

Proposed Intro Text

The University of Alabama (UA) is not only home to nearly 40,000 students, but a vast array of collection objects and specimens. Many of these, around four million, are housed within the University of Alabama Museums department of research and collections. The University of Alabama Museums in collaboration with The Fashion Archive at UA have highlighted 24 objects or specimens from across six different collections (archaeology, Earth science, entomology, ethnography, historic, and fashion) as part of our contribution to the Color Our Collections initiative. The objects included here are not only visually interesting, but each have their own story and were chosen to reflect the tremendous diversity of collections housed on The University of Alabama campus.

#ColorOurCollections Project

Collection: UA Museums

Object 1

Collection Name: Ethnography

Object Name: Mask

Accession Number: E1985.0002.0505

Date of Object: Collected in 1940s

Maker/Creator: Indigenous People of Sepik River, New Guinea

Object Description: Washkuk figure used for the Yena-ma ceremony for successful yam harvest.

Donor Name: Douglas E. Jones

Object 2

Collection Name: Ethnography

Object Name: Pipe

Accession Number: E1985.0002.336

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: Indigenous People of Easter Island

Object Description: Wood effigy pipe

Donor Name: Dennis C. Smith

Object 3

Collection Name: Ethnography

Object Name: Fan

Accession Number: E1985.0005.003

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: North Carolina Woodsman

Object Description: Fan of woven oak strips

Donor Name: Unknown

Object 4

Collection Name: Ethnography

Object Name: Dagger

Accession Number: E1986.0007.009

Date of Object: Collected by Harold L. Bank during WWII

Maker/Creator: Indigenous People of the Philippine Islands

Object Description: Dagger with inlaid handle and engraved, double-edged blade

Donor Name: Netta Bank

Object 5

Collection Name: Earth Sciences

Object Name: Pyrite

Accession Number: G2019.0003

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: N/A

Object Description:

Donor Name: Elizabeth Bradt

Object 6

Collection Name: Earth Sciences

Object Name: Ammonite

Accession Number: PI2014.0006.0007

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: N/A

Object Description: Half of a Large Ammonite (Cephalopoda)

Donor Name: Carol McWhorter

Object 7

Collection Name: Earth Sciences

Object Name: Sharks' Teeth

Accession Number: PV1985.0014.0187

Date of Object: Pleistocene

Maker/Creator: N/A

Object Description: Great White Shark teeth (*Carcharodon carcharias*)

Donor Name: Mrs. David Roberts

Object 8

Collection Name: Earth Sciences

Object Name: Fossil Fern

Accession Number: PB2014.0012.0180

Date of Object: Paleozoic

Maker/Creator: N/A

Object Description: Fossil Fern (*Sphenopteris pottsvillea*)

Donor Name: Prescott Atkinson

Object 9

Collection Name: Insect Collection

Object Name: Giant Desert Centipede (*Scolopendra heros*)

Accession Number: Ent:102004

Date of Object: unknown

Maker/Creator: N/A

Object Description: *S. heros* is found in northern Mexico and the southwestern United States, from New Mexico and Arizona in the west to Arkansas, Missouri, and Louisiana in the east.

Although this species is commonly referred to as the "giant desert centipede" because of its presence in the Sonoran Desert and other arid habitats, *S. heros* is also found in rocky woodland areas, such as in Arkansas. It remains underground on warm days, emerging in cloudy weather. . (from Wikipedia). This specimen is used in displays with outreach activities

Donor Name: John Abbott

Object 10

Collection Name: Insect Collection

Object Name: Giant Malaysian Katydid (*Arachnacris corporalis*)

Accession Number: ENT:102000

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: N/A

Object Description: The Giant Malaysian Katydid (*Arachnacris corporalis*) is a species of

carnivorous giant katydid native to Malaysia. It is one of the largest insects in the known world, they grow to an impressive 15 cm (6 in) with a 25 cm (10 in) wingspan. Males of this species have the largest testes of any known animal, with them making up 14% of their overall body weight—this is equivalent to a 91 kg (200lb) man having ones that weighed almost 13 kg (28 lbs) (from https://allspecies.fandom.com/wiki/Giant_Malaysian_Katydid). This specimen was part of our living collection and is now used as a display specimen.

Donor Name: John Abbott

Object 11

Collection Name: Insect Collection

Object Name: harlequin beetle (*Acrocinus longimanus*)

Accession Number: ENT:102239

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: N/A

Object Description: The harlequin beetle is a tropical longhorned beetle native from southern Mexico to Uruguay. The harlequin beetle feeds on sap and is given this name because of its elaborate pattern of black, red and greenish yellow markings on the wing covers of both sexes. The species name longimanus is a Latin word that refers to the extremely long forelegs (manus) of the males, which are usually longer than the beetle's entire body. As an adult, the species is very large, with a body that can measure nearly 76 mm (3 inches) in length. It is also famous for carrying pseudoscorpions as a form of phoresy. (from Wikipedia)

Donor Name: John Abbott

Object 12

Collection Name: Insect Collection

Object Name: Lime Butterfly (*Papilio demoleus*)

Accession Number: Ent:102814

Date of Object: May 1935

Maker/Creator: N/A

Object Description: *Papilio demoleus*, also called Lime Butterfly is a butterfly from Australasia / Indomalaya ecozone (Australia). The first description was in 1758 by Linnaeus. The wingspan is about 8 – 9 cm. This butterfly is a member of the family PAPILIONIDAE. *Papilio demoleus* is black. It has a large number of yellow spots. (from <https://en.butterflycorner.net/Papilio-demoleus-Lime-Butterfly-Citrus-Schwalbenschwanz.997.0.html>). This specimen is part of our historic Ralph

Chermock butterfly collection.

