











State Library of New South Wales 7 October 2023 - 28 January 2024

	Image (not to scale)	Accession No	Lender	Object type	Description	Artist/ Maker	Dimensions (h x w x d cm)	Created/Found	Provenance
1		Oc.979	The British Museum, London	Boomerang	Boomerang of wood (grey mangrove <i>Avicennia marina</i>) with gentle curve and bands of black pigment. Black colouring has a slightly shiny finish, so does not appear to be black ochre.	Made by ancestors	75 x 70 x 6	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country before 1844, possibly by 1821	Most likely collected by Frederick Bedwell who was a midshipman on a ship captained by Phillip Parker King which was in Sydney in the years before 1821. Bedwell is known to have acquired objects for the private collection of George Annesley, 2nd Earl of Mountnorris, which was housed at Arley Castle in Worcestershire. Acquired by Henry Christy from the Arley Castle collection sale in December 1852. After Christy's death in 1865 it came into the British Museum's collections as part of the Christy Collection bequest.
2		Oc1846,0809.14	The British Museum, London	Boomerang	Boomerang of pale brown wood, (black wattle, <i>Acacia mearnsiie</i>), broad and flat; one face more convex than the other; two ends lighter in tint than the rest of the body.	Made by ancestors	68.4 x 13.5 x 1.1	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country before 1846	Collected by Lieutenant JMR Ince who served in the Royal Navy and sailed with HMS Fly and HMS Rattlesnake during their surveys on Australian coasts in the 1840s. Ince was the nephew of the British Museum's Keeper of Zoology, John Edward Gray and collected deliberately for the Museum. Presented by Lieutenant JMR Ince to the British Museum in 1846
3		Oc1954,06.390	The British Museum, London	Ridged Club	Boomerang, club made of wood (southern mahogany, <i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>) . Curved head with a transverse ridge on both sides. Both sides are carved with elaborate designs of parallel zigzags and other designs. Slight scoring around the proximal end for a grip. An old crack in the wood may have signs of repair.	Made by ancestors	67.2 x 12 x 2.8	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country c1790-1810	Possibly collected by Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick Possibly one of two 'bent wood clubs, slightly curved' purchased by the Wellcome Museum from David John Carnegie in 1924. Carnegie's father was a friend and colleague of Augustus William Henry Meyrick, who inherited a very similar club from his cousin in 1848. Acquired by the British Museum from the Wellcome Museum in 1954
4		Oc1926,0313.17	The British Museum, London	Fish hook	Hook fashioned from the large turban shell (<i>Ninella torquata</i>), plant fibre twine	Made by ancestors	Shell hook 2.5 cm (W), 2.8 (H), 0.5 cm (D); hook with cord extended 22.5 cm	Coastal NSW , probably Port Stephens Taken off Country 1830s	Probably collected by Lady Isabella Parry in the 1830s Donated to the British Museum in 1926 by F Sydney Parry, a descendent of Lady Isabella Parry's husband William Edward Parry.
5		Oc1926,0313.18	The British Museum, London	Fish hook	Hook fashioned from the large turban shell (<i>Ninella torquata</i>), plant fibre twine	Made by ancestors	Shell hook: 2.5 cm (H), 2.5cm (W), 0.5 cm (D); Hook with cord extended: 19 cm	Coastal NSW, Probably Port Stephens Taken off Country 1830s	Probably collected by Lady Isabella Parry in the 1830s Donated to the British Museum in 1926 by F Sydney Parry, a descendent of Lady Isabella Parry's husband William Edward Parry.





