

A revival gold brooch set with a Roman Republican silver denarius with the head of Roma

L. 5 cm; H. 2.5 cm.

18k and14k yellow gold, silver; gross weight 11.47 g.

Coin: Roman Republic, 2nd – 1st century BC

Mount : 19th century

Condition: coin with wear consistent with circulation; mount in good condition.

A yellow gold brooch composed of a central medallion flanked by two smaller ones, joined by moulded collars and accented with knob finials.

The central medallion is set with a silver denarius showing the helmeted head of Roma to right, wearing a winged helmet, a denomination mark below the chin; on the reverse, a quadriga. The side medallions each bear an eight-petalled rosette in relief with a central pellet.

Historical context – Ancient Numismatics

The denarius, introduced around 211 BC during the Second Punic War, became the backbone of Roman coinage for four centuries. Throughout the 2nd century BC its obverse almost always carried the head of Roma, while the reverse was left to the young magistrates who struck it. Setting ancient coins in gold, revived by the Castellani in the 19th century.

Iconography and symbolism

Roma is the city made goddess, armed like Minerva, her winged helmet a sign of swift victory. The chariot on the reverse belongs to the language of triumph and divine power, the image of a state carried

forward by its gods. The flanking rosettes take up an old Etruscan and Hellenistic motif, an emblem of light and regeneration. Worn on the breast, the brooch carries a fragment of the Republic as a talisman.