

"Sword of Dardanos" gem: Aphrodite, Psyche, Eros, voces (A) Eros and Psyche, voces (B)

Cbd-Number	CBd-4265
Collection	IT_Perugia, Museo Archeologico Nazionale dell'Umbria
Inventory	1526
References	Mastrocinque, SGG II, no. Pe 16; Vitellozzi 2010b, no. 518
Former Collections	Guardabassi, Mariano (1823-1880)
Material	magnetite (black)
Dimensions	21.8 x 16.2 x 3.3 mm
Iconography	Aphrodite; Eros; globus; torch, burning; Psyche; clothing: tunic; gesture, embrace; clothing: garment; clothing: mantle; wreath; jewellery: bracelet
Divine Names & Voces	Ἴάω; voces, unidentified; Ἄδωναί, variants; Ἴακώβ



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Description: Upright oval, both sides flat. Shape 8-9. Black magnetite. Surface abraded, small part broken off from the upper edge. Previously in the Guardabassi collection.

A: Aphrodite wearing a short tunic with a mantle and a bracelet on her right hand, sitting on the back of the winged Psyche, grabbing her garment with her right hand and raising a wreath with the left. Psyche, facing to the right, is dressed in a long garment. Below, Eros standing on a globus, raising a torch to burn Psyche's belly. Inscription above Aphrodite's head: ἀχμα[γε ραρ]φερμει → unidentified voces. Inscription around Eros: π|ακαπακα|αδωναε|βασμαχαρ|ακωιακ|ωβιαω → voces including Ἄδωναί, Ἴακώβ and Ἴάω.
B: Eros and Psyche embracing each other, Psyche wearing a long garment. Inscription under the ground line: ηηηησσσσσσ|ηηηησσσσσσ → unidentified voces.

The gem largely corresponds to the practice known as the "Sword of Dardanos" described in PGM IV 1716-1743. See also [CBd-1555](#). (Alterations from P. Vitellozzi in Vitellozzi 2019 are based on close observation of the gem by Á. M. Nagy and P. Vitellozzi, 2019.)

Bibliography

[SGG II](#), 110, Pe 16.
[Vitellozzi 2019](#).