TOP TREASURE

Find this at

SHIPWRECK CENTRE
& MARITIME MUSEUM

Education Contact:
museum@maritimearchaeology.org

Questions

- What do you think it is?
- Can you describe it?
- What do you think it is made from?
- How big do you think it is?
- What do you think it was used for?

FACT FILE

Diving helmet and suit

What is it?

A Siebe Gorman & Co Ltd. 12 bolt diving helmet and suit.

What is it made from?

The helmet is a mixture of copper and brass.

Basic facts

Total weight of the suit, boots, weights and equipment was approximately 65 kg .

How old is it?

It was made sometime in the early 20th century, there were minimal design changes in this time.

Significance

Siebe Gorman & Co were world renowned for their diving equipment designs and apparatus. This is an example of an early 20th century suit and helmet that will have been used in commercial and military diving and underwater salvage, with clear links to the Isle of Wight's coastal heritage.

These helmets are scarce to find these days and have become sought after collectors' piece.

Other facts

The helmet has a cast brass badge with an inscription that reads:

"SIEBE, GORMAN & CO LTD

SUBMARINE ENGINEERS

LONDON

(PATENT)"

This style of badge was adopted in 1905 when Siege Gorman & Co became a Limited company.

Why don't you?

- Find out more about the history of diving suits. Visit: tiny.cc/kidzone-9 and tiny.cc/diving-history. Imagine what it would have been like to be one of the first divers. How do you think you would have felt? You can also find out about the people who still use diving suits like this today! Visit: www.thehds.com
- Research some famous divers and diving suit inventors from history and create a fact file for the one you find most interesting. You might want to investigate some of the following people: Jacques Francis (dived the wreck of the Mary Rose in 1547); Jacques Cousteau (ocean explorer and inventor of an 'aqua lung'); and "Diver Bill" (repaired the flooded foundations of Winchester Cathedral).

TOP TREASURE

The Isle of Wight Museums and Schools programme is supported by Arts Council England, funded through the Department for Education.

Supported using public funding by Department for Education | ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

4787 NBH 2/21 LF