

# HORDERN HOUSE

RARE BOOKS • MANUSCRIPTS • PAINTINGS

## An Album of the Weapons, Tools, Ornaments, Articles of Dress &c of the Natives of the Pacific Islands...

LEVEL 2, 255 RILEY STREET • SURRY HILLS • SYDNEY NSW 2010 • AUSTRALIA  
+61 2 9356 4411 • [www.hordern.com](http://www.hordern.com) • [rare@hordern.com](mailto:rare@hordern.com)

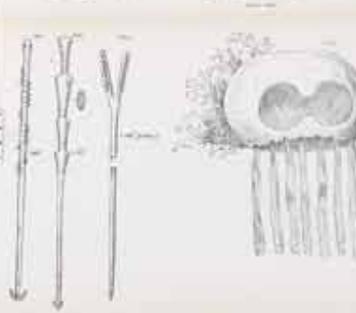




Page 144-145  
[Faint text in a foreign script]



Page 146-147  
[Faint text in a foreign script]



Page 148-149  
[Faint text in a foreign script]

AN ALBUM  
OF THE WEAPONS, TOOLS, ORNAMENTS,  
ARTICLES OF DRESS &c.  
OF THE NATIVES OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
Drawn and Described  
from examples in public & private collections in England  
JAMES EDGE-PARTINGTON  
Small Books  
Printed and Published by  
JAMES BARNARD, 15, BOND STREET, LONDON, W.  
1846

## EDGE-PARTINGTON, James and Charles HEAPE.

### [An Album of the Weapons, Tools, Ornaments, Articles of Dress &c of the Natives of the Pacific Islands...](#)

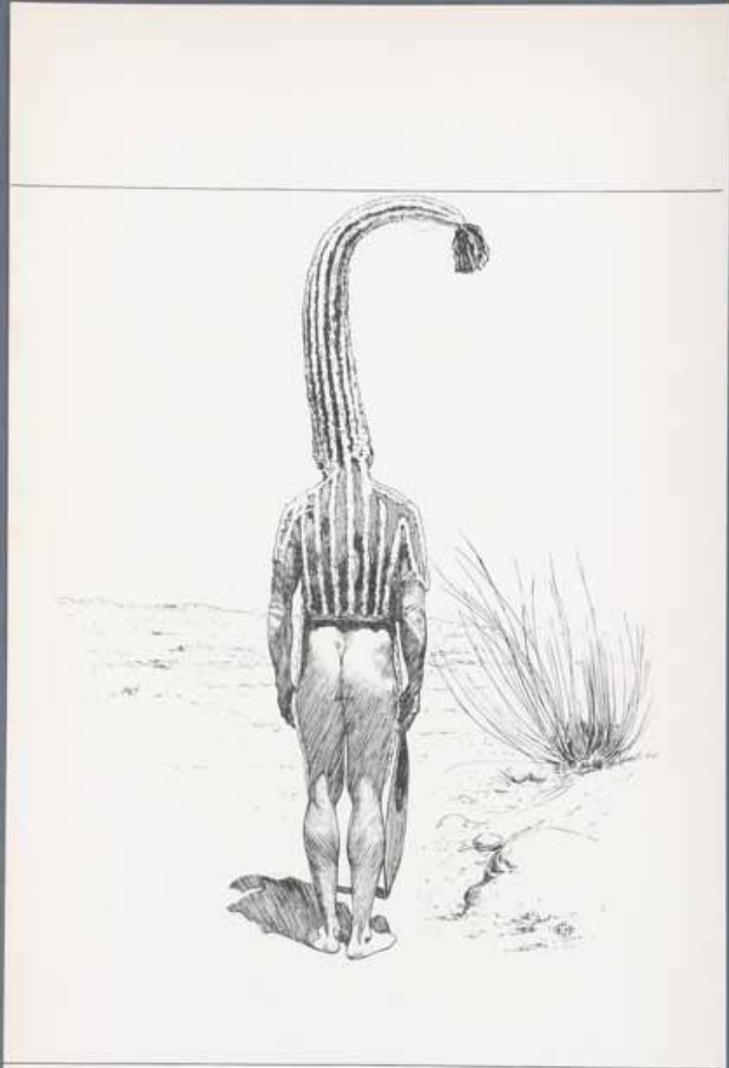
Three volumes, oblong folio, with 854 lithographic plates loose in the three original cloth portfolios, as issued, complete with the leaves of additional notes published respectively in 1892, 1895 and 1899; the blue-grey cloth portfolios with clasps, printed labels. Manchester, issued for private circulation by James Edge-Partington & Charles Heape, "Lithographed by Palmer, Howe & Co., Manchester", 1890/1895/1898.

### [A CORE ETHNOGRAPHICAL CLASSIC, IN ORIGINAL PORTFOLIOS](#)

Very rare complete and in the original portfolios as issued: the three discrete series, limited respectively to 150, 150 and 175 copies, form the complete publication of this monumental undertaking. A fundamental work on the native art and artefacts of the Pacific, it is only very occasionally offered for sale. James Edge-Partington (1854-1930), the great British anthropologist and authority on Pacific ethnology, also a celebrated book-collector, based his drawings in the earlier series chiefly on objects in his own collection or in the British Museum, and later added objects from other sources, especially Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii. Baldwin Spencer provided objects from Central Australia to be recorded, and their depictions here predate some of the same material published by Spencer and Gillen. Charles Heape, Edge-Partington's friend and co-author, was also a collector, and both men ultimately donated their vast holdings to museums in England, Australia, and New Zealand. All three series were very limited in number; all three are signed by both authors.

