



A Roman gold ring set with a red jasper intaglio. Bust of Mercury.

Intaglio 9 x 11 mm

Ring size UK S / US 9 / EU ≈ 60 / Japan 19 – weight 7.53 g.

Roman art, 1st-2nd century A.D.

The gold ring with a rounded oval bezel set with a red jasper intaglio engraved with the draped bust of Mercury in profile to the left, the caduceus rising behind his shoulder.

The solid gold hoop, with shoulders tapering to a broad, high bezel, belongs to a classic Roman type of the early Empire — generous on the hand and made to be used.

Iconography and symbol

Mercury, Roman god of commerce, travellers and eloquence and messenger of the gods, is identified by the caduceus, his serpent-entwined staff; patron of trade and gain, he made a particularly fitting device for the personal seal of a man of business.

Literature

Comparandum

A. B. Chadour, Rings. The Alice and Louis Koch Collection, vol. I, Leeds, 1994, no. 203 (for the type).