Last year, in the exhibition *Depositi di Capodimonte, storie ancora da scrivere* (Museo di Capodimonte, Dec. 2018–Sept. 2019) a gallery was installed with a group of hunting and fishing tools found in storage during the museum’s digitization project. The items had a Savoy inventory number that described them as “African weapons.” A reverse search in the old inventories of the museum has instead made it possible to trace their original description and identification as part of the objects collected during the travels of James Cook and donated by the English diplomat William Hamilton (1730-1803) to Ferdinand IV (1751-1825), Bourbon king of Naples. The objects were exhibited in 1784 at the Palazzo degli Studi in Naples (later the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli), in the building’s most important room, which housed exotic objects from throughout the world that, in the age of enlightenment, were of great interest to European viewers. The recent rediscovery of these objects gives rise to new reflections on the role of exploration and the savage in eighteenth-century Naples.

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