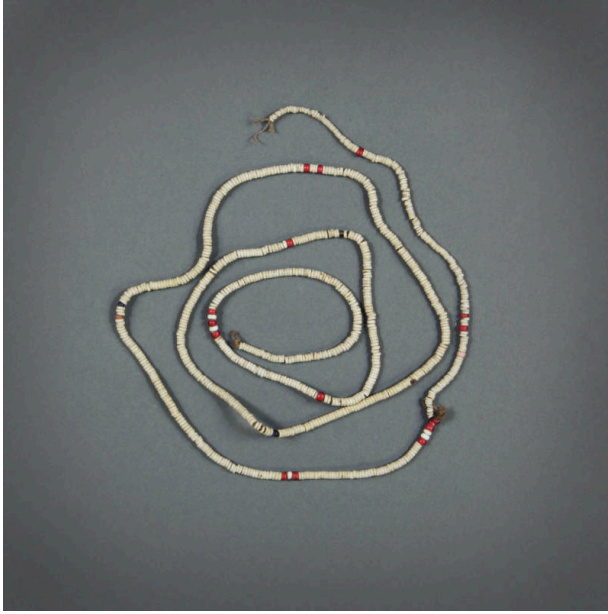


Basic Detail Report



Necklace Currency

Date

mid 19th - early 20th Century

Medium

Shell, trade beads and fiber

Description

Adornments, particularly those made with shells or parts of shells, are frequently worn throughout Papua New Guinea and many areas of Oceania. In addition to this use, shells are often used as a type of currency or trade item. As such, shell adornments not only possess value, but also function as tangible symbols of their wearer's wealth

and status. This particular necklace is strung with shell money from the Solomon Islands. Disc shaped beads were common forms of shell money from this geographic area. The necklace is also strung with trade beads. These beads suggest the vast trade networks that existed in Oceania and beyond. Their inclusion could also point to the additional wealth of the person who previously possessed and wore this necklace.

Dimensions

Stretched out, flexible length: 44 1/2 × 1/8 × 1/16 in. (113 × 0.3 × 0.2 cm)