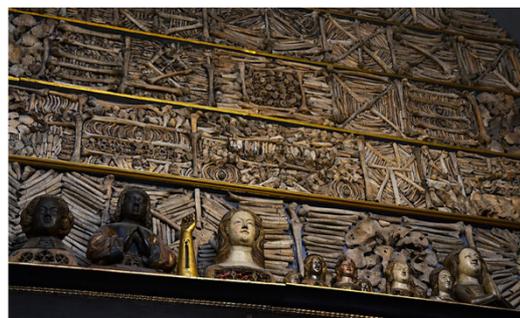


# Introducing... *Gods' Collections*



Contributions are invited for a new project on *Gods' Collections*...

Places of worship of all traditions – here for convenience all called ‘temples’ – have always accumulated collections. Today some temples have generated great art museums, while others just keep a few old things in a sacristy cupboard. This new project will look at why and how these collections have developed, how they have been looked after, and how understanding of them has changed over the millennia.



Detail of the Goldene Kammer in the church of St Ursula in Cologne. Image from [Wikimedia Commons](#).

*Gods' Collections* is a multi-stage project, with three main components: (1) a website hosting essays, case-studies, interviews, films and more; (2) a series of seminars and other events, starting in 2022; and (3) an edited book, which has been offered to the *Bloomsbury Studies in Material Religion* series.

We are now inviting a first tranche of contributions, which will be published on [the 'Collections' page](#) of the *Gods' Collections* website ([www.godscollections.org](http://www.godscollections.org)).



Model of the Cairo Genizah, © Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, Israel. Image from [the Medieval Histories website](#).

We suggest that contributions offer two things:

1. A description/analysis of one particular ‘temple’ accumulation, collection or museum.
2. A wider discussion of the development and role of collections in temples of that faith tradition/period.

Ideally, contributions will engage with some the points brought out in the website’s [introductory essay](https://www.godscollections.org/essay) (<https://www.godscollections.org/essay>): how and why the collection grew up in the temple, how it was seen, developed and treated by the temple, and how it was seen and treated by devotees and visitors. Analysis of how

attitudes changed, and thus how treatment (display, curation, care) of collections changed, would be particularly welcome.

Essays should be between 1500 and 3000 words in length, and can include photos, videos, and links to other websites and resources. We welcome essays on collections from any historical period, and any part of the world, and would be glad to receive completed essays by this coming October (2021).

If you would like to join in the project, or if you have any comments or suggestions for its improvement, please email Crispin Paine ([crispinpaine1@gmail.com](mailto:crispinpaine1@gmail.com)) or Jessica Hughes ([jessica.hughes@open.ac.uk](mailto:jessica.hughes@open.ac.uk))



*Details from the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum, Singapore. Image from [Wikimedia Commons](#).*



*An altar used in Louisiana Voodoo, on display in the French Quarter of New Orleans.*

*Photo by Greg Willis, from [Wikimedia Commons](#).*