

A Roman three-layered agate intaglio. Portrait of young Hercules.

Dim. 7,5 x 9,5 x 4,5 mm

Mounting on request

Roman art, 1st century A.D.

The face, youthful and idealised, is framed by short curling hair; the figure is identified as the young Hercules, the hero shown beardless.

Hercules, the most famous of Greco-Roman heroes, embodies strength, courage and the triumph over adversity. Shown here beardless, in the bloom of youth, he evokes the hero on the threshold of his twelve labours — an image of manly virtue and of protection.