

A late 18th c. gold swivel chiseled seal pendant set with a large red jasper engraved scarab. Jupiter.

Scarab: 21 × 26 mm — Total height: 42 mm — Weight: 18 g

Late 18th century

A substantial and exceptionally refined 18th-century gold swivel seal pendant, combining two objects of distinct antiquarian fascination in a single jewel of remarkable ingenuity.

The mount, worked in 18-carat gold, is articulated around a central pivoting axis allowing the scarab to rotate and present either face — the carved dorsal surface of the scarab above, or the engraved intaglio below. The gold frame is ornamented with chased foliate scrolls, rosette terminals, and a row of applied gold beads, terminating in a looped suspension ring — the whole displaying the confident and decorative vocabulary of late 18th-century goldsmithing.

The stone is a large red jasper scarab, carved in the Etruscan manner. The flat underside is engraved as an intaglio, depicting Jupiter standing in three-quarter view, turned toward the left, partially draped and holding his thunderbolts. The god rests upon an olive branch — a rare and thoughtful iconographic detail combining his martial power with the promise of peace. Below, a globe with two engraved horizontal lines completes the composition. The whole is framed by a finely hatched border.

The combination of scarab and classical deity reflects the taste of the Enlightenment for syncretist antiquarian imagery, so characteristic of the Grand Tour collecting tradition.