Edge-Partington was a member of that famous series of English ethnographic collectors active in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. But unique among this group, he travelled and personally collected artefacts in the Pacific. He embarked on a three-year expedition to the Pacific (1879-1882), basing himself in Australia and New Zealand and visited Fiji, Tonga and Samoa during this time, when, according to his privately printed journals (*Random Rot* 1883) he transformed himself from "irresponsible traveller to serious collector". On his return to England, he befriended A. W. Franks and C. H. Read, Keepers of the British Museum Ethnographical collection, and worked part-time on rearranging and documenting the Museum's South Sea collection, becoming their Pacific expert, arranging for important Pacific acquisitions and acting as their liaison with museums. With the assistance especially of curator Charles Read, Edge-Partington also assembled his collection of drawings of Pacific artefacts from English museums and private collections, drawing on his artistic ability. Curator Ormonde Maddock Dalton noted that:

He had a natural gift for rapid presentation and a quick eye for salient features; though he did not attempt to rival the professional draughtsman, he achieved his purpose, to illustrate a great number of types and help collectors to identify their specimens.



HEAD DRESS OF A MAN DURING PERFORMANCE OF CEREMONY OF  
EMU TOTEM. THIS IS MADE OF GRASS STALKS TIED ROUND WITH  
HAIR STRING. TUFT OF FEATHERS AT END IS SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT  
EMU HEAD. ARUNTA TRIBE. FROM A PHOTO KINDLY LENT FOR THIS  
WORK BY PROF BALDWIN SPENCER & J. F. GILLEN Esq.  
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

*Head dress of an Arunta Man during the ceremony of Emu Totem, illustration for the Album by Edge-Partington from a photo lent by Baldwin Spencer.*

Edge-Partington published the first two volumes of drawings and descriptions of native Pacific Island weapons, tools, ornaments and dress in 1890 and 1895. His drawings for this first series were lithographed by J.C. Norbury of Manchester. In the first series, Edge-Partington signed his name with the place given as "Sarratt, Herts", referring to the old family home of Sarratt Hall.

Based on a second, one year Pacific voyage in 1897, he produced a further volume, published in 1898. In addition to the help and encouragement of Read with these publications, Edge-Partington was able to call on the participation of Charles Heape and Charles Praetorius for the first and subsequent series.



Bookplate of James Edge-Partington by Charles Praetorius

Charles Heape, had been a Manchester friend of James for much of their lives. Born in Australia in 1848, Charles spent some of his early years in Australia, where his interest in ethnic objects began. Charles lived in Rochdale near Manchester, becoming a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, the Anthropological Institute and other learned societies. His main literary work was his collaboration with Edge-Partington on their ethnographic *Album*, and in the 1880s he also published occasional papers in the *Transactions of the Rochdale Literary and Scientific Society* of which he was a prominent member since its foundation in 1879. Charles devoted long years of research to the weapons and art of tribal peoples and assembled one of the finest private collections in England of their weapons, especially those of the South Sea Islands. The collecting of these extended over many years, by contact with missionaries, dealers, collectors and others, as he did not visit the Pacific again.

Their magnum opus was regarded as invaluable and a primary source for ethnological research. Edge-Partington's obituary in the *Journal of the Polynesian*



James Edge-Partington at work at the British Museum, 1931

*Society* (1931) noted:

These volumes are invaluable to collectors, the thousands of figures supplying a much-needed guide for the identification of artifacts . . . The collector is as necessary as the writer; and Edge-Partington's collection and his illustrated volumes continually prove themselves of inestimable value to the comparative ethnographer and anthropologist.

Professor Enrico Giglioli Italian zoologist and anthropologist, director of the Florence Royal Zoological Museum and an honorary member of the Royal Geographical Society praised the work "...all I can say is that Ethnologists can but bless you". (Letter, Giglioli to Edge-Partington, 30 November 1898). As a young man Giglioli had studied in London under luminaries such as T.H. Huxley, and immediately on his return to Italy in 1865 had been appointed to the *Magenta* for its important voyage of scientific discovery in Australia and the Pacific. (for his landmark work on the Tasmanian Aborigines see [here](#)).

We can identify just six complete sets of the *Album* offered at public auction in the last fifty years, including the example at Sotheby's Paris Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie sale (14 December 2011; EUR28,350), rebound into four volumes. Another set in recent years had just one volume in the original portfolio and the other two volumes bound up (Bonhams New York 6 April 2009, US\$39,650). In fact the last set that we can identify as having been offered with all three volumes in their original cloth portfolios was catalogued by the London booksellers Francis Edwards in 1962 (GBP 150).

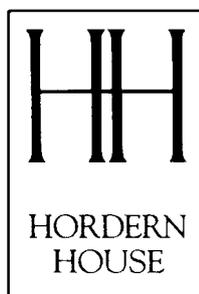
**\$24,500**

for details



Roger Neich, "James Edge-Partington (1854-1930): An Ethnologist of independent means" *Records of the Auckland Museum*, 2009, Vol. 46;

Roger Neich and Christian Kaufmann, "Collections Across the Divide: The Ethnographic Collections of James Edge-Partington (1854 — 1930) and William Ockleford Oldman (1879 — 1949)" *Pacific Arts*, 2011, New Series, Vol. 11, No. 1.



Hordern House Rare Books  
Level 2, 255 Riley Street  
Surry Hills Sydney, NSW 2010 Australia  
PO Box 588, Darlinghurst NSW 1300 Australia

Hordern House Rare Books Pty. Ltd. ACN 050 963 669  
[www.hordern.com](http://www.hordern.com)  
[rare@hordern.com](mailto:rare@hordern.com)  
Telephone: +61 2 9356 4411