

Magical gem: Four deities, Ouroboros with characteres, inscription

CBd-Number	CBd-231
ID-Number	DE-Köln-Institut für Altertumskunde_23
Collection	DE_Köln, Institut für Altertumskunde der Universität
Inventory	23
References	Zwierlein-Diehl, Köln 23; Michel, DMG, no. 54.2.k_5
Former Collections	Matouk, Fouad S. Collection
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	23 x 17.4 x 3.8 mm
Dating	second half of the 2nd-first half of the 3rd c. AD (Zwierlein-Diehl)
Iconography	Ouroboros; gesture, ithyphallic; tripus; uterus, in the form of a cupping vessel; gesture, arms outstretched; solar disk; vessel: situla; key (3-bitted); clothing: tunic; clothing: mantle; crown, double feathers; Isis; crown, double; flail; gesture, hand raised to mouth; Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; Bes; Khnum
Divine Names & Voces	voces, unidentified



Credits: by Christopher A. Faraone
Rights: © Köln, Institut für Altertumskunde der
Universität

A: Ouroboros, head at top, to right, enclosing characteres in three lines. Top, from left to right: cross, Z-sign, six-pointed star; middle: arrow, square with slash, cross in circle, gamma; bottom: two arrows, iota. Above the Ouroboros, in the middle: the ram-headed Khnum sitting on a low three-legged stool, head to left, crowned with the solar disk, lower body and legs coated with a mantle. He extends both arms to the left, holding up a uterus. On the left: Bes, to front, with bent knees, above his head: Harpocrates sitting with knees drawn up, left hand raised to mouth, right hand holding a flail, head crowned with the double crown of Egypt. On the right: Isis standing in profile to left, wearing tunic and mantle, right hand holding the key (to the uterus), left hand holding a situla, head crowned with the double feather crown.

Inscription around the figures, beginning on the left side: see E. Zwierlein-Diehl's transcription ([Zwierlein-Diehl, Köln on CBd-231](#)).

Bibliography:

[Zwierlein-Diehl, Köln on CBd-231](#)

Last modified: 2019-10-31 21:24:05