

Magical gem: Helios, Nile and Euthenia (A) Aphrodite with Eros (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-646
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 243, EA 56243
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 243 (EA 56243)
References	Michel, BM, no. 248
Former Collections	Schmidt, C.
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	36 x 31 x 4 mm
Dating	2nd-3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	quadriga; Euthenia; Nile; Erotes (16); rod; vessel: cup; cornucopia; animal: crocodiles (2); Helios; mirror; Eros; jewellery: bracelet; clothing: garment; gesture, greeting; plant: branch; clothing: mantle; globus; crown, unspecified



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A: Fragment with two image fields separated by a horizontal line. In the upper field: frontal view of quadriga with two horses in profile on each side (only the hindlegs remaining of the pair on the left side). Human figure standing as if above the chariot on the right side, wearing shoes and a chlamys thrown over the shoulder: legs to front, in the left hand a globe, right hand (now lost) originally holding a rod. On his right side a tiny human figure with his left hand raised in greeting. In all probability a second figure was also represented above the horses on the left. In the lower field: reclining male and female figures turning towards each other, both on the back of crocodiles, wearing long garments, upper body nude. The male figure (the Nile-god, on the left) is long-haired, bearded and wears a crown, the female figure (Euthenia, on the right) wears a headband, and a crown. Both figures hold a cornucopia in one hand, in the other outstretched hand the man holds a leafy branch, the woman a cup. In the free field around them: sixteen tiny figures holding staves or lifting their arms in greeting (Erotes).

B: Rest of a standing female figure, to front (Aphrodite), wearing a long mantle around the hips, upper body nude. Right hand resting on the chest, holding an unspecified attribute, bracelet on the wrist. Left hand resting on the thigh. Beside Aphrodite, on the right: naked Eros handing a small mirror over to the goddess with his raised right hand.

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-646](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-646](#)