

# Magical gem: Tantalos-historiola

<b>CBd-Number</b>	CBd-2346
<b>ID-Number</b>	US-Malibu- Getty_83.AN.437.50
<b>Collection</b>	US_Malibu, J. Paul Getty Museum
<b>Inventory</b>	83.AN.437.50
<b>References</b>	Michel, DMG, no. 28.12.b_1
<b>Former Collections</b>	Int_Art market (Frank Sternberg AG, Zürich); Mezzacappa, Damon (1936-2015) New York
<b>Material</b>	haematite (black)
<b>Dimensions</b>	26 x 12 mm
<b>Iconography</b>	figure, female; figure, lion- headed; gesture, arms tied; gesture, kneeling; object, unidentified
<b>Divine Names &amp; Voces</b>	Τάνταλος



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Collection, Malibu, California, Gift of Damon  
Mezzacappa and Jonathan H. Kagan

**Description:** Upright oblong, both faces flat. Shape 8c. Haematite.

**A:** Lion-headed female in a kneeling position to left, facing right, with arms bent in elbow and hands placed on the hips (tied behind the back?). Uncertain triangular object over the head. On the right side of the figure an inscription in twelve lines in pterygoma form:

[διψα]σταντα|ψασταν|ασταντα|σταντα||τανταλ|ανταλ|νταλ|ταλα|αλα|λα||αι|ι| → [διψᾶ]ς,  
Τάνταλ[ε], <αἶμα πίε>. 'Are you thirsty, Tantalos, '

The stone is slightly cut down.

**B:** Plain.

/Description: Jeffrey Spier - CBd/

## Bibliography

[Sternberg, Auction 10](#) lot 786.

[Michel, DMG](#), 28.12.b\_1

[Faraone 2009](#), 212-3.

[Faraone 2012](#), 39-40, fig. 3.4.

[The J. Paul Getty Museum Collection Online on CBd-2346](#)

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