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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:  
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS  
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

## Museo delle Civiltà

Piazza Guglielmo Marconi, 14, 00144 Roma (RM)

*Form compiled by* Valeria Bellomia, in collaboration with Camilla Fratini, Francesca Manuela Anzelmo (curators), and Davide Domenici

## Introduction

The Museo delle Civiltà (MUCIV), in its new configuration inaugurated in 2016, is an institute of the Ministry of Culture with special autonomy.

The collections are distributed across two sites:

- the Palazzo delle Scienze houses the prehistoric and protohistoric, palethnological and litho-mineralogical, early medieval, archaeological, ethnographic and art-historical collections, including those of extra-European and colonial origin;
- the Palazzo delle Arti e Tradizioni Popolari houses the collections of Italian folk arts and traditions.

MUCIV includes the collections of the Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico, founded by the archaeologist Luigi Pigorini in 1875 and inaugurated the following year in a wing of the Palazzo del Collegio Romano, which also housed the prehistoric and ethnographic holdings of the Museo Kircheriano, one of the most fascinating seventeenth-century *Wunderkammern* (“cabinets of curiosities”).

The Arts and Cultures of the Americas Collection of the Museo delle Civiltà derives from the former Museo Preistorico Etnografico and comprises about 20,000 artifacts, archaeological finds and ethnographic objects, belonging to different geographical and cultural contexts of North, Central and South America, spanning a broad chronological range from antiquity to the nineteenth century.

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The channels through which these objects reached Italy were diverse. Some arrived as a result of the “exotic” interests of private or scientific collecting in the sixteenth–seventeenth centuries; others were taken from places visited by Italian exploratory expeditions in the nineteenth century; still others are the result of donations and purchases of collections made by missionaries, travelers and collectors, or of exchanges with Italian and international cultural institutions.

The main collecting groups relating to Mesoamerica, Central America, the Caribbean and some of the cultural areas of North and South America are described below. The progressive revision of the collections database is ongoing, and this record will be continuously updated on the basis of new research. The tables relating to the groups missing here will be added as the ongoing inventory cross-check proceeds.

## Cultural Areas

Arctic; Subarctic; Northwest Coast; California; Plateau; Great Basin; Great Plains; Eastern Woodlands; Southeast; Southwest; Arid America; Mesoamerica; Central America; Caribbean; Northern Andes; Central and Southern Andes; Amazon; Central-Eastern and Coastal Brazil; Gran Chaco; Pampas; Austral America.

## Collections

### #01

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Medici Collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Cosimo de' Medici (1519–1574)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Mixtecs (Mexico)

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<p><i>Description of the collection</i></p>	<p>Wooden mask (15.8 × 17.3 × 5 cm; inv. 4213) whose front is covered with a mosaic of turquoise, <i>Spondylus sp.</i>, and mother-of-pearl. It dates to the early 16th century and depicts a human face with a stepped nose ornament emerging from the gaping jaws of a serpent. On the figure's forehead two fire serpents are coiled, whose heads and tails can be seen at the sides of the face. The surface of the mask is characterized by the presence of three-dimensional turquoise nodules projecting from the surface. Certain stylistic features and the close resemblance to a wooden mask found in the cave of Santa Ana Teloxtoc (Puebla, Mexico) suggest that it is a Mixtec production. It may represent the goddess 9 Canna.</p>
<p><i>History of the collection</i></p>	<p>The mask's early collecting history is unknown, but it may have reached Florence between 1532 and 1556 following the gift of a Dominican missionary from Mexico. In the inventories of the Guardaroba medicea, a wooden mask covered with a turquoise mosaic is recorded as early as 1553 (ASF, Guardaroba Medicea, vol. 38, c. 42r; ASF Guardaroba, vol. 30 Inventario generale, c. 19s; GM 31, c. 13s; GM 36, c. 20s). In 1556 two more were added, delivered to the Guardaroba by Cosimo I and by Eleonora de Toledo (ASF Guardaroba, vol. 30, c. 19s; ASFi, GM 34, c. 37r; GM 35, c. 21v); the one delivered by Cosimo is described as having a gold ring in its mouth, mother-of-pearl eyes, "ivory" (Strombus) teeth, and a rosette of six turquoises with a garnet in the center, in a</p>

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	<p>black leather container. The two masks were recorded in later inventories (1560, 1564, 1640; GM 73, c. 19s, GM 75, c. 11s). In 1565 the one without the gold ring (long erroneously identified with a mask in the Bolognese collection of Ulisse Aldrovandi) was delivered to Anton Francesco Tofani, keeper of the Armeria (GM). The other, recorded in further Guardaroba inventories (1665, 1744–1767), was moved in 1770 to the Tesoro and in 1770 to the Museo di Fisica e Storia Naturale. On 3 October 1823 it was delivered to the Opificio delle Pietre Dure. Rediscovered in 1850 by Luigi Pigorini, it was transferred to the then Regio Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico di Roma (today Museo delle Civiltà) in 1873.</p>
Online database	
Web page	<a href="https://www.museodellecivilta.it/en/oggetti/american-art-s-and-cultures/mask-probably-representing-the-deity-canna/">https://www.museodellecivilta.it/en/oggetti/american-art-s-and-cultures/mask-probably-representing-the-deity-canna/</a>
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conticelli, V., D. Domenici. 2023. “51. Maschera di divinità.” In <i>Eleonora di Toledo e l’invenzione della corte dei Medici a Firenze</i>, ed. B. Edelstein, V. Conticelli, 278-279. Firenze-Livorno: Ministero della Cultura-Gallerie degli Uffizi, Sillabe.</li><li>• Domenici, D. 2020. “Mesoamerican Mosaics in Early European collections. Style, Provenance and Provenience.” <i>Estudios de Cultura Náhuatl</i> 59: 8-65.</li><li>• Edelstein, B. 2023. “L’invenzione della corte dei Medici. Eleonora di Toledo: duchessa, reggente,</li></ul>

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## #02

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Aldrovandi Collection–Istituto delle Scienze di Bologna</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Aldrovandi, Ulisse (1522–1605)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica; Amazon
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Nahua
<i>Description of the collection</i>	Three objects derive from the Museo Aldrovandi in Bologna: a Nahua mosaic mask, an engraved and gilded Mixtec spear-thrower, and an Amazonian axe. The wooden mask (24 × 15 cm; inv. 4214) has its front surface covered with a mosaic of turquoise, malachite,

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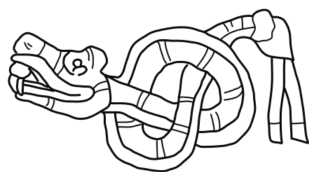
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lignite, *Spondylus* sp., *Strombus* sp. and mother-of-pearl (*Pinctada mazatlanica*). The mask dates to the early 16th century. The lower part of the object consists of a separate wooden element, connected to the main body by means of a wooden peg revealed by tomographic investigations. The large hanging lip is painted red with cinnabar. Produced in the eastern Nahua area of the Puebla Valley, the mask depicts Yacatecuhtli, “Lord of the Nose”, the patron of merchants. On the cheeks of the deity there are remnants of an iconographic composition now almost illegible, as well as codified signs such as “starry eyes”, which mark dark and nocturnal entities, or circular “rosettes” that qualify the object as precious. Later interventions on the mask, when it was already in Italy, are attested by the presence of glass and brass tesserae, as well as by the use of lead white to paint the teeth.

The wooden spear-thrower (atlatl) (56 × 3.5 cm; inv. 4212), also dating to the early 16th century, has refined and complex engravings on both sides, with rows of figures whose style recalls Mixtec iconography. About two thirds of the spear-thrower’s surface is covered with fine gilding. The extremely refined and precious character of the object suggests that it was intended for a purely ritual use.

The Amazonian axe consists of a wooden handle and a finely polished granitoid diorite blade (58 cm; blade 18.5 × 9 cm; inv. 4210). The lower part of the handle has a hole that must originally have held a cord. The handle must

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	originally have been wrapped with a plant-fiber cord, which perhaps supported a feather ornament.
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>In all likelihood, the mask was brought to Bologna on 3 March 1533 by the Dominican missionary Domingo de Betanzos, who came to the city to meet Pope Clement VII. Remaining in the city, the mask ended up in the second half of the century in the collection of Antonio Giganti, who from at least 1588 also owned the Amazonian axe, whose earlier collecting history is unknown. The two objects then came (ca. 1597–98) into the possession of Ulisse Aldrovandi, who had woodcuts made of them (drawings by Cornelius Schwindt; engravings by Christoph Lederlein), later published in the posthumous edition of the <i>Musaeum metallicum</i> (1648). After Aldrovandi's death, the mask and the axe followed the movements of the collection, donated to the city and exhibited in the palazzo pubblico between 1617 and 1742.</p> <p>It was between 1665 and 1667 that the Bolognese nobleman Valerio Zani—who was also responsible for the donation of the Codice Cospi to Ferdinando Cospi—donated the gilded spear-thrower to the Museo Aldrovandi; the object's earlier collecting history is unknown.</p> <p>In 1742 the entire Museo Aldrovandi was transferred to the Istituto delle Scienze di Bologna. In 1878, Luigi Pigorini obtained the mask, the spear-thrower and the axe in exchange and transferred them to the then Regio</p>

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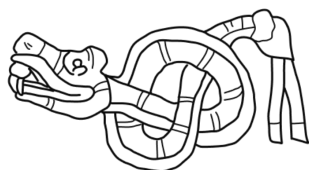


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	Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico di Roma, today Museo delle Civiltà.
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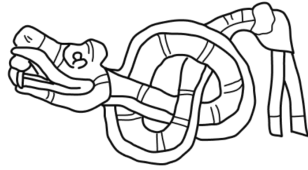
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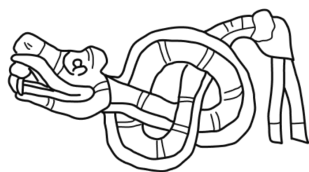
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#03

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Cospi Collection - Istituto delle Scienze di Bologna</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Cospi, Ferdinando (1606–1686)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica; Caribbean
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Nahua (Mexico) Taíno (Dominican Republic–Haiti)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	<p>The Indigenous American artifacts deriving from the Bolognese collection of Ferdinando Cospi are two Nahua knife handles and a composite object of Taíno manufacture, known as a cemí.</p> <p>The two wooden knife handles, one anthropomorphic (inv. 4216) and the other zoomorphic (inv. 4215), probably come from the eastern Nahua regions of the Puebla Valley and date to the early 16th century. They depict crouching beings—one a man and the other an unidentified fantastic being that might be a fire serpent—with the face turned toward the blade (now missing). The surfaces of the handles are covered with mosaics of turquoise, malachite, lignite, <i>Spondylus</i> sp., <i>Strombus</i> sp., mother-of-pearl (<i>Pinctada mazatlanica</i>) and gold. The cavities meant to hold a flint or obsidian blade were filled, at least from the 17th century, with an unidentified substance. Tomographic investigations have recently revealed that the cavities are too small to support a blade firmly; this suggests that the two handles</p>

