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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Castello D'Albertis - Museo delle Culture del Mondo

Corso Dogali 18, 16136 Genova

Form compiled by Maria Camilla De Palma (chief curator)

Introduction

Castello D'Albertis was erected in a dominant position overlooking the sea between 1886 and 1892 on the remains of medieval and Renaissance fortifications, in the Neo-Gothic revival style, by Captain Enrico Alberto D'Albertis, with the aim of restoring traces of the city's glorious past, paying homage to Christopher Columbus and, of course, leaving his own mark. Inaugurated in October 1892, on the occasion of the fourth centenary of the "discovery of America", the celebration of the beloved Genoese navigator – and of the sea – is materialised in the marble gaze of the Colombo Giovinetto by Giulio Monteverde, placed in the loggia of the Sala Colombiana.

Following a careful restoration of the building and a renewal of the exhibition project, the castle was reopened in 2004, when Genoa was European Capital of Culture, as the home-museum of an erudite seafaring man who lived in a period of full industrial and commercial expansion of his city – and beyond. After the itinerary through the historic rooms, poised between Neo-Gothic and exotic styles and reflecting a view of the world filtered through the nineteenth-century lens of positivism and colonialism, entry into the sixteenth-century bastion on which the castle was built opens up a second exhibition route.

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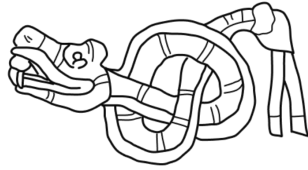
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Here the archaeological and ethnographic material from Africa, the Americas and Oceania is revealed through dialogue and exchange with the communities from which it comes, in order to give voice to multiple perspectives and relativise our certainties. The Music of the Peoples section, curated by the cultural association Echo Art, offers workshops, concerts and multi-sensory experiments, while the visit ends with the section on Traditional Medicines of China, India, Tibet and the Arab-Islamic world, in collaboration with Celso – Institute of Oriental Studies, which welcomes new perspectives on the concept of illness and well-being in a holistic dimension in harmony between macro- and microcosm.

The American ethnographic and archaeological collections of Castello D'Albertis Museo delle culture del mondo consist of numerous nuclei assembled at different times and in different contexts. A first significant group comprises materials from North and South America sent to Genoa for the 1892 celebrations of the fourth centenary of the “discovery” of America and donated to the city in 1893. To these were added the objects collected by Captain D'Albertis during his second round-the-world voyage in 1896, when he visited the Hopi in Arizona and archaeological sites in Mexico. In 1931 the Municipality acquired 14 jadeite axe-pendants of the Nicoya culture of Costa Rica from Elena Massa. In 1935 the University of Genoa deposited three Peruvian mummies, to which were added pre-Columbian ceramics and textiles, funerary assemblages from the Andes and from central coastal civilisations, purchased between 1927 and 1938 from various collectors such as Schmidt Pizarro and John Puccio. In 1936, 24 pre-Hispanic vessels from the collection of Prince Oddone of Savoy joined the American collections, to which were added in 1934 some Andean archaeological materials coming from the dissolution of the Civic Pedagogical Museum. In 1993, finally, Peruvian and Tukano objects from the disbanded Civico Istituto Colombiano were incorporated. Among the most recent acquisitions are Wayuu materials donated

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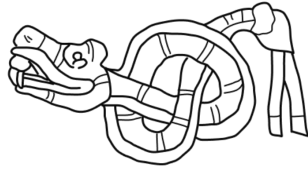
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in 1996 by CONAC, objects from the Dalla Volta Finzi collection in 1999, a small boat from Lake Titicaca donated in 2003, Bororo artefacts from Brazil received in 2004 and a Canadian totem pole acquired in 2007.

Cultural Areas

Subarctic; Northwest Coast; Great Plains; Southwest; Mesoamerica; Central America; Caribbean; Amazon; Northern Andes; Central and Southern Andes; Gran Chaco; Central-Eastern and Coastal Brazil; Austral America.

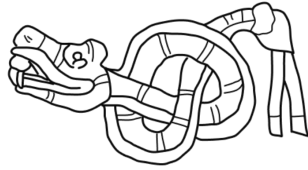
Collections

#01

<i>Name of the collection</i>	American Catholic Missions Collection (C.A.)
<i>Collector</i>	Benedictine, Capuchin, Dominican, Franciscan, Jesuit and Salesian missions
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Great Plains (Nord Dakota/diocesi di Sioux Falls e Sud Dakota), Subarctic (Manitoba, Canada), Austral America (Isola Dawson Terra del Fuoco, Patagonia), Mesoamerica (Guatemala, Honduras, Messico), Central-Eastern and Coastal Brazil (Brasile), Northern Andes (Ecuador), Central and Southern Andes (Perù, Argentina, Chile), Gran Chaco (Bolivia).

