

KNOT

KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Museo di Antropologia, Centro Musei Scienze Naturali e Fisiche, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II

Via Mezzocannone, 8, 80134 Napoli

Form compiled by Dr Lucia Borrelli (technical director, Museo di Antropologia di Napoli)

Introduction

The Museo di Antropologia of the Centro Musei delle Scienze Naturali e Fisiche of the Università di Napoli, founded in 1881, houses a collection of over 26,000 objects divided into osteological, archaeological and ethnographic collections. Several archaeological materials, essentially stone tools and terracotta artefacts, document the prehistory of North America.

These objects come from different collections and are the result of the dense network of antiquarian exchanges established in the later nineteenth century by Professor Giustiniano Nicolucci, founder of the museum, with various scholars; between 1870 and 1877 he assembled around fifty North American artefacts, some of them probably from the collection of Franklin Peale.

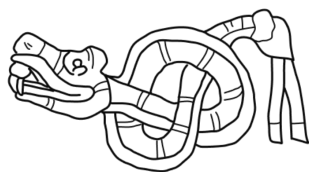
Particularly noteworthy are the “Accademia” Collection, the Ignazio Cerio Collection, as well as the four mummies from Chile, Bolivia and Peru, recently subjected to a programme of study and conservation, and the eight deformed skulls from sites in what are now Bolivia and Chile. A small group of twelve artefacts instead comes from various Latin American countries (Mexico, Honduras, Brazil, the Gran Chaco region of Argentina).

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Cultural Areas

Eastern Woodlands; Southwest/Oasisamerica; Mesoamerica; Amazonia; Gran Chaco.

Collections

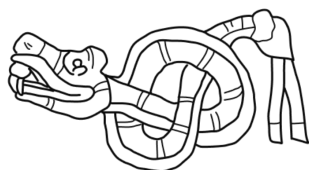
#01

<i>Name of the collection</i>	“Accademia” Collection of Elmer R. Reynolds
<i>Collector</i>	Reynolds, Elmer R. (1863–1911)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Eastern Woodlands
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Groups from the Potomac and Shenandoah valleys: Nacotchtank/Anacostan, Piscataway, Wicomico, etc.
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	The collection comprises 465 artefacts consisting of arrowheads, axes and hatchets, spearheads, knives, scrapers, hammers and hand-held percussion tools made of quartzite, sandstone, brown flint and milky quartz.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection, which originally consisted of 758 pieces, was assembled between 1870 and 1880 by the US archaeologist Elmer R. Reynolds, who donated it to the Accademia di Archeologia of the Società Reale di Napoli. The Accademia placed it on deposit in the Museo di

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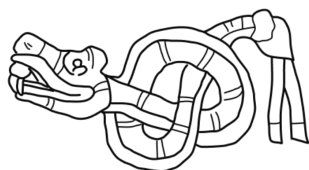
	Antropologia on 30 June 1889, under the care of the director Giustiniano Nicolucci.
Online Database	
Web page	
Bibliography	• Fedele, F. 1999. "Il Museo di Antropologia: origine, sviluppo e riscoperta." In I Musei Scientifici dell'Università di Napoli "Federico", ed. A. Fratta, 185–259. Napoli. • Morris, J. 1985. "Nicolucci e il Museo di Antropologia di Napoli: dalla fama all'oblio." In Giustiniano Nicolucci: alle origini dell'antropologia moderna, ed. F.G. Fedele, 106–21. Isola del Liri: Frosinone. • Nicolucci, G. 1884. "Sulla collezione di armi e utensili in pietra delle vallate del Potomac e delle Shenandoah meridionale (America del Nord)." In Atti della R. Accademia di Archeologia, Lettere e Belle Arti, Società Reale di Napoli, 1–6. (Estratto).

#02

Name of the collection	Ignazio Cerio Collection
Collector	Cerio, Ignazio (1840–1921)

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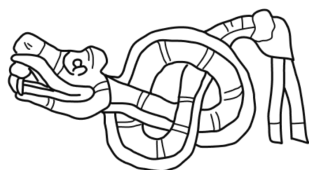
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<i>Cultural areas</i>	Eastern Woodlands; Southwest/Oasisamerica; Amazonia
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	New York (USA) New Jersey (USA) Massachusetts (USA) Tennessee (USA) Kentucky (USA) Arizona (USA) Brazil
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	The collection comprises 35 artefacts, including chipped- and ground-stone tools (arrowheads, axes, a pestle, a war axe), several terracotta vessels and shell ornaments, originating from various regions of the USA and, in the case of some ceramic vessels, from Brazil. Among the objects, a jug and a terracotta bowl from south-eastern Missouri, datable to the first millennium AD, are considered to be of particular value. There is also an ancient wooden “torch fragment” from Mammoth Cave (Kentucky).
<i>History of the collection</i>	The materials were acquired by the physician, excavator and collector Ignazio Cerio through his relationships with various US collectors. They were later donated by him to Giustiniano Nicolucci, director of the Museo di Antropologia from 1881 to 1904. Many of the artefacts are already listed in Nicolucci’s private catalogue in 1877,

