

Magical gem in a modern gold mount: Uterus with deities (A) ὄρωριουθ (B)

Cbd-Number	Cbd-2504
ID-Number	AT-Wien-KM_IX B 1240
Collection	AT_Wien, Kunsthistorisches Museum
Inventory	IX B 1240
References	Zwierlein-Diehl, AGWien III, 2260; Michel, DMG, no. 54.2.j_2
Former Collections	Burghart, Ernst August
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	20 x 16.7 (si.O.) x 2.6 mm
Dating	2nd half of 2nd-1st half of 3rd c. AD (Zwierlein-Diehl)
Iconography	Chnoubis, lion-headed; Bes; uterus, in the form of a cupping vessel; rays (8); Ouroboros; key (7-bitted); Isis; gesture, greeting; clothing: garment; crown, double feathers
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; ὄρωριουθ
Place of discovery	Egypt
Logoi	σοροορ-logos



Credits:
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Description: Upright oval, both faces flat. Shape 8-9. Haematite. The upper right edge is damaged, the upper left part of the gem is missing, and is refilled with gold. Set in a modern gold ring with a revolving bezel.

From Egypt. Purchased through E. A. Burghart in 1821.

A: Ouroboros enclosing a uterus with a seven-bitted key, ligaments and fallopian tubes indicated. Deities above the uterus: on the right, Isis wearing a long robe, head to left, adorned with double feathers, right hand raised and stretched out towards lion-headed Chnoubis, crowned with eight rays, head to left; on the left, Bes in frontal view. Below the figures, Greek inscription: $\iota\omega$ → Ἰάω. Greek inscription around the Ouroboros: $\sigma\mu\epsilon\rho\phi\epsilon\rho\gamma\alpha\rho\beta\alpha\rho\mu\alpha\phi$ → part of the σοροορ-logos.

B: Inscription in two lines: ὄρωριουθ → ὄρωριουθ.

Bibliography

[Zwierlein-Diehl, AGWien III on Cbd-2504](#)

[Michel, DMG, 54.2.j_2](#)