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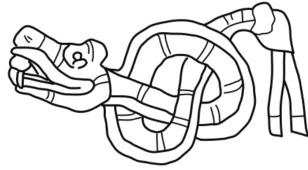
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<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Lakota; Yankton; Santee; Plains Cree; Anishinaabe; Alakaluf; Yamana; Tehuelche; Maya civilisation (Copán)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	About one thousand works consisting of North American ethnographic material (around one hundred items) and South American material (100 from Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, 100 from Colombia, 100 from Ecuador, 70 from Brazil, 100 from Bolivia), together with Mesoamerican archaeological material (Maya and Maya-related from Honduras) and material from Peru, Colombia and Argentina.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection began to be assembled towards the end of the nineteenth century and was donated to the museum between 1893 and 1953.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Esposizione delle Missioni Cattoliche Americane. 1892. <i>Catalogo con Illustrazioni e Note</i>. Genova.● De Palma, M.C. 1999. “L'incredibile storia di due sculture maya, da Copán a Genova e ritorno.” <i>Kermes. La Rivista del Restauro</i>, maggio-agosto: 14–26.

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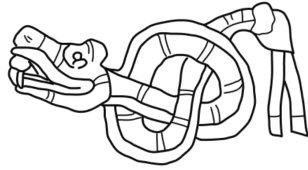
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> De Palma, M.C. 2006. “La Terra del Fuoco nelle collezioni del Museo delle Culture del Mondo Castello D’Albertis di Genova.” In <i>Finis Terrae. Viaggiatori, esploratori e missionari italiani nella Terra del Fuoco</i>, eds. A. Salerno, A. Tagliacozzo, 319–332. Roma.
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#02

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Castello D’Albertis (C.D.A.)
<i>Collector</i>	Enrico Alberto D’Albertis (1846–1932)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Southwest (Arizona), Mesoamerica (Messico)
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Diné; Hopi; ethnographic Mexico; Aztec civilisation; Teotihuacan
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	<p>Diné: 1 small loom and 1 loom comb.</p> <p>Hopi: 41 works including one katsina doll, 1 tablita, ritual baskets, 1 Nampeyo bowl, vases and terracottas (including several Ancestral Pueblo/Anasazi pieces), clay tablets with katsina heads, 3 rabbit sticks, 1 bow with arrows for children and 1 hair fork for women’s hairstyles.</p> <p>Teotihuacan: 55 works including candeleros, a funerary mask in serpentine and a large number of small heads</p>

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	<p>and anthropomorphic fragments.</p> <p>Aztecs: 45 works including knives, arrowheads and obsidian cores used as pendants, pintaderas, spindle whorls, tumi knives, clay figurines, 1 necklace, rattles, two vases, a pipe bowl and keepsakes collected at Querétaro on the site of the killing of Emperor Maximilian, as well as stone fragments and fragments of pyramids from Mitla, Tula and Cholula.</p> <p>Ethnographic Mexico: 21 works including gourd bowls, a sombrero, fibre plates and 1 flask. From all these places there are dozens of photographic shots which form part of the museum's historical photographic archive.</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The collection was assembled between 16 September and 12 November 1896 during Captain d'Albertis's "round-the-world" voyage, and he later bequeathed it to the castle in his will upon his death in 1932.</p>
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cerulli, E., ed. 1972. <i>Mostra di Archeologia Precolombiana e di Etnologia Americana</i>. Genova: Castello D'Albertis.● De Palma, M. C., ed. 2008. <i>Castello D'Albertis. Museo delle culture del mondo</i>. Milano: Silvana Editoriale.

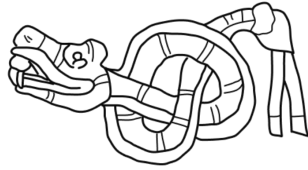
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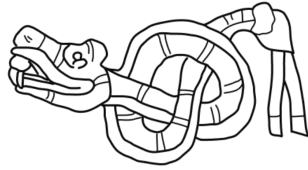
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fornaroli, L.A. 1935. <i>Ardita gente ligure. E.A. D'Albertis (1846–1932).</i>
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#03

<i>Name of the collection</i>	American Collections (C.A.)
<i>Collector</i>	Elena Massa (purchase)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central America (Costa Rica)
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Nicoya culture
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	14 jadeite axe-pendants.
<i>History of the collection</i>	There is no information about when and how the objects were collected; it is only known that they entered the museum in 1931.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cerulli, E., ed. 1972. <i>Mostra di Archeologia Precolombiana e di Etnologia Americana</i>. Genova: Castello D'Albertis.

