

# Signets & Cyphers

Marks of Distinction



The History of the Signet



**Signet** n. 1. a seal used instead of or with a signature as authentication. 2. the royal seal formerly used for special purpose in England and Scotland and later as the seal of the Court of Session in Scotland. Compound; **signet-ring a ring with a seal set in it.** **Latin.** signetum *The Oxford English Reference Dictionary*



**Ciphher** also **Cypher** n. (14c from medieval latin ciphra) 1. A secret way of writing. 2. the interlaced initials of a person or company etc.; a monogram. *The Oxford English Reference Dictionary*

## The History and Art of the Seal and Signets.

The great seal of England was introduced by Edward the Confessor and the great seal of the sovereign was held in the custody of the Lord chancellor. Its use was to authenticate decisions; it alone could issue orders requiring full legal backing, appointment to office, treaties with foreign powers, or even proclamations of war, although normally a warrant of either the privy seal or a signet was required first.

The signet - a small seal dating from the reign of Edward II (1307-27) until 1851 was required to seal every warrant of the privy seal or great seal. Ever since the middle ages signets were used by those entitled with a grant to bear heraldic arms, as a seal authorising orders or 'sealing' letters to authenticate the bearer. Signets and Seals became the distinguishing mark of legal stamping and authentication behind business, law and government for over 600 years. Their presence is felt today even in common parlance.... "set one's seal on" - authorise, give one's approval to or "signed sealed and delivered" - this idiom referring to a legal deed.

Gold signet rings became increasingly popular from the 17th century onwards as the ultimate, portable mark of distinction. By the 18th century the signet ring (or fob signet for ladies) became more widely used as the means to seal letters, even those of a more lighthearted or personal nature.

Seals and Signets became more elaborate with the introduction of gemstones set into gold. Engraving also became more precise and artistically challenging to cope with the much harder materials. Seal engraving became a true artform in its own right and remains no less so today.

## Classic Oval Oxford Signet Rings



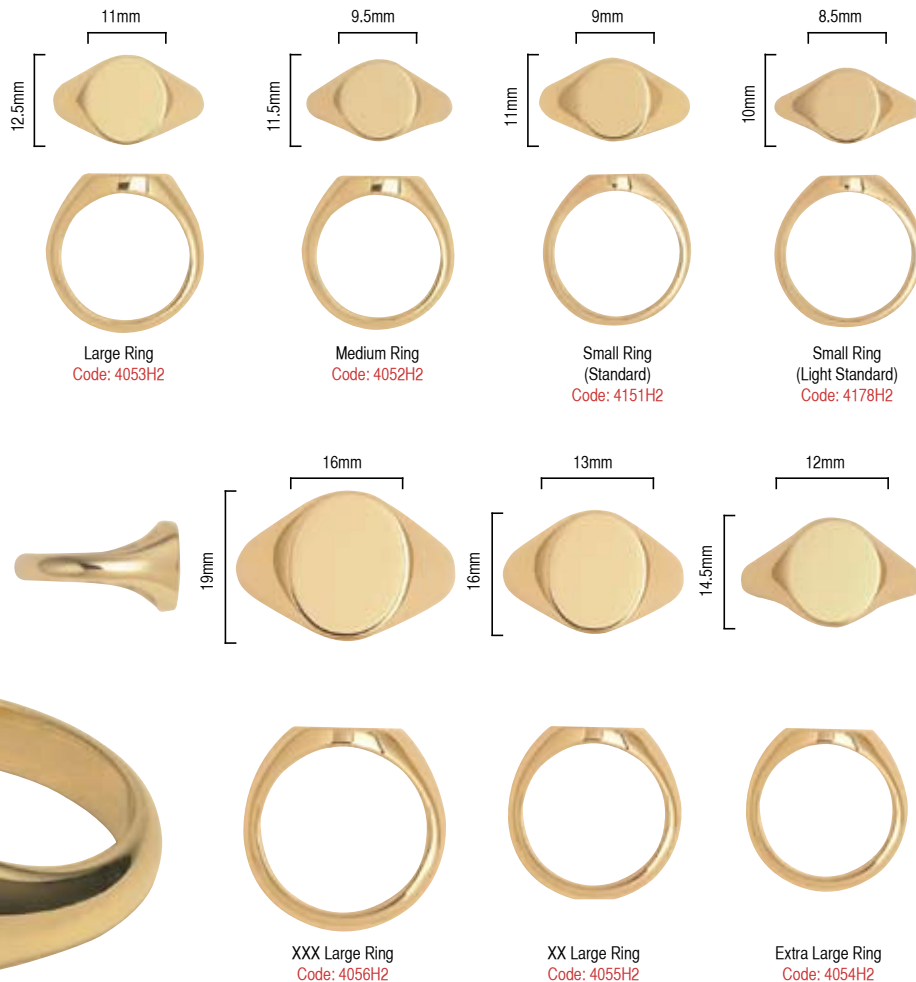
# The Classic Oval Oxford

The Oxford signet is the original classic signet ring. The most popular by far; beautifully shaped and hand-stamped out of 9 or 18ct gold and then hallmarked, finished and polished to a glorious lustre. The Oxford looks magnificent on your little finger. Suitability:

The **Light Standard**, is a fine ring, suiting young adults with slender fingers or a lady's little finger. We call this the girls' ring; petite and elegant. The **Standard** and the **Medium** are popular ladies' rings although the medium is often suitable for men with finer fingers.

