

Object Analysis: Thinking with Things...

An object analysis is intended to engage you with the primary material; however, this is not simply a description of an object, but entails some analytical and critical thought. Remember you are dealing with replicas (so there will be significant differences – perhaps size or material – from the original). You should comment on this in your analysis.

1. You should present the object clearly in your own words:
 - Dimensions: this might include height/length, diameter of rim/ base; max width/diameter; thickness of material;
 - Identify and briefly describe its key characteristics: what is it made of, its shape/form, colour, relevant details of decoration (painted, incised, etc), any writing or inscription;
 - If relevant, you should record the degree of completeness (any breaks or chips post-depositional, or signs of wear).
2. You should make some assessment of how it might have been used in antiquity.
3. You should also briefly consider how this object (or its prototype!) has been analysed by previous scholars and place your own work within a wider framework of literature. For guidance on describing objects have a look at the catalogue of finds in an excavation report.

An important aspect for interpreting the object for this module is a consideration of how the object was integrated within cult practices:

- Was it meant to be handled, and if so how?
- Was it meant to be displayed?
- Was it an ad hoc/throw away object?
- How was it perceived and valued by the communities who made/used it?
Prestige, ritual, utilitarian and everyday?

Try writing a short object description for the following (don't worry if you cannot find the exact dimension for these pieces, but well done if you do!). Think also about the social meaning of these items and/ or how they were/might have been used. Your interpretations should be informed by the directed readings for Tuesday 17th, but also try to develop your own ideas and provide reasonings for these. Please post a brief discussion of these on the Moodle Question and Answer forum.



