



## Necklace Currency (Kina)

**Date**

20th Century

**Medium**

Mother-of-pearl shell and fiber

**Description**

This shell necklace, the vernacular name for which is kina, comes from the Mt. Hagen area in the Southern Highlands

of Papua New Guinea. Necklaces play a crucial role of decoration in New Guinea for both men and women especially because status is determined by how much material wealth you show on your body including all forms of jewelry, male ornamentation of war, feathers, and shells. Necklaces can be made up of cowrie shells or mother-of-pearl, boar's teeth or tusks, dog teeth, and even human teeth.

**Dimensions**

9 1/2 × 7 1/4 × 7/8 in. (24.1 × 18.4 × 2.2 cm)