

## Object Analysis- Stenton's Redware Bowl



This bowl, made between 1730 and 1750, was found in an archeological dig at Stenton. Archeology is the study of material remains (such as tools, pottery, jewelry, stone walls, and monuments) of past human life and activities. This bowl was owned by James Logan at Stenton. Look closely at the images and answer the following questions:

1. What do you think the image is on the bottom of the bowl?
2. Why do you think James Logan had this bowl in his home?

## The Image on the Bowl



John Simon, *Sa Ga Yeath Qua Pieth Tow, King of the Maguas, 1710*.  
Mezzotint. (Courtesy, Winterthur Museum, museum purchase)

Historians believe that the figure on the bowl is Sa Ga Yeath Qua Pieth Tow, chief of the Maguas, a group of Mohawk Indians. The Mohawk were one of the Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. Because of this image and where it was found, we can make a historical guess about what this bowl was used for.

Sa Ga Yeath Qua Pieth Tow and 3 other Iroquois representatives set sail for England in 1710. The English, who described the Iroquois as “kings,” hoped the visit would cement the loyalty of the Five Nations to the British Crown.

Later in Pennsylvania, this bowl may have come into play during the treaty negotiations with the Iroquois at Philadelphia in the 1730s and 1740s. For Native Americans and colonists who did not speak the same language, the exchange of gifts was important in building relationships.

3. With this information, how do you think James Logan and the Iroquois used this bowl during their visits to Stenton?
4. Draw your own bowl. If you wanted to communicate peace, kindness, or respect to someone who didn't speak your language, what sort of design would you create?

## Answer Key

1. What do you think the image is on the bottom of the bowl? **A person holding something; a Native American; an Iroquois man holding a rifle; Sa Ga Yeath Qua Pieth Tow**
2. Why do you think James Logan had this bowl in his home? **As a symbol of his relationship with the Iroquois.**
3. With this information, how do you think James Logan and the Iroquois used this bowl during their visits to Stenton? **James Logan might have used this during ceremonies to communicate with the Iroquois without speaking the same language. The bowl could convey that Logan respected the Iroquois. The bowl could have been used for a cleansing ceremony before they discussed treaties.**