

About the Collections

• Artefacts

The Society's artefact collection includes over a thousand items brought to the Society since its inception and consisting mainly of three types of items:

- cultural objects from around the world. These range from Inuit boots (Canadian Arctic) to ceremonial 'leopard's claws' (the then Belgian Congo)
- paraphernalia of exploration, eg:
 - oxygen sets used in the various attempts on Everest
 - a compass used by Livingstone in his search for the source of the Nile
- personal items formerly belonging to some of the world's greatest explorers, eg:
 - Shackleton's Burberry helmet
 - H M Stanley's boots



Selection of H.M. Stanley artefacts
[Picture Library scan #S0010455]

Artefacts from the collection have been loaned to exhibitions around the world and are in continual demand.

Thus it is not always possible to see them here, although it should usually be possible to see an image of the artefact from the Picture Library collection.

It is always advisable to make a prior request if you would like to access one of our artefacts for research.

The Society has also begun a process of creating replicas for regularly requested items, eg:

- Stanley's pith helmet
- Scott's food bags

When not on loan, the artefacts are housed in temperature- and humidity-controlled secure stores.