



Necklace Currency

Date

early to mid 20th Century

Medium

Boar's teeth, bone and plant fiber

Description

Pigs are an important form of currency throughout Papua New Guinea. Whether for food, in bride price exchange, in trade, or given as a reward, all parts of the pig were seen

as money, and a means of exchange. Pig teeth, like other animal and human teeth, were considered a form of currency as well as an object of adornment, and could be used to purchase all kinds of items. When worn as a necklace, pigs' teeth could also possibly represent one man's theft of a pig from another man, a common practice that served as a reminder of the power and status of the individual.