

Finch & C^o



ROMAN GOLD FINGER-RING

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SET WITH AN UN-ENGRAVED 'NICOLO GEM

GOLD, CHALCEDONY

ROMAN EMPIRE

CIRCA 3RD CENTURY AD

SIZE: 52 (EU) L 1/2 (UK) 5 7/8 (US) WEIGHT: 26.6 GRAMS

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LITERATURE

A ROMAN GOLD FINGER-RING, CRAFTED WITH A SOLID-CAST HOOP OF SUBSTANTIAL FORM, FEATURES BROAD-ANGLED SHOULDERS THAT TAPER SMOOTHLY INTO A ROUNDED BAND. THE OVAL BEZEL IS METICULOUSLY RECESSED TO

ACCOMMODATE A FLAT, BEVELLED 'NICOLO' GEM, A LAYERED CHALCEDONY CHARACTERISED BY ITS DARK BLUE UPPER SURFACE AND A PALER BASE. RINGS OF THIS TYPE WERE WIDELY WORN DURING THE 3RD CENTURY CE ACROSS THE ROMAN EMPIRE, SERVING BOTH AS SYMBOLS OF PERSONAL WEALTH AND AS CARRIERS FOR ENGRAVED INTAGLIOS USED IN SEALING. THE ABSENCE OF ENGRAVING IN THE PRESENT EXAMPLE MAY INDICATE EITHER AN UNUSED GEMSTONE OR A DELIBERATE AESTHETIC CHOICE, EMPHASISING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE MATERIAL. THE RING'S PROPORTIONS AND ROBUST CONSTRUCTION ARE CHARACTERISTIC OF LATE IMPERIAL GOLDSMITHS' WORK, REFLECTING A PREFERENCE FOR BOLD, ARCHITECTURAL FORMS AND METICULOUSLY BALANCED SYMMETRY.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE CANADIAN COLLECTION

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION