

# Magical gem: Aphrodite and Ares (A) pseudo-inscription (B-C)

<b>Cbd-Number</b>	Cbd-483
<b>ID-Number</b>	GB-BM-MMEu_G 406, EA 56406
<b>Collection</b>	GB_London, The British Museum
<b>Inventory</b>	G 406 (EA 56406)
<b>References</b>	Michel, BM, no. 83; Michel, DMG, no. 5.3_2
<b>Former Collections</b>	Blacas Collection
<b>Material</b>	haematite (black)
<b>Dimensions</b>	17 x 18 x 2 mm
<b>Dating</b>	3rd c. AD (Michel)
<b>Iconography</b>	Aphrodite anadyomene; weapon: armour; weapon: helmet; clothing: mantle; moon, crescent; weapon: shield; weapon: spear; stars (4); Ares, Mars ultor-type
<b>Divine Names &amp; Voces</b>	Ἰάω; Ἀβλαναθαναλβα, variants; Σαβαώθ?



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A: On the left: Aphrodite standing to front, wearing a mantle and wringing out her hair. On the right: armoured male figure (Ares) standing to front, facing left. He is wearing a helmet on his head, and holding a shield in his right hand, in his left hand a long spear. Between the two figures' heads: a crescent and three eight-pointed stars underneath. Another eight-pointed start at Aphrodite's feet, on the left.

Inscriptions: on the left side of Aphrodite: ιαω. Above Ares' head: ι. In the field: ωθ → Perhaps: Ἰ<άω>, <Σαβα>ώθ.

The right side of the gem is broken, on the right side of Ares the fragment of another inscription.

B: Unintelligible pseudo-inscription in five lines.

C: ωαθαναλβ → variant of Ἀβλαναθαναλβα-palindrome?

## Bibliography

[Michel, BM on Cbd-483](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on Cbd-483](#)

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