

Magical gem mounted in a modern gold ring: Jonah and the whale

Cbd-Number	Cbd-1515
ID-Number	US-Boston, MFA_03.1008
Collection	US_Boston, Museum of Fine Arts
Inventory	03.1008
References	Bonner, SMA D. 347
Former Collections	Warren, Edward Perry, Collection
Material	carnelian, yellow to orange
Dimensions	17 x 15 mm (MFA)
Dating	late 3rd or early 4th c. AD (MFA)

Iconography
Jonah; bird, unspecified; rudder; plant: tree; figure, male; gesture, orant; clothing: tunic; animal: whale; boat; scepter, unspecified



Credits: Francis Bartlett Donation of 1900
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A: In the center, a boat with a steersman, while a figure plunges from the prow and a sea monster swims towards him (Jonah swallowed by the whale). To the left, a figure wearing a tunic stands with hands raised in prayer (Jonah praying). Behind the boat, a tree with a bird, below, a seated figure (Jonah) holding a staff.

B: No information.

Bibliography

[Bonner, SMA on Cbd-1515](#)

[Spier, Gems](#), 67, no. 418 (with earlier bibliography)

[The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston website on Cbd-1515](#)

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