

# The feast bowl



## What is it? Who owned it?

This is a huge feasting bowl. It comes from Atui in the Cook Islands, which are part of Polynesia. The bowl was inherited by Tituau, a Tahitian princess, who married a rich Scottish businessman called John Brander. In 1892 Tituau retired with her second husband, George Darsie, to his home town of Anstruther, in Scotland. After her death in 1895, Darsie sold the bowl to the National Museum of Scotland.

## What was it used for?

It holds up to 300 gallons and was used to serve food at communal feasts. These were an important part of traditional Polynesian culture and the whole village would eat from the bowl.

## How was it made?

Polynesians are expert wood-carvers. The boat-shaped bowl is carved from a single piece of *tamanu* wood, also known as island mahogany.