

Magical gem: Phoenix on crocodile (A) πέπτε (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-1237
ID-Number	Fr-BnF-CdM_AA.Seyrig.5
Collection	FR_Paris, Cabinet des Médailles
Inventory	AA.Seyrig.5
References	Bonner, SMA D. 105; Michel, DMG, no. 43.1_5; Mastrocinque 2014, no. 150
Former Collections	Seyrig, Henry (Beirut)
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	31 x 12 x 4 cm
Iconography	phoenix; scarab, with outstretched wings; snakes (2); scorpions (2); bird: swallows (2); animal: crocodile; nimbus; rays; Chnoubis-sign?



Credits: Photo: A. Mastrocinque
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Description: Upright oblong (?) gem, both faces flat. Shape 8-9. Haematite. Much of the edges broken off and missing. Acquired in Beirut.

A: Phoenix with elongated neck and legs, standing to left on a crocodile, its head crowned with a nimbus and rays. Above, a scarab with outstretched wings. On each side of the phoenix, swallows facing inwards, scorpions crawling to top, and rearing snakes, with 'hands' raised protectively. (For an interpretation, cf. [CBd-2](#).) Besides the feet of the bird, notches to indicate the Chnoubis-sign?

B: Vertical inscription in one line: πέπτε → πέπτε. 'Digest!'

Bibliography

[Bonner, SMA on CBd-1237](#)

[Nagy 2012, comm. ad Bonner IV 60-61](#)

[Mastrocinque 2014 on CBd-1237](#)

[The Cabinet des Médailles database on CBd-1237](#)

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