

Basic Detail Report



Boar's Tusk Currency

Date

mid 19th - early 20th Century

Medium

Boar tusk

Description

A boar's lower tusks are items of value in Papua New Guinea. Procuring such tusks is a tedious process. In order to do so, the upper tusks must be removed so that the lower tusks can grow in a circular shape. This can take up to 12 years. When the boars approach the end of their lives, it becomes necessary to hand feed them and fence

them in so that they do not break the tusks. As a circular tusk is classified as a tusk with at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ circular shape, a double ring such as this is very impressive and rarely seen. It likely took an extremely long time and great amounts of care to grow this example. In general, tusks are used as exchange items, status symbols and adornments throughout Papua New Guinea. As adornments, the tusks can be pendants on necklaces, nose ornaments, armlets, etc.

Dimensions

4 1/2 × 4 1/4 × 1/2 in. (11.4 × 10.8 × 1.3 cm)