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	<p>belonged to non-functional objects, used as part of divine insignia.</p> <p>The so-called <i>cemí</i> (inv. 4190), probably produced in Hispaniola (Santo Domingo–Haiti) between 1492 and 1524, is in fact a composite object, consisting of an anthropo-zoomorphic upper part resting on a belt that forms the lower part of the artifact. The upper part depicts a two-faced being, with a human face and a bat face. The surface of the artifact is covered with shell and glass beads, the latter of European manufacture. The anthropomorphic face is carved in rhinoceros horn and the ear ornaments of both beings are made of European mirrors; the object also has remains of feathers and hair. The interior of the sculpture consists of a wooden support of European origin.</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The two knife handles were probably brought to Bologna by the Dominican Domingo de Betanzos on 3 March 1533. Having remained in the city, they must have circulated among local collections until they entered the collection of Ferdinando Cospi before 1667, when they were recorded, as “sphinxes”, by Lorenzo Legati in the <i>Breve descrizione del museo di F. Cospi</i>. Ten years later they were illustrated and described at length as sphinxes by Silvestro Bonfiglioli, who expanded Lorenzo Legati’s <i>Museo Cospiano</i> (1677) after the latter’s death. The <i>cemí</i> was instead recorded only in the anonymous <i>Inventario semplice del museo</i>, drawn up in 1680. It is not known how</p>

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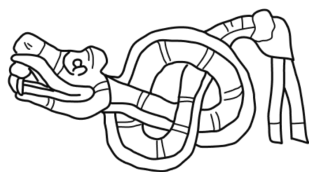
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	<p>the object came into the possession of Ferdinando Cospi between 1677 and 1680.</p> <p>Ferdinando Cospi had initially assembled part of the collection in his house on via San Vitale, but in 1657 he transferred it to the Palazzo Pubblico, in a room adjacent to that of the Museo Aldrovandi. In 1672 the collection was formally donated to the Bolognese Senate. Between 1742 and 1743 much of the Cospi collection was transferred to the istituto dell'Accademia delle Scienze. In 1878, Luigi Pigorini obtained the two knife handles and the cemí in exchange and transferred them to the then Regio Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico di Roma, today Museo delle Civiltà.</p>
Online database	
Web page	<p><a href="https://www.museodellecivilta.it/oggetti/arti-e-culture-ameriane/impugnatura-in-mosaico-coltello-safrificale/">https://www.museodellecivilta.it/oggetti/arti-e-culture-ameriane/impugnatura-in-mosaico-coltello-safrificale/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.museodellecivilta.it/oggetti/arti-e-culture-ameriane/impugnatura-in-mosaico-di-coltello-sacrificale/">https://www.museodellecivilta.it/oggetti/arti-e-culture-ameriane/impugnatura-in-mosaico-di-coltello-sacrificale/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.museodellecivilta.it/en/oggetti/american-art-s-and-cultures/cemi-or-zemi-image-of-divinity/">https://www.museodellecivilta.it/en/oggetti/american-art-s-and-cultures/cemi-or-zemi-image-of-divinity/</a></p>
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Anonimo. 1680. <i>Inventario semplice di tutte le materie esattamente descritte che si trovano nel museo Cospiano: non solo le notate nel libro già stampato e composto dal sig. Lorenzo Legati, ma ancora le</i></li></ul>

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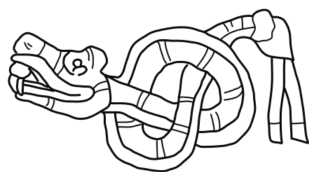
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## #04

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Chigi Collection - Istituto delle Scienze di Bologna</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Córdova, Juan de (1503–1595) Chigi, Flavio (1631–1693) Benedict XIV (Prospero Lambertini) (1675–1758)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Mixtecs (Mexico)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	Left femur of an adult male individual (39 cm; inv. 4209), in which nineteen parallel incisions were made, four of which reach the medullary cavity, in order to create a scraping musical instrument (rasp), known in Nahuatl as <i>omichicahuaztli</i> , to be played by rubbing the femur’s surface with the associated <i>Oliva</i> sp. shell (7 cm). From at least the end of the 17th century until the second half of the 20th century, the shell was tied to the femur with a

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	metal chain, now lost. The head of the femur was originally covered with mosaic, of which the layer of pine resin used as adhesive and some tesserae in <i>Spondylus crassisquama</i> and obsidian remain.
<i>History of the collection</i>	As described in the <i>Descrittione dell'India occidentale</i> , the femur/musical instrument was brought to Italy, in all likelihood to Rome, around 1564–1570 by a priest from Mexico, tentatively identified with the Dominican Juan de Córdova. The text clarifies that together with the femur the mosaic-decorated skull of the same individual was also brought, captured in battle and sacrificed by the Mixtec ruler of Tututepec (Oaxaca, Mexico). The skull, which probably served as the resonance box of the musical instrument and is now lost, was seen in 1577 by Ulisse Aldrovandi in the Roman collection of Tommaso de' Cavalieri. Aldrovandi himself noted that it belonged to the Mixtec king of Tlaxiaco, defeated in battle in 1350 CE. By unknown routes, the femur instead ended up in the collection of Cardinal Flavio Chigi, who displayed it in his <i>Museo delle curiosità naturali, peregrine e antiche</i> , where it was recorded in inventories drafted starting from 1692. In 1745 Prince Augusto Chigi donated it, together with other artifacts from his ancestor's collection, to Pope Benedict XIV, the Bolognese Prospero Lambertini, who in the same year sent it to the Istituto delle Scienze di Bologna. In 1875 Luigi Pigorini obtained it in exchange together with other materials from the Istituto and transferred it to the then Regio Museo

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Web page	
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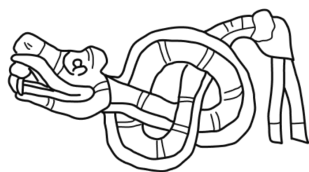
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## #05

Collection name	<b>Tarassi Collection</b>
Collector	Tarassi, Alberto (Florence) Callegari, Guido Valeriano (1876–1954)
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Mixtecs (Mexico)
Description of the collection	Wooden spear-thrower (57 × 3.7 cm; inv. 4212/bis), engraved and gilded, with shell rings tied at the lower part. It is one of the most refined Mixtec spear-throwers, and one of the few that still preserve the shell rings into which the index and middle fingers were inserted to grip the instrument and throw the dart. The engraving on both sides shows rows of figures referable to Mixtec iconography. The extremely refined and precious character of the object suggests that it was intended for a purely ritual use. The engraving of this object is almost identical to that found on a similar spear-thrower now in the Museo di Antropologia dell'Università di Firenze. Also for this reason (and because of a misunderstanding

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	regarding the content of an article by Guido Valeriano Callegari), the object was erroneously considered a fake in a recent volume by Kelker and Bruhns (2010: 205–207).
<i>History of the collection</i>	n 1932, at the 25th International Congress of Americanists held in La Plata (Argentina), Guido Valeriano Callegari reported the purchase of this object, which he said was found in the Roman house of a person who had received it from an elderly priest from Mexico. In the same year the artifact entered the collections of the then Regio Museo Preistorico Etnografico di Roma, today Museo delle Civiltà. According to the museum's archival documentation, the “spear-thrower” was purchased from Mr Alberto Tarassi on 31 July 1932, at the cost of 250 lire.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	<a href="https://www.museodellecivilta.it/en/oggetti/american-art-s-and-cultures/spear-throwers-atlatl/">https://www.museodellecivilta.it/en/oggetti/american-art-s-and-cultures/spear-throwers-atlatl/</a>
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	<p>the New World on the Old, ed. F. Chiappelli, 473. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelker, N.L., K.O. Bruhns. 2010. <i>Faking Ancient Mesoamerica</i>. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press.</li> <li>• Laura Laurencich Minelli. 1992. "159. Propulsore." In <i>Due "mondi" a confronto. I segni della storia</i>, ed. A. Rigoli, 304-305. Genova: Edizioni Colombo.</li> <li>• Vila Llonch, E. 2009. "Spear-Thrower." In <i>Moctezuma. Aztec Ruler</i>, ed. C. McEwan, L. López Luján, 204. London: The British Museum Press.</li> </ul>
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## #06

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Benedict XIV Collection - Istituto delle Scienze di Bologna</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Benedict XIV (Prospero Lambertini) (1675–1758) Brentano, Carlos
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Amazon
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	<p>Various groups settled in the Amazonian territories of Peru, Ecuador and Brazil, especially in the Napo and Marañón basins:</p> <p>Aunala Omagua Icaguates Shuar Urarina</p>

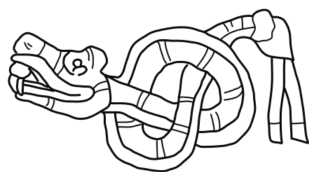
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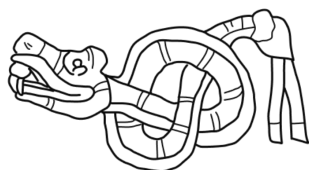
<i>Description of the collection</i>	Hammock (inv. 3240); hammock (inv. 3238); tunic (inv. 3317); loincloth (inv. 3334, 3335); loincloth (inv. 3341); cord (inv. 3349); cotton cloth (inv. 3352); baskets (inv. 3357, 3358); baskets with lids (inv. 3361, 3362); crown with dorsal pendant (inv. 3367).
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The collection was donated in 1750 to Pope Benedict XIV (the Bolognese Prospero Lambertini) by the Jesuit Carlos Brentano, who arrived in Rome from the Reino de Quito in order to attend the General Congregation of the Society of Jesus.</p> <p>As recorded by Giuseppe Gaetano Bolletti in <i>Dell'origine e dei progressi dell'Istituto delle Scienze di Bologna</i> (1751), Benedict XIV donated the objects to the Istituto delle Scienze di Bologna in 1751. After the donation, the Amazonian collection, one of the oldest of its kind in Italy and Europe, followed the history of the Istituto's collection up to the present. In 1878, on the initiative of Luigi Pigorini, part of the objects in the collection were transferred to the Regio Museo Preistorico Etnografico di Roma, today Museo delle Civiltà. The rest of the collection is today preserved at the Museo Civico Medievale di Bologna.</p>
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AA.VV. 1992. Schede di catalogo 70, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 88. In <i>Bologna e il Mondo Nuovo</i>, ed.</li></ul>

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#07

Collection name	<b>Bologna University Collections</b>
Collector	Unknown
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Nahua (Mexico)?
Description of the collection	Bifacial flint blade (39 × 9 cm), dating to the early 16th century.

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<i>History of the collection</i>	The blade (inv. 4211) was recorded in the Bologna university collections on 31 May 1878, when it was transferred from them to the then Regio Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico di Roma, today Museo delle Civiltà. The object's earlier collecting history is unknown.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laurencich Minelli, L. 1992. "9. Lama in selce." In <i>Bologna e il Mondo Nuovo</i>, 120. Bologna: Grafis.</li> </ul>

## #08

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Plancarte Collections</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Archbishop Francisco Plancarte y Navarrete (1856–1920)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Western Mexico (Michoacan); Otomí (Hidalgo)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	The first nucleus includes the objects inventoried with nos. 33186 and 87: obsidian javelin points with barbs and a broad tang, found in a tumulus or mound (yácata in the local language), in the Zamora Valley (Michoacan).

