

# Magical gem: Lion-headed figure holding tabula ansata (A) στόμαχε πέπτε (B)

<b>CBd-Number</b>	CBd-578
<b>ID-Number</b>	GB-BM-MMEu_G 497, EA 56497
<b>Collection</b>	GB_London, The British Museum
<b>Inventory</b>	G 497 (EA 56497)
<b>References</b>	Bonner 1951, no. 44; Michel, BM, no. 180; Michel, DMG, no. 41.6.e_4
<b>Former Collections</b>	Chester, Greville John (1830-1892)
<b>Material</b>	haematite (black)
<b>Dimensions</b>	44 x 19 x 3 mm
<b>Dating</b>	4th c. AD (Michel)
<b>Iconography</b>	figure, lion-headed; tabula ansata; weapon: armour; rays (7); moons, crescent (2); plant: palm branches (2); shoes, unspecified; stars (7)
<b>Divine Names &amp; Voces</b>	Ἰάω



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A: Composite figure with an animal (perhaps lion) head, surrounded by seven rays. The figure is wearing armour and boots. Arms are raised high above the head, and hold a tabula ansata. Three pairs of wings project from the trunk, both feet turned outwards. Besides the legs, on both sides of the figure: vertical palm branches. In the free field: seven x-shaped stars, and two v-shaped notches, perhaps to indicate crescents. Inscription in the tabula ansata:  $\alpha \rightarrow \text{Ἰά}\langle\omega\rangle$ .  
B: Inscribed in five lines:  $\sigma\tau\omicron\mu\alpha\chi\epsilon\pi\epsilon\pi\tau\epsilon \rightarrow \sigma\tau\omicron\mu\alpha\chi\epsilon\pi\epsilon\pi\tau\epsilon$ . 'Stomach, digest!'

## Bibliography

[Bonner 1951 on CBd-578](#)

[Michel, BM on CBd-578](#)

[Gordon 2011](#), 44, pl. 8.

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-578](#)

Last modified: 2019-10-31 21:59:10