



A Roman imperial carnelian intaglio. Portrait of Hercules.

Dim. 9,5 x 13 x 4 mm

Mounting on request

Roman art, 2nd century A.D.

With the bearded head of Hercules in profile to the right. The hero is identified by his heavy curled hair and dense beard, worked in short tight locks with lively strokes of the drill — one of the most widespread and admired types in Roman imperial glyptic.

Hercules (Herakles), civilising hero and guarantor of virtus, was among the most frequently worn images on Roman signet rings — at once a talisman of strength and an emblem of virtue. The isolated head, without the visible Nemean lion-skin, belongs to the so-called "bearded Hercules" type diffused across the Empire.