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	A second nucleus consists of a series of “small vessels” (inv. no. 82577–82586), small ceramic containers, of which the first five are from Huichapan (Hidalgo) and the other five from Toloapan (Morelos), attributed by the bishop to the Otomí.
<i>History of the collection</i>	Monsignor Plancarte maintained for years a direct epistolary relationship with Luigi Pigorini, repeatedly showing himself willing to contribute to enriching the Mesoamerican collections of the Museo Etnografico by sending multiple lots of objects, between 1886 and 1911. The first group of objects was donated by Monsignor Plancarte on 14 November 1886. The second nucleus containing the small Otomí vessels arrived at the museum from Cuernavaca in May 1911.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

## #09

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Campari Collections</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Davide Campari (1867–1936)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central America
<i>Ethnic group /</i>	Nicaragua

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<i>community / cultural sphere</i>	
<i>Description of the collection</i>	The donation consists of 495 objects, among which the following stand out: frog-shaped vessel 97884; metate with pestle 97322 and 97317; <i>vaso patojo</i> 97327 (slipper?); <i>tecomate</i> 97603; painted bowl 97871; tamales plate 97384; miniature 97486; miniature 97506; painted bowl 97868; <i>pintadera</i> 97494; paper beater 97315; small terracotta head 97481; terracotta figurine 97560; tripod vessel 97875; tripod vessel 97873; vessel with jaguar 97326; metate in volcanic rock 97332; vessel 97815; colonial pipe 97485.
<i>History of the collection</i>	This group of archaeological finds, almost exclusively from Nicaragua, was donated to the museum by Commendatore Davide Campari, Knight of the Royal Order of the Crown of Italy, who arrived in Nicaragua in 1896 and was Italy's consul in Managua (Nicaragua) from 1907. The collecting most probably took place during Consul Campari's stay in Nicaragua, between the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, and was then inventoried in the museum around the 1940s.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	<a href="https://www.museodellecivilta.it/oggetti/arti-e-culture-ameriane/97572/">https://www.museodellecivilta.it/oggetti/arti-e-culture-ameriane/97572/</a> (At this link, you can see an example from the Campari collection)
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#10

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Deletaille Collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Emile Deletaille (1929–2021)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Western Mexico (Colima); Maya (Jaina)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	<p>The composition of the Deletaille nucleus is described below; it includes 12 objects purchased on three different occasions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 105730: plate with Pahuatun; 105731: terracotta vessel; 105732: female statue, purchased in 1968;</li> <li>• 105760: olla with seated human figure; 105761: Maya beaker; 105762: Colima ceramic mask; 105763: zoomorphic pestle; 105764: Tarascan tripod vessel with slits and rattles; 105765: ceramic figure from Chupicuaro; 105766: Maya vessel with glyphs; purchased between 1970 and 1971;</li> <li>• 105797: Maya figurine from Jaina</li> <li>• 105798: Maya priest figure, purchased in 1971.</li> </ul>
<i>History of the collection</i>	Emile Deletaille founded an art gallery in Brussels in 1964. His relations with the museum began a few years later and took the form of a series of purchase contracts for lots of objects mainly from Mesoamerica, which the gallerist had collected during his travels around the

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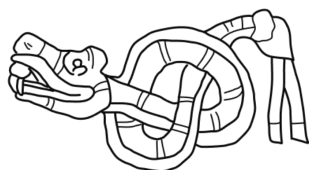
	world in the 1960s. The objects were inventoried in the museum between 1968 and 1970.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

## #11

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Lupi Collections</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Loriano Lupi
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica; Brazil
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Central Mexico, Teotihuacan, Maya, Totonac, Western Mexico, Brazil
<i>Description of the collection</i>	<p>The first purchased lot contained 7 objects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 105806;</li> <li>• Maya vessel with jaguar and water lily 105807;</li> <li>• ceramic house model 105808;</li> <li>• ceramic group with a Sacrifice Scene depicting a warrior and a prisoner 105809;</li> <li>• ceramic vessel 105810</li> <li>• ceramic vessel 105811</li> <li>• ceramic figure of a bearer (from Teotihuacan) 105812.</li> </ul>

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	<p>The second purchased group included the following 8 finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• small Marajao-style vessel (Brazil) 105781</li> <li>terracotta figure of Xipe Totec (Totonac?) 105782;</li> <li>large ceramic figure from Colima 105783</li> <li>Maya vessel with double bottom and rattle 105784;</li> <li>terracotta bowl 105785;</li> <li>zoomorphic vessel from Colima 105786</li> <li>“scusa” ceramic cup from Jalisco 105787;</li> <li>male ceramic figurine from Colima 105788</li> </ul> <p>The third lot instead included 18 objects (from 105733 to 105750), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• warrior figure 105748;</li> <li>flint eccentric 105750.</li> </ul>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>Mr Lorianò Lupi, who until the 1960s ran a business or antiques gallery “Antichità”, located at via dei Fossi 36 in Florence, sold the museum a series of lots of pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican archaeological finds between 1968 and 1971. The circumstances in which Mr Lupi had collected these objects are unknown. The sale to the museum took place on three different occasions and the objects were all inventoried consecutively, but without following the order of arrival.</p>
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

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#12

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Stendahl Collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Earl Leopold Stendahl (1888–1966)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Western Mexico, Gulf Coast, Maya (Yucatán)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	This is a lot of 6 archaeological finds (inv. nos. 103565 to 103570), consisting of anthropomorphic terracottas from Nayarit, a ceramic dog sculpture from Colima, ceramics from the Gulf Coast, and a Yucatec Maya human figure with blue paint (inv. 103569).
<i>History of the collection</i>	These objects were acquired by the Museum through an exchange with the American collector and art dealer Earl Leopold Stendahl, by means of a purchase authorized by ministerial letter of 15 July 1959.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	A.A. 1960. <i>Arte precolombiana del Messico e dell’America Centrale</i> , Catalogo Mostra. Roma: Tip. Ars Nova.

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#13

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Frank De Bellis Pre-Columbian Art Collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Frank De Bellis (1898–1968)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica; Central America
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Western Mexico, Toluca, Gulf Coast
<i>Description of the collection</i>	The collection groups 35 archaeological objects (inv. nos. 103529 to 103564) from the Mesoamerican area, more precisely from the West (Colima, Nayarit), from the State of Mexico (Toluca) and from the Gulf Coast (Totonac culture); some objects instead come from Costa Rica.
<i>History of the collection</i>	In 1958, the Italo-American collector Frank V. De Bellis donated part of his rich collection of pre-Columbian art to San Francisco State College. A few years later, the U.S. university obtained from the Italian government Italian archaeological objects (mainly terracotta figurines) displayed in an exhibition inaugurated in March 1960. In exchange, Italy obtained this lot of objects, which immediately entered the Americas collections of the Museo Preistorico Etnografico. The arrival of these finds at the museum is documented in the archives as the result of an exchange with the university of San Francisco authorized by ministerial letters from 1 August 1958 to 10 March 1960. All the objects were inventoried on 6 July 1960.

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## #14

Collection name	<b>Callegari Collection</b>
Collector	Guido Valeriano Callegari (1876–1954)
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Central Mexico (Teotihuacan); Zapotecs (Oaxaca)
Description of the collection	The collection consists of about twenty objects inventoried with numbers from 101995 to 102016, described in archival documents as follows: No. 10 arrowheads and other obsidian objects from pre-Columbian Mexico; No. 1 hard-stone axe of Zapotec manufacture; Two other axes (one fragmented) of Zapotec manufacture (Southern Mexico); No. 5 terracottas from Teotihuacan (Central Mexico); votive heads and a rim of a “necromantic” vessel.
History of the collection	The museum’s historical archive preserves a letter that Renato Bocassino, then Director of the Museum, sent to

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	Callegari on 12 January 1939 to thank him for the donation of this lot of archaeological finds from Mexico.
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#15

Collection name	<b>Biagi Collection</b>
Collector	G. Biagi
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Texcoco; Teotihuacan; Unknown
Description of the collection	<p>The lot consists of a total of 100 objects, described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an Aztec granite sculpture depicting a serpent (inv. 3848; measurements: C100 × D35 × H12);</li> <li>• 85 objects collected at Teotihuacan in 1875: (68 anthropomorphic ceramic heads; 8 zoomorphic heads; 2 double terracotta little vessels, supports used for the “tinte de’ geroglifici” (inv. 3770 and 4070); 6 pieces of obsidian (inv. 3756–61); 1 obsidian blade (inv. 3762);</li> <li>• 14 finds of unknown provenance: 2 green-stone idols; 2 necklaces, each of 40 perforated stones</li> </ul>

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	(inv. 3849–50); 1 obsidian labret (inv. 3763); 6 “various worked stones” (inv. 3753–55; 3765–67); 1 stone spindle whorl (inv. 3764); 2 terracotta bowls (inv. 3768–69).
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The collection was gathered and donated to the Museum by Mr G. Biagi, a Florentine employee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and stationed in Mexico in the second half of the 19th century. As emerges from archival documents, during a visit to the Museum in the winter of 1878, Biagi himself had promised Luigi Pigorini the donation of a lot of Mexican antiquities (about one hundred finds) with which to render “a useful service to science”. With these words, Pigorini urged him to send the materials as soon as possible. On 9 July 1878, the crate containing the lot, weighing 34 kg, and a document listing all the objects, left Florence for Rome, where Pigorini confirmed receipt three days later, and then wrote to the Minister of Public Instruction De Sanctis to inform him proudly of the acquisition: “Mr G. Biagi, residing in Florence (Via di Tornabuoni, 10, 2nd floor) has gifted this institute a valuable collection of Mexican antiquities, some of which are very considerable, both for their rarity and for their scientific importance. In informing Your Excellency of this, I earnestly ask you to be pleased to have conveyed to the said gentleman a word of thanks, which he has truly deserved.”</p>
<i>Online database</i>	

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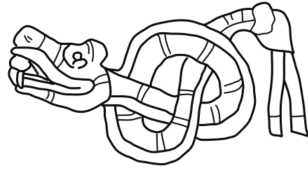
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## #16

Collection name	<b>Bruni Collections (Mesoamerica)</b>
Collector	Luigi Bruni
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Central Mexico, Western Mexico, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Teotihuacan
Description of the collection	<p>The objects that make up this nucleus are only a part of those that Bruni sold to Pigorini, namely those relating to the Mesoamerican area, described as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• inv. 32583–86: obsidian arrowheads with barbs and tang. Length varies from 0.028 to 0.054 m. Mexico, locality unknown.</li><li>• 32587: human terracotta figure surmounted by a bird's head. H. 0.065. Mexico.</li><li>• 32588–89: human terracotta figures.</li><li>• 32590: terracotta whistle in the form of a crocodile, L. 0.26. Mexico, locality unknown.</li><li>• 32591: terracotta whistle in the form of a crocodile with a human face in the middle, L. 0.17, same locality, restored.</li></ul>

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- 32592: whistle in the form of a human terracotta figure. L. 0.21, same locality.
- 32593: terracotta crocodile, L. 0.26, Mexico. Found in the excavations of Santa Maria in Mexico City.
- 32594–96: terracotta masks; the first and second are H. 0.135, max W. 0.13. The 3rd is H. 0.15 and W. 0.148.
- 32597: hemispherical terracotta cup used by the Aztecs to drink pulque: H. 0.062, mouth diameter 0.13. Found near Puebla. Restored.
- 32598–600: 3 human terracotta figures, found at Santa Anita in Mexico. Restored.
- 32601–602: human terracotta figures painted black. From Querétaro. Restored.
- 32603–604: human terracotta figures. Found in Oaxaca. Restored.
- 32605: seated human terracotta figure. Found in the cave of the Castillo de Chapultepec. Restored.
- 32606: human terracotta figure, Orizaba, state of Veracruz. Part of the head missing.
- 32607: human terracotta figure, found in a tomb on Cerro de las Campanas (Querétaro), restored.
- 32608–609: human terracotta figure found near Guadalajara (Jalisco), restored.
- 32610: terracotta pipe decorated with a human face in relief at the top (San Juan di Teotihuacan).
- 32611: obsidian arrowhead with tang and barbs. Mexico, locality unknown; left on 6 Dec 1892.
- 32612–13: human figures carved in stone.