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6		Oc1878,1101.617	The British Museum, London	Parrying shield	Shield, parrying, of wood (grey gum, <i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>). Engraved on outer surface with longitudinal grooves. Coloured with red pigment.	Made by ancestors	95 x 72.5 x 5	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country: c 1790–1810	Collector: Arthur Bowes Smyth, a surgeon on the First Fleet ? 1789, Colonel Robson St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean ? Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick, a major collector of arms and armour, acquired the shield from Colonel Robson in or before 1807. Meyrick published a drawing of this shield in 1830, but first catalogued it in 1815 as a shield of 'curious construction from New South Wales'. In 1878, The British Museum purchased the shield from a descendant of Samuel Meyrick.
7		Oc.1809	The British Museum, London	Spear shield	Shield, wood, (Kurrajong <i>Brachychiton populneus</i>) oval, front convex transversely is painted with broad red bars with white spots between them on a black background. Concave back has a hand stencil painted at each end with the fingers pointing to the handle, which is cut out of the wood. At the side of the handle are sprinklings of white paint, the spaces between the fingers of the hands having the same sprinkling of white.	Made by ancestors	34 x 89.5 x 9.2	Coastal New South Wales, Shoalhaven area Taken off Country before 1862	Collector unknown Loaned by Henry Moss, a prominent local citizen in Nowra and the Shoalhaven region, to the International Exhibition in London in 1862. After the exhibition closed, it was among other objects purchased by Henry Christy. After Christy's death in 1865 it came into the British Museum's collections as part of the Christy Collection bequest.
8		Oc.1892	The British Museum, London	Neckwear	Necklace made of small segments of reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) strung on vegetable fibre cord.	Made by ancestors	44.5 x 7.5 x 5.3	Coastal New South Wales, Port Jackson area Taken off Country before 1821	Most likely collected by Frederick Bedwell who was a midshipman on a ship captained by Phillip Parker King which was in Sydney in the years before 1821. Bedwell is known to have acquired objects for the private collection of George Annesley, 2nd Earl of Mountnorris, which was housed at Arley Castle in Worcestershire. (Acquired by Henry Christy from the Arley Castle collection sale in December 1852). Donated by Henry Christy to the British Museum 1860s. Christy collection registration slip description, written in the 1860s





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9		Oc.1788	The British Museum, London	Neckwear	Necklace made of reed strung on vegetable fibre cord.	Made by ancestors	41.5 x 3	Coastal New South Wales, Port Jackson area Taken off Country before 1840s	Most likely collected by Frederick Bedwell who was a midshipman on a ship captained by Phillip Parker King which was in Sydney in the years before 1821. Bedwell is known to have acquired objects for the private collection of George Annesley, 2nd Earl of Mountnorris. Possibly given by Mountnorris to the botanist William Jackson Hooker who became Director of Royal Botanic Gardens , Kew in 1841 and established a new museum of economic botany in 1847. Acquired by Henry Christy, 1860s Donated to the British Museum by Henry Christy in the 1860s Christy collection registration slip description, written in the 1860s.
10		Oc1928,0110.1	The British Museum, London	Stone axe	Axe made of volcanic stone (dolerite)	Made by ancestors	8 x 13.5	Coastal Sydney region, Sans Souci/Gamay/ Botany Bay Taken off Country 1870s	Collector: English geologist and Sydney University professor, Archibald Liversidge, who wrote in 1894 that he had 'obtained ' some stone axes and other implements from the few blacks, who some twenty years ago, used to camp at these places.' Liversidge took the axes with him when he returned to England in 1909, leaving them to The British Museum when he died in 1927.
11		Oc1928,0110.6	The British Museum, London	Stone axe	Pebble, tool made of claystone.	Made by ancestors	6.9 x 10	Coastal Sydney region, Sans Souci/Gamay/ Botany Bay Taken off Country 1870s	Collector: English geologist and Sydney University professor, Archibald Liversidge, who wrote in 1894 that he had 'obtained ' some stone axes and other implements from the few blacks, who some twenty years ago, used to camp at these places.' Liversidge took the axes with him when he returned to England in 1909, leaving them to The British Museum when he died in 1927.
12		Oc1928,0110.12	The British Museum, London	Stone axe	Pebble, tool made of claystone.	Made by ancestors	6.7 x 8.7	Coastal Sydney region, Bondi area Taken off Country 1870s	Collector: English geologist and Sydney University professor, Archibald Liversidge, who wrote in 1894 that he had 'obtained ' some stone axes and other implements from the few blacks, who some twenty years ago, used to camp at these places.' Liversidge took the axes with him when he returned to England in 1909, leaving them to The British Museum when he died in 1927.





