

Magical gem: Pantheos, lion, acclamation (A) three deities (B) pseudo-inscription (C)

Cbd-Number	Cbd-677
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 597
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 597
References	Michel, BM, no. 291; Michel, DMG, no. 41.5_1
Material	obsidian (black)
Dimensions	28 x 25 x 6 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Pantheos; stars (6); figures, female (2); figure, male; snakes (2); solar disk; crown, hemhem; protomes of animals (3-3); scepters (2); scepter, unspecified; tail of bird; tabula ansata; animal: lion; gesture, hand raised to mouth
Divine Names & Voces	Ίάω; voces, unidentified; Σαβαώθ, variants



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A: Frontal view of four-winged Pantheos on the back of a lion, which strides left above a tabula ansata. The Pantheos is nude, and has a bird's tail projecting to right. Both arms are bent in elbow and hold scepters with a crossing notch at the top. The face, to front, is framed by animal protomes on each side, head crowned with the solar disk and the hemhem-crown. In the free field to the left and right of the figures, two coiling snakes with open jaws. Inscription in three lines within the tabula ansata: φυλαξοναπο|παντοσκακ|ουιαωσαβαω → φύλαξον ἀπὸ παντὸς κακοῦ Ἰάω, Σαβαώ. 'Protect from all evil, Iao, Sabao'. Around the image, letters arranged in concentric circles.

B: In the upper field: three figures standing above a tabula ansata. On the left: a female figure wearing a long garment, head to right, left hand raised to mouth (Sigé). In the middle: a nude male figure; on the right: a female figure in a long garment, right hand stretched out to the left, left hand leaning onto a tall staff. Both latter figures turning towards Sigé, all wearing headbands. In the free field around them: six four- and six-pointed stars. Inscription in three lines within the tabula ansata: φυλαξοναπο|παντοσκακ|ουι[-]ααχμ[-] → φύλαξον ἀπὸ παντὸς κακοῦ, unidentified vox. 'Protect from all evil!' In the lower field: imitation inscription.

C: Imitation of an inscription in three concentric lines.

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on Cbd-677](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on Cbd-677](#)