

Magical gem: Hermes and Anubis (A) characteres and symbols (B)

Cbd-Number	CBd-2191
ID-Number	AT-Wien-KM_IXB 1260
Collection	AT_Wien, Kunsthistorisches Museum
Inventory	IXB 1260
References	Chifletius-Macarius, no. XII 46; Zwierlein-Diehl, AGWien III, 2697; Michel, DMG, no. 24.1.a_6
Former Collections	Hörwarth / Herwart von Hohenburg, Hans Georg (Ioannes Georgius Herwartius, 1553-1622)
Material	chalcedony-agate
Dimensions	61 x 47.7 x 14.8 mm
Dating	16th c. AD (Zwierlein-Diehl)
Iconography	Hermes; zodiac cycle-05, Leo; zodiac cycle-02, Taurus; Anubis; torch, burning; vessels, unspecified; plant: stalks of grain; scepter, with falcon on the top; clothing: cap; clothing: kilt; zodiac cycle-09, Sagittarius
Divine Names & Voces	Ἡράκλῆς



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Description: Transverse oval, side A lightly, side B more strongly convex. Shape 12c. Light gray, translucent chalcedony with a light brown, translucent layer. Strongly damaged at the edges, bored through at the upper edge and filled with a metal (copper - bronze?) pin.

A: Ouroboros frame. Hermes and Anubis standing opposite each other, both in kilts. Between them, a stud consisting of two metals (copper and bronze?). Hermes wears a cap with small wings, he is holding stalks of grain in his right hand, and a falcon-sceptre in his left hand. The jackal-headed Anubis is holding a jug in his right hand and a burning torch in his left hand. Between the gods, at the height of the legs: $\iota\omega|\phi\epsilon\rho\epsilon\nu|\phi\epsilon\rho\omega \rightarrow \text{'}\acute{\iota}\acute{\alpha}\omega \phi\acute{\epsilon}\rho\text{' } \acute{\epsilon}\nu \phi\acute{\epsilon}\rho\omega$. 'Iáω fetch one, I am fetching it.'
B: Three lines of characteres as well as planetary and zodiacal symbols (Taurus, Saturnus, Sagittarius, Sol and Leo).

The gem may have been carved after the drawing of a cast in Chifletius-Macarius, Abrasax, see [CBd-2819](#). For a similar gem in Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst in Munich, see [CBd-323](#). Another copy: [Devoto-Molayem 1990](#), 204 fig. 122 (Michel).

/Description: Erika Zwierlein-Diehl - CBd/

Bibliography

- [Chifletius-Macarius, Abrasax](#), XII 46.
- [Michel, DMG](#), 282, 24.1.a_6
- [Zwierlein-Diehl 1989](#), figs. 22, 23.
- [Zwierlein-Diehl, AGWien III on CBd-2191](#)
- [Zwierlein-Diehl 2014](#), figs. 15, 16.

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