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13		Oc1928,0110.13	The British Museum, London	Stone axe	Implement made of quartzite.	Made by ancestors	6 x 7	Coastal Sydney region, Bondi area Taken off Country 1870s	Collector: English geologist and Sydney University professor, Archibald Liversidge, who wrote in 1894 that he had 'obtained ' some stone axes and other implements from the few blacks, who some twenty years ago, used to camp at these places.' Liversidge took the axes with him when he returned to England in 1909, leaving them to The British Museum when he died in 1927.
14		Oc.4061	The British Museum, London	String (net) bag	Netted bag made of brown bark fibre (Illawarra flame tree, <i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>) cord with string handle.	Made by ancestors	45.1 x 35 x 3	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country before 1821	Most likely collected by Frederick Bedwell who was a midshipman on a ship captained by Phillip Parker King which was in Sydney in the years before 1821 . Bedwell is known to have acquired objects for the private collection of George Annesley, 2nd Earl of Mountnorris, which was housed at Arley Castle in Worcestershire. Acquired by Henry Christy from the Arley Castle collection sale in December 1852. Entered the collection of the British Museum in 1860s
15		Oc.1872 a and c	The British Museum, London	Bark container	Container made of folded bark, (probably basal cabbage tree palm sheath <i>Livistona lorophylla</i>) tied at ends, wooden pin attached	Made by ancestors	41 x 75 x 80	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country 1850s	Collector unknown Was one of three objects donated to Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Economic Botany Collection in 1857 by Nathaniel Ward, a botanist who is not recorded as having visited Australia, but his home in the United Kingdom was frequented by many travellers from across the world. Transferred from Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in 1872 to the collections of the British Museum.
16		C09486	The Cuming Museum, Southwark Heritage Centre (Cuming bequest collection, Heritage team Southwark Council)	String (net) bag	String bag of (Kurrajong?) fibre with looped string handle and piece of bark at the base of the bag	Made by ancestors	36 x 28	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country: before 1830s	Entered the Cuming Museum before 1850. The Cuming Museum in Walworth Road in Elephant and Castle, within the London Borough of Southwark, London, England, was a museum housing the collection of the Cuming family and later collections on Southwark's history. Hailed as a 'British Museum in miniature' when it opened in 1906, this museum was the anthropological 'cabinet of curiosities' collected by father and son Richard and Henry Syer Cuming. In 2021, its collections have been rehoused in a new Southwark Heritage Centre







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17		C03500	The Cuming Museum, Southwark Heritage Centre (Cuming bequest collection, Heritage team Southwark Council)	Sword club	Sword club with engraved design	Made by ancestors	69.5 x 7.5	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country: 1790 - 1810	Possibly collected by Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick. Entered the Cuming Museum before 1850. The Cuming Museum in Walworth Road in Elephant and Castle, within the London Borough of Southwark, London, England, was a museum housing the collection of the Cuming family and later collections on Southwark's history. Hailed as a 'British Museum in miniature' when it opened in 1906, this museum was the anthropological 'cabinet of curiosities' collected by father and son Richard and Henry Syer Cuming. In 2021, its collections have been rehoused in a new Southwark Heritage Centre
18		TN03551	The Cuming Museum, Southwark Heritage Centre	Flared Club	Flared club with engraved head	Made by ancestors	61 x 10	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country: before 1850s	Entered the Cuming Museum before 1850. The Cuming Museum in Walworth Road in Elephant and Castle, within the London Borough of Southwark, London, England, was a museum housing the collection of the Cuming family and later collections on Southwark's history. Hailed as a 'British Museum in miniature' when it opened in 1906, this museum was the anthropological 'cabinet of curiosities' collected by father and son Richard and Henry Syer Cuming. In 2021, its collections have been rehoused in a new Southwark Heritage Centre
19		C03198	The Cuming Museum, Southwark Heritage Centre	Club	Long and grooved club	Made by ancestors	66.5 x 6	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country: before 1840s	The Cuming Museum in Walworth Road in Elephant and Castle, within the London Borough of Southwark, London, England, was a museum housing the collection of the Cuming family and later collections on Southwark's history. Hailed as a 'British Museum in miniature' when it opened in 1906, this museum was the anthropological 'cabinet of curiosities' collected by father and son Richard and Henry Syer Cuming. In 2021, its collections have been rehoused in a new Southwark Heritage Centre
20		1922.995	Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge	Stone hatchet	Volcanic stone, wood (Mangrove, <i>Avicennia marina</i>), resin (<i>Xanthorrhoea</i> gum), plant fibre,	Made by ancestors	40.5 x 12.5	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country before 1810 (late 1700s?)	It is likely that this item arrived in England by 1800 or soon afterwards. Collector is unknown (possibly Arthur Howe?) Entered the collections of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge in 1922 when it was bought by Louis Clarke (along with other objects) from the Holdsworth family of Widdicombe House, Devon.

