\_This is a level 3 Research Aid\_  
\_first edited by wiebe reints as original\_author on 2024-07-12\_  
\_last edited by abacus as translator on 2025-04-07\_

Artis Ethnographic Museum

# Abstract

The Artis Ethnographic Museum was an ethnographic museum in Amsterdam founded in 1851 as part of the Artis Zoo. In 1921, the collection was subsumed by the newly established Colonial Museum, today's Wereldmuseum Amsterdam.

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## Description

The Artis Ethnographic Museum was founded in 1851 to house the collection of ethnographic objects of the Koninklijk Zoölogisch Genootschap Natura Artis Magistra, the royal zoological society. At the time it was not unusual for a zoo to also collect objects, as the rapidly changing sciences in the nineteenth century often focused on several areas of research at once. The interest both in other cultures, objects and customs and in plants, animals and geology was closely linked to the broader European colonial project. Artis' ethnographic collection grew steadily throughout the nineteenth century and so a special museum building, the Volharding, was constructed in 1888. The building is still part of Artis Zoo today. In the late nineteenth century, the collection was expanded with objects from the Internationale Koloniale en Uitvoerhandel Tentoonstelling, also known as the World Exhibition, of 1883 and objects collected by the Nieuwe Afrikaansche Handels-Vennootschap. As such, the Artis Ethnographic Museum was closely linked to Dutch colonial relations.

From 1905 to 1913 the collection of the Colonial Museum in Haarlem was temporarily included in the collection of the Ethnographic Museum Artis but not long after the decision was made to transfer the collections to the yet-to-be-established museum of the Colonial Institute, which finally took place in 1921. It was not until 1926 that the museum of the Colonial Institute, now Wereldmuseum Amsterdam, opened its doors. To this day, the collection of the Ethnographic Museum Artis forms an important basis of the collection of the Wereldmuseum Amsterdam.

## Provenance research

The collection of the Artis Ethnographic Museum can be found within the collection of Wereldmuseum Amsterdam using the attribute 'TM-A'. The collection was originally brought together by a multitude of private individuals, including civil servants, missionaries, traders, other types of travellers and scientific societies. An important donor to the collection of the Ethnographic Museum Artis, for example, was the linguist Herman Neubronner van der Tuuk. Donations of objects to the Artis Ethnographic Museum, with the name of the donor, were listed in the 'Yearbook of the Royal Zoological Society Natura Artis Magistra'. The editions from 1852 to 1875 are available digitally on the Hathi Trust website (https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/007328956).

Archives relating to the Artis Ethnographic Museum are spread across several institutions. For example the general archives of the Koninklijk Zoölogisch Genootschap Artis Magistra are held at the Amsterdam City Archive under archive accession number 395. Inventory numbers that are relevant to the Artis Ethnographic Museum are: 1842-1860 Etnologisch Museum met insectarium, 1861-1873 Weekrapporten van het Etnologisch Museum, 1876-1905 Ethnografisch Museum en verzamelingen, 1906-1919 Stukken betreffende de vestiging van een Koloniaal Museum te Amsterdam [...] and 1909-1919 Vereeniging "Koloniaal Instituut ", opgericht in 1910. Archives of the Colonial Institute relating to the Artis ethnographic collection are available through the National Archives. Inventory numbers 4395 and 7851-7858 (which are still held by the Royal Tropical Institute, KIT) refer to the collection and its transfer to the Colonial Museum in Amsterdam in 1926. According to a report by the National Museum of World Cultures, the archives of the Artis Ethnographic Museum have been digitalised by KIT and are available through the Media module of the World Museum's collection registration system. For specific questions about the Artis Ethnographic Museum collection and to view the archives, contact collectieinfo@wereldmuseum.nl.

# Related Aids

\_see also: Sources\_  
\_see also: Civil servants\_  
\_see also: Military and navy\_  
\_see also: Trade\_  
\_see also: Science\_  
\_see also: Royal Cabinet of Curiosities\_  
\_see also: Wereldmuseum Leiden\_  
\_see also: Wereldmuseum Amsterdam\_  
\_see also: Koninklijk Bataviaasch Genootschap van Wetenschappen en Kunsten\_  
\_see also: Museon-Omniversum\_  
\_see also: International Colonial and Export Exhibition 1883\_

# Primary sources

Archive:

Archive:

Archive:

Document:

# Secondary sources

Article:

Book:

Book:

Article:

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# Relevant Data

Identifiers:

http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q2267276  
,  
 Name variations:

Museum voor Land- en Volkenkunde  
,  
 Tags:  
 Activity:

Collection, Ethnographic museum  
,  
 Type of objects:

Ethnographic objects  
,  
 Geographical:

Africa, Asia, North America, Oceania, South America  
,  
 Period of activity:  
 Year of start:  
 1851,  
 Year of end:  
 1921,  
 Collections:  
 Within the Data Hub:  
 https://app.colonialcollections.nl/en/objects?query=artis&publishers=Wereldmuseum