The **Large** ring is the most usual gentleman's ring although the **Extra Large** is popular with those with larger fingers. The **XX** and **XXX** are very large indeed for those with large fingers. A serious amount of gold goes into these magnificent rings!

Beautifully Crafted...  
Made in London  
since 1861.  
Hand finished.  
Hallmarked 9 or  
18ct Gold.



## Classic Cushion and Gemstone Signet Rings



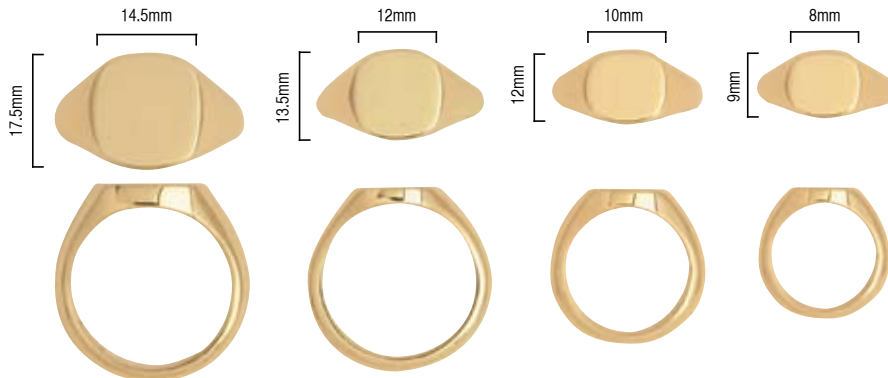
## The Classic Cushion Signet

A very popular signet ring with a larger face which gives slightly more area to engrave on. This particularly suits the larger more complicated crest or those with a substantial crest and long motto. Sometimes the shape and nature of the crest will fit better into a square shape rather than an oval. The Small and Medium are normally for Ladies. The Large and Extra Large are for Gentlemen.

## Gemstone Signets

Exquisite and unrivalled. Engraving on stone is a real artform and sadly there are very few engravers in the UK who can engrave on gemstone. We send ours to an excellent engraver in Poland who is keeping this art alive with outstanding results. Available in Bloodstone (black with red flecks). Cornelian (a reddish amber) or Black Onyx. The Small and Medium are normally for Ladies. The Large and Extra Large are for Gentlemen.

Gemstone Signets are available in Cornelian, Bloodstone and Black Onyx. Please state Gemstone required on orderform.



Extra Large Classic Cushion  
Code: 4072

Large Classic Cushion  
Code: 4048H2

Medium Classic Cushion  
Code: 4030H2

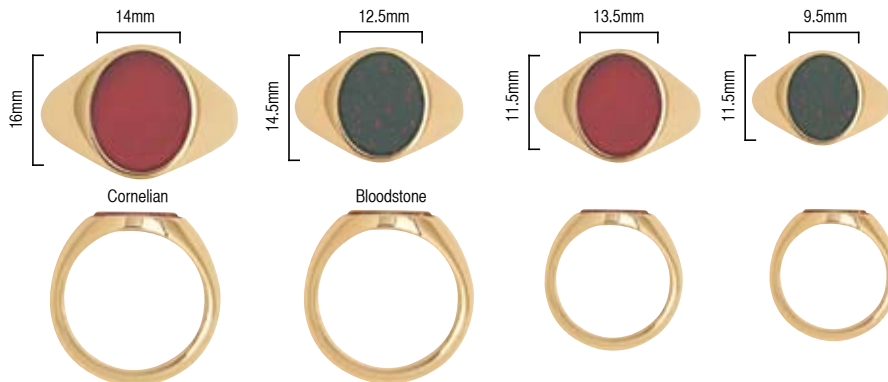
Small Classic Cushion  
Code: 4176H2

Cushion shape signets are also available with Gemstones

Large Cushion Gemstone  
Code: 4087

Medium Cushion Gemstone  
Code: 4077

Small Cushion Gemstone  
Code: 4203



Cornelian

Bloodstone

Extra Large Oval Gemstone  
Code: 4085

Large Oval Gemstone  
Code: 4083

Medium Oval Gemstone  
Code: 4202

Small Oval Gemstone  
Code: 4018