



Bead

Not on display**Title/Description:** Bead**Object Type:** Bead**Materials:** Shell**Measurements:** h. 54 x w. 50 x d. 20 mm**Accession Number:** 791c**Historic Period:** Mississippian (c. 1300-1600)**Production Place:** North America, Tennessee, The Americas, USA**Credit Line:** Purchased with support from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1981

The two bivalve shells (791 b and c), probably freshwater mussel, have a slight iridescent quality and are pierced from the convex side. They appear to have been ear pendants, but are atypical, since ear pins were the usual ear ornament during the Mississippian period.

Steven Hooper, 1997

Entry taken from *Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, Vol. 2: Pacific, African and Native North American Art*, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997) pp. 298-299.

Provenance

Note in the Sainsbury Centre archives suggesting the object was removed from a burial site at Holliston Mills, Hawkins County, northeast Tennessee, by Elmer Austin of the Tennessee Archaeological Society in 1968.

Purchased by the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia from Jonathan Holstein, New York, on the advice of Robert Sainsbury in 1981 out of income from the Sainsbury Purchasing Fund.
