



Currency (Tabu)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Tolai

Medium

Shell and rattan

Description

The main use of large wheels of shell money is exchange for a bride, although they may also be used to make compensation or to purchase pigs. A wheel of money this

size would have taken thousands of hours to make; its large size is an indication of its value. Wheels remain with their owner until death whereupon they are broken up and divided among the owner's widow, his children, members of the maternal line of the deceased, and other important members of the community who make appearances at the funeral ceremony.

Dimensions

31 1/2 × 33 3/4 × 4 1/4 in. (80 × 85.7 × 10.8 cm)