

The GODDARD family

Four members of the Goddard family, many of whom lived and still live in the Sydney area, collected Indigenous artefacts. Brothers Frederick and Sydney Goddard and their nephews Roy and Keith were all keen collectors, and all except Sydney, who sold his collection to the Australian Museum in 1903, have artefacts in the National Museum's collection.

The collections include a wide range of artefacts from Australia and the South Pacific. Roy's collection also includes a large number of stone implements. Like most collections there are some special components, such as artefacts from the eastern Kimberley collected by Keith and sculptures by the Pitta Pitta artist Kalboori Youngi collected by Roy. In recent years Youngi has attracted more attention and most of her sculptures in the Goddard Collection can be seen in the Museum's Open Collections area, probably the first time so many of them have been together on public display since 1936.

Roy (1888–1958) was a chartered accountant with qualifications from the University of Sydney. However, his business was not particularly successful as he spent so much time away collecting Aboriginal artefacts. He was a keen amateur ethnologist and a founding member of the Anthropological Society of New South Wales, which started in 1928. He held the position of Honorary Treasurer from 1930 to 1939 and frequently took part in its excursions. Both Keith and Frederick later became members. Roy's other interests included yachting and Australian art. He was at one time Vice-Consul in Australia for Honduras and Acting Secretary of the Latin-American Chamber of Commerce.

Keith or 'Tiger' (1893–1964), served in the First World War and fought at Gallipoli (Roy was declared medically unfit so did not serve). He took up a Soldier Settlement block near Grenfell but this was not successful. From about 1926 Tiger managed stations in north-western Australia, including Wave Hill and Nicholson and worked on stations in Queensland. When the Second World War broke out he reduced his age and joined the Australian Imperial

Force. He fought in Timor before being posted to the Australian–New Guinea Administrative Unit in Papua New Guinea where he remained until the mid-1950s when he returned to Australia. Tiger died of cancer in the Sydney War Veterans Home in 1964.

Frederick (1860–1949) began his long association with pastoral life in New South Wales. In 1880, on his first day jackarooing on Moonagee station on the Bogan River he got lost while boundary-riding! However, he soon became a proficient bushman. In 1889 he managed Grahweed and later in the year took up land with his brother Sydney (1869–1954) on the Darling River near Tilpa which they called Yandilla. Frederick remained at Yandilla until 1902. The property remained in the family for several more decades. Frederick moved to the New South Wales north coast where he farmed sheep and later cattle but after a series of disasters, Frederick sold up in 1908 and was appointed the local tick inspector before becoming rabbit inspector at Nyngan. He retired to Sydney in 1926.

Not surprisingly, the Goddards' collections include artefacts from Aboriginal people on the stations where they worked. Roy's collection includes items from Wave Hill and Nicholson sent to him by Keith, some of which were exhibited in the Anthropological Society's exhibition in Sydney in 1934. Roy and Frederick also displayed artefacts at the exhibition. Keith also provided artefacts from this area, either directly or through Roy, to other collectors such as Stan Mitchell (see *Friends Newsletter* 14(4) for Mitchell's story).

Keith continued to collect while he was overseas and may have been the source of the Pacific artefacts in both Roy and Frederick's collections. Roy wrote as late as October 1955 that Keith was still adding to his collection from Papua New Guinea but there are no records of additions being made to the collection after its arrival in Canberra in 1948.

Roy was very interested in stone implements and collected a significant number from sites in the Sydney area and along the coast north and south of the city. Some were collected during excursions held by the Anthropological Society. Other implements possibly came from Frederick, having their origins in places where he had lived, including Moonagee station. In 1940 Roy, along with Stan Mitchell, joined a Queensland collecting expedition to the Carnarvon Ranges. Roy put together an album of photographs taken during this trip and this was donated to the Museum by Roy's family in 1995.

It is interesting to compare the artefacts from Yandilla in Sydney's collection with those in the Museum collection lacking information about who collected them. They are labelled in such a way that strongly suggests they are part of Roy or Frederick's collection, something that should be possible to determine with a little investigation. The boomerangs, clubs, shield and spears in Sydney's collection all bear intricate incised designs, a common feature of early wooden implements from this region. None of the Yandilla



Members of the Carnarvon Ranges expedition organised by the Queensland branch of the Royal Geographical Society. Roy Goddard is on the far left. From a print in Roy Goddard's expedition album donated to the Museum by his son Keith. Photographer unknown.

national museum COLLECTORS AND COLLECTIONS



Sydney Goddard, his daughter Lisle and Frederick Goddard. Taken at Yandilla in 1900. Photo: courtesy of Max Gedye

wooden artefacts held by the National Museum of Australia have designs, and one possible explanation is that the Australian Museum's artefacts were made for personal use while the ones here were made for sale. Another interesting topic for future research!

Both Roy and Frederick were published writers. Frederick wrote an article about a clever man's kit he found hidden in a log in 1882. Keeping it, he was very unpopular with the local Aboriginal people until eventually a woman threw a heavy club at Frederick, narrowly missing him. He kept the club too! He later gave the kit and other artefacts to Lord Carrington, then Governor of New South Wales. Roy was a prolific author, with a wide-ranging interest in history and Aboriginal studies. From the 1930s to the 1950s he published 13 articles on various aspects of Aboriginal cultures. Some of them focused on items in his collection, including one published in 1939 about the sculptures he collected from Kalboori Youngi. He also wrote on the history of yachting between 1837 and 1937 and the history of the Union Club, as well as Australian art. He published a book on landscape paintings in 1952 and wrote the foreword to a volume commemorating art patron Howard Hinton. Roy also delivered papers at important conferences, including ANZAAS in 1937 at Auckland, New Zealand and two years later in Canberra.

Frederick and Roy both donated their collections within 12 months of one another. At Roy's suggestion, Frederick offered his collection of about 100 items to the University of Sydney on 18 November 1947. Along with other collections from the University of Sydney, Frederick's collection was relocated to the Australian Institute of Anatomy in 1957 with ownership being transferred to the National Museum in 1989.

As with many collectors, Roy saw his collection as something of significance and wanted his collection preserved for future generations. Instead of offering it to a museum he went straight to the top, addressing his letter of offer to Prime Minister John Chifley on 11 June 1948. Roy asked that it be called after his brother and today his collection is known as the Keith Goddard Collection. Roy stipulated that his collection be kept intact – something that has been maintained to this day.

I would like to thank Mr Max Gedye and the late Mr Keith Goddard for the material they have generously provided over a number of years relating to the Goddard family, from which I have drawn upon in this article.

David Kaus
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For more information on the Friends bequest
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