

Map showing Samoa's traditional districts, 2017 by CartoGIS, College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University



This display was curated by the Sainsbury Research Unit MA students: Benjamina Dadzie, Maya Cardwell, Emily Shorter, Lynne Harper, Lydia Fisher and Rachael Minott in March 2017 in association with the Robert Sainsbury Library Bursary.

Marjorie King generously donated her collection to the Robert Sainsbury Library in 2004 which now forms part of the Sainsbury Research Unit's Teaching Collection.

Photographic credits: Marjorie King Collection, Sainsbury Research Unit; except p. 2. image of Marjorie King, photographer unknown., and p.8. by Karen Jacobs.

Daughters of the Islands:

Stories from the Marjorie King collection



Robert Sainsbury Library,
Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts,
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Daughters of the Islands, 2017

Daughters of the Islands is a showcase of objects collected by Marjorie King between 1954 and 1968 during her term as Headmistress of Papauta School, a London Missionary Society girls school in Samoa founded in 1892. King was a member of The Women's Interest Project, which focused on the part women can play in the development of their community. These objects demonstrate the weaving, braiding and plaiting skills that the girls learned to uphold Samoan ways of life and were sold to tourists to help finance school costs.



Marjorie King posing for a picture in a cotton dress with a brown rubbed design and coconut shell buttons, in the Sainsbury Research Unit's collection. The dress had been gifted to Miss King as a birthday present.



Size 113 x 76cm. SRU2004MK30



A delicate hand plaited natural fibre belt decorated with a purple and turquoise geometric pattern.

Size 80 x 35 cm. SRU2004MK90

Finely woven fan in the Tuvalu style with white feather rim. Two concentric brown - black circles or teardrop shaped rings are woven on both faces of fan. Handle is woven in a checkerboard fashion with alternating natural and brown - black fibres.



Size 39 x 28 cm. SRU2004MK112



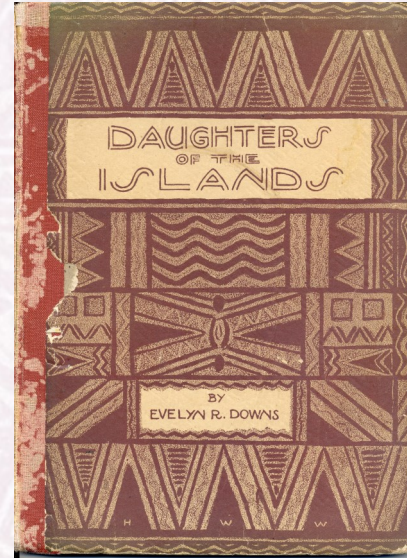
A shell necklace with two layers of shells woven into the design that closes with a shell clasp. This necklace demonstrates the versatility of weaving techniques used in personal adornment.

Size 21 x 28 cm. SRU2004MK72



The students from Papauta school weaving objects styled similarly to those in the Sainsbury Research Unit's teaching collection. Weaving formed part of the girls' handicraft lessons, with the objects sold at the annual bazaar.

Women preparing and weaving natural fibres. One woman can be seen using the contrasting black and white fibres on the floor to weave a square carrier with a geometric pattern.



Daughters of the Islands (1944) Evelyn R Downs. A monograph describing life at Papauta Girls school, Samoa. Signed by author to Miss King and includes a photograph and drawing of the building.

A pair of slippers and a purse or wallet made of Pandanus fibre and barkcloth. Barkcloth is made from Mulberry trees, which were grown and processed on the schools plantation by the students.



Size 26 x 30 cm. SRU2004MK44

Size 16 x 11cm. SRU2004MK42





Above: Groups of women engaging in various handicrafts activities. At the Papauta School, with Miss King as Headmistress, weekly activities included Needle work, Handicraft, Plantation work and Red Cross Girls' Brigade.

Below: A woman processing Pandanus plant. Pandanus leaves require soaking and processing to improve malleability prior to plaiting, weaving and braiding.



A small finely woven basket in the form of a box. This bag was obtained during the 1961 Women's Interests training seminar in Apia, Western Samoa, which aimed to promote the civic training of women through individual and communal education.

Size 10 X 21 X 12 cm. SRU2004MK40

Hand plaited Pandanus palm satchel bag decorated with purple and natural fibre checkerboard pattern. Gifted to Miss Marjorie King by Olivea Fekusone, former Papauta student and wife to an LMS missionary to the Fly River Delta, Papua New Guinea.

Size 30 x 30 x 90 cm. SRU2004MK67



This woven carrier conceals a hollowed-out coconut shell, used to carry water. Rather than a stopper, the carrier has a separate woven lid, adorned with shells. The light colour of the natural fibre is contrasted by four dyed purple diamonds.

Size 17 x 12 cm. SRU2004MK132