

Birds of paradise diorama.

This birds of paradise diorama can be seen in the Wildlife Gallery of Bristol Museum in Park Street, Bristol.



Image: FAM volunteer of Ab3465.1-16 ©Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives.

The wooden display case contains 16 different birds of paradise plus a mountainous landscape backdrop painting - the whole collection creating the '*diorama*'. Birds of Paradise live in the forests of Papua New Guinea and north-western Australia, many in this collection are very rare.

The diorama is part of the Museum's Greville Smyth Collection. The background painting was painted by an unidentified member of the Bristol Savages, of which the donor, Alderman James Fuller Eberle, was an honorary member and known as the 'Father of the Savages'.

It was donated to the Museum by Alderman Eberle in 1916 but presumably was part of Greville's natural history collection at Ashton Court dispersed after he died in 1901.