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- 32614: stone idol painted red with movable head, found near Guanajuato. Provenance: still Bruni but donated on 23 February 1886.
- 32615: obsidian arrowhead with tang and barbs. Mexico, locality unknown. Provenance: still Bruni again 1 June 1895.
- 32616: human figure carved in stone in a sitting posture from Texcoco.
- 32617: human bust carved in stone. Provenance: San Juan de Jijipilco.
- 32618: human head carved in stone with a serpent around it. Mexico, Tusepa (?)
- 32619: plaster copy of the Aztec calendar from the tower of the Cathedral of Mexico.
- 32620: clay vessel with almost spherical body, outward-turned lip and 4 feet. Decorated with geometric incisions and high-reliefs in the form of human heads. Found in the surroundings of Córdoba.
- 32621: clay vessel with body decorated with geometric incisions, with tall cylindrical neck and with three feet in the form of human figures. Found in a cave near Tlaxcala.
- 32622: obsidian core. Mexico, locality unknown.
- 32623: obsidian knife. Mexico, same locality.
- 32624: human figure carved in stone. Mexico, same locality.
- 32625: human figure carved in stone in a sitting posture.

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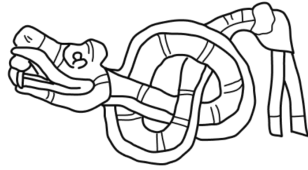
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- 32626: human figure carved in stone.
- 32627–28: human terracotta figures, Mexico, Osumba (Otumba?)
- 32629–30: human terracotta figures from Chilpancingo (State of Guerrero).
- inv. 32631–32: stone beads for making ornaments (Mexico, locality unknown).

A second group of objects is identified by inventory numbers 41397 to 41726, almost exclusively from Western Mexico (states of Michoacán and Guanajuato). These are mainly ceramic materials—statuettes, plates, vessels and bottles—and human figurines (priestesses), two coa (planting stick), spindle whorls. Inv. no. 41684 mentions a stone disk “found on the chest of a corpse as if it had been suspended from the neck” (a pectoral?), from Michoacán.

A third nucleus from 64160 to 64202 includes “small axes from Michoacán” and obsidian points, blades, axes, and various types of ceramic spindle whorls, all from the “Valley of Mexico”.

Inventory numbers 83050–83052 correspond to three flint arrowheads found in a “tomb in Guatemala”, forming another small nucleus of objects purchased from L. Bruni.

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	<p>A further nucleus from Bruni, inventoried under nos. 84121 to 84123, includes: a stone cylinder perforated internally “like a mace head”, externally striated obliquely, 4 cm high, found at Cuernavaca; a reddish-clay figurine with hands placed on the belly, 7 cm; a small head belonging to a reddish-clay figurine, 7.5 cm.</p> <p>The last group of objects is composed of 4 ceramic heads or fragments, a tuzcatl (4 perforated hard-stone beads), corresponding to inv. nos. 86073 to 86077.</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The first lot of objects was sold to the Museum by Cavaliere Luigi Bruni on 1 June 1885, and then inventoried all together in June 1886. The collection presumably formed during Cav. Bruni’s explorations in various localities in Mexico; he is also known as one of the leading authors of late 19th-century travel literature. The second group of objects was sold by Bruni in two rounds, on 1 December 1888 and 23 January 1890; all was inventoried in February 1890.</p> <p>The third nucleus was purchased from Cav. Luigi Bruni on 26 July 1900 and inventoried in November 1900.</p> <p>The fourth group of objects was purchased and inventoried in 1911.</p> <p>The fifth was inventoried in March 1913.</p> <p>The sixth on 11 June 1919.</p>
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	

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<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruni, L. 1890. <i>Attraverso il Messico, Miei viaggi e mie avventure</i>. Milano: Tipografia degli Operai.</li> </ul>
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#17

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Bruni Collections (Northern Mexico and North America)</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Luigi Bruni
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Arid America
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Northern Mexico (Apaches, Kickapoo)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	<p>A first group of objects identified by inventory numbers from 36924 to 36981 consists of 58 elements, including: weapons (stone bolas and arrows), clothing and accessories (leather trousers and boots, quivers and leather bags). Two silver-sheet bracelets (36952–36953) decorated along the edges with engravings, attributed to the Kickapoo, are specifically mentioned.</p> <p>From 37665 to 37903 another block of objects sold by Bruni was numbered, consisting largely of archaeological lithics from North America between Camargo and Piedras Negras, along the Rio Grande del Norte.</p> <p>A third nucleus includes the objects numbered from 57113 to 57181 and from 57321 to 57327, specifically: masks, human figures and ceramic heads, flint</p>

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	<p>arrowheads, clothing and whistles of Kickapoo provenance, whom Bruni describes as “semi-civilized Indians living on the northern frontier of Mexico”.</p> <p>A further lot includes a series of arrowheads from North America – Rio Grande del Norte (inv. 64132–64159).</p> <p>Under no. 80345, seven arrows made from shark scales, produced by pre-Hispanic populations of the Rio Grande, are inventoried as a group.</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The objects that make up the lots described above were acquired by the museum on different dates: 18 May 1886; 23 February 1887; 16 May 1887; 29 September 1888; 25 February 1891; 19 March 1894; 26 July 1900; January 1910. The inventorying does not follow the chronological order of acquisition.</p>
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruni, L. 1890. <i>Attraverso il Messico, Miei viaggi e mie avventure</i>. Milano: Tipografia degli Operai.</li> </ul>

## #18

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Pozzi Collections</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Father Luigi Pozzi
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica; Amazon
<i>Ethnic group /</i>	Belize (Corozal; Standing Creek); Shuar (Jivaro); Ticuna,

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<i>community / cultural sphere</i>	Cotos and other groups of the Peruvian, Ecuadorian and Colombian Amazon;
<i>Description of the collection</i>	<p>This rich and composite nucleus can be divided into different groups, depending on provenance and date of acquisition. The objects are accompanied by archival documents handwritten by Pozzi himself, containing very long and extremely detailed lists of weapons, tools, ornaments, women's and men's clothing, with meticulous descriptions of the raw materials used (plant and animal) and of manufacturing techniques, fabrics, textiles, tools, hunting and war weapons, trophies, and a strong interest in raw materials. It is plausible that the Jesuit missionary was an eyewitness to the making of many of these things. The nucleus of Mesoamerican objects from Belize is identified by inventory numbers from 33159 to 33185 and then from 33232 to 33256. The first group consists of lithics and fragments of archaeological ceramics; the second includes a series of ethnographic objects, among which the following stand out: a carrying basket formed by a wooden frame and woven plant strips (inv. 33232); it is used by women to bring home firewood and any produce from the fields (yuca, banana).</p> <p>The objects from 3261 up to 3308 form a compact nucleus of Shuar and Cotos artifacts (Ecuador). As an example, a tree-bark mat used as a bed by the Cotos is mentioned. The objects numbered 25542–25705 are all ethnographic materials but of differing provenance. Mention is made of: a skirt from Colombia; necklaces, shoulder straps and</p>

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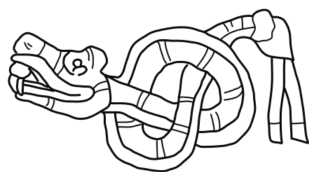
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	<p>Shuar shoulder ornaments; ear cylinders; gourds containing red powder for facial incisions from Ecuador and Peru; hats; lithics; combs; women's bands (Cotos, Yumbos, Zaparos, Jivaros); bracelets; tree-bark clothing of the Zaparos with geometric figures (Ecuador); undergarments and women's clothing from Ecuador and Peru; a quiver (arrow case) in bamboo cane, Peru; ceramics (Ticuna, Peru); various small bags for provisions (Jivaros, Ecuador); a grater; a zarabatana (blowgun?); javelins (Ecuador); cane fifes (Yumbos, Ecuador); a wooden violin (Yumbos, Ecuador); a cylindrical drum with membrane (Yumbos); baskets and plant-fiber containers also from Ecuador, including bowls for holding achiote, mentioned not only for coloring foods red ("as Europeans use the tomato"); crowns in wood and multicolored bird feathers from Peru; clubs and arrows from Peru, Colombia and Ecuador; Cotos hammocks (Ecuador). This lot also includes: 25816: a case of condor feathers with 66 grains of gold dust extracted by the Yumbos populations from the Napo River. Finally, under no. 26194, a group of very fine agave threads is described (pita in the indigenous Yumbos language).</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The very rich collection associated with the name of Father Pozzi was acquired in various Central and South American localities and in several tranches. Father Luigi Pozzi, a Jesuit missionary, was active in Central and South America in the second half of the 19th century.</p>

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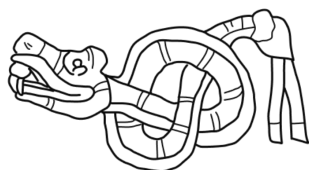


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	<p>The museum's historical archive preserves very detailed information on the acquisition context of many of these artifacts. It seems that Pozzi was the first European to set foot in some of these "regions" of the American continent, revealing to European scientists a naturalistic richness, as well as a cultural one, almost entirely unknown (insects, birds and monkeys in particular).</p> <p>Twenty-eight original labels written by Pozzi himself, associated with the objects, are also preserved; over time, an inventory number has been added in pencil, sometimes on the back and sometimes underneath, necessary to trace individual objects here in the museum.</p> <p>The objects numbered 25542–25705 come from various Amazonian regions and arrived at the museum on 8 August 1882, then being inventoried in September 1882. The group of objects numbered 33233 to 33256 was acquired by the museum between 20 November and 19 December 1886 and inventoried in February 1887. The objects from 3261 up to 3308 were purchased from Father Pozzi in Ecuador between 1877 and 1878. As for the Mesoamerican nucleus (Belize), the acquisition dates found are 22 July 1879; 13 February 1878; 20 November and 19 December 1886. All the objects were inventoried in February 1887.</p>
Online database	

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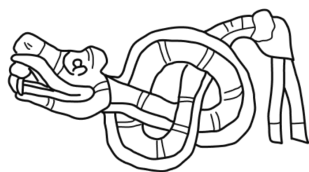
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## #19

Collection name	<b>Mexico Purchase 1876</b>
Collector	Unknown
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Mexico, locality unknown
Description of the collection	This collection consists of a considerable number (inv. nos. 3941 to 4166) of archaeological finds (lithic and ceramic), mostly fragmentary, of Mesoamerican provenance. Examples include: inv. 3941–3946: spherical terracotta rattles with incisions; 3972–3974 and following: stone masks, axes, hammers, chisels; 3981 and 3982: fragments of cylindrical stone with ends in the form of a human face; 3988–3989: zoomorphic lithic fragments; 4025: a whistle formed by a human terracotta figure surmounted by an animal head.
History of the collection	Detailed information on the provenance of these objects is lacking. The only reference found in the museum's entry registers is the wording "Mexico Purchase 1876".

