

Finch & C^o



A GOLD FINGER-RING SET WITH A NICOLO INTAGLIO OF EROS DRIVING A 'BIGA' TWO-HORSE CHARIOT
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GOLD, GEMSTONE

FRANCE

19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 51 (EU) K 1/2 (UK) 5 3/8 (US)

WEIGHT: 4.6 GRAMS

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PROVENANCE:

EX PRIVATE FRENCH COLLECTION

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LITERATURE

AN EXQUISITE HIGH-CARAT GOLD RING, METICULOUSLY CRAFTED BY A MASTER GOLDSMITH, FEATURING AN OVAL 'NICOLO' INTAGLIO DEPICTING EROS DRIVING A MAGNIFICENT TWO-HORSE CHARIOT, KNOWN AS A 'BIGA'. THE GEMSTONE, REMINISCENT OF CLASSICAL ROMAN IMPERIAL MODELS, CAPTURES THE YOUTHFUL GOD WITH A RAISED WHIP AND FLOWING DRAPERY, AS HIS CHARIOT GALLOPS SWIFTLY. THE COMPOSITION, METICULOUSLY CUT IN LAYERED CHALCEDONY TO ACCENTUATE THE NATURAL COLOUR CONTRAST, EMBODIES THE REFINED NEOCLASSICAL TASTE OF 19TH CENTURY FRANCE, WHERE ANCIENT GLYPHTIC THEMES WERE REVIVED FOR ESTEEMED COLLECTORS. THE GOLD MOUNT, ADORNED WITH PIERCED FOLIATE SHOULDERS AND DELICATELY CHASED ORNAMENTATION, CLOSELY RESEMBLES FRENCH RINGS FROM THE SECOND EMPIRE. THESE MOUNTS, DESIGNED TO ENCLOSE CLASSICAL OR NEO-ANTIQUE INTAGLIOS, SHOWCASE THE TECHNICAL PROWESS OF PARISIAN ATELIERS INSPIRED BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AND THE OPULENCE OF THE GRAND TOUR. THE PRESENT RING EPITOMISES THE 19TH CENTURY FASCINATION WITH ANTIQUITY, AN ELEGANT FUSION OF ANCIENT SUBJECT MATTER AND CONTEMPORARY CRAFTSMANSHIP, COMBINING THE PRECISION OF CLASSICAL GEM ENGRAVING WITH THE SCULPTURAL DEPTH OF CONTEMPORARY FRENCH GOLDSMITHS' WORK.

PROVENANCE

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