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Cover

Onyx cameo with relief of the Roman imperial eagle. The eagle became an emblem of the might of Rome when Marius in 104 B.C. had silver eagles mounted on the standards of the Roman legions. The loss of such a standard was regarded as a grave disaster; sometimes the legion was disbanded because of it. See review of The Birth of Western Civilization, page 1567. [Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna; Erwin Meyer]