



An Italic banded agate intaglio set in a gold ring. Warrior consulting an oracle.

Circa: 2nd-1st century BCE

Intaglio: Italic, 2nd-1st century BCE

Dim. 10 x 14 mm

Mounting: Late 19th century ; UK size R ; total weight 12,13 gr

The Archaeological Revival gold ring is formed of a double snakes hoop, soften within and chiseled without, forming the bodies of the snakes. The outboard shoulders formed by the heads, the eyes in silver. The junction with the oval box-setting is sustained on each side by a gold wire framing the snakes mouths.

The banded agate intaglio shows the warrior consulting an oracle. He stands before the pillar, which has a erpent coiled round it, a globe on top. The warrior wears a helmet and a chlamys on his back, and carries a scabard. Groundline. Nice mirror polishing.

The anatomy of the character, the style and presence of globular elements place this intaglio to the Italic productions. The mounting is a direct reference to the iconography represented on the intaglio.

Literature

For a similar scene

G. M. Richter, Catalog of engraved gems. Greek, Etruscan and Roman, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, plate XXXIV n. 227.