

NEWLY ACQUIRED BEADWORK

Recently the Museum was fortunate to be able to buy some beadwork collected between 1953 and 1968 among the Thembu of the Engcobo district from Joan Broster, who is a recognized authority and author of four books on Transkeian tribal beadwork and dress. These items are a valuable addition to our beadwork collection since, due to increasing modernization, traditional crafts are being lost or radically altered and artifacts such as traditional beadwork are becoming increasingly rare.



Sets of beaded chokers and bracelets are not traditional and are made mainly for commercial purposes. They are, however, worn for decoration by many young Xhosa people today.



Amadiliza (singular: *Idiliza*). Traditional choker-type necklaces worn by all age groups and both sexes. The zigzag design in blue and green on the top necklace, which was worn by a grandparent, symbolizes the river of life.



A beaded collar (*itumbu*) and earrings (*amajikzi*) which are hung over the ears. These earrings were worn by a young Mpondo woman.



Itumbu (plural: *Amatumbu*), one of the six traditional beaded collars bought by the Museum. Wide collars are worn by young men and narrower collars by their wives. The dark turquoise beads in this collar are the colour of youth and are contrasted with navy, red and white.