



KNOT

KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

MUMA - Museo Missionario Indios Frati Cappuccini Amazzonia

Via San Francesco, 19, 06081 Assisi (PG)

Form compiled by Fra Daniele Giglio (director)

Introduction

The MUMA preserves several collections of Amazonian natural history and ethnographic material, originating mainly from the Upper Solimões region, where the Umbrian Capuchin friars arrived in 1909. The first core of the collection was assembled in 1925 with the aim of taking part in the “Mostra Missionaria Internazionale” that Pope Pius XI decided to mount in the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano in Rome on the occasion of the Holy Year celebrations.

When the exhibition ended, the objects and natural history specimens were taken to the convent of Todi (Province of Perugia), where on 29 April 1928 the “Museo Amazzonico” was inaugurated. The collection was later enriched by material gathered by Fr Fedele d’Alviano on the occasion of another “Mostra Missionaria”, this time promoted by Pius XII to celebrate the Holy Year of 1950.

In 1971 the provincial superiors decided to reorganise and transfer the missionary museum to Assisi where, in 1973, the “Museo degli Indios dell’Amazzonia” was established. It was conceived by Father Luciano Matarazzi on the basis of the donations already mentioned and of others subsequently made by missionaries travelling between Italy and the Upper Solimões. In 2011 it gave way to the MUMA.

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Italiadomani
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Cultural Areas

Amazon

Collections

#01

<i>Name of the collection</i>	“Indios Amazzonia” collection
<i>Collector</i>	Fr Fedele d'Alviano; Capuchin friars
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Amazon
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Tikuna (Upper Solimões region / triple frontier with Colombia and Peru)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	The collection includes stuffed animals, musical instruments, ritual masks and other objects from Tikuna life and art.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection of artefacts began in 1909, their acquisition in 1925, and both processes continued until 2010.
<i>Online Database</i>	Database del museo
<i>Web page</i>	
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MUMA. 2024. L'Amazzonia, i Tikuna, la missione. Guida al Museo Missionario dell'Amazzonia. Assisi: MUMA.

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