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## #20

Collection name	<b>Tlahmachayatl (Mexican mantle)</b>
Collector	Don Santiago Morales (?) Carlos María Colina y Rubio (1813–1879) Pope Pius IX (Giovanni Maria Mastai Ferretti) (1792–1878) Zoological Cabinet of the Royal University of Rome
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Nahua (Tlaxcala, Mexico)
Description of the collection	The <i>tlahmachayatl</i> is a textile of the colonial period, characterized by the presence of a great heterogeneity of fibers (wool, silk, cotton). It is distinguished by having been made using a textile technology of pre-Hispanic origin, involving the interlacing of cotton and down during spinning and weaving. The dyeing of the yarns was carried out using dyes of exclusively organic origin. The iconography shows a series of double-headed eagles

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	surrounded by birds of various sizes and shapes that bring their beaks close to the flowers of luxuriant plants.
<i>History of the collection</i>	Archival sources held at the museum date this textile artifact to 1534 and attribute it to Acxotecatl, an illustrious commander of the Tlaxcalan troops who supported the Spaniards in the conquest of Tenochtitlan. However, various stylistic and conservation aspects suggest a later dating, presumably around the 18th century. It is worth noting that the archival documents mention that the mantle was recovered by Don Santiago Morales, parish priest of the town of Calpan, and then donated to Carlos María Colina y Rubio, bishop of Puebla and Tlaxcala, who brought it as a gift to Pope Pius IX during an apostolic journey to Rome in 1869. The pope passed it on to the University Zoological Garden of Rome, where Luigi Pigorini came across it in 1884 and immediately asked to acquire it for his museum. The exchange through which the mantle reached the museum was completed two years later, while in 1887 the archival documents that preserve its history also arrived at the museum.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	<a href="https://www.museodellecivilta.it/oggetti/arti-e-culture-americane/tlahmachayatl-tessuto-con-elementi-decorativi-aviformi-antropomorfi-e-floreali-inv-31378/">https://www.museodellecivilta.it/oggetti/arti-e-culture-americane/tlahmachayatl-tessuto-con-elementi-decorativi-aviformi-antropomorfi-e-floreali-inv-31378/</a>

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<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bellomia, V. 2024. “El Tlahmachayatl. Un textil emplumado mesoamericano en Roma.” <i>Arqueología Mexicana</i> XXX(189): 62-67.</li><li>• Callegari, G.V. 1920. “Piccole Comunicazioni: il Tlamachayatl del Museo Preistorico di Roma (Coll. Romano).” <i>Archivio per l’antropologia e l’etnologia</i> 50 (1-4): 175-177.</li><li>• Johnson, I.W. 1993. Telas emplumadas en la época virreinal. In <i>El arte plumaria en México</i>, ed. T. Castelló Yturbide, 79-99. México: Fomento Cultural Banamex.</li></ul>
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## #21

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Petich Collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Cav. Luigi Petich
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Teotihuacan
<i>Description of the collection</i>	The nucleus consists of two figurines “made with stone ground up and kneaded by the Indians of Teotihuacan in imitation of ancient Mexican idols” (inv. 41727 and 41728). They are presumably recent copies of finds that at the time circulated in the surroundings of the ruins of the Teotihuacan site.

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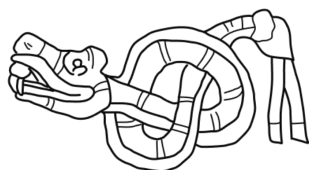
<i>History of the collection</i>	On 29 December 1889, Cav. Luigi Petich, Italy's representative in Mexico in those years, donated these two figurines to the Museum, which inventoried them in February 1890.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

## #22

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Mazzei F. Collections</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Franco Mazzei (brother of Ernesto)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica; Central America; Central and Southern Andes
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Nahua (Cholula) Maya (Guatemala, Salvador) Nicaragua Ecuador Chancay (Peru)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	The nucleus, numbered from 52671 to 52876, consists essentially of archaeological material from the southern portion of the Mesoamerican area. From Mexico, nos. 52753 and 52754 stand out: mutilated ceramic human figures (perhaps Tlaloc) excavated under the Gran

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Tempio Teocalli of Cholula. 52763 is the “mayoid” vessel, here said to be from Guatemala.

Added to these are 52997 and 52998: a ceramic human figure and a ceramic whistle; and 53002: a human figure with a stick (perhaps a scepter?) carved at one end (H. 43 cm) from Guerrero (Mexico).

Another group belonging to Mazzei’s Mesoamerican collection includes 55023 and 55024: two figures in volcanic rock, and 55055: a flat stone rounded at one end with a depression, probably a handstone.

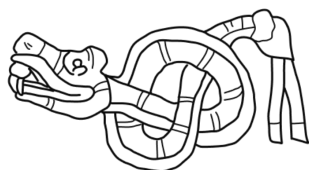
Among the objects under nos. 49185–49256 are described: skirt, diadem, ornaments with beads and fruit shells, necklaces, aprons, poncho, trousers from Ecuador (Indigenous people of Tapo). 49212 and 49213 are carved seats representing an Indian resting on hands and feet and supporting on the back a large horseshoe. From Ecuador, provenance of Menabi, northwest of Puerto Viejo, Monte Christi. Then follow mummies from Lima Collique, Atacama, San Cristobal, Chancay (Peru), also Ancón (from here only tattooed mummy arms and a foot with sandals: 49237–49241). No. 49242 corresponds to a woman’s head with skin and very long hair with small braids; also complete skulls and one of a child showing traces of bindings to deform it in the Aymara fashion (49250). The next find is a mask made from a human skull. 49254 is a head ornament with feather plume and pendants of cloth, macaw feathers and dog hair, from Trujillo, Chicama, Hacienda Chacope; poncho fragments follow.

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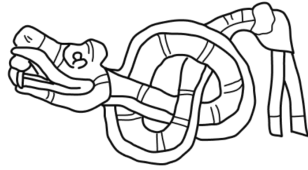
	From 57377 began a rich collection of textiles from Peru. The lot includes almost 2,000 objects and continues up to 59220. In addition to textiles, a series of baskets and ceramic anthropomorphic figures is also listed.
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>This collection was sold in its entirety to the museum by Mr Franco Mazzei (brother of Prof. Ernesto Mazzei) on 27 October 1893 and inventoried in July 1894. The objects from Guerrero were purchased on 19 July 1894 and inventoried in October of the same year. The last group comes entirely from Guatemala and was inventoried in June 1896.</p> <p>Some mummies were immediately transferred to the anthropological museums of Parma and Rome (April 1894). Pigorini often got rid of some of the human remains; he was not enthusiastic about them.</p>
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

## #23

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>MEIM Collections</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Italian Ethnological Mission in Mexico (MEIM)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group /</i>	Nahua, Otomí (Mexico)

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community / cultural sphere	
Description of the collection	<p>The collection consists of a series of ethnographic objects from the Indigenous communities studied by MEIM and made specifically to be displayed at the Museo delle Civiltà. This nucleus includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A traditional Nahua costume worn in the Kuesalime dance, from Cuetzalan del Progreso (Puebla, Mexico) but widespread in various other communities of the Sierra Norte of Puebla. The costume consists of: a voluminous headdress, on whose conical base radiates a large crown made of bamboo sticks arranged like spokes, on which multicolored ribbons of metallic paper are interwoven and domestic poultry feathers are attached; white cotton trousers and shirt; leather sandals; red thigh guards with orange fringes; two large triangular satin shawls, one turquoise for one shoulder and the other red with multicolored fringes for the opposite shoulder; a handkerchief (Sp. <i>paliacate</i>) of red cotton with printed motifs used to wrap the head below the headdress; a double rattle with colored ribbon, with which dancers give rhythm to their dance steps.</li><li>• A garment from Cuetzalan del Progreso (Sierra Norte of Puebla), called in Nahuatl <i>koyokoton</i>. It is made for male children and given to them by godparents in a rite of inclusion into the male</li></ul>

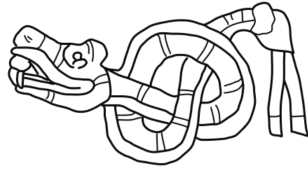
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roles envisaged by society. In addition to the most common textile fibers (wool, cotton, silk), it also includes the empty cocoon of an insect to which a shaping faculty is attributed, consisting in the ability to imprint on the wearer the insect's industriousness and ability to climb trees. It is the larva of a lepidopteran (fam. Psychidae), called *kuajkuouini* in Nahuatl and "cargapalitos" in Spanish.

- A wooden xylophone known as *b'ida* in the Otomí language (corresponding to what in the scientific literature is identified in Nahuatl as *teponaztli*), from Tenango de Doria (Hidalgo, Mexico). Two paper figures, cut out by Floriberto Tolentino Pérez of Tenango de Doria (Hidalgo), are associated with the musical instrument, provided with two mallets used to strike the tongues that produce sound; the figures reproduce the extra-human entities connected to the ceremonies in which the instrument is played. The same entities are carved on the surface of the xylophone, on the sides of a censer.
- 6 *cortinas* (little curtains; in Otomí *jüni*), paper cut-outs that depict, in negative, extra-human entities linked to the landscape of the Sierra Otomí, used to mark thresholds and the key points of ritual space.

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## History of the collection

- The Kuesalin costume was made in 2022 by the artisan and dancer Isidro Soto Cano, from Zuapilaco (Cuetzalan), and purchased in the same year by Alessandro Lupo (MEIM). It reached the museum in March 2023.
- The *koyocoton* was made by Pedro Martín Mazatzin, a Nahuatl weaver from Cuauhtamazaco (Cuetzalan), and purchased by Alessandro Lupo (MEIM) in September 2024. It arrived at the Museum in 2025.
- The wooden xylophone was made between 2023 and 2024 by Francisco Fernando Ibarra Molina, from Tenango de Doria (Hidalgo, Mexico), and purchased in 2025 by Giulia Cantisani (MEIM). It arrived at the museum in 2025.
- The *cortinas* were made in 2023 by Miguel Hernández Tolentino of the Otomí community of Acuatla (State of Hidalgo) and purchased in the same year by Giulia Cantisani (MEIM). They arrived at the museum in 2025.

