

Magical gem: Eros riding lion (A) voces (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-655
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 255, EA 56255
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 255 (EA 56255)
References	Michel, BM, no. 257; Michel, DMG, no. 15.3.b
Former Collections	Rollin & Feuardent (auction house, 1867-1953)
Material	jasper, green to black
Dimensions	18 x 24 x 4 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Eros riding lion; whip; animal: lion, with snake-headed tail; stars (2)
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; Μουι Σρω



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
Rights: © Trustees of the British Museum

A: Lion striding to left, with a rider on its back (Eros). The tail of the lion ends in a snake's head. Eros looks back on the snake's head, his left hand grasping the mane of the lion, his right hand raised high and holding a whip. In the free field in front of the lion, two eight-pointed stars.
B: Inscription in three lines: πυρμοι|ιαω|μουισρω → voces including Ἰάω, Μουι Σρω.
S. Michel interprets the representation of the lion and stars as an astrological image, which is further underlined by the planet and decan names on the reverse (perhaps a later addition to the gem). For more details, see her analysis below.

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-655](#)

[Michel 2011](#), 85, pls. 9a-d.