Iconographic Gold Ring Engraved With Saint Christopher. English, 15th Century.



19 000 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Gold

Description

An iconographic gold ring engraved with an image of Saint Christopher carrying the Christ child.

English, 15th century.

Ring size S UK / 9 US.

Weighs 6.8 grams.

The present ring is an outstanding example of its type, not only does the quality of engraving surpass most others but also its solid construction and impeccable condition, it is a truly rare and museum quality medieval ring.

Dealer

Belle Histoire
Early European sculpture, works of art and jewellery
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Rings engraved with religious figures or scenes are often known as 'iconographic rings'. They were decorated with the popular saints of the middle ages: Catherine, Barbara, Christopher, George and Margaret as well as figures of the Virgin Mary, Christ or the Three Kings. These rings were worn as a sign of faith but were also believed to offer protection from both spiritual and earthly dangers. Pregnant women prayed to St Margaret for a safe delivery whilst travellers appealed to St Christopher. Dying without receiving the sacraments or preparing your soul was a great fear and it was believed that protection could be gained by looking at images of saints such as Christopher and Barbara.