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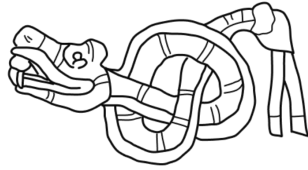
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">De Palma, M.C. 2007. “Un museo oltre le collezioni: patrimonio e forme di sapere in ambito americanistico a Castello D’Albertis Museo delle Culture del Mondo di Genova.” In <i>Verso le Americhe. Studi e percorsi dell’americanistica italiana</i>, ed. L. Faldini, 17–41. Genova.
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#04

<i>Name of the collection</i>	American Collections (C.A.)
<i>Collector</i>	University of Genoa (deposit)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Central and Southern Andes (Perù)
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	3 mummies.
<i>History of the collection</i>	Present in the museum since 1935.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online

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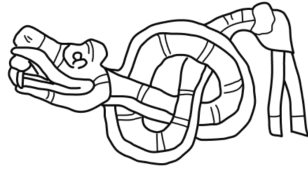
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<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Esposizione delle Missioni Cattoliche Americane. 1892. <i>Catalogo con Illustrazioni e Note</i>. Genova.• Elenco consistenza collezioni (documento interno)
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#05

<i>Name of the collection</i>	American Collections (C.A.)
<i>Collector</i>	Schmidt Pizarro (purchase)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Northern Andes e Centrali (Perù)
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Civilisations of the northern and central Andes and of the central coast
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Around forty pre-Hispanic objects, including ceramics and textiles (10 + 24 + 6).
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection is estimated to have been assembled between 1890 and 1930 and was acquired by the museum in 1933, 1934 and 1938.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online

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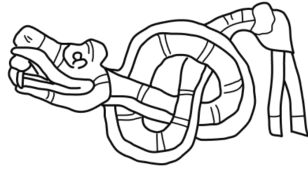
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<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cerulli, E., ed. 1972. <i>Mostra di Archeologia Precolombiana e di Etnologia Americana</i>. Genova: Castello D'Albertis.• Elenco consistenza collezioni (documento interno)
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#06

<i>Name of the collection</i>	American Collections (C.A.)
<i>Collector</i>	John Puccio
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Northern Andes e Centrali (Perù)
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Civilisations of the northern and central Andes and of the central coastal civilisations
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	About 450 pre-Hispanic objects, including ceramics and textiles (423 + 35).
<i>History of the collection</i>	The period in which the collection was assembled is unknown. It was acquired by the museum between 1927 and 1931.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online

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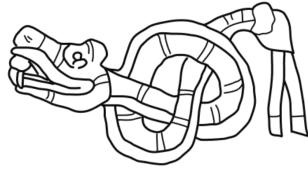
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#07

<i>Name of the collection</i>	American Collections (C.A.)
<i>Collector</i>	Prince Oddone of Savoy (donation)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Northern Andes (Perù)
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Chimú; Chimú-Inka
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	24 pre-Hispanic vessels.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection was assembled by Prince Oddone of Savoy, who donated it to Castello D'Albertis in 1866. It entered the museum collections in 1936.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online

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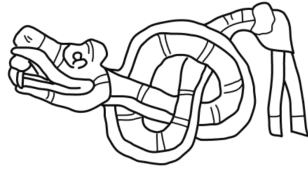
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Odone di Savoia (1846–1866). Le collezioni di un principe per Genova.</i> 1996. Milano: Mazzotta.
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#08

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Civico Istituto Colombiano (C.I.C.)
<i>Collector</i>	Renato Pez / Ezzo Standard / Marini Montesoro
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Northern Andes (Perù), Amazon (Colombia)
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Moche, Chimú, Chancay, Ancón, Ica, Nazca; Cuzco School; Tukano
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	121 pre-Hispanic and colonial objects from Peru (ceramics, textiles and tools related to weaving), a canvas from the Cuzco School depicting Christ on the Cross, and a small nucleus of Tucano ethnographic objects (Colombia).
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection was assembled in the mid-twentieth century and entered the museum in 1993, when the Institute was dissolved.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online

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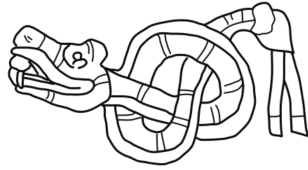
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#09

<i>Name of the collection</i>	American Collections (C.A.)
<i>Collector</i>	CONAC – Consejo Nacional de la Cultura (donation)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Caribbean
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Wayuu, Warao, Yekuana (Venezuela)
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	8 contemporary pieces including baskets, bags and sashes (Wayuu, Warao and Yekuana).
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection was assembled in 1996 and donated to the museum in 1998.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova

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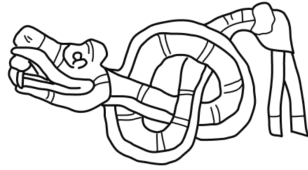
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">De Palma, M.C. 1996. "Il Museo Etnografico Castello D'Albertis tra i Wayuù del Venezuela, ovvero i musei della comunità." <i>Bollettino dei Musei Civici Genovesi</i> 18 (52-54): 185-192.

