

Magical gem: Phoenix on column surrounded by animals (A) πέπτε (B)

Cbd-Number	Cbd-2
ID-Number	HU-SzM-Ant_55.154
Collection	HU_Budapest, Museum of Fine Arts, Classical Collection
Inventory	55.154
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	31.2 x 14.7 x 4 mm
Dating	T.p.q.: 121/122 AD (Nagy) column; Chnoubis-sign; bird: swallows (2); snakes (2); scorpions (2); scarab, with outstretched wings; rays (6); phoenix; nimbus; globus; animal: crocodile; gesture, protective
Iconography	



Credits: Photo: László Mátyus
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Description: Upright oblong, both faces flat. Shape 8c-9c. Haematite.

A: Phoenix (Horus) with nimbus and six rays around the head, standing to left on a globe (Osiris) placed upon a column. Below, a crocodile, to right; above, a scarab with outstretched wings (representation of the Egyptian sun god in different forms). On the two sides, pairs of animals: swallows facing inwards, scorpions crawling to top, and snakes with 'hands' raised in protection, standing for Isis and Nephthys. Beside the phoenix, a pair of S-shaped characteres (Bonner: worms?).

B: Inscription in three lines: πε|πτ|ε → πέπτε. 'Digest!'. Beneath: Chnoubis-sign.

The magos - the gem - commands the client's stomach in the name of the deity invoked by the images to do what it has to: digest!

Selected bibliography

[Nagy 2001](#)

[Nagy 2002](#)

Mentioned in [Nagy 2004](#).

Mentioned in [Nagy 2011](#), 79, Pl. 11.

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

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