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21		Z 29058	Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge	Shield	Spear shield of hardwood, with convex surface. It has a handle cut out of the solid, which is an unusual feature. Made of <i>Angophora costata</i> , smooth-barked apple-myrtle (also known as rose gum, rose apple or Sydney red gum).	Made by ancestors	76.5 x 30 cm	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country before 1820s	Collector unknown. In 1887 it was noticed in the library of Jesus College, Cambridge by the curator of Cambridge University's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. It is likely to have been given to the College by a former student, possibly Edward Daniel Clarke, a traveller and antiquarian collector who presented many objects to the University in 1803 and died in 1822. Entered the collections of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge in 1922.
22		1922.994	Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge	Spear thrower	Wooden spear thrower, (native cherry, <i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>) flattened on underside and slightly convex on upper side. With a wooden peg held in place with resin (<i>Xanthorrhoea</i>) . A bivalve shell (venus shell, <i>Veneridae</i> family) knife is also attached at the opposite end with resin. A peg of wood is secured with native gum cement. A piece of the gum over the shell end has broken off.	Made by ancestors	85.5 x 5.5	Coastal Sydney region Taken off country before 1810 (late 1700s?).	Likely that this spear thrower was in use in the coastal Sydney region in the late 1700s. Entered the collections of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge in 1922 when it was bought by Louis Clarke (along with other objects) from the Holdsworth family of Widdicombe House, Devon.
23		1886.1.1600	Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford	Boomerang	Long, slightly curved boomerang with rounded ends and a carved grooved surface texture on both sides.	Made by ancestors	H: 84.5 x 5.5	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country before 1859	Probably collected by John Kingdon Cleeve , who arrived in Australia in the 1820s. Transferred to the Pitt Rivers Museum from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford in 1886 as part of a 'series of Australian articles collected and given by the venerable Archdeacon Scott of New South Wales, C Wood Esq JK Cleeve and GH Cox Esq of Victoria'. A small label has been stuck onto the boomerang and it has also been inscribed on its surface in white lettering with 'Australia' and other details including the name of its collector JK Cleeve.
24		1886.1.1598	Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford	Club	Wood club with oval-sectioned handle expanding into a lozenge-shaped head	Made by ancestors	68.5 x 13. x 3	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country c1820s	Possibly collected by Allen Francis Gardiner, prominent missionary and collector, who visited Port Jackson between 1821 and 1822. Displayed as part of the Ramsden Collection, Spratton Hall Northamptonshire (the Museum's founder Robert Ramsden was a friend of Gardiner). Acquired by the Pitt Rivers Museum in 1878.

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25		1931.78.16	Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford	Mushroom head club	Wooden club with flat oblong shaped head set asymmetrically to the shaft with a cylindrical projection in the centre of the upper surface. The handle is straight with a pointed handle, the lower section of which is roughened.	Made by ancestors	58 x 13.5 x 10.5	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country before 1826	James Thomas Hooper, Collector and dealer of ethnography from 1920s Purchased 1931 by the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford
26		1935.71.1	Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford	Lancet	Lancet in the form of a miniature wooden-hafted, stone-bladed axe, used for surgical operations.	Made by ancestors	16.5	Coastal Sydney Maroubra area Taken off Country 1890s	Purchased by English collector Alan Herbert Coltart who was visiting Sydney in 1910-1911 from 'curio' dealers Tost and Rohu (https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/tost_rohu) Purchased by the Pitt Rivers Museum in 1935.
27		1886.1.1593	Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford	Spear thrower	Spear thrower. Long, narrow with expanded spatulate handle. Opposite end with long hook bound in fibrous cord and resin. Small incised design on one side	Made by ancestors	90.7 x 3.8	Coastal New South Wales Taken off Country before 1836, possibly 1820s	Collected by Thomas Hobbes Scott. Scott was appointed Archdeacon of New South Wales on 2 October 1824. Transferred to the Pitt Rivers Museum from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford in 1886 as part of a 'series of Australian articles collected and given by the venerable Archdeacon Scott of New South Wales, C Wood Esq JK Cleave and GH Cox Esq of Victoria'.
28		A.1899.57	National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh	Club	Long and grooved club (black wattle, <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>) fibre, resin (<i>Xanthorrhoea</i> gum)	Made by ancestors	76.2 (L)	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country 1810-1820	Collector James Brooks. Entered the collections of National Museums Scotland after 1820
29		A.UC.673	National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh	Club	Straight wooden club (swamp mahogany <i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>) with a mushroom head and roughened grip:	Made by ancestors	54.6 x 12.7	Coastal Sydney region Taken off Country before 1826	Collector unknown Entered the collections of the National Museums Scotland, via University of Edinburgh, 1826
30		A.1922.116	National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh	Spear shield	Shield, elliptical, made from white mangrove wood, (<i>Avicennia marina</i>) decorated with panels of linear ornament painted in red on a white ground:	Made by Ancestors	94.5 x 36 x 5.5	Sydney region Taken off Country before 1852	Possibly from the collection of Admiral John Elphinstone Erskine who visited Australia in 1849-1851. It is not known how he acquired the shield. The shield was among his collection auctioned in Glasgow in 1922. Entered the collection of NMS after 1922