

## Summary of potential cultural items in the possession and control of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH).

These cultural items have not been culturally affiliated to date, but the SMPH is pursuing consulting with Wisconsin tribes to determine whether or not any could be considered sacred objects.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health records identify nine potential Native American cultural items. All of the objects listed below have been in the control and possession of the SMPH since at least 11/1/1994, if not before. No record of acquisition has been identified, and no institutional knowledge remains to explain the origin of these objects or how they came into the care of the SMPH. There is no indication that any of these are conclusively Native American cultural items, but we are pursuing tribal input before making a final determination.

### Unknown origin (potentially of Native American manufacture/origin):

1. Black "donut": light weight wood, very dark glossy finish.
2. Heart, on string: wooden (flat on one side, rounded on the other, like an ornament, with a hanging string attached), "Liden"? written on the back in pencil
3. Rattle (prescription stick?): raffia-like bundle (cedar?), secured on one end with animal skin that includes a row of cowrie shell beads. Very small gourd rattle attached to handle
4. Rattle (prescription stick?): long handle, with wicker rattle part.
5. Braided vine rings/bracelets (2 total): woven twigs
6. Piece of vine (Y-shaped)
7. Eye: painted on flat piece of wood, illegible writing on back in pencil
8. Foot: flat piece of wood cut into the shape of a boot or stocking, appears to be an ornament without a string
9. Shaman mask: painted wood. This is most likely of southeast Asian manufacture and should be removed from the official Summary, if consulting tribes are in agreement.

The cultural item(s) described above are potentially specific ceremonial objects needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents. Confirmation of this designation awaits consultation with Wisconsin tribal representatives and additional consultation, if determined necessary based on initial discussions.

Previously listed on original 1994 Summary. Additional information/research has indicated these are not Native American cultural items:

1. Wooden Hand: resembles a glove display model, or similar. This is most likely a medical supply demonstration or department store display piece and is removed from the official Summary.
2. Pouch, cloth: this is believed to be of African or African-American manufacture and is removed from the official Summary.
3. Twisted rope wrapped in newspaper with an attached, labeled, tag ("Anecho Togo" (now Aneho, Togo) with German description (Gegen Haut Krankheit: "Against skin disease"). Reasonably believed to have originated from Aného, a town in Togo (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aného>). Togo was a German colonial outpost, which would explain the German tag. This is removed from the official Summary.
4. Breast "model" (2 objects could match this description):
  - a. Piece of wood covered in wax. This is likely either a lid or a model produced from an early medical practitioner or supply company. There are no indications that this is a Native American cultural item and is removed from the official Summary.
  - b. Cloth strip and buckles (simple corset) with soft insert. This has been identified as a German hernia belt, further confirmed by the partial tag with German writing that references the word "hernia" and "belt." This is removed from the official Summary.
5. Indian Clubs (M 64.3.1) (2 total): polished wood, simply decorated  
These are representative of exercise equipment commonly manufactured on the Indian subcontinent, likely from the late 1800s. See the following websites for similar items and general information/reference:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian\\_club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_club)  
<https://www.setforset.com/blogs/news/the-complete-guide-to-indian-clubs-history-benefits-sizes>  
These are not Native American cultural items and have recently been identified as an undocumented loan from the Wisconsin Historical Society. They are removed from the official Summary.
6. Dumbbells (M 64.3.2) (6 total): wooden.  
These are representative of historical exercise equipment from the turn of the 1900s, and are not Native American cultural items and have recently been identified as an undocumented loan from the Wisconsin Historical Society. They are removed from the official Summary.

#### GENERAL COLLECTION HISTORY

Many of these items were formerly cared for at the Medical History & Bioethics Department on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. When the SMPH moved to Ebling Library in 2004, the collection was transferred to the new location, but very little to no associated documentation accompanied it. This is most likely because no documentation existed to be transferred.

All of the collection objects are housed in acid-free boxes. In general, reserchers are vetted before supervised access is provided for any item in the collection. Access to these specific items is prohibited, a decision enforced as soon as these items were identified as part of an existing NAGPRA Summary. Access will remain limited to the Campus NAGPRA Coordinator

and the Curator of the Ebling Library collections, unless specific permission is provided in relation to the NAGPRA Summary activity.