



A Roman red jasper intaglio set in a high-carat gold ring. Three-legged table with vessels.

Intaglio 6 × 8 mm

Ring size US 6–6½ (UK L½–M½ / EU 52–53); High carat gold mount – gross weight 5.33 g.

Intaglio: Roman, 2nd century A.D.

Good condition; wear consistent with age to the stone and the hoop; no hallmark.

A Roman gold ring with a plain hoop swelling towards broad, rounded shoulders, the bezel set flush with a small oval red jasper intaglio.

A three-legged table, its slender legs probably zoomorphic, stands on a ground line. On the top rest a small vase at the centre and two ovoid containers at the sides. The engraving is brief and assured, typical of the everyday glyptic of the imperial period.

Historical context – Roman glyptic

Solid gold rings of this swelling form were worn across the Empire in the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D., with the stone set flush for use as a seal. Red jasper, hard and easy to polish, was among the favoured stones of imperial workshops. Close parallels for tables with vessels are published by Richter, *Catalogue of Engraved Gems*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, p. 110, no. 506.

Iconography and symbolism

In the Greek and Roman world the trapeza was never a mere piece of furniture: in temples it received offerings, sacred vessels and the first fruits. At the banquet, low three-legged tables stood beside the

dining couches and carried wine and food. The table laden with vessels thus unites the two halves of Roman piety — what is given to the gods and what is shared with guests.