



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to MS 7464 Louis Guesde drawings of Carib stone tools

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 7464 Louis Guesde drawings of Carib stone tools
Date:	undated
Identifier:	NAA.MS7464
Creator:	Guesde, Louis, 1844-1924
Extent:	2 Volumes (1 album containing 20 watercolor drawings and 1 reprint) 68 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor on paper; approximately 11 x 15 inches)
Language:	Captions are in French. Reprint and notes are in English.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The set of 68 drawings was received in the Department of Anthropology, United States National Museum (USNM) in 1880. The album was also sent to USNM in 1880, but was lost at customs in Philadelphia. It was not received until 1895 (Accession 29775). The drawings appear to have been matted or framed at one time, and they may have been hung in the archaeology hall in the Smithsonian Institution Building (see Anthropological exhibit in U. S. National Museum, circa 1902, Bureau of American Ethnology Negatives, negative 4811). They were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives (date unknown).

Related Materials

The Musee du Quai Branly holds a collection of illustrations by Guesde.

The Department of Anthropology holds objects collected by Guesde under Accession Numbers 15848, 17654, and 35724.

Processing Information

In 2022, the Louis Guesde drawings previously described under MS 7464 and MS 7484 were reprocessed. MS 7464 (the album and reprint) and MS 7484 (the set of 68 drawings) were consolidated under MS 7464. The record for MS 7484 was deleted.

Preferred Citation

MS 7464 Louis Guesde drawings of Carib stone tools, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use

Biographical Note

Louis Athanase Mathieu Guesde was born in Hamacao, Puerto Rico in 1844. He spent his youth in Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, and studied in Paris from 1856 to 1867. He returned to Guadeloupe to work in the Ministry of Finance and later as secretary of the Chamber of Agriculture. He was an amateur archaeologist and illustrator, who assembled a large collection of Carib stone tools and produced lifelike illustrations of his collection. Guesde died in 1924.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of drawings of stone tools collected by Louis Guesde in Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe and related materials. The collection includes a set of 68 watercolors on paper, an album of 20 watercolors, and a copy of an article by Otis T. Mason.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 7464 NAA MS 7484 USNM Accession 29775

Variant Titles

Antiquités Caraïbes. Collection L. Guesde.

Carib stone tools

Carib stone implements

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Archaeology
- Island Carib (archaeological)
- Stone implements

Cultures:

- Island Carib (archaeological)

Types of Materials:

Watercolors
Works of art

Places:

Caribbean Area
Guadeloupe

Container Listing

Box 1

Drawings of stone tools

68 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor on paper; approximately 11 x 15 inches)

Notes: A set of 68 watercolor drawings, numbered 39 through 50. These drawings are described in "The Guesde Collection of Antiquities in Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, West Indies" by Otis T. Mason.
Formerly known as MS 7484

Box 2, Item 1

Album of drawings of stone tools

Notes: Album containing 20 watercolor paintings of stone tools. The album has been disbound.

Also includes a hand-written list in the hand of Neil M. Judd of donations (drawings and artifacts) received by the United States National Museum from Guesde.

Box 2, Item 2

"The Guesde Collection of Antiquities in Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, West Indies", 1884

Notes: Description and analysis of the set of 68 drawings written by Otis T. Mason and published in *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution*, 1884, pp. 731-837.