

## ADDENDA 01



Portrait of Sarah Stone  
Samuel Shelley 1890



page 100 of Sarah Stone's book



**A3.4:** Fang  
32.5 cm, 155 g  
Iron and wood  
before 1783  
Richard Clinton collection

The Australian Museum's research library holds a bound collection of 132 unpublished watercolours, with no title page, accompanied by a handwritten note in pencil stating: "A collection of drawings by Sarah Stone of the principal objects of curiosity in Sir Ashton Lever's Museum, consisting of natural history, the arms ornaments and dresses of the inhabitants of New Zealand and other countries discover'd by Capt. Cook".

These illustrations feature items from the 18th-century Leverian Museum, also known as Sir Ashton Lever's Holophusicon, which was housed in Leicester House, Leicester Square, between 1775 and 1786. Sarah Stone's works are now the last visual record of this remarkable collection, which included many objects brought back from Captain Cook's second and third voyages. The museum's contents were dispersed following an auction held in 1806, with the lots being acquired by various buyers.

In the 1770s, Sir Ashton Lever commissioned Sarah Stone to produce a series of paintings depicting the items in his museum. The artist continued this work throughout the 1780s and, from 1783 onwards, began to paint ethnographic objects in particular.

One of these watercolours depicts a throwing knife that is identical in every respect to the one published in our book (A3, p. 60). Superimposing the old drawing onto the photograph of the object reveals a perfect match, strongly suggesting that it is the same weapon. This document allows us to date it to 1783 at the latest, although it was most likely manufactured earlier, perhaps in the mid-18th century. Unfortunately, the exact circumstances of its acquisition remain unknown. This is a rare and exceptional knife, which fits perfectly into the study of the 'ancestors' of throwing knives and their formal links with the bird-headed knives of Gabon.