

# Basic Detail Report

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## Bracelet Currency

**Date**

19th to early 20th Century

**Medium**

Giant clam shell

**Description**

Giant clam shell bracelet from the Solomon Islands. Shell rings are displayed at marriage feasts, are used as bride payment, and to buy pigs among some groups. They were worn above the elbow, mainly by men but also by women. The heavier ones were considered a masculine ornament. There are three different types of shell rings: erenge, poata, tinete. They were used as money, had relatively fixed values and were used in marriage payments and land purchase. Shell arm ornaments are important in displaying social stature. It can distinguish elder men with status from young, unmarried bachelors.

**Dimensions**

5 1/4 × 5 1/4 × 2 in. (13.3 × 13.3 × 5.1 cm)