TOP TREASURE

Find this at

BRADING
ROMAN VILLA

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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 is it made from?
- What do you think it was used for?

FACT FILE

Wine Goblet

What is it?

A wine goblet found at Brading Roman Villa. The owner of the villa and his guests drank their wine from this. Although it is very big, it was not a jug for serving wine, because it does not have a handle or a spout.

What is it made from?

A type of pottery called Black Burnished Ware.

How old is it?

The villa was built about 280 AD so this will have been bought after this.

Basic facts

Size: 220mm tall, 120mm diameter, 4mm thick. Weight: 720g

Significance

It was made on the River Rhine, in the country we now call Germany. This is why it is known as a 'Rhenish vessel'.

It is part of a set of 8 goblets. It tells us the people who lived here entertained guests. It is large for a drinking goblet, so they must have had lots of wine. In turn, this has suggested that the people living here must have produced their own wine because they drank so much. This idea is supported by the fact that today there is a vineyard on the hill near the villa.

This type of pottery is high quality for the time, so it would have been quite rare, even where it was made. It in the part of Europe we now call Germany. To find them on the Isle of Wight is very rare indeed.

Other facts

This wine goblet tells us that there was trade between the people living on the Isle of Wight and those hundreds of miles away, and a long way in-land, up the River Rhine. Today we look on the sea and rivers as barriers. In Roman times the sea provided the best form of transport. The fact that we can see wine goblets, Samian ware pottery, etc we think of them as the important part of trade. BUT the most important things that trade brought, were not things but new ideas. For example, it was the Romans who brought writing to Britain. They brought new skills in metal working and new gods to worship.

Why don't you?

- Can you make an exciting display label for the goblet using the information from the fact file above?
- Make a list of the different things we drink from today
- You could try to make your own clay pot. Search online: "consortium coil pot"
- Use the internet to research the development of pottery (TIP: it began in Japan 16000 years ago).

TOP TREASURE

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