As they were transferred to the Museum by the Department of History, Anthropology, Religions, Art and Performing Arts of Sapienza University of Rome under a loan-for-use arrangement (*comodato d'uso*), all these objects do not have an inventory number. The collaborative museography initiative with the Indigenous communities engaged with MEIM is still ongoing: in the coming months, the collection is expected to be enriched

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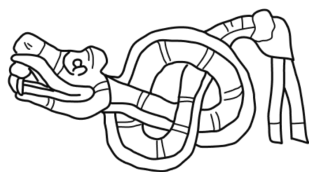
	with new future acquisitions, in particular from the Ikoots community (Oaxaca, Mexico).
Online database	
Web page	
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bellomia, V. 2025. “Un Kuesalin “volando lejos”. Riflessioni sull’arrivo di un costume di danza indigeno messicano al Museo delle Civiltà di Roma.” <i>Archivio di Etnografia</i> 19(1): 31-46.</li><li>• Cantisani, G. 2024. “Fare, muoversi, pensare. Gli artefatti come mediatori nella ritualità degli Otomí serrani (Messico).” <i>Confluenze. Rivista Di Studi Iberoamericani</i> 16(1): 58–76.</li><li>• Lupo A. 2015. “El regreso de los aztecas. Fenómenos de conservación, recuperación y plasmación de la tradición nahua en la Sierra de Puebla”. <i>Dimensión Antropológica</i> 64: 7-33.</li><li>• Lupo, A. In press. “Praying with One’s Feet. Old and New Uses for Nahuatl Ritual Texts in the Sierra Norte de Puebla.” <i>Anthropological Linguistics</i> 65(1).</li></ul>

## #24

Collection name	<b>Manfredi Figurine</b>
Collector	Davide Manfredi
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica

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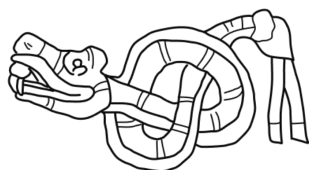
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Mezcala (Mexico)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	Siliceous-stone figure depicting a standing person with facial features only faintly indicated, arms rendered by oblique incision and legs slightly apart. Mezcala culture, state of Guerrero, 300 BCE. Type M-10. Height approx. 15 cm. (inv. no. 109220).
<i>History of the collection</i>	This sculpture was purchased from Mr Davide Manfredi, with ministerial authorization of 20/07/1984 no. 3056. The negotiation took place between 1983 and 1985. The figurine was purchased for about 1,500,000 lire. The date of entry into the museum is 1986.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
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#25

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Yanez Figurine</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Agustin Yanez (1904–1980)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural</i>	Mixtecs (Oaxaca, Mexico)

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<i>sphere</i>	
<i>Description of the collection</i>	In the archival documents preserving the documentation of this donation, the find, corresponding to inv. no. 22555, is described as follows: “yellowish terracotta vessel, with smooth, plain surface, undecorated, with traces of blackening due to firing. It has a cylindrical shape, flat base; it is decorated in the upper part—at the height of the circular opening of the vessel—by a zoomorphic head, probably of a llama (sic!), and by the animal’s front legs beneath it. On the two sides of the head, two ribbon handles are set horizontally. Above the head, a raised element with two lateral volutes and traces of breakage between them.”
<i>History of the collection</i>	On 3 August 1970, the Mexican Minister of Public Education Agustin Yanez donated to the Italian state a terracotta vessel of the Mixtec culture from San Luis, Valle di Oaxaca (donated and registered on 10 November 1970).
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<i>Web page</i>	
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<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Sorrentino Figurine</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Raimondo Sorrentino (Torre del Greco)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Western Mexico (Nayarit)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	This is a terracotta figurine from Nayarit (300–900 CE). This hollow figure represents a standing warrior dressed with a cuirass decorated with incised transverse stripes; he holds a club in his hand; the whole figure is decorated with white, brown and reddish paintings (inv. no. 109530).
<i>History of the collection</i>	On 18 January 1985, Dr Sorrentino sent the purchase proposal. The purchase took place after a first expert assessment by Claudio Cavatrunci, then curator of the museum's Americas collections, with a positive opinion (20/03/85), and a second by Carla Rocchi, chair-holder for Indigenous Civilizations of the Americas at Sapienza University of Rome (26/11/1985). Both confirmed the authenticity of the figurine. The object was acquired and inventoried on 7 December 1987.
<i>Online database</i>	

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#27

Collection name	<b>Fainardi Collection</b>
Collector	Alberto Fainardi
Cultural areas	Gran Chaco
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Tobas (Argentina); Matacos (Paraguay)
Description of the collection	<p>This nucleus includes a series of artifacts, mostly textiles, corresponding to inv. nos. 2892 to 2926. Examples include: a bag knitted from plant cords; another similar one in red wool; another similar one in polychrome wool; a gourd engraved with geometric figures with movable lid; bolas formed by three stone balls covered with leather attached to a leather strap; a belt knitted with polychrome wool; a wooden bow 1.60 m long.</p> <p>Continuing with inv. nos. 2927 to 2938, there is a series of objects from Paraguay attributed to the Matacos, predominantly weapons, including: arrows, a wooden bow, a spear.</p>

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<i>History of the collection</i>	All the objects were inventoried in 1881, during the first inventorying initiative recorded at the museum.
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<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

#28

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Collections from the Museum of Parma</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Cav. De Luchi of Genoa
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Gran Chaco; Central and Southern Andes; Austral America
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Payaguà (Paraguay), Peru, Patagonia
<i>Description of the collection</i>	This nucleus includes material from multiple regions of South America. A first group, numbered from 2944 to 2980, contains a series of objects briefly described as follows: a wooden bow 1.53 m long decorated with polychrome wool threads and woven plant-fiber strips; arrows with a toothed wooden tip on both sides mounted on bamboo. The same lot also includes some objects from Peru (inv. 2981–2984 and 2989–2993), comprising: shell ornaments and bone tubes, and ceramic finds of archaeological provenance of various morphologies.

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	Finally, this lot also includes a silver earring made from a thin rectangular sheet, from Patagonia (inv. 2985).
<i>History of the collection</i>	These objects were donated by the Museum of Parma, which had acquired them as a gift from Cav. De Luchi of Genoa in the second half of the 19th century. They were all inventoried in 1881.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

## #29

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Andean Collections, Museo Borgia</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Stefano Borgia (1731–1804)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central and Southern Andes
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Chimú (Peru); Peruvian cultures;
<i>Description of the collection</i>	From 2994 to 3113 a series of archaeological finds of Peruvian provenance are numbered. In almost all cases these are ceramics of various manufacture, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines, spherical containers, spindle whorls, small bags and fabric cases, and textile fragments. In particular, mention is made of a

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	cylindrical silver container with a human figure (inv. 2997), and a group of cotton threads of various colors arranged in a rectangle around a bamboo cross (inv. 3058).
<i>History of the collection</i>	The objects were acquired in 1880 from the Museo Borgia of Velletri and come almost entirely from Peru (found in the surroundings of Lima).
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardelli Antinori, A. 2001. “Scorrendo i carteggi di Luigi Pigorini. Come giunsero al Museo Preistorico Etnografico alcuni dei materiali borgiani.” In <i>Le quattro voci del mondo: arte, culture e saperi nella collezione di Stefano Borgia 1731–1804</i>, ed. M. Nocca, 319–322. Napoli: Electa.</li> <li>• Cavatrunci, C. 2001. “Bottiglia fittile.” In <i>La collezione Borgia. Curiosità e tesoro da ogni parte del mondo</i>, ed. A. Germano Anna, M. Nocca, 240. Napoli: Electa.</li> <li>• Domenici, D. 2023. “The grand history of a small collection. American objects from the Farnese and Borgia collections at the Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte (Naples, Italy).” <i>Contributions in New World Archaeology</i> 16: 9-22.</li> <li>• Martino, L. 2001. “IX Classe: Museo Indico.” In <i>La collezione Borgia. Curiosità e tesoro da ogni parte del</i></li> </ul>

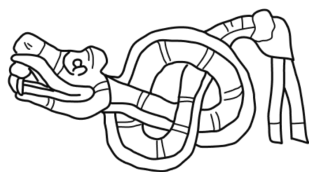
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	<i>mondo</i> , ed. A. Germano, M. Nocca, 161–185. Napoli: Electa.
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#30

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Bove Collections</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Giacomo Bove (1852–1887) Prof. Lovisato Prof. Riccardo Della Vedova
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Arctic; Central America; Austral America; Central-Eastern and Coastal Brazil; Pampas
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Chascomus (Pampas); Paraguay; Alto Paraná; Selk'nam (or Ona) and Yámana (Yaghan) (Tierra del Fuego)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	A first nucleus of objects is numbered from 4943 to 4986. Among others, the following are noted: bone amulets, hooks, spears, clothing, garments and outer garments, a wooden instrument to protect the eyes from the cold (inv. 4974), a visor used in kayaks against light refraction (inv. 4975). A second lot of objects follows inventory numbers from 27485–27709 and consists of material from Tierra del Fuego (up to 27676). In particular, mention is made of: weapons (bows, arrows and Fuegian Ona and Yagan knives; a shell to collect guanaco blood (Ona); a whale-bone comb; shell necklaces or ones made of braided guanaco intestines, or of small tubes of

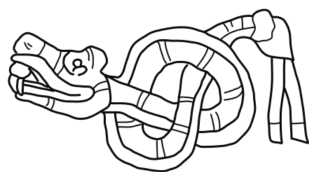
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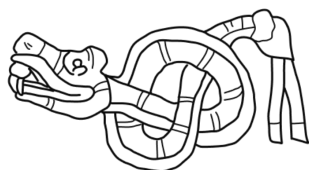
	<p>water-bird bones; a sea-lion bladder to preserve powdered paint; Yagan harpoons and spears), bags and ornaments, a wooden pipe carved with a brass tube, a pin and silver earrings, bolas, leather belts, boots, a wool blanket, a saddle with whip, stirrups, spurs, halter, horse straps. From inv. no. 27678 a series of boards with “rough” crockery of various provenance is inventoried (Chascomus Indigenous people, inhabitants of the Argentine Pampas) and various types of weapons from Pueblo Lavalle.</p> <p>A third group of objects (inv. 30477 to 30620) includes objects from Paraguay, from various localities of the Alto Paraná. Examples include: bows and arrows, a mate gourd, small woven baskets, cylindrical baskets, spoon, provisions bag, weights, fish netting, little vessels, plate, fan, bamboo cup, necklace of small bone tubes and feathers, nettle thread for weaving garments, gourd with twisted neck for mate, beaded necklace with circular silver plate, wool belts, pipes, whistles, hammock, white cotton garment, skirt, ball of nettle thread, canoe with an oar.</p> <p>Finally, mention should be made of the objects numbered 86126 to 86131, material collected by Bove in Central and South America (provenance not better specified): they are mostly containers made from gourds and weapons.</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The first nucleus was collected by Lieutenant G. Bove during the voyage of the Swedish ship <i>Vega</i> and</p>

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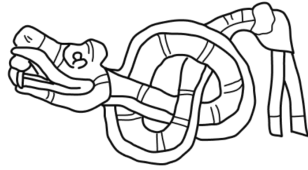
	<p>transferred to the Museum on 11 March 1880, then inventoried the following year.</p> <p>The second group was collected by Prof. Lovisato and purchased by Lieutenant G. Bove on 21 May 1883 and inventoried in October 1883.</p> <p>A third nucleus came from a purchase from Captain Giacomo Bove on 20 May 1885 and was all inventoried in May 1885.</p> <p>The last group of objects collected by Bove was donated by Prof. Riccardo Della Vedova and inventoried in 1919.</p>
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

## #31

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Boggiani Collections</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Guido Boggiani (1861–1901)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Gran Chaco
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Kadiwéu, Yshir (Chamacoco), Kaingang (Caingá); Payaguá, Angaité, Enxet/Enlhet (Lengua), Sarapaná, Tumaná
<i>Description of the collection</i>	This collection consists of 1772 objects from Brazil and Paraguay, recorded with inventory numbers from 49551 to 51322. A brief description is provided below by

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dividing the objects according to the attribution to the various ethnic groups identified, proceeding in inventory-number order.

