

Basic Detail Report



Boar's Tusk Currency

Date

mid 19th to 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 6 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 their tusks. This example is a typical circular tusk, particularly because such tusks are classified as having at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ circular shape. 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 1/4 × 4 × 1/2 in. (10.8 × 10.2 × 1.3 cm)