

Magical gem: Skeleton on lion-biga, Greek inscription

CBd-Number	CBd-2141
ID-Number	DE-Berlin-Aeg_9885
Collection	DE_Berlin, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Ägyptisches Museum
Inventory	9885
References	Philipp, <i>Mira et Magica</i> , no. 188; Michel, <i>DMG</i> , no. 55.7_1
Former Collections	Stosch, Philipp von, Collection
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	29.1 x 23 x 4 mm
Dating	turn of the 2nd-3rd c. AD (H. Philipp)
Iconography	skeletons (3); biga; animal: lions (2); whip; gesture, lying
Divine Names & Voces	voces, unidentified; σεμσειλαμ and variants



Credits: by Attilio Mastrocinque
Rights: © Berlin, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Ägyptisches Museum

A: Skeleton driving a biga drawn by two lions. Right hand holding a whip, left hand holding the reins. The lions trample over another skeleton lying on the ground, feet stretched out, arms beside the body. On the right, a further skeleton is standing or sitting(?). Inscriptions in the free field, on the biga and on one skeleton. Above the biga, in four lines: ανιθουερριθουηροι|ειφενεεχαννεβι|νεχειμεχελ|αμθι → unidentified voces; χειμεχελαμ → variant of σεμσειλαμ? In the free field behind the biga, in two lines (vertically): βαθη|θμωθευρ. On the biga (vertically): φυθε|αμου; on the left wheel (vertically): ωα; on the right wheel: ια|υι|α. Under the bellies of the lions, in three lines: ερφ|μιση|μ characteres. Under the lying skeleton, in two lines: ιφωσιννεμ|ερθ. Between the lions and the skeleton on the right side, in two lines (vertically): σουορ|ινα. Under the claws of the lions, in two lines: υ|θ. On the standing(?) skeleton, in seven lines: εν|π|ε|σεχ|νμ||νε|φιχ; under its legs: υλουχ?]. On the right side, in the free field (vertically): ιθουμνοσ?].
B: Plain.

Bibliography

[Philipp, *Mira et Magica* on CBd-2141](#)
[Michel, *DMG*, 55.7_1.](#)

Images

Cast of CBd-2141 [obverse](#) in the [Gem Impressions Collection of Cornell University Library](#)