

A gold ring set with a late Roman onyx cameo. Helmeted Bust.

Mount: Gold, later ; Total weight: 16.33 g

Stone: 13 × 19 mm ; UK S · US 9¼ · FR 59 (resizeable)

Cameo: Roman, 3rd–4th century A.D.

A two-layer onyx cameo of the late Roman Imperial period, set in a later plain gold mount with rounded bezel and simple shoulders. The creamy white upper layer is carved in vigorous high relief against the dark ground, depicting a bust turned to the right. The figure wears a structured headdress — consistent with a helmet in simplified late antique convention — and the chlamys. The detachment of the figure from the field is exceptionally clear, attesting to the confidence of the engraver's hand.

The identification as Athena remains tentative in the absence of the characteristic aegis; a military or heroic bust cannot be excluded.

Wear marks and minor chips are consistent with the antiquity and long use of the gem.

A comparable example is recorded in Martin Henig, The Content Cameos, p. 76, n° 137.

Condition: Some chippings and small lacks to the stone; wear marks; mount in good condition

Literature

cf. Martin Henig, The Content Cameos, p. 76, n° 137