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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Museo del Territorio Biellese

Chiostro di San Sebastiano, Via Quintino Sella 54/b, 13900 Biella

Form compiled by Angela Deodato (archaeologist and curator), in collaboration with
Davide Domenici

Introduction

The Museo del Territorio Biellese preserves 202 archaeological artefacts from different regions of Mesoamerica, Central America, the Northern Andes and the Central and Southern Andes, all of them originating from the collection assembled by the Biella industrialist Ugo Canepa (1915–2004). Since 26 October 2018 part of the collection has been displayed in a room specifically dedicated to pre-Columbian cultures.

Cultural Areas (tags)

Mesoamerica; Central America; Northern Andes; Central and Southern Andes

Collections

#01

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Pre-Columbian collection
<i>Collector</i>	Canepa, Ugo (1915–2004)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Mesoamerica; Central America; Northern Andes; Central and Southern Andes

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<p><i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i></p>	<p>Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan, Gulf Coast cultures, Western Mexico (Colima, Zacatecas), Maya, Toltec, Mezcala, Aztec.</p> <p>Central America: Gran Nicoya (Guanacaste), Gran Chiriquí (Diquís).</p> <p>Northern Andes: Tumaco-La Tolita, Jama-Coaque, Nariño.</p> <p>Central and Southern Andes: Vicus, Moche, Nasca, Huari, Chancay.</p>
<p><i>Description of the Collection</i></p>	<p>The collection, which is highly heterogeneous in terms of the cultural areas represented, consists of 202 artefacts, mainly ceramics, supplemented by a few stone sculptures, some textiles and several objects made from dried gourds.</p>
<p><i>History of the collection</i></p>	<p>The pre-Columbian collection of the Museo del Territorio Biellese forms part of the collection gathered by the entrepreneur Ugo Canepa. As the outcome of a long and complex sequence of events, part of the Canepa collection was donated in 2005 to the Museo del Territorio Biellese by the Fondazione Caterina Fileppo of Brescia, following an agreement between the Foundation, the Municipality of Biella and the</p>

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	Municipality of Rimini, whose Museo degli Sguardi preserves another part of the Canepa collection.
Online Database	
Web page	
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deodato, A., ed. 2019. <i>Culture precolombiane. Nuova sezione espositiva</i>. Biella: E20progetti Editore.

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