

KNOT

KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Museo di Castello di Rivalta

Loc. Strada Comunale, 29010 Rivalta di Gazzola (PC)

Form compiled by: Loredana Nelli Dias (scholar of Ermanno Stradelli and of his ethnographic collection).

Introduction

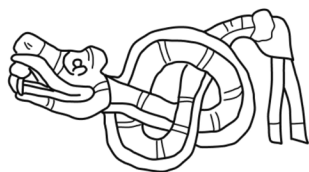
On the Piacenza Apennines, along the left bank of the River Trebbia, in the hamlet belonging to the municipality of Gazzola, stands the Castello di Rivalta, a fortified complex (15th–18th centuries) owned by the Zanardi Landi family and included in the network of the Castelli del Ducato di Parma, Piacenza e Pontremoli. Ermanno Stradelli's American collection, preserved and partly displayed at the Castello di Rivalta, comprises around sixty ethnographic artefacts and animal remains collected between 1881 and 1891 among the Indigenous peoples inhabiting the Amazonian region of the River Uaupés and its tributaries. These do not represent the entirety of the original collection, which comprised more than 189 artefacts, but are among those sent to Italy to supplement the Esposizione delle Missioni Cattoliche Americane held in Genoa in 1892. Once the exhibition had ended, the Stradelli collection was probably withdrawn by a relative of Ermanno Stradelli and reached the Castello di Rivalta, where it is displayed in a small display case in the “Sala delle esplorazioni e arte sacra”. Some objects still bear the original labels of the Esposizione delle Missioni Cattoliche Americane, with the number corresponding to the description in the catalogue, an important element for the study of the history of the collection and for the identification of the artefacts. Other items bear labels with Indigenous names, written by Stradelli himself during his long work of study and exploration in Amazonia.

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Cultural Areas (tags)

Amazon; Central and Southern Andes; Pampas

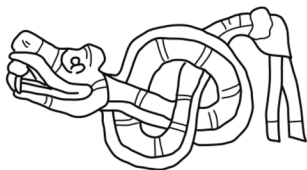
Collection name	Ermanno Stradelli Ethnographic Collection
Collector	Stradelli, Ermanno
Cultural areas	Amazon; Central and Southern Andes; Pampas
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Tariana, Tukano, Kubeo, Wanâna (Uaupés, Negro, Tiquié, Brasile) Chancay (Peru) Gauchos (Argentina–Uruguay)
Description of the collection	About sixty ethnographic artefacts from the Brazilian Amazon. They are artefacts and items of ritual use (among others, hunting weapons; a neck ornament made of beetle heads; a belt made of beetle elytra; a female pubic covering in plant fibre and beads; a male pubic covering in plant fibre with painted geometric decorations; the necklace of the clan chief “ità tuxaua” with a quartz cylinder; ornaments in plant fibre decorated with quills and feathers; an occipital ornament for the nape or comb; the “macacaràua”, decorative complement of the acangatará; the clan chief’s diadem made of cords in tucum fibre and monkey hair; musical instruments and animal remains. Alongside the nucleus from Amazonia collected by Stradelli among Indigenous peoples, there are two

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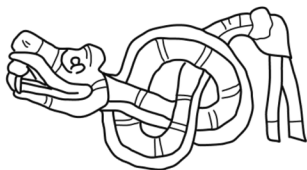
	artefacts which are very probably the result of collecting exchanges: a female anthropomorphic Chancay figurine and a set of boleadoras from the Pampas.
History of the collection	The artefacts were collected by Stradelli between 1881 and 1891; they were later sent to Italy for the Esposizione delle Missioni Cattoliche Americane held in Genoa in 1892. Once the exhibition had ended, the Stradelli collection was probably withdrawn by a relative of Ermanno Stradelli and subsequently reached the Castello di Rivalta.
Online database	PatER
Web page	https://bbcc.regione.emilia-romagna.it/pater/search.do?value(NCTA)=PC018&option(NCTA)=strict&type=BDM&fakesearch=Castello%20di%20Rivalta
Bibliography	● Nelli Dias, L. 2013. <i>Dall'Italia all'Amazzonia e ritorno: Ermanno Stradelli, la sua collezione e l'Esposizione delle Missioni Cattoliche Americane (1852-1926)</i>. Tesi di laurea, Università di Pisa, Facoltà di Lettere. ● Nelli Dias, L. 2016. “De Piacenza para o Uaupés e do Uaupés para Gênova: a Collecção ethnographica de Ermanno Stradelli.” In <i>A única vida possível. Itinerários de Ermanno Stradelli na Amazônia</i>, ed. L. Raponi, 61-98. São Paulo: Editora da Universidade Estadual Paulista.

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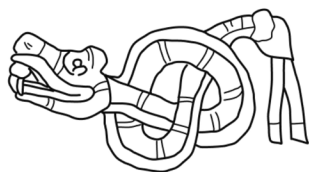
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	<i>note.</i> Genova: Dardanoni editore.
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