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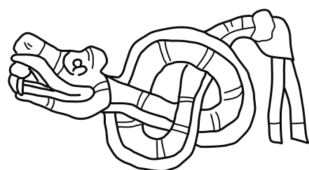
	many years before his appointment as director of the museum, which indicates a very long-standing relationship between the two physician-collectors.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	- Fedele, F. 1999. "Il Museo di Antropologia: origine, sviluppo e riscoperta." In I Musei Scientifici dell'Università di Napoli "Federico", ed. A. Fratta, 185-259. Napoli. - Morris, J. 1985. "Nicolucci e il Museo di Antropologia di Napoli: dalla fama all'oblio." In Giustiniano Nicolucci: alle origini dell'antropologia moderna, ed. F.G. Fedele, 106-21. Isola del Liri: Frosinone.

#03

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Latin American collection
<i>Collector</i>	Various
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica; Amazonia; Gran Chaco
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Mexico Honduras Brazil

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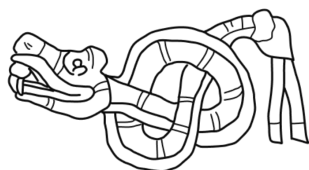
	Argentine Chaco
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Group of twelve artefacts, including both stone and ceramic objects.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The group of objects has diverse provenances.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	- Fedele, F. 1999. "Il Museo di Antropologia: origine, sviluppo e riscoperta." In I Musei Scientifici dell'Università di Napoli "Federico", ed. A. Fratta, 185–259. Napoli. - Morris, J. 1985. "Nicolucci e il Museo di Antropologia di Napoli: dalla fama all'oblio." In Giustiniano Nicolucci: alle origini dell'antropologia moderna, ed. F.G. Fedele, 106–21. Isola del Liri: Frosinone.

#04

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Mummified Bodies Collection. Mummy from Cobija (Chile). Enrico Hillyer Giglioli Collection.
<i>Collector</i>	Giglioli, Enrico Hillyer (1845–1909)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central and Southern Andes

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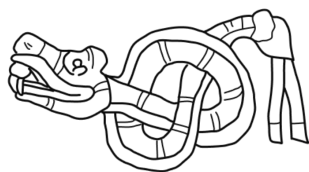
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<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Aymara or related groups
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Human mummy of an adult individual of uncertain sex, in a crouched position. The mummy appears to have undergone an artificial embalming process.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The mummy, discovered in August 1867 in a cemetery near Cobija, on what was then the Bolivian coast (today Chile), was acquired by Enrico Hillyer Giglioli, a lecturer at the University of Florence, during a scientific expedition on board the royal steam corvette Magenta (1865–1868). After its acquisition it was donated by Giglioli, between 1868 and 1877, to Paolo Panceri, director of the Museo di Anatomia Comparata of the Reale Università di Napoli. The mummy was later transferred to the Gabinetto di Antropologia. This transfer is not recorded in the historical archives but is known from contemporary publications.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	• Borrelli L., Capasso M.C. (ed.). 2019. Storia di Vita sulle Ande. Le mummie precolombiane del Museo

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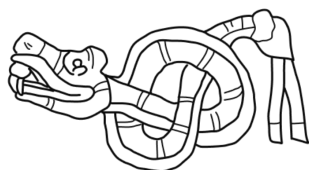
	di Antropologia raccontano. Napoli: Centro Musei delle Scienze Naturali e Fisiche. • De Blasio A. 1900. “Mummie e crani dell’antico Perù conservati in alcuni musei dell’Università di Napoli”. Rivista mensile di Psichiatria forense, Antropologia criminale e Scienze affini, anno III: 3-23. • Fedele, F. 1999. “Il Museo di Antropologia: origine, sviluppo e riscoperta.” In I Musei Scientifici dell’Università di Napoli “Federico”, ed. A. Fratta, 185–259. Napoli. • Giglioli E.H. .1875. Viaggio intorno al globo della R. Pirocorvetta italiana Magenta. Relazione descrittiva e scientifica. Milano: V. Maisner e Compagnia.
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#05

