



Geological specimen collected by Charles Darwin

Darwin collected many rock samples during his voyage around the world on HMS *Beagle*. He kept them in his possession at Down House where he studied them, and after his death they were given to the Sedgwick Museum in Cambridge.

By mapping this collection alongside other items he collected during this voyage, we can re-connect them with each other, and the peoples and places from where they came.

This particular specimen was collected at Wulaia Bay in Tierra del Fuego in 1833, during a well-documented encounter with indigenous Yaghan communities living in the vicinity of Ponsonby Sound.

Through mapping these collections and sharing them publicly online, The Earth Museum has started to build connections with communities now living and studying cultural heritage in this part of present-day Chile.



Whale oil lamp, c. 1840

This example of a utilitarian social history object illuminated the early Victorian world, and in a small way powered the endeavours of empire.

Industrial examples gave light to darkness in factories, allowing them to operate all night. Crafted in Europe, yet the fuel they burn connects them to global stories of what we would regard today as irresponsible consumerism.

The whale oil was derived from the Southern Right Whales of the Southern Oceans, hunted nearly to extinction. Whaler lives became entangled with those of indigenous communities in Aotearoa New Zealand, for example, and soon began the process of colonisation that changed Māori ways of life forever.



DH Lawrence Headstone

Soon after Lawrence's burial in Vence in the South of France in 1930, his widow Frieda commissioned a simple headstone to place on his grave.

No words were engraved on the plaster-covered stone slab, instead, it displayed a mosaic of a phoenix rising from its ashes, the writer's iconic emblem.

Made up of different coloured pebbles from one of the beaches at Bandol, the mosaic was designed by an Italian artisan.

Following Lawrence's exhumation in March 1935, the headstone was retrieved by an English resident of Vence. In 1939 she returned to England and brought the headstone with her, and it eventually found a permanent home in the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum at Eastwood.



DH Lawrence Travel Trunk

Lawrence and Frieda used this trunk on their travels. There is a record of them taking four on one such trip from Italy to Ceylon, which turned into a journey around the world.

Lawrence described them as “one household trunk, one book trunk, F’s and mine...”

The author’s initials, DHL, are clearly marked on three sides. At first appearance the exterior seems like leather, but an expert examination has revealed that it is in fact made from linoleum.

The trunk was given to a local scout group by Lawrence’s sister, Ada, in 1948, who then donated it to the museum.

The trunk is evidence of Lawrence’s “absolute necessity to move”.



John Franklin's Snow Shoes

Used on his expedition between 1819-22 to chart the north coast of Canada overland from Hudson Bay to the mouth of the Coppermine River.

During the expedition he lost men to starvation, and the survivors were forced to eat lichen. They even attempted to eat their own leather boots.

Stories told by the survivors thrilled the public, and Franklin became a national hero.

Franklin was born in Spilsby, Lincolnshire, and joined the navy at an early age.

He died on expedition in search of the North-West passage in 1845.



Pendant from Maltby le Marsh, Lincolnshire

In October 2016 a late 7th century gold and garnet pendant was discovered, and subsequent excavation revealed artefacts that suggested it once furnished a high status female burial.

Such graves are rare and the assemblage raises many important questions.

It comprises artefacts with local post-roman art and objects from Scandinavia, including a Woden headed mount for which there are only three close parallels in England.

The 7th century was a period of dramatic social change, which saw the decline of paganism, the emergence of the church, and the increased significance of females in leadership and positions of influence.