

Magical gem: Gryllos (A) phoenix with kerykeion (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-724
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 190, EA 56190
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 190 (EA 56190)
References	Bonner 1951, no. 14; Michel, BM, no. 347; Michel, DMG, no. 55.3.d_1
Former Collections	Praun and Mertens Collection; Eastwood, George
Material	obsidian (black)
Dimensions	23 x 17 x 5 mm
Dating	2nd-3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	gryllos; animal: lion; phoenix; kerykeion; nimbus; tabula; star; rays (4); plant: stalk of grain
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; voces, unidentified



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
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A: Gryllos striding in profile, to left. The creature's body is constituted by cock's legs, ram's head and a bearded mask, the tail is a stalk of grain held in the ram's mouth. On the left, in front of the mask, the figure of a lion leaping vertically upwards.

B: Phoenix in profile to left, crowned with nimbus and four rays, standing upon a tabula enclosing the inscription: $\iota\alpha\omega \rightarrow \text{Ἰάω}$. Kerykeion stuck under the wings. In the free field on the right, an eight-pointed star, around the figure: characteres and letters, perