Finch & Co



A FINE GREEK FINGER RING SET WITH A GARNET INTAGLIO OF A LION

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GOLD, GARNET

GREECE HELLENISTIC

HELLENISTIC PERIOD / 2ND CENTURY BC - 1ST CENTURY AD

SIZE: 63 (EU) V (UK) 10 5/8 (US)

WEIGHT: 17.3 GRAMS

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LITERATURE

A HELLENISTIC GOLD FINGER-RING SET FEATURING AN OVAL GARNET INTAGLIO INTRICATELY ENGRAVED WITH THE IMAGE OF A STANDING AND LEFT-FACING LION. THIS VIVID DEPICTION CONVEYS A PROFOUND SENSE OF POWER AND VITALITY, QUALITIES FOR WHICH THE LION HELD SIGNIFICANT PROMINENCE IN GREEK ART AND ROYAL ICONOGRAPHY. SYMBOLISING STRENGTH, AUTHORITY, AND DIVINE PROTECTION, THE LION'S IMAGE WAS A RECURRING MOTIF.

THE GARNET IS SECURELY SET WITHIN A DOUBLE-OVAL BEZEL, WHICH IS SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATED INTO A SUBSTANTIAL, ROUNDED HOOP. THE DISTINCTIVE CONSTRUCTION IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE WORK OF LATE HELLENISTIC GOLDSMITHS, PARTICULARLY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION, WHERE INTAGLIO ENGRAVING FLOURISHED AS BOTH AN ORNAMENTAL ELEMENT AND A PERSONAL SIGNATURE. RINGS OF THIS TYPE WERE WORN BY INDIVIDUALS OF HIGH SOCIAL STANDING, HARMONIOUSLY COMBINING TECHNICAL EXPERTISE WITH SYMBOLIC POTENCY.

PROVENANCE

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