

# KNOT

KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:  
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS  
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

## Castello del Buonconsiglio. Monumenti e collezioni provinciali.

Via Bernardo Clesio, 5, 38122, Trento

*Form compiled by:* Roberta Zuech (head of the collections and of the photographic archive), in collaboration with Anna Bottesi.

### Introduction

The American collections are mostly the result of donations: during the second half of the nineteenth century the citizens of Trento wished to take an active part in the creation of a Civic Museum, which was opened to the public in 1856 as an appendix to the Trento library. Within the collections of the Civic Museum, founded to gather evidence of local culture, history and art, there also converged strange and “exotic” objects donated to the Municipality by people from Trento who were working abroad. The collections of the Civic Museum were transferred to the National Museum (today the Museo Castello del Buonconsiglio) at the end of the First World War, when the Castello del Buonconsiglio was converted from a barracks into a museum.

### Cultural Areas (tags)

Eastern Woodlands; Great Plains; Aridamerica; Amazon

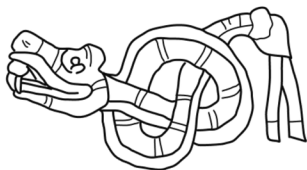
<b>Collection name</b>	Cavalier Francesco Gerloni Collection
<b>Collector</b>	Cavalier Francesco Gerloni
<b>Cultural areas</b>	Arid America

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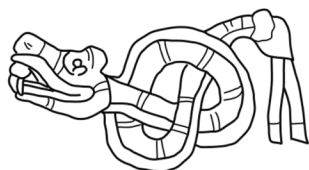
<b>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</b>	“Opachi” (Apaches?)
<b>Description of the collection</b>	<p>Collection consisting of six objects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a spear belonging to the “Indian tribe of the Opachi of western Mexico”, collected on 18/09/1866;</li><li>• a pair of iron spurs with star-shaped rowel and decorated leather strap “of the Mexicans of Amasoque”;</li><li>• a horse headstall (“bit” in the inventories) complete with bit and cord reins of the Mexicans of Amasoque;</li><li>• a leather riding whip (“scudiscio” in the inventories), inv. MUN 4373;</li><li>• a hammock woven in corded fibre of “American” agave, inv. MUN 4374.</li></ul>
<b>History of the collection</b>	Collection assembled in the second half of the nineteenth century and acquired by the Civic Museum between 1868 and 1874.
<b>Online database</b>	Present in the museum’s database (database not public).
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	● Gli incanti dell’arte: registri doni: BCTn Ms 5598/1

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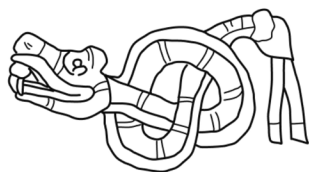
<b>Collection name</b>	Kempton Collection
<b>Collector</b>	Countess Teresa de Kempton (née Sardagna of Trento)
<b>Cultural areas</b>	Amazon
<b>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</b>	Peoples of the Rio Napo
<b>Description of the collection</b>	A hammock made with twisted raffia threads from the tucum palm, woven to form a wide-meshed net; dyed with broad longitudinal brown stripes alternating with narrower bluish-yellow stripes. Small red, green and yellow feathers are sewn along the edges.
<b>History of the collection</b>	Collected in the second half of the nineteenth century and donated by Countess Teresa de Kempton (née Sardagna of Trento) to the Civic Museum between 1870 and 1873.
<b>Online database</b>	Present in the museum's database (database not public).
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Gli incanti dell'arte: registri doni: BCTn Ms 5598/1</li><li>● Dal Prà, L. 2013. "Le collezioni storico-artistiche di Trento: il Museo Civico al Museo Nazionale." In <i>Muse trentine. Materiali per la storia delle collezioni e dei musei</i>, eds. L. Dal Prà, M. Botteri, 169-179.</li></ul>

