

Magical gem: Ouroboros enclosing Greek inscription (A) letters and characteres (B)

Cbd-Number	CBd-1116
ID-Number	US-NY-MMA-GRA_15.43.317
Collection	US_New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Department of Greek and Roman Art
Inventory	15.43.317
References	Bonner, SMA D. 284; Michel, DMG, no. 28.4.a_24
Material	onyx (banded)
Dimensions	28.5 x ca. 27.5 mm
Dating	ca. 2nd-3rd c. AD (MM Coll. website)
Iconography	Ouroboros; stars (4)
Divine Names & Voces	Ίάω; vocales; Άβραάμ; Ίακώβ; Βαράχ; Ίσαάκ
Logoi	αιαναγβα-logos and variants



Credits: The Metropolitan Museum of Art,
Bequest of Mary Anna Palmer Draper, 1915
(15.43.317)

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A: Ouroboros enclosing a Greek inscription of sixteen lines:

ιευωηιαηα|ιηωυοθαβρααμ|ισακιακωβαραχια|ωαβραθιαωβαρβαρα|διανα[..]αμοραχθισαλαμ||
αξαβαμεαζασαμαζαμου|δαθιωθαρμαραθεσιςτωαβ|αδαλαακαρηβελθιουηθιαθ|αρδηβητακορρουθιεπι
στω||

ελληθηααθαλλεαμενιωεξ|αιωτοντρωδαανανα|βλαλλμιαισαυαμθ|μεμωηχφεωχθεχ|θιφιχμεηλαθαρ|
αβαρωθθαρ[.][.]βιαωθ → voces including vocales (1-2), Άβραάμ, Ίσα<ά>κ, Ίακώβ, Βαράχ Ίάω (2-4),
αιαναγβα-logos (5-6).

B: Ouroboros enclosing six lines of letters, characteres, as well as six- and eight-pointed stars.

Bibliography

[Bonner, SMA on CBd-1116](#)

[Gianniobile 2002](#), 176 (for the 'salamaxa'-formule).

[The Metropolitan Museum Collections website on CBd-1116](#)

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