

Magical gem: Zeus and Hephaistos (A) Pseudo-Hebrew inscription (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-660
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 264, EA 56264
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 264 (EA 56264)
References	Bonner 1951, no. 17; Michel, BM, no. 262; Michel, DMG, no. 57.2.a_1
Former Collections	Towneley Collection
Material	chalcedony, white to brown/grey
Dimensions	15 x 9 x 3 mm
Dating	2nd-3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Zeus; throne; thunderbolt; birds (2); animal: lions (2); clothing: mantle; clothing: kilt; hammer; bust



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A: In the upper section: a group of two deities (Zeus and Hephaistos, or the Kabeiroi?). Frontal view of a bearded man with long, curly hair, standing in front of a throne, head to left, wearing a long garment covering his body from the hips, upper body nude (Zeus). Right hand raised high and holding a thunderbolt, left arm lowered beside the body, hand not visible. Behind him: a second figure, wearing only a kilt, holding a hammer over his shoulder. On both sides: roaring lions facing outwards. In the lower section: two birds (eagles?) mirroring each other, facing outwards, with heads turned back, at the bottom: human bust with outstretched arms or wings (?) above notches indicating water (siren or personification of the river Oronthes?).

B: Pseudo-Hebrew inscription or characteres (?) in one line.

Bibliography

[Bonner 1951 on CBd-660](#)

[Michel, BM on CBd-660](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-660](#)

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