



Bracelet Currency

Date
20th Century

Medium
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 determine elder men with status from young, unmarried bachelors.

Dimensions
3 5/8 × 3 3/4 × 1/2 in. (9.2 × 9.5 × 1.3 cm)