

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

Cbd-Number	Cbd-578
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 497, EA 56497
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 497 (EA 56497)
References	Bonner 1951, no. 44; Michel, BM, no. 180; Michel, DMG, no. 41.6.e_4
Former Collections	Chester, Greville John (1830-1892)
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	44 x 19 x 3 mm
Dating	4th c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	figure, lion-headed; tabula ansata; weapon: armour; rays (7); moons, crescent (2); plant: palm branches (2); shoes, unspecified; stars (7)
Divine Names & Voces	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: ια → Ἰά<ω>.
B: Inscribed in five lines: στ|ομα|χε|πε|τε → στόμαχε πέπτε. '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](#)

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