



Carlo Costanzi (1705-1781). An Early 18th century sard agate intaglio set in a gold Grand Tour ring. Bust of Alexander the Great.

Intaglio: 15 x 19 mm

UK size ring S^{1/4} ; US size ring 9^{1/2}

Total weight: 14,12 gr

Italian work, 18th century

Bust of Alexander the Great in profile facing left. Depicted helmeted, his face is distinguished by noble features. Slight wear marks on the surface of the stone.

Fine execution and excellent state of preservation.

Carlo Costanzi (1705-1781), Italian master gem engraver of the late Baroque period, was born into a distinguished Neapolitan family of artists and gem carvers. His father Giovanni and his brother Tommaso also practiced the art of engraving on precious stones, whilst his brother Placido pursued a career as a painter.

Carlo Costanzi is regarded as one of the greatest intaglio engravers of the eighteenth century, active principally in Rome and Naples.

Literature

For the same subject and by the same engraver see

Paoletti, V.II, p.311, n°384 'Agate intaglio of Carlo Costanzi'

Cades 63, 'opere del cav. Carlo Costanzi Napolitano, 49 Testa Alessandro Magno in agata'

Le Gemme dei Medici al Museo degli Argenti, p.397, n°580