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CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM—ETHNOLOGY

50-24

252496

**Provenience:** Western Caroline Islands ; Palau**Field No.****People or Culture:** Palauan

55-60

**Object:** women's purse**Material:** pandanus fiber

**Description:** This type of purse was worn by women in aboriginal Palau under the front margin of the grass skirt with only the mouth protruding. When the women worked in the fields or the taro swamp, the purse was held securely in position and the hands were left free. (over)

**Neg. No.****Dimensions:**

(in cm.)

length: 21.0

width: 17.2

Acc. 2574

**Collection:** Presented by Roland W. Force; Collector, 1956. Tri-Institutional Pacific Program Ethnological Expedition to Palau, 1954-1956.

In the purse were carried a woman's personal possessions (i.e., here were carried betel nuts, leaves, lime, money, knife, etc.). When the woman returned from the garden this purse would then be put in a larger basket in which other of her possessions were kept. Not used today because aboriginal garb has been discarded. Native name: otungl.

