

Koninklijke Verzamelingen

Abstract

The Koninklijke Verzamelingen (Royal Collections), the private collection of the Dutch royal family, are part of the Koninklijk Huisarchief (Royal House Archives). The collection contains a large number of objects from former Dutch colonies. These items often ended up in the collection as a gift.

History

The Koninklijke Verzamelingen (Royal Collections) consist of objects and archives collected over the centuries by members of the Nassau and Oranje-Nassau families and those close to them. These are private possessions that have been placed in the care of several foundations. The Collections form part of the Koninklijk Huisarchief (Royal House Archives). These archives have existed in its current form since 1898 and were established by Regent Emma, who brought together the family archives, the library collection and the other collections of the Van Oranje-Nassau family. To this end, Emma had a new building constructed near Noordeinde Palace in The Hague.

When the Royal Archives were built, space was also made for a [family museum](#), where part of the Royal Collections are still on display. The Koninklijke Verzamelingen are a fairly mobile collection: a large part of the objects have been made available to museums on long-term loan or form part of the interior decoration of the various palaces of the royal family. A good example of this is the [Indische Zaal](#) in Noordeinde Palace, where various objects from Indonesia are on display.

The objects in the Koninklijke Verzamelingen that originate from a colonial context are often items that were offered as gifts to the Dutch royal family. These include objects that were given to the then Dutch monarch in honour of a coronation, or objects that the royal family received during state visits. In addition to a collection of objects, the Koninklijke Verzamelingen also contains many [photographs](#) from former Dutch colonies.

[image] *The interior of the museum at the Royal Family Archives building, 2024* ([Kerkhof123](#))

Provenance research

The complete Koninklijke Verzamelingen can be consulted [online](#), where you can make an object selection by their place of origin. The archives of the royal family dating back to 1948 are also publicly accessible. All archives that can be consulted are available [online](#). At present, the complete inventory of some of these archives can also be consulted online. Over the next few years, the number of archives available online will continue to increase. The Royal Archives hold inventories of all the archives, these can be consulted during a visit.

Related Aids

- [Civil servants in colonised territories](#)
- [Museums and collections](#)
- [Royal Cabinet of Curiosities](#)

Primary sources

Archive:

Royal Family Archives The archives of the Dutch royal family up to 1948 are open to the public. The website provides an overview of all archives that can be consulted.

<https://www.koninklijkeverzamelingen.nl/archief>

Collection:

Koninklijke Verzamelingen The entire collection of the Koninklijke Verzamelingen (Royal Collections) can be viewed on this website. Here, you can also select items by region of origin. The photography collection can also be viewed on this website.

<https://www.koninklijkeverzamelingen.nl/collectie>

Secondary sources

Book:

Loonstra, Marten, en B. Woelderink. *Uit koninklijk bezit: honderd jaar Koninklijk Huisarchief: de verzamelingen van de Oranjes*. Waanders, 1996. Book from 1996 describing the history of the Koninklijke Verzamelingen.

<https://search.worldcat.org/title/782242157>

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