



# KNOT

KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:  
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS  
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

## Museo Popoli e Culture

### Pontificio Istituto Missioni Estere (P.I.M.E)

Via Monte Rosa 81, 20149 Milano

*Form compiled by* Francesca Moretti (Head of Museum Educational Services)

## Introduction

Founded in 1910 under the name “Museo etnografico indo-cinese”, the Museo Popoli e Culture is dedicated to the knowledge of extra-European cultures and is the result of the relationships and work of the P.I.M.E. missionaries.

It displays a composite collection of artefacts that are the result of the missionary activity carried out in Asia, Africa, Oceania and Latin America. The first collections were brought to Italy by Father Carlo Salerio, who left in 1852 for Papua New Guinea with the first expedition of what would later become the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (P.I.M.E.). Unfortunately many of the artefacts were destroyed during the bombing of Milan in 1943. The archival photographs show us the image of a museum full of objects intended to recount to visitors and to the city of Milan the encounters experienced by the missionaries with the peoples and cultures of the countries in which they worked.

From that moment onwards the museum underwent a long process of evolution, both in its display and in its exhibition aims, which in 1994 led it to adopt its current name of Museo Popoli e Culture, underlining the attention devoted to people and to relationships.

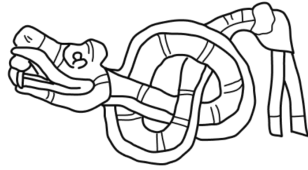
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**Reassessing the Indigenous American Heritage in Italy**

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P.I.M.E. in Brazil: On 16 December 1946 three P.I.M.E. missionaries – Father Attilio Garrè, returned from China, and two young men on their first missionary experience, Father Giuseppe Maritano and Father Aristide Pirovano – landed for the first time at the port of Santos. From that moment onwards the presence of the Institute's missionaries spread throughout the Amazonian area, where they founded the dioceses of Macapá, Parintins, Manaus and Belém, as well as the diocese of Jardim in the south of Mato Grosso on the border with Paraguay. In the centre-south of the country the missionaries established more than seventy parishes in five states (São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe). The American ethnographic collections preserved at P.I.M.E. are the result of the years of missionary presence in these regions.

Today the P.I.M.E. missionaries are present in the dioceses of Santo Amaro, São Paulo and Taubaté in the state of São Paulo; in Londrina, state of Paraná; in Belém, state of Pará; in Macapá, state of Amapá; in Manaus and Parintins, state of Amazonas; and in Cuiabá, state of Mato Grosso. In particular, Father Enrico Uggé, a P.I.M.E. missionary from Castiglione d'Adda, has spent most of his life since 1971 among the Saterê-Mawé villages of the diocese of Parintins, in the state of Amazonas.

The Museum also preserves a small Central American collection consisting of two kuna textile artefacts from Panama.

## Cultural Areas (tags)

Central America; Amazon

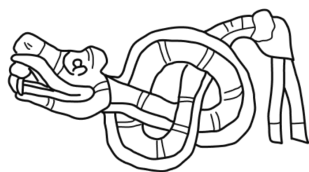
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## Collections

#01

<i>Name of the collection</i>	<b>Saterê-Mawé collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Father Enrico Uggé and other P.I.M.E. missionaries
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Amazon
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Saterê-Mawé (Brazil)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Necklaces made from various materials (seeds, feathers, porcupine quills, bones) Gloves for the “tucandeira” dance (wicker, bird feathers) Rattle for the “tucandeira” dance (plant berries) “Devil’s stick” (plant fibres) “Caracaxa” (wood) Clappers (wood, plant berry and feathers) Arrows (wood, bones) Statue representing a forest dove (wood) Bracelets (kernel of tropical fruits) Rings (kernel of tropical fruits) Earrings (feathers, seeds) Small statue representing Saint Benedict the Black (wood) Baskets (wicker, plant fibres)

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<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection was assembled by Father Enrico Uggé and other P.I.M.E. missionaries during the twentieth century.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	<a href="https://museopopolieculture.it/collezione/guanto-per-la-danza-della-tucandeira/">https://museopopolieculture.it/collezione/guanto-per-la-danza-della-tucandeira/</a> <a href="https://museopopolieculture.it/collezione/orecchini/">https://museopopolieculture.it/collezione/orecchini/</a> <a href="https://museopopolieculture.it/collezione/cestini/">https://museopopolieculture.it/collezione/cestini/</a>
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uggé, E. 1991. <i>Mitología sateré-maué</i>. Ediciones ABYA-YALA.</li><li>• Uggé, E. 2003. “Tucandeira: la danza delle formiche.” (foto di Enrico Mascheroni), <i>Mondo e Missione</i> 132(5): 57-59.</li></ul>

## #02

<i>Name of the collection</i>	<b>Iscarianà (Parintins) collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	P.I.M.E. missionaries
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Amazon
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Iscarianà (Parintins, Brazil)

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<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Comb (wood, bird feathers) Female back ornament (cord, feathers, seeds)
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection was assembled by P.I.M.E. missionaries during the twentieth century.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

## #03

<i>Name of the collection</i>	<b>Palikur collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	P.I.M.E. missionaries
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Amazon
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Palikur (Amazonas, Brazil)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Feather ornaments (wicker, feathers)
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection was assembled by P.I.M.E. missionaries during the twentieth century.

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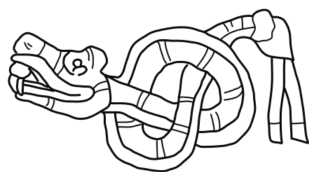
Online Database	
Web page	<a href="https://museopopolieculture.it/collezione/ornamento/">https://museopopolieculture.it/collezione/ornamento/</a>
Bibliography	

## #04

Name of the collection	<b>Amazon Basin collection</b>
Collector	P.I.M.E. missionaries
Cultural areas	Amazon
Ethnic group / community / cultural context	Unspecified communities of the Amazon basin
Description of the Collection	Necklaces (animal teeth, seeds, animal bones, wild berries, animal horns, scales) Ornament (plant acorns, seeds, feathers) Arrows for hunting and fishing (wood)
History of the collection	The collection was assembled by P.I.M.E. missionaries during the twentieth century.
Online Database	
Web page	
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#05

<i>Name of the collection</i>	<b>Kuna collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Ranghino, Maria Maddalena
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central America
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Kuna (Panama)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Molas (cotton) Woman's blouse (cotton)
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection was assembled by Maria Maddalena Ranghino during the second half of the twentieth century.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ranghino, M.M., ed. 2010. <i>Molas. L'arte dei Kuna di Panama. I quaderni del museo</i> - 15. Milano: PIME.</li></ul>

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