The objects attributed to the Kadiwéu are mostly containers (bowls, *olle*, ceramic vessels of various shapes and sizes, used as containers for body-paint dyes or for cooking, bottles for storing water, gourds and container cases), cane flutes, openwork-decorated combs, simple pipes and double-bowl pipes of palo santo (guayaco) carved with various anthropomorphic or zoomorphic forms, anthropomorphic wooden sculptures, female bead bracelets (some worn by girls), male and female necklaces (some with small silver plaques or pendants), depilatory tweezers in iron or brass, belts, pendants for children with coins (one Bolivian, one Chilean, one Brazilian and two Argentine), fans made with palm leaves, a “coat” with palm leaves, a plant-fiber mat, bags in plant-fiber textile, wooden spindles.

The Chamacoco nucleus contains ceramic cooking containers, a large quantity of pipes with straight bowl, carved and polychrome, a series of earrings consisting of a rhomboid plaque obtained from a shell of the genus *Unio* sp., hung on a double bead string, a turtle rattle with wooden handle, a series of wooden clubs (some used for hunting, others by women for domestic work), axes on a flat rosewood handle decorated with feathers, a series of shell disks used as pendants, women’s necklaces of black seeds and small bone tubes, others of turquoise beads, leather sandals, arm ornaments, belts with

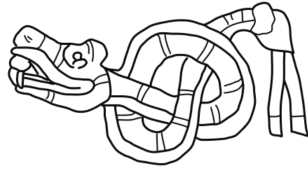
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pendants of fruit shells and feathers used for dances, balls of *ibira* thread (*Bromelia* sp.), cylindrical wooden whistles to hang on the body, some with the membrane from a rattlesnake tail, provisions bags in plant fiber (*ibira*), hammocks worked with a needle using *ibira* thread, wooden arrows decorated with feathers at the lower part, wooden bows, wooden hair needles, some with polychrome feather plumes, a carmine-colored feather diadem worn on the front of the head, ornaments made of polychrome feather pendants, beads and animal nails (wild boars), male ceremonial belts of anteater bristles, ornaments and feather diadems used during therapeutic rituals by ritual specialists, a considerable quantity of featherwork ornaments for men, women and children, especially diadems, necklaces and earrings. This is followed by simple, double and triple flutes made from bird tibias, some painted with red ochre and decorated with bird feathers, skirts and ornamental waistbands.

Attributed to the Kaingang (Caingua) are a series of cylindrical lip ornaments (*tembeta*), cut gourds used as containers for liquids decorated with geometric designs, and gourd rattles decorated with feathers.

A pipe with geometric decoration is attributed to the Payagua.

To the Angaité, a pipe with palo santo bowl engraved and decorated “with two porcelain shirt buttons”, and a pair of cylindrical wooden earrings.

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	Of the Enxet/Enlhet (Lengua), Sarapaná and Tumaná are mentioned polychrome wool belts, red wool headbands and shell disks, red and white feather diadems on a leather band, hair needles, earrings and necklaces decorated with feathers, wooden whistles with geometric designs, leather tobacco bags and wool blankets.
<i>History of the collection</i>	Boggiani, a painter, photographer and explorer, spent six years in South America, where he came into contact with various ethnic groups of Mato Grosso do Sul (Brazil) and Paraguay (Chaco), especially the Kadiwéu and Yshir-Chamacoco, with whom he also maintained a series of trade exchanges. On his return, he sold this substantial collection to the museum on 13 June 1894; the entire nucleus was inventoried immediately.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Boggiani G. 1898. “Etnografia del Alto Paraguay.” <i>Boletín del Instituto Geográfico Argentino</i> t. XVIII, cuad. 10, 11, 12: 613-625.</li> <li>● Petrucci, V. 1986. “La collezione Boggiani, dall'archivio storico del museo Pigorini.” In <i>Guido Boggiani. Pittore esploratore etnografo</i>, ed. M. Leigheb. Ornavasso: Tipolitografia Saccardo.</li> </ul>

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#32

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>De Vecchi Collections</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Paolo De Vecchi (1847–1931)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Arctic; Great Plains
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Alaska, Aleutian Islands; United States
<i>Description of the collection</i>	<p>A first nucleus of objects is inventoried with numbers ranging from 54121 to 54390. It consists of about 270 objects, among which the following are mentioned, as examples (following the inventory order): barbed bone arrows with wooden shaft, with one or two points; a leather quiver for bows and arrows; toggling harpoon heads in bone or ivory, barbed, other similar ones in brass; bird javelins; spears with leaf-shaped flint points; wooden bows reinforced with animal-sinew lashings; a men's leather jacket with hood; an overgarment made of seal intestine; leather or sealskin boots with sealskin-fur gaiters; bags in sealskin or plant fibers with geometric decorations; ivory and bone hooks; a pipe with ivory stem and a stone bowl engraved with anthropomorphic and zoomorphic decorations, others with metal bowl and ivory mouthpiece; ivory knives carved in imitation of European knives; an ivory tool for removing snow from clothing; wooden combs with ivory teeth, others in bone; a tool for scraping the ice to lure seals in ambush,</p>

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	<p>consisting of a wooden body with bird claws shaped like teeth (20 cm); a quadruped figure carved in reindeer antler; wooden snow goggles; a seal sculpture in ivory and leather; ivory dolls decorated with beadwork or bone dolls dressed in fur, from the Aleutian Islands; snow under-shoes; a net of sinew filament; models of kayak and umiak with wooden frame and covered by a membrane of seal intestines; ivory sled models; awls and spatulas in carved ivory; an ivory ring engraved on the outside; human figures and a seahorse in ivory with a hole for suspension; earrings and labial ornaments in ivory; slate blades for women's knives (<i>ulu</i>).</p> <p>A second lot comes mostly from the Great Plains and was inventoried with numbers ranging from 80156 to 80168; a brief description follows, focusing on the most significant artifacts: 2 leather pouches by Indigenous people with beadwork ornaments; a leather vest with decorations in red wool, silk, small glass daisies, small necklace, slippers; two child's shoes in sealskin (from Alaska); a cloth disk mounted on a wooden hoop base; a scourge with thin strips of white metal; a dance instrument; a small leather pouch.</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The Piedmontese physician and patriot Paolo De Vecchi (1847–1931) travelled in the USA (Alaska and the Great Plains) and along the west coast of North America between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. The first nucleus of objects was donated by</p>

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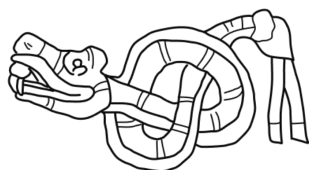
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	Cavaliere Dott. De Vecchi on 8 July 1889 and inventoried in April 1896. The second lot corresponds to another gift by Dott. De Vecchi, inventoried between April and May 1909.
Online database	
Web page	<a href="https://www.museodellecivilta.it/oggetti/arti-e-culture-ameriane/54206/">https://www.museodellecivilta.it/oggetti/arti-e-culture-ameriane/54206/</a> (At this link, you can see an example of an Inuit pipe belonging to the De Vecchi collection)
Bibliography	

## #33

Collection name	<b>Coppi Collections</b>
Collector	Carlo Lamberg Father Illuminato Coppi
Cultural areas	Amazon
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Rio Negro (Brazil), Tariana, Ye'pâ-masa (Tucano); Kobeua/Kubeo (Cobeua), Wapixana
Description of the collection	The objects attributed to Father Illuminato Coppi are divided into two groups. The first includes those recorded with inventory nos. from 29719 to 29791; among these are some significant objects. The first (inv. 29719) is a "Yurupari mask made of monkey hair and women's hair, with three circular holes in the middle for the

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mouth and the eyes and with two side openings for the arms. It has decorations on the head of white and red feathers. It is worn by the *pages* (sorcerer doctors) in certain dances and women are forbidden to see it under penalty of death". Height 0.54, max. width 0.40. This mask comes from the Amazon basin, more precisely from the Rio Uaupés, a tributary of the Rio Negro, and is attributed to the Tariana group. The next (29720) is a bamboo flute, also Tariana. Then follow blowguns, spears, command staffs, a bow, arrows, a quiver, a fan, a fruit-shell necklace, a red dye extracted from a leaf called *caraiurù* used by all the Indigenous people of the Rio Uaupés to paint the body (inv. 29755), animal armor disks, a small vessel with poison, a beaded loin covering, cords of monkey hair that hang from the shoulders of men, plumes, bracelets, feather garlands, a comb, feather ornaments (the latter attributed to the Tucano). The second nucleus includes the objects recorded with inventory numbers from 42365 to 42424. These too are artifacts from the Upper Rio Negro, Amazon basin. A first group is attributed to the Wapixana Indigenous people, who live on the Arariquera river. Some examples are described: a manioc press woven with plant strips, a grater, a plant-fiber basket, a wooden club, a hammock, wooden bows, arrows with bone tips and feathers at the lower part, a terracotta vessel, a feather head ornament, a rattle with feather decorations, a sieve for manioc flour, seed necklaces, tobacco cigars. Among the objects from the Amazon basin, Rio Uaupés, tributary of the Rio

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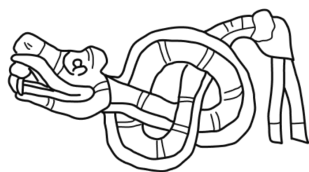
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	<p>Negro, attributed to the Tariana, the following are noted: a terracotta whistle, a plant fan for turning flatbreads (inv. 42406), a small vessel for poison, hemispherical baskets woven with plant materials, a ball of <i>tuccu</i> made with palm fibers; bands of various manufacture; a garment with a tree-bark mask (inv. 42148) with fringe at the lower part, worn as a sign of mourning by relatives. (Kobeua/Kubeo (Cobeua) Indigenous people): crown of wooden beads that the Indigenous people of the Beni river (Northern Bolivia) hang around the neck as an act of devotion (inv. 42421). Of the same provenance is a wind musical instrument with a large tube of red wood (42423).</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The first nucleus is a gift from Commendatore Carlo Lamberg, who purchased it from Father Illuminato Giuseppe Coppi, Apostolic missionary in Brazil. The gift arrived at the museum on 9 June 1884 and was inventoried in November of the same year.</p> <p>The second nucleus corresponds to another gift from Father Illuminato Coppi, acquired in two moments (12 August 1889 and 11 March 1890) and inventoried entirely in June 1890.</p>
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	