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Mummified Bodies Collection. Mummies and deformed skulls from Ulloma, Bolivia.
<i>Collector</i>	Di Tommasi, Emilio
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central and Southern Andes

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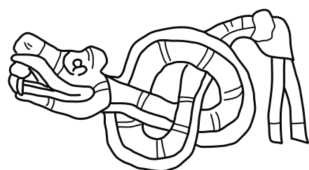
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<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Pacaxas (Aymara), Ulloma region, La Paz (Bolivia)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Two human mummies, one male and one female (25–30 years), in a crouched position, with deformed skulls. The male mummy is wrapped in a rope sack. Both show lesions in the abdominal region made for the purpose of evisceration and the insertion of plant fibres. The collection also includes four deformed skulls.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The mummies and skulls were discovered on 27 August 1897 in a burial near Ulloma, in the province of La Paz (Bolivia). The following year (3 May 1898), during the directorship of Giustiniano Nicolucci, the Museo di Antropologia purchased them from Emilio di Tommasi, the Italian consul in Bolivia.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	De Blasio A. 1900. “Mummie e crani dell’antico Perù conservati in alcuni musei dell’Università di Napoli”. Rivista mensile di Psichiatria forense, Antropologia criminale e Scienze affini, anno III: 3-23.

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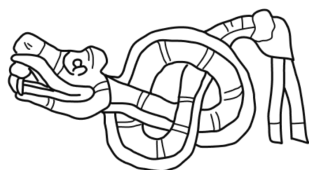
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#06

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Mummified Bodies Collection. Mummy from Cerro de Pasco (Peru)
<i>Collector</i>	Mines, Ettore
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central and Southern Andes
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Cerro de Pasco (Peru)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Mummy consisting of the remains of two different individuals, one of whom is a male individual aged 30–40 years, with a deformed skull and evidence of traumatic lesions suffered during life and in the perimortem phase. The mummy, in a crouched position, displays a lesion in the abdominal region made for the purpose of

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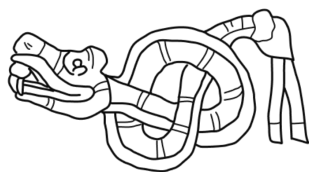
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	evisceration and the insertion of plant fibres, among which coca leaves were identified.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The mummy, discovered in 1884 in the Yanahuaca Cave (Cerro de Pasco, Peru), was originally acquired by Ettore Mines, consular agent at Cerro de Pasco. Donated to the Museo Nazionale di Napoli, the mummy was subsequently acquired by the Museo di Antropologia in 1886.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	• Borrelli L., Capasso M.C. (ed.). 2019. <i>Storia di Vita sulle Ande. Le mummie precolombiane del Museo di Antropologia raccontano</i>. Napoli: Centro Musei delle Scienze Naturali e Fisiche. • De Blasio A. 1900. "Mummie e crani dell'antico Perù conservati in alcuni musei dell'Università di Napoli". <i>Rivista mensile di Psichiatria forense, Antropologia criminale e Scienze affini</i>, anno III: 3-23. • Fedele, F. 1999. "Il Museo di Antropologia: origine, sviluppo e riscoperta." In <i>I Musei Scientifici dell'Università di Napoli "Federico"</i>, ed. A. Fratta, 185-259. Napoli. • Nicolucci G. 1886. "Sui crani peruviani della Collezione Chierchia conservati nel Gabinetto di Antropologia della R. Università". <i>Rendiconto</i>

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	<i>dell'Accademia delle Scienze fisiche e matematiche,</i> anno XXIV(6): 118-124.
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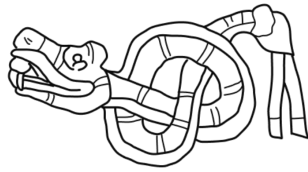
#07

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Deformed skulls. Chierchia Collection.
<i>Collector</i>	Chierchia, Gaetano (1850–1922)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central and Southern Andes
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Arica (Chile)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Four artificially deformed skulls.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The skulls were collected in a necropolis near Arica (then in Peruvian territory) by the naval lieutenant Gaetano Chierchia during the round-the-world voyage of the corvette Vettor Pisani (1882–1885). The skulls were then acquired, probably in 1886, by Professor Giustiniano Nicolucci, founder of the Museo di Antropologia.
<i>Online Database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	

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