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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Museo di Antropologia - Museo della Natura e dell'Uomo - Università degli Studi di Padova

Corso Garibaldi, 39, 35121 Padova (PD)

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Introduction

The Museo di Antropologia of the University of Padua was founded in 1882 on the initiative of Giovanni Canestrini, one of the first supporters of Darwinism in Italy and professor of anthropology at the university. Created as a Gabinetto di Antropologia, the museum initially reflected the nineteenth-century scientific approach, focused above all on physical anthropology and on the classification of human “races” through the study of crania and skeletons. Over time the collections were enriched with ethnographic, archaeological and documentary materials from all over the world, often acquired through scientific missions or contacts with the colonies.

The Museo di Antropologia of the University of Padua also preserves a collection composed of a number of Sioux artefacts, collected by Enrico di Borbone in 1889 during his journey around the world. These are in fact the property of the Museo di Arte Orientale di Venezia, but since 1935/1942 they have been on deposit at the museum in Padua.

Today the Museo di Antropologia forms part of the new Museo della Natura e dell'Uomo, inaugurated in June 2023 after several years of closure to the public.

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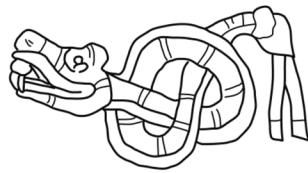
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Cultural Areas (tags)

Great Plains

Collection name	Museo di Arte Orientale di Venezia Collection
Collector	Borbone-Parma, Enrico Carlo Luigi Giorgio di, Conte di Bardi (1851–1905)
Cultural areas	Great Plains
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Sioux (USA)
Description of the collection	The collection consists of a leather tunic, a small bag and several pipes.
History of the collection	The objects were purchased in the United States by Enrico di Borbone during his long journey around the world, specifically in 1889. All the works acquired during the journey were transported to Venice and, from 1890 onwards, displayed at Ca' Vendramin Calergi, Enrico's residence in Venice. In 1906 Enrico's widow sold the collection to the Viennese firm C. Trau, which began to sell it. In 1915 the firm's assets were seized and taken over by the Italian state at the end of the war as compensation for war damages. They were assigned to the Ministry of Public Education and in 1928 became the collection of the first state Museo di Arte Orientale in Italy. In 1935 and 1942 some works from the collection

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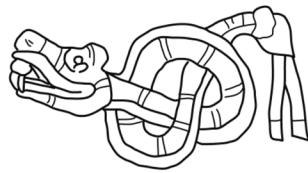
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	were transferred on external deposit to the Museo di Antropologia of the University of Padua, where they are still housed today.
Online database	
Web page	
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Corrain, C., P. Zampini. 1968–1969. “Le collezioni etnografiche dell'Istituto di Antropologia dell'Università di Padova.” <i>Atti e memorie della Accademia di Verona</i> VI (XX): 29.

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