	Schivazappa, Armando (nephew of Enrico Schivazappa) Schivazappa, Enrico (nephew of Enrico Schivazappa)
Cultural areas	Amazon
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Carajà and Cayapò (Rio Araguaia, Brazil)
Description of the collection	Objects of the Carajà and Cayapò on the Rio Araguaia: weapons, ornaments, pottery, pipes, worked stone implements and a painted paddle. A feather mosaic “bandeira” with the coat of arms of the Braganza, the royal family of Portugal. Hammock decorated with feathers.
History of the collection	In 1896 Armando and Enrico Schivazappa, nephews of the consular agent Enrico Schivazappa, donated the collection to the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Parma, which later placed it on deposit in the Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia in 1970. The collection also includes natural history specimens. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Parma, acquisition date 1969, resolution of the Municipal Council of 31 December, PG. 28527/1648 (Prot. 2446 of 1970), “Concessione in deposito ai Civici Musei di Reggio Emilia di collezioni etnografiche da parte del Museo Nazionale di antichità di Parma” – delivery of the materials on 21 January 1970, as recorded in the minutes attached to the communication filed on 28

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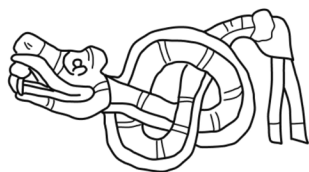
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	January under no. 2236.
Online database	PatER (under completion)
Web page	https://www.musei.re.it/collezioni/collezioni-del-palazzo-dei-musei/collezione-di-etnografia/raccolte-americanistiche/raccolta-schivazappa/ https://www.musei.re.it/archivio-qr/17451-2/
Bibliography	● Bertolini, A. 2022. Il “Nuovo Mondo”. Mesoamerica e America meridionale. In G. Cantoni (a cura di), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia</i>, pp. 27-63. Parma: Fondazione Manodori.

Collection name	Alessandro Stefanini Collection
Collector	Stefanini, Alessandro
Cultural areas	Amazon
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Kayapò? (Brazil)
Description of the collection	Feather headdress on a cane framework.

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History of the collection	Donated by Alessandro Stefanini in 1999.
Online database	
Web page	
Bibliography	● Bertolini, A. 2022. Il “Nuovo Mondo”. Mesoamerica e America meridionale. In G. Cantoni (a cura di), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia</i>, pp. 27-63. Parma: Fondazione Manodori.

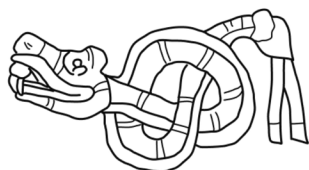
Collection name	Former Regio Museo Preistorico ed Etnografico, Rome (today Museo delle Civiltà) Collection
Collector	Unknown
Cultural areas	Amazon
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Jumbos and Caingua (Brazil)
Description of the collection	Four musical instruments (two violins, a guitar and a vertical drum).
History of the collection	Donated in 1893 by the then Regio Museo Preistorico ed Etnografico, Rome (today Museo delle Civiltà).

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Online database	
Web page	
Bibliography	● Bertolini, A. 2022. Il “Nuovo Mondo”. Mesoamerica e America meridionale. In G. Cantoni (a cura di), <i>Mondi. Dalle collezioni etnografiche dei Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia</i>, pp. 27-63. Parma: Fondazione Manodori.

Collection name	Ludovico Giraud Collection
Collector	Giraud, Ludovico (1846–1882)
Cultural areas	East-Central and Coastal Brazil
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Guaraní (Brazil)
Description of the collection	Spear, feather headdress, bracelets, necklace, footwear and a feathered skirt that formed the stage costume of Ludovico Giraud.
History of the collection	The Parma-born tenor Ludovico Giraud used the objects as stage costume when, in 1880, he performed in Brazil in the opera Guarany by Antonio Carlos Gomes. On his return to Italy Giraud donated the materials to the then Museo di Antichità di Parma, which later placed them on

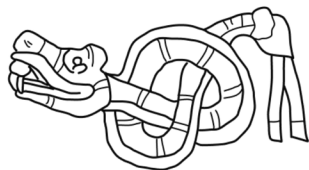
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	deposit in the Musei Civici di Reggio Emilia in 1970.
Online database	
Web page	https://www.musei.re.it/archivio-qr/qr-031/
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Collection name	Luigi Luigi Collection
Collector	Luigi, Luigi
Cultural areas	Austral America
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Yámana/Alakaluf (Tierra del Fuego; Chile/Argentina)
Description of the collection	Model canoe with oars and baskets, and bone harpoons. The collection also includes some postcards depicting Indigenous people of Tierra del Fuego.
History of the collection	The engineer Luigi Luigi collected the artefacts in 1895.

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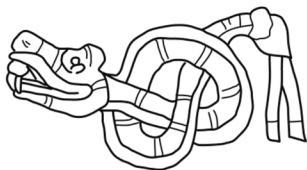
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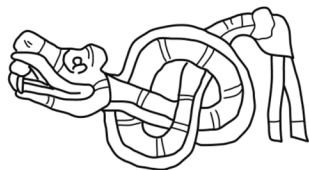
Collection name	Vincenzo Bonini Collection
Collector	Bonini, Vincenzo
Cultural areas	Austral America
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Selk’nam/Ona (Tierra del Fuego; Chile/Argentina)
Description of the collection	Guanaco-hide cloak, bow and quiver with arrows tipped with glass. The collection also includes some postcards depicting Indigenous people of Tierra del Fuego.
History of the collection	The Reggio Emilia native Vincenzo Bonini gathered the objects between 1903 and 1911. The collection was later donated to the museum by his son Candido Bonini in 1958.

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Collection name	Lazzaro Spallanzani Collection
Collector	Spallanzani, Lazzaro (1729–1799)
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica? Northern Andes?
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Unknown
Description of the collection	Two dried half-gourds (<i>Crescentia</i> sp.) whose outer surface is incised with floral motifs. The place of production is currently unknown and the attribution to Mesoamerica or the Northern Andes must be considered a working hypothesis only.
History of the collection	The two gourds belonged to the collection of Lazzaro Spallanzani, whose year of death (1799) provides a terminus ante quem for their production. In the

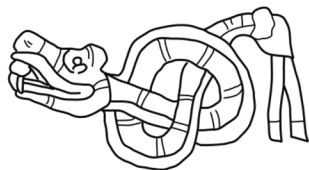
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	catalogue drawn up in 1809 by Antonio Spagni they are recorded under no. 1477 as “Ciotole Chinesi”. Similarly, in the general inventory of the Museo Spallanzani (1863), they were recorded, under no. 4180, in the section “oggetti indiani, chinesi e africani” (as distinct from the American objects), where they were described as “Ciotole chinesi fatte con noci di cocco lavorate”.
Online database	
Web page	
Bibliography	● Campanini, N. 1888. <i>Storia documentale del Museo di Lazzaro Spallanzani</i> . Bologna: Zanichelli.

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