Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

French Gold Napoleon Bonaparte Cameo Cravat Pin, Circa 1820

£225

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REF: 7258

Description

An exceptional early 19th-century French gentleman's cravat pin, dating to circa 1820 and centred with a finely carved cameo portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte in military uniform. Set in yellow gold, this elegant jewel captures the powerful legacy of the Emperor in the years immediately following his fall and death, when Napoleonic imagery remained deeply resonant in France.

The cameo presents Napoleon in profile, his recognisable military dress lending the miniature portrait a formal and authoritative character. The restrained gold setting allows the quality and detail of the carving to take centre stage, while the slender pin was intended to secure a gentleman's cravat with discreet sophistication.

Jewels commemorating Napoleon were produced both during and after the Empire, reflecting admiration, nostalgia, and political feeling. This example is particularly appealing for the intimacy of its scale: an object of personal adornment that also served as a quiet statement of allegiance and memory. Its survival offers a tangible connection to one of the defining figures of European history.

A rare and highly wearable piece of French historical jewellery, combining the artistry of cameo carving with the elegance of early 19th-century goldwork. It would make a distinguished addition to a collection of Napoleonic memorabilia, antique gentlemen's jewellery, portrait miniatures, or fine French goldwork.

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