



Byzantine silver cross with jasper intaglio POA

Cast silver Byzantine cross with remains of fire gilding. The middle is set with a carved jasper Chi-Rho. The Chi Rho ($\chi\rho$; also known as *chrismon*[1]) is one of the earliest forms of christogram, formed by superimposing the first two (capital) letters—chi and rho ($\chi\rho$)—of the Greek word $\chi\rho\iota\sigma\tau\omicron\varsigma$ (Christos) in such a way that the vertical stroke of the rho intersects the center of the chi.[2] The Chi-Rho symbol was used by the Roman Emperor Constantine I (r. 306–337) as part of a military standard (vexillum). Constantine's standard was known as the Labarum. Early symbols similar to the Chi Rho were the Staurogram (Christliche Symbolik (Menzel) I 193 2.jpg) and the IX monogram (Christliche Symbolik (Menzel) I 193 4.jpg).
Measurements : 55 x 38 mm

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