

A gold Signet ring set with a Roman carnelian intaglio. Rooster hunting a snake on a vase.
Intaglio: 0.7 x 0.6 cm (0 $^{1}/_{4}$ x 0 $^{1}/_{4}$ inches)

Mounting: UK size P ; total weight 4,82 gr

Roman imperial, 1st-2nd century A.D. set on later ring.

The bird is facing left and takes a small snake out of a jug. Dotted frame. Hexagonal shape of the gem.

Rare subject. Wear marks.

The cockerel and serpent is a celebrated apotropaic motif in Roman glyptic art. The cock, sacred to Mercury and Apollo, symbolises vigilance, victory of light over darkness, and protection against evil. The serpent, often associated with chthonic forces, represents malevolent influences. This powerful talisman was believed to ward off the evil eye and bring good fortune to its wearer.

Solid gold signet ring with brushed matte finish, octagonal bezel with chamfered shoulders. The elegant, understated setting is characteristic of Continental goldsmith work, designed to showcase the ancient gem.

Sharp engraving with excellent detail, some chips on the edge of the intaglio.