OBJECT ID	1995.53.2
OBJECT NAME	Komboloi
OBJECT COLLECTION	Maria's Collection (is part of)
MATERIAL	Cotton; Plastic
OBJECT ENTITIES	unkown, (created by)
	Gebhart, Maria (is related to)
RELATED ITEMS	Buckle, 1995.53.1.A
	Buckle, 1995.53.1.B
ACCESS POINTS	Komboloi
	komboloi
	Personal Artifact
	Plastic
	religious artifact
	worry beads

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

20 orange/amber beads threaded loosely on an orange/amber string. At the end there is a gold metal clasp and gold tassel. The komboloi is longer and thicker than most.

ORIGIN

Originally on loan from Maria Gebhart and was part of "Return to Our Pasts" exibit. The komboloi is in the traditional color of amber. Amber goes back to the begining thinking that the beads need to be made out of organic material such as amber, bone, coral, shells, etc.

Worry beads first appeared in India. They were invented to help count prayers and consisted of a series of fruit pits, punctured and stringed on a piece of string. Over time fruit pits were replaced by amber, ivory, coral, semiprecious stones, or other precise stones and noble metals. A tassel and a "papas" (the bead that marks the beginning and end of its cycle) were eventually added. The people of India embellished worry beads in various ways and thus created a work of art. Worry beads evolved into a collectable jewel that soon became a symbol of wealth, prestige, power and culture. They were something between jewel and sceptre (a symbolic ornamental staff held by a ruling monarch). The Greek word for worry beads is kompoloi (Greek: êîðïíëüé), often spelled koboloi, komboloi, or coboloi and was first introduced by the Turks. From the Turks it became popular, as an accessory at the hands of the dignitaries and sovereigns, as symbol of force, wealth and power. Soon kompolois became popular among the common people as means for meditation and companion in lounging and to calm the pain

CITATION

Komboloi, Maria's Collection, *National Hellenic Museum*, https://hellenic.whirlihost.com/Detail/objects/. Accessed 05/16/24.