Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

# French Gold Heraldic Signet Ring, Circa 1940

£2,450

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REF: 7707

Description

A substantial French 18ct gold signet ring of impressive weight, presence, and timeless appeal, dating to circa 1940. The broad, gently softened bezel is finely engraved with an armorial device: a red chief, or upper band, bearing three six-pointed mullets. Richly personal in character, the crest lends the ring a compelling sense of history while its clean, assured form gives it the understated elegance of mid-20th-century French jewellery.

The heraldry may relate to the historic House of Clugny, a distinguished French family with associations to Burgundy. This should be regarded as a considered attribution rather than a definitive identification, but it adds a fascinating layer of interest to an already distinctive piece. The engraving remains the focal point of the design, transforming the traditional signet into an object of both decorative beauty and enduring symbolic appeal.

Traces of the French eagle assay mark remain visible, the traditional guarantee for 18ct gold. Combined with the ring's generous scale and solid construction, this provides an appealing sense of authenticity and period character. It has the satisfying tactile quality expected of a true signet ring: a piece made to be worn regularly, handled over generations, and perhaps eventually passed on.

Historically, signet rings were used to impress a family or personal seal into wax, making them powerful emblems of identity, allegiance, and inheritance. By the 20th century they had become equally valued as statements of taste, and this example achieves a particularly attractive balance between the formality of its engraved crest and the confident simplicity of its French design.

A superb ring for a collector of heraldic jewellery, antique gold, or French mid-century design. It would be striking worn alone as a signature piece, yet versatile enough to style with plain gold bands or a contemporary wardrobe. A finely made and characterful jewel, offering both substantial presence and an evocative connection to the long tradition of the signet ring.



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