

A Roman Republican banded agate intaglio. Caduceus with letters V · A

Dimensions: 12 × 10 × 2 mm (mounting on request)

Date: 1st century BC

Condition: light wear

Oval intaglio in black-and-white banded agate, whose natural white stratum runs horizontally across the composition. The caduceus of Mercury is engraved at the centre, executed with globular elements incised and polished with great finesse, in the distinctive Republican style also found on contemporary coinage. On either side, the letters V · A, probably the owner's initials or a votive formula.

A symbol of mediation, balance and good fortune, the caduceus is one of the most characteristic motifs of Roman Republican glyptic. Light wear consistent with the antiquity of the stone.