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	Trento: Soprintendenza per i Beni storico-artistici, librari e archivistici.
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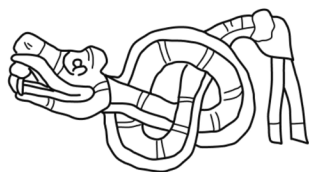
<b>Collection name</b>	Moser Collection
<b>Collector</b>	Moser (Don Antonio), assistant priest in the parish of Cortaccia
<b>Cultural areas</b>	Amazon
<b>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</b>	Peoples of the Rio Napo
<b>Description of the collection</b>	A dorsal ornament belonging to the Achuar people of Ecuador, consisting of a textile band to be placed on the forehead to which a second band is attached, the length of a person's back and intended to fall along it. This second band is made up of eight segments decorated with small hollow cylindrical bones inserted vertically and separated by rows of black seeds. At the lower end are attached pendants of black seeds, teeth (probably monkey teeth) and beetle elytra. It is thought that this piece may have formed part of the donation that Don Luigi Sartori delivered to the museum in 1879 and which included an "entire Indian costume from New Granada: dress, cloak, belt, and a curious head ornament and two

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	carpets”, inv. MUN 5556.
<b>History of the collection</b>	Collected and donated by Don Antonio Moser in 1879.
<b>Online database</b>	
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	● Gli incanti dell’arte: registri doni: BCTn Ms 5598/1

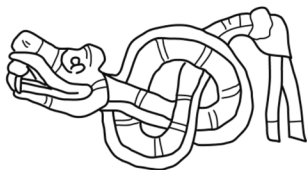
<b>Collection name</b>	Sartori Collection
<b>Collector</b>	Don Luigi Sartori, missionary in Baltimore
<b>Cultural areas</b>	Eastern Woodlands
<b>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</b>	
<b>Description of the collection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The collection consists of: two axes, only one of which has been identified in the storerooms, with wooden haft and steel blade, inv. MUN 3705;</li> <li>● 68 arrowheads of different materials (55 of which have been identified in the storerooms), inv. MUN 3690;</li> <li>● three terracotta vessels with painted geometric</li> </ul>

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	decorations on the outer and inner surface, inv. MUN 4375, MUN 4377 and MUN 4378; ● a complete arrow for a bow.
<b>History of the collection</b>	Collected in the nineteenth century and acquired by the Civic Museum in 1855.
<b>Online database</b>	Present in the museum's database (database not public).
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	

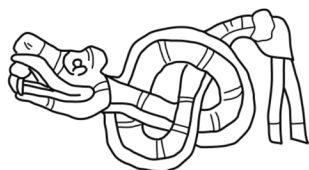
<b>Collection name</b>	Perini Collection
<b>Collector</b>	Quintilio Perini
<b>Cultural areas</b>	Eastern Woodlands (?)
<b>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</b>	
<b>Description of the collection</b>	Three arrows from the Indigenous peoples of North America in very poor condition.
<b>History of the collection</b>	Collected in the nineteenth century and acquired by the Civic Museum in 1891.

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<b>Online database</b>	Present in the museum's database (database not public).
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	Gli incanti dell'arte: Registri doni

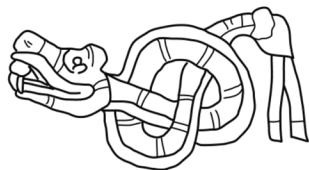
<b>Collection name</b>	Unterveger Collection
<b>Collector</b>	Giovanni Battista Unterveger
<b>Cultural areas</b>	Eastern Woodlands; Great Plains
<b>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</b>	
<b>Description of the collection</b>	<p>The collection comprises various objects. Those of American provenance are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● an arrow found in 1883 at St. Louis (North America) at a depth of 5 cm in the ground;</li><li>● a pipe consisting of a small red stone bowl with traces of burning and a bamboo stem a little less than one centimetre in diameter. The attached label reads: "Indian pipe (in the Indian language called calumet). It was the pipe of Sitting Bull (the Crouching Bull), leader of the insurgent Indians who was killed in November 1890 at Grand Rapid in Dakota in a clash with United States soldiers."</li></ul>

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	The date 1859 is engraved on it. Inv. MUN 4918.
<b>History of the collection</b>	Collected in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and acquired in 1891.
<b>Online database</b>	
<b>Web page</b>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	

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