



A Victorian carnelian engraved seal. Allegorical figure

Dim. 11.5 × 13 × 2 mm

Mounting on request

English work, second half of the 19th century

A deep-orange carnelian seal, cut as a cushion with softened corners and engraved in intaglio with an emblem uniting three motifs. Above, the head of a horse, its mane streaming; below, an eagle with outspread wings, caught in full flight; and in the field to the left, a winged trident.

Three attributes arranged within a single composition, each retaining its own clarity.

Together these motifs form an allegory of triumph over the three realms: earth through the horse, a classical image of victory and impetus; air through the eagle in flight, emblem of Jupiter and of sovereignty; and the sea through Neptune's trident, here winged, redoubling the idea of soaring glory.

Neoclassical gem-engravers, steeped in Greco-Roman intaglios and in the compendia of Winckelmann and Tassie, delighted in such emblematic assemblages, in which several symbols answer one another across the field to form a figured device.