

Magical gem: Helios, Selene (A) voces (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-642
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 147, EA 56147
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 147 (EA 56147)
References	Michel, BM, no. 244; Michel, DMG, no. 22.4.b_1
Former Collections	Praun and Mertens Collection; Eastwood, George
Material	heliotrope
Dimensions	17 x 13.5 x 2.5 mm
Dating	1st-2nd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Helios; stars (5); clothing: garment; Selene; biga; rays (6); gesture, greeting; quadriga; clothing: mantle; moon, crescent
Divine Names & Voces	Ἀβρασάξ; Ἴάω; Σαβαώθ



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
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A: Two horse-drawn chariots. At the top: Helios in the quadriga, nude except for a chlamys thrown over the shoulder, leaning to left. Right hand holding the reins behind his back, left hand stretched forward and raised in greeting, six rays around the head. Below the quadriga, the biga of Selene. Selene stands above the wheel, leaning forward and holding the reins with her right hand. She is wearing a long garment, with a veil flying behind her. Next to the figure of Selene, on the left: a lying crescent and five eight-pointed stars.

B: Inscription in five lines: ιαω|σαβαωθ|αβρασαξ|οωνκπαρ|ασταθητι → Ἴάω Σαβαώθ Ἀβρασάξ ὁ ὢν κ(ύριε) παραστάθητι. "Iao, Sabaoth, Abrasax, the one who "is", Lord, take my side!"

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-642](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-642](#)