Statue - Ganymede

Object: Statue

Place of origin: France (made)

Date: ca. 1760 (made)

Artist/Maker: Coustou II, Guillaume, born 1617 - died 1777 (sculptor)

Materials and Techniques: Marble

Museum number: A.15-1964

Gallery location: Display area east of Grand Entrance at base of stairs to room 62

Public access description
The shepherd Ganymede, famous for his beauty, was abducted by the God Jupiter, taking the form of an eagle. Ganymede became cup-bearer to the gods. This myth, popular with French eighteenth-century artists, was largely known to them from the 'Metamorphoses' of the Roman poet, Ovid. The influence of sculpture of classical antiquity is clearly evident in this statue, even though the finish is no longer fine and smooth due to weathering.

Descriptive line
Statue, marble, Ganymede, by Guillaume (II) Coustou, French, about 1760

Physical description
The youth stands with his weight on the left foot, the right knee slightly bent. In his right hand he holds a shallow cup. His left is placed affectionately on a rather undersized eagle, which had perched on the tree-trunk supporting the figure on the right. He bends his head as he gazes at the bird. Inscribed.

Dimensions
Height: 152.5 cm

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Object history note
Bought from Christopher Gibbs Ltd., London, for £1,950, in 1964. Formerly in the Wallace Collection.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O312607/ganymede-statue-coustou-ii-guillaume/