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<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mochi, A. 1902. "I popoli del Uaupé e la famiglia etnica Miranha." <i>Archivio per la Antropologia e la Etnologia</i> XXXII: 437-541.</li> <li>• Mochi, A. 1903. "I popoli del Uaupé e la famiglia etnica Miranha." <i>Archivio per la Antropologia e la Etnologia</i> XXXIII: 97-130.</li> </ul>
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#34

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Kircherian Fund</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Kircher, Athanasius (1602–1680)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Northwest Coast; California; Mesoamerica (?); Central-Eastern and Coastal Brazil
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Vancouver Bay, California, Kiriri (Bahia); Ecuador
<i>Description of the collection</i>	<p>From inv. no. 3151 begins the description of a series of objects from Brazil, including bags/containers, bracelets, and wooden bows and arrows attributed to the Kiriri of the Brazilian coast.</p> <p>Inv. nos. 3238 and 3239 include two hammocks from Ecuador.</p> <p>From 3645 to 3670 garments, bags and other objects from Canada are recorded, of provenance not better specified. This is followed by a series of weapons, blowguns, vessels made from fruit shells, and then from 3698 to</p>

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	<p>3744 vessels made from fruit shells from “Equatorial America”.</p> <p>From 3745 some objects from Mexico are numbered. This lot includes a series of vessel (3745), small basket (3746–3747), mats (3748–3749), rectangular “woven” objects (3750, all to be checked in storage); then a “roughly carved stone human bust” (3751), a stone human figure (3752) and a fragment of a polished axe in wedge form (3753 and 3754).</p> <p>This is followed by objects from North America (a covered casket from California, 7 beads used as ornament found in a tomb in east Tennessee and gift of Aless. Castellani, other Kircherian items, arrows and points from Wyoming, Utah, Wisconsin).</p> <p>Noteworthy is 4199, a stone sculpture representing figures of animals and men of about half a meter, from Vancouver Bay.</p> <p>No. 4203 is a polished stone axe with angular sides, from the Greater Antilles, Puerto Rico, purchased in 1876.</p> <p>No. 30349: necklace of red and yellow feathers, length 0, from the Upper Amazon, inventoried in December 1884.</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The objects of this group belonged to the museum founded by the German Jesuit Father Athanasius Kircher in 1651, at the Collegio Romano in Rome, where until the early 60s the Museo Pigorini also had its seat. These are objects of various origin and provenance that flowed into the museum inaugurated by Luigi Pigorini in 1875–1876.</p>

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	All the objects bear 1876 as the acquisition date, but it is not clear whether the entire collection listed together comes entirely from the Museo Kircheriano. This is one of the research axes of the current inventory cross-check project by the museum's officials.
Online database	
Web page	
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonanni, F.. 1709. <i>Musaeum kircherianum...</i> Roma: Georgius Plachi.</li> <li>• Casciato, M., M.G. Iannello, M. Vitale (eds.). 1986. <i>Enciclopedismo in Roma barocca. Athanasius Kircher e il Museo del Collegio Romano tra Wunderkammer e museo scientifico</i>. Venezia: Marsilio.</li> <li>• De Sepi, G.. 1678. <i>Romani Collegi Societatus Jesu Musaeum Celeberrimum....</i> Amsterdam: Janssonio Waesbergiana.</li> <li>• Findlen, P. 1994. <i>Possessing Nature: Museums, Collecting, and Scientific Culture in Early Modern Italy</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press.</li> <li>• Findlen, P. 1995. "Scientific Spectacle in Baroque Rome: Athanasius Kircher and the Roman College Museum." <i>Roma Moderna e Contemporanea</i> 3: 625-665.</li> <li>• Findlen, P. (ed.). 2004. <i>Athanasius Kircher. The Last Man Who Knew Everything</i>. New York-London: Routledge.</li> </ul>

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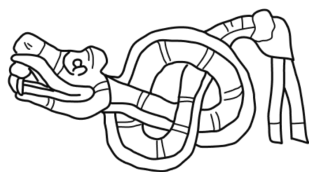
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Godwin, J. 1979. <i>Athanasius Kircher. A Renaissance Man and the Quest for Lost Knowledge</i>. London: Thames &amp; Hudson.</li> <li>• Lo Sardo, E. (ed.). 2001. <i>Athanasius Kircher. Il museo del mondo</i>. Roma: Edizioni De Luca.</li> <li>• Lugli, A. 1986. "Inquiry as collection: The Athanasius Kircher Museum in Rome." <i>RES. Anthropology and Aesthetics</i> 12: 109-124.</li> <li>• Mangani, E. 2015. <i>Il Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico di Luigi Pigorini</i>, 222-225. Monte Compatri (Rm): Edizioni Espera.</li> </ul>
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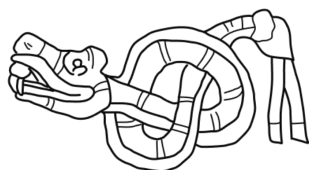
## #35

Collection name	<b>Queen Margherita Collections</b>
Collector	Margherita di Savoia (1851–1926) William Wingfield-Bonny
Cultural areas	Eastern Woodlands
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Mi'kmaq (Quebec)
Description of the collection	31451: case containing small wooden models of clubs (4), bows (2), snowshoes (2 pairs), ball-game rackets (4), three models of birch-bark canoes, one of which larger with fishing gear, and models of leather moccasins (2 pairs), two panels on which landscapes and rural scenes

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	are painted. Mi'kmaq living in the British possessions of North America to the north of Lake Ihon.
<i>History of the collection</i>	Gift of Her Majesty Queen Margherita, to whom they had been offered by engineer William Wingfield-Bonnyn, Italy's consul in Halifax, 18 March 1886. All inventoried in April 1886. NB: It should be noted, however, that on 8 April 1892 (6 years later) the panels, models of clubs, bows, snowshoes and rackets were exchanged with Dr Guido Levi.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

## #36

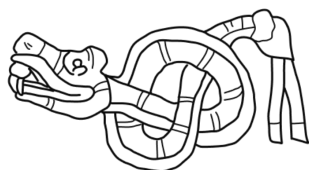
<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Chester Collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Reverend Greville I. Chester
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Caribbean
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Lesser Antilles, Barbados
<i>Description of the collection</i>	41365–41367: tools made from fossil <i>Strombus</i> shell.

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<i>History of the collection</i>	Gift of Reverend Greville I. Chester, acquired on 14 June 1889 and inventoried in October of the same year.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

#37

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>De Amezaga Collection</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Commander Carlos De Amezaga Dr A. Destruge
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central and Southern Andes; Central-Eastern and Coastal Brazil; Austral America
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Peru, Paraguay, Tierra del Fuego
<i>Description of the collection</i>	<p>The objects numbered from 29878 to 29904 are harpoons, clubs, spears, arrows, bows, some without strings. Noteworthy is 29918: model canoe made from tree bark, from Tierra del Fuego.</p> <p>At inv. nos. 29998–30166 the donation by Amezaga from Paraguay and Peru resumes. This group includes a feather crown from Alto Paraná, much pottery from Peru, prov. of Piura, District Catacas, found in March 1883 at Viduque while a canal was being dug to bring</p>

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	<p>water from the Rio Piura to the plantations of Viduque. The pottery continues up to 30066. Then follows a clay female figure and pottery continues, along with small metal idols. From 30115 mummies and skulls are numbered; from 30120 textiles and ears of corn, a poncho, combs, oars, spoons, excavated together with a skull by Prof. Ernesto Mazzei, a cap, rectangular baskets, wooden spindles. Interesting is inv. no. 30162: stone-carved chair representing an Indian who rests on hands and feet and supports a large horseshoe, from Ecuador, northwest of Puerto Viejo, Montecristi. Lithics from Ecuador follow and pottery again from the excavations of Viduque.</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>Gift of Commander Carlo de Amezaga, 11 October 1884, inventoried in December 1884.</p> <p>The carved chair was first donated by Dr A. Destruge, Italy's consul in Guayaquil, to Commander De Amezaga and by him offered to the museum of Rome.</p>
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

## #38

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Raimondi Tunic</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Antonio Raimondi (1824–1890)

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<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central and Southern Andes
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Chancay (surroundings of Lima)
<i>Description of the collection</i>	Tunic with polychrome geometric figures and animals. Peru, found in the excavations carried out for the construction of the railway in the surroundings of Lima.
<i>History of the collection</i>	Gift of A. Raimondi, 9 April 1885, inventoried likewise in June 1886.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

**#39**

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Collections of the Regia Armeria di Torino</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Unknown
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Amazon; Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Munduruku; Shuar; North America (?); Mexico
<i>Description of the collection</i>	From this heterogeneous nucleus, the following examples are noted: at inv. no. 47955 a black-wood club is

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	<p>described, with a large head, the handle decorated with small strips of porcupine quill (tarlata), generically attributed to North America.</p> <p>From 47959 to 48024 clubs, blowguns, a terracotta vessel from the Upper Amazon region, conical quiver from Guiana, a tool for taking snuff tobacco with the nose (4 bones joined in the middle with cotton thread), Upper Amazon, a tool for grinding snuff tobacco (tablet with pestle in a net bag). 47967: cotton band with turquoise beadwork and glass and human teeth, Munduruku; then bolas from Argentine Gauchos; Munduruku ornaments with feathers; bands with pendants and feathers; belt of cotton and feathers; warrior headdress, all Munduruku. 47994: skirt of tree-bark cloth and feathers from the Upper Amazon; dorsal ornament (Shuar).</p> <p>At inv. nos. 48025 and 48026 are recorded respectively a bit and a horse blanket from Mexico.</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	Gift of the Regia Armeria di Torino, 12 November 1891, inventoried in December 1891.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

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#40

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Pfister Collections</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Federico Pfister
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Amazon; Mesoamerica
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Tukano ?
<i>Description of the collection</i>	This lot, numbered from 103263 up to 103365, includes: a gourd container with floral motifs (103263) and others similar following; ceramic vessels with an in-turned rim, decorated leather pouches. At inv. no. 103276, a “skin with reproduction of the Aztec calendar (sic!), decorated with fringe on all 4 sides, dimensions (excluding the fringe): 60 × 55”. Then follow ceramic spindle whorls with grooves, reed flutes, pipes, weapons and fishing nets, necklaces in shell, bird bones and fruit seeds, bracelets with animal teeth, fabric bands with geometric motifs with pendants.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection was assembled by a Swiss citizen, Mr Ugo Berta, around 1900 and comes entirely from the area of the Acre territory, that is from Upper Acre, the upper portion of Bolivia, toward the border of Peru and Brazil. Mr Berta lived near Cobija – Pando. The intermediary with the museum is Mr Federico Pfister, who donated the objects between March and April 1955.

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	The geographical provenance of the “skin with reproduction of the Aztec calendar” is unknown.
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<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

**#41**

<i>Collection name</i>	<b>Collections of the Museo dell'Arizona</b>
<i>Collector</i>	Unknown
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Southwest/Arid America
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere</i>	Unknown
<i>Description of the collection</i>	Collection consisting mostly of ceramic finds (inventory numbers range from 103366 to 103375).
<i>History of the collection</i>	These ceramics arrived at the museum of Rome on the occasion of an exchange that the institute carried out with the State Museum of Arizona in November 1954.
<i>Online database</i>	
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	

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