



Bag (Bia Karim Men)

Date

early to mid 20th Century

Medium

Bark fiber and cassowary feather

Description

This feathered net bag comes from the Bimin-Kuskusmin people of Papua New Guinea's Sandaun Province. Given that the daily clothing worn by men in New Guinea is very minimal, a warrior does not have many places to put the items of daily life like tobacco to make cigarettes, or the flute to play, or rattan to repair bows and arrows.

Consequently, a net bag is a mandatory item for every man. There are daily bags, and then there are special bags worn along with one's full regalia of warrior costumes. Those bags can be made of especially revered materials such as cassowary or hornbill feathers, or even prized pig tails. The form and materials of a bag indicate

the status of an individual. This particular bag was worn by a man who had reached the highest level of male initiation.

Dimensions

39 × 30 × 1 in. (99.1 × 76.2 × 2.5 cm)