

# Archaeological collections from Argentina in the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) Russian Academy of Sciences

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## ABSTRACT

In the history of the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) there are 10 archaeological collections from Argentina. The items are chronologically diverse and were collected at geographically different sites in Salta, Jujuy, Buenos Aires, Río Negro, La Pampa, and Chubut provinces. The majority of the materials were collected in the early twentieth century. There are two small but important archaeological collections from sites in Northwest Argentina: La Paya and Pucara de Tilcara. The materials for Kunstkamera were obtained by A.V. Frič, J.B. Ambrosetti, F. Ameghino, A. Hrdlička, C. Izrastsov and G. Kumanskii.

**Keywords:** Argentina; Museum collections; Frič; Ambrosetti; Archaeology.

## RESUMEN

LAS COLECCIONES DE ARQUEOLOGIA ARGENTINA EN LOS ACERVOS DEL MUSEO DE ANTROPOLOGÍA Y ETNOGRAFÍA (KUNSTKÁMERA) DE LA ACADEMIA DE CIENCIAS DE RUSIA: UNA REVISIÓN. El Museo de Antropología y Etnografía (Kunstkámara) de la Academia de Ciencias de Rusia dispone de diez colecciones arqueológicas procedentes del territorio argentino. Consisten en hallazgos realizados en yacimientos arqueológicos muy diferentes desde el punto de vista cronológico y geográfico, como, Salta, Jujuy, Buenos Aires, Río Negro, La Pampa y Chubut. La mayoría de los materiales provienen de las excavaciones realizadas a principios del siglo XX. Se destacan dos pequeñas pero muy importantes colecciones del Noroeste argentino: de los sitios La Paya y Pucará de Tilcara. Los objetos arqueológicos de Kunstkámara fueron recolectados por A.V. Frič, J. B. Ambrosetti, F. Ameghino, A. Hrdlička, C. Izrastsov y G. Kumanski.

**Palabras clave:** Argentina; Colecciones de museo; Frič; Ambrosetti; Arqueología.

## INTRODUCTION

In the history of the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (MAE RAS) there are 10 archaeological collections from Argentina (Dmitrenko 2016a). Though these collections were received in Kunstkamera over a hundred years ago, their origins, formation and materials they include have never been the objects of a special study. These collections presents a selection of archaeological stone, bone, and wooden implements as well as ceramics, and represent some of the most important materials for Argentine archaeology at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Whereas none of these collections has a full set of materials found at an exact site, they include important

artifacts of different Argentine archaeological cultures (Figure 1).

## THE COLLECTIONS: A REVIEW

### Patagonia

In 1909, Kunstkamera received the first Argentinian collection represented by stone industry from Río Negro province. It was completed by the Czech scientist, traveler and biologist Alberto Vojtěch Frič. In September of 1908, the senior ethnographer of Kunstkamera Leo Sternberg took part in the XVI International Congress of Americanists in Vienna, Austria. During the congress, Sternberg met A. Frič

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