

Jewelry from Dogs and Boars

WHETHER MIXED or matched, coordinated or contrasted, the well dressed Hawaiian of old Hawai'i wore jewelry to accent the basic Island costume.

For men, the basic costume was the tapa loincloth, a foot wide and 12 feet long.

Draped to give maximum masculine support, then tied around the waist, the two ends could be left hanging for front and back drapes or tucked up out of the way.

For women, the pa'u, a waist-to-knee wraparound, also was adaptable to formal or casual wear.

Jewelry made the difference.

Distinctive bracelets, necklaces, rings and anklets could be mixed or matched at will.

TRUST AN ANCIENT Hawaiian to have good taste and to know what

Teeth were used for bracelets, necklaces and anklets.

was appropriate dress for a given occasion.

There was no Tiffanys to supply chiefs, nor dime stores to supply commoners.

You made what you wore; or won it in battle; or won it in a bet; or received it as a gift; or collected it as a tax; or paid dearly for it in services or goods.

Imagine the impact a canine dog-tooth necklace had at a casual gathering. Each tooth was drilled through its roots and strung on olonà or coconut fibers.

Combine this with a bracelet made from human finger bones, and wear an ivory ring, carved in a turtle or shell design, to complete a striking casual costume.

Tales of Old Hawai'i

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FOR MORE FORMAL WEAR, porpoise teeth, alternated with coconut beads, and a coordinated bracelet created from boar's teeth could be worn.

Boar's teeth were styled in various ways.

They could be bulky full size; or have tips cut off to fit the wrist snugly. Or they could be trimmed so the roots and tips of the teeth would not be exposed. Up to 24 tusks threaded this way could make the bracelet appear solid.

Spectators and participants at sports events showed up in less elaborate ornaments.

Small wood, shell or stone hook-shaped pendants were correct. A string of ivory beads, variously shaped, would not have been *de trop*.

BRACELETS TO COMPLEMENT a casual outfit might be made from turtle plates, strung to appear solid, or the plates might be alternated with tusks or bones, each carved to represent a human head.

Entertainers, especially dancers, sported dog-tooth leggings.

Each was ultimate testimony to its

maker's genius and ingenuity.

Each legging was assembled from 500 or more selected canine teeth—from more than 125 dogs—in a difficult and complicated design. Each gaiter measured about eight inches from top to bottom and boasted about 20 rows of teeth.

TEETH POINTS faced away from the skin to prevent discomfort while dancing. Smaller canines were laced across the top row; largest across the bottom row.

The rhythmic, bamboo-chime-like sound of the dancer's legs delighted entertainment-goers.

No high chief's formal wardrobe was complete without the *lei niho palaoa*. This priceless heirloom was an ivory, broken-cup-handle shaped pendant suspended from looped hanks of human hair.

Later, as times changed with foreign contact, copies of heirloom *lei niho palaoa* were hung from ivory or red-glass beads.

By the 1800s, ornaments were limitless in originality.

Worn about the neck of those fortunate or wealthy enough to own them were combs, small mirrors, knives and tobacco pipes.



A boar-tusk bracelet