

Magical gem: Bust of Helios (A) Hermetic text (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-647
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 489, EA 56489
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 489 (EA 56489)
References	Bonner, SMA D. 274; Michel, BM, no. 249; Michel, DMG, no. 22.1_4
Material	carnelian (colour unspecified)
Dimensions	13 x 10 x 4 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Helios; whip; rays (7); weapon: armour; clothing: mantle; bust; crown, unspecified
Divine Names & Voces	μενναθ



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A: Bust of a youth (Helios), head to left, right arm close to the body and holding a whip, on the head: crown with seven rays. Chlamys thrown over the left shoulder, chest protected by a breastplate. Inscription in two lines on the breastplate: χε|σ+

C: Inscription on the edge: ομειζωντησπεροχησοτησδυνα.

B: Inscription in six lines, continuation of the inscription on the edge: μεωσισχυ|ροτεροσσω|νενκομι|ωνκρεισσω|νμεννα||θ → ό μείζων τής ύπεροχής ό τής δυνάμεως ισχυρότερος ό τών έγκωμίων κρείσσων μενναθ.

'The one who is transcending all pre-eminence, more powerful than all power, better than all praise, Mennath.' The text reflects Caput 31 of the Poimandres hymn in the Corpus Hermeticum, the present translation follows that of G.R.S. Mead.

Bibliography

[Bonner, SMA on CBd-647](#)

[Michel, BM on CBd-647](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-647](#)

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