

Basic Detail Report



Rabbit Foot Charm

Date
mid 20th century

Primary Maker
Zuni

Medium
Rabbit foot and beads

Description

This lucky rabbit’s foot charm is from the Zuni culture of New Mexico from the mid-20th century. Individuals from cultures around the world carry the foot of a rabbit with them as talismans of good luck. It is not exactly clear where the practice originated, but two theories suggest that it originally came to America from West Africa or that it evolved out of the infinitely more macabre medieval practice of carrying the hand of hanged man. Rabbits’ feet became incredibly popular in the middle of the 20th century. This example was likely made for sale by the Zuni and incorporates elements of their customary beadwork into an object which was ostensibly made for tourists.

Dimensions

Overall: 3 1/2 in. (8.9 cm)