

Magical gem: Tropaion (A) Anguipes (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-673
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 65, EA 56065
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 65 (EA 56065)
References	Goodenough, JS, III, no. 1113; Michel, BM, no. 287; Michel, DMG, no. 53.1.c_1
Material	chalcedony, white to brown/grey
Dimensions	28 x 20.5 x 5 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Anguipes, cock-headed; Gorgoneion; tropaion; weapon: shield; weapon: armour; gesture, lying; whip; stars (4); stars (7)
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; voces, unidentified; Ἰάω, variants



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A: Tropaion composed of armour and two round shields, supported by a pole driving through the leaping body of a lion, to left, and a human figure lying face down on the ground, also to left. In the free field around the figure six six-pointed stars. Inscription on the left side, above the lion's head: εωι; on the right side: ιαω → anagramma for Ἰάω, as two variants of the same name (S. Michel: εἰμὶ ιαω). Inscription around the edge, from left to right, beginning after the rest of an originally six-pointed star: ναεαμενειδειλεναεηαιεισ, traces of three further letters are visible following the σ → unidentified voces.

B: Frontal view of a cock-headed Anguipes, head in profile, to right, in armour. Right arm raised high and holding a whip, left arm held close to the body and holding a round shield, porpax visible. Below the figure: Gorgoneion with wings at her temples, the snakes in her hair seem to be replaced with the Anguipes' snake's legs. In the free field around the figures: four six-pointed stars.

Inscription to the left of the figure: ιει; around the edge, beginning at bottom left: νιυ ελιυιυσι υιυι υσν → unidentified voces.

Attributed to the Tropaion master (Á. M. Nagy).

(Alterations from S. Michel's readings are based on close observation of the gem by Á. M. Nagy, 2010).

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-673](#)

[Nagy 2011](#), 77-78, pls. 5a-b. (Tropaion master)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-673](#)