#10

<i>Name of the collection</i>	Dalla Volta Finzi collection (ADV)
<i>Collector</i>	Dalla Volta Finzi, Paolo
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Southwest (Arizona, Hopiland)
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Hopi
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	17 katsina dolls, 2 bowls, 1 ritual basket, 1 loom comb, 1 rattle, a drawing by Fred Kabotie, a painting by Michael Kabotie (unfinished) and dozens of paintings from the school of Fred Kabotie.
<i>History of the collection</i>	The collection was assembled in 1954 and entered the museum in 1999 following a donation by the Friends of Castello D'Albertis association.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova

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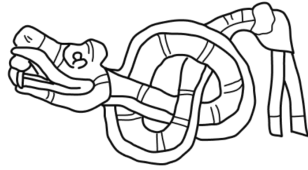
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#11

Name of the collection	Centro Padre Rodolfo Lunkenbein (CPPRL)
Collector	Centro Padre Rodolfo Lunkenbein / Bororo community of Meruri
Cultural areas	Altopiani Centro-Orientali (Mato Grosso, Brasile)
Ethnic group / community / cultural context	Bororo
Description of the Collection	16 artefacts produced by the Bororo community of Meruri on the occasion of the exhibition organised by the museum in collaboration with them, "Boe Nure Imi / Io sono Bororo. Un popolo indigeno del Brasile tra riti e 'futebol'" (October 2004 – January 2005): a pair of bracelets, a visor, a nape ornament, a clarinet, a pair of rattles, a skirt, a crown, two pairs of hairpins, a ritual

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	<p>necklace, a rattle, a mat, a tray, a feathered diadem, a small ritual gourd and a funerary basket. Made of fibre, feathers, cotton, armadillo claws, gourd and plumes, they form part of the funerary ritual ornaments that the Bororo still today make for their most important ceremonies, which last for months and involve a complex system of symbols, mythologies and rituals enacted by the community.</p>
<i>History of the collection</i>	<p>The collection was created in 2004 during activities organised for the exhibition “Boe Nure Imi / Io sono Bororo. Un popolo indigeno del Brasile tra riti e ‘futebol’” (October 2004 – January 2005), realised in collaboration with members of the Bororo community of Meruri. At the end of the exhibition the collection remained in the museum.</p>
<i>Online Database</i>	<p>Musei di Genova</p>
<i>Web page</i>	<p>https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online</p>
<i>Bibliography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• De Palma, M.C., ed. 2004. <i>Io sono Bororo. Un popolo indigeno del Brasile tra riti e “futebol”</i>. Catalogo della mostra omonima, Genova, Castello D’Albertis, 9 ottobre 2004 - 23 gennaio 2005. Milano.• De Palma, M.C., ed. 2006. “Io sono Bororo. Un popolo indigeno del Brasile tra riti e ‘futebol’ –

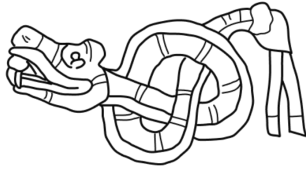
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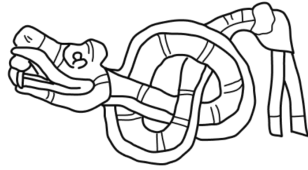
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	<p>Appunti dialogici per una mostra dialogica.” <i>Thule. Rivista Italiana di Studi Americanistici</i> 16/17 (2004): 255–274. Perugia.</p>
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#12

<i>Name of the collection</i>	American Collections (C.A.)
<i>Collector</i>	Alvaro del Portillo
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Gran Chaco (Bolivia, Lago Titicaca)
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	Boat in totora reed, typical of Lake Titicaca.
<i>History of the collection</i>	It is not known when the object was collected; it is only known that it was acquired by the museum in 2003.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online
<i>Bibliography</i>	

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<i>Name of the collection</i>	American Collections (C.A.)
<i>Collector</i>	Claudia Scognamiglio (donation)
<i>Cultural areas</i>	Northwest Coast
<i>Ethnic group / community / cultural context</i>	Kwakwaka'wakw Nation or Bella Coola
<i>Description of the Collection</i>	1 totem pole.
<i>History of the collection</i>	Acquired in 2007; no information is available regarding how it was collected.
<i>Online Database</i>	Musei di Genova
<i>Web page</i>	https://www.museidigenova.it/it/catalogo-online
<i>Bibliography</i>	

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