Donor Name: Ralph Chermock

Object 13

Collection Name: Insect Collection

Object Name: Malayan Zebra (*Graphium delesserti*)

Accession Number: Ent:102816

Date of Object: May 1935

Maker/Creator: N/A

Object Description: It is found in Southeast Asia. The rare female resembles *Ideopsis gaura*. Despite the rarity of females *Graphium delesserti* is a common species found throughout southeast Asia, although threatened by deforestation in Java. It is a member of the swallowtail family. (from Wikipedia). This specimen is part of our historic Ralph Chermock butterfly collection.

Donor Name: Ralph Chermock

Object 14

Collection Name: Insect Collection

Object Name: Schaus' Swallowtail (*Papilio aristodemus*)

Accession Number: Ent:102419

Date of Object: May 1935

Maker/Creator: N/A

Object Description: *Papilio aristodemus*, the Schaus' swallowtail or island swallowtail, is a species of American butterfly in the family Papilionidae. It is found in southern Florida with subspecies in the Bahamas, Hispaniola, and Cuba. Historically it occurred in tropical hardwood hammock from South Miami to Lower Matecumbe Key, Florida. It is named in honor of William Schaus. *S. a. ponceanus* was listed as endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 1984 due to dramatic declines in numbers and contraction of range. Threats include mosquito control and destruction of its tropical hardwood hammock habitat. Aside from this, they are also known to be susceptible to dramatic weather conditions such as hurricanes and droughts. For instance in 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated the region and nearly wiped out the entire population of Schaus's swallowtail, leaving only 73 documented individual survivors. (from Wikipedia). This is one of three specimens of this rare species that we have in our collection.

Donor Name: Ralph Chermock **Object 13**

Collection Name: Historic Collection

Object Name: Miniature Carpentry Tools

Accession Number: H1985.0002

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: Unknown

Object Description: Miniature tools belonging to the E.A. Smith family

Donor Name: Tommy Deerman

Object 15

Collection Name: Historic Collection

Object Name: Cup & Saucer

Accession Number: H2009.0004.0218

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: Ovington Bros. Co. New York

Object Description: Porcelain Cup & Saucer

Donor Name: Nell Burchfield

Object 16

Collection Name: Historic Collection

Object Name: Civil War Canteen

Accession Number: H2006.0004.0002

Date of Object: 1862

Maker/Creator: Unknown

Object Description: Engraved wood canteen belonging to Eugene Allen Smith, first director of the UA Natural History Museum.

Donor Name: Maurene Smith

Object 17

Collection Name: Historic Collection

Object Name: Rug

Accession Number: H2015.0014

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: Unknown

Object Description: Muslim prayer rug

Donor Name: Unknown

Object 18

Collection Name: Archaeology Collection

Object Name: Rattlesnake Disk

Accession Number: 1941.004.549

Date of Object: see below

Maker/Creator: see below

Object Description: This is a carved stone palette known as the Rattlesnake Disk. It was found on the Moundville site by a farmer plowing his field sometime before 1883, and was given to Professor E. A. Smith of the University Museum. The carving on the disk shows two intertwined rattlesnakes around the Hand and Eye motif that archaeologists think represents the doorway to the Mississippian afterlife. The carving is on the back of the disk; the front was used to grind pigments for paint. The artifact was named the State Artifact of Alabama, and is on display at the Jones Museum of Archaeology at Moundville Archaeological Park.

Donor Name: Unknown

Object 19

Collection Name: Archaeology Collection

Object Name: carved shell gorget

Accession Number: 1938.004.55938 (Replica)

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: Unknown

Object Description: This is a plaster cast of a carved shell gorget (a pendant for hanging on a necklace). The conch shell that the original was carved from would have come from the Gulf of Mexico, but the gorget was found in a shell mound on the banks of the Tennessee River in Lauderdale County, Alabama. The carving shows a cross surrounded by four woodpecker heads. The original is currently in our collections, but is due to be repatriated in the near future.

Donor Name: Unknown

Object 20

Collection Name: Archaeology Collection

Object Name: ceramic bowl

Accession Number: 1951.001.31

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: Unknown

Object Description: This is a ceramic bowl with the head and tail of a wood duck on the rim. The Mississippians at Moundville made effigy pots which represented many of the animals and birds around them, such as frogs, fish, and other birds. This artifact was found at Moundville, close to the bluff overlooking the Black Warrior River.

Donor Name: Unknown

Object 21

Collection Name: Archaeology Collection

Object Name: double-fish effigy bottle

Accession Number: 1932.002.359

Date of Object: Unknown

Maker/Creator: Unknown

Object Description: This is a Mississippian double-fish effigy bottle from the Nodena site in Arkansas. The Nodena site was a Mississippian city at the same time that the Moundville site was, and archeologists have found pots from each site at the other, which shows that the two cities traded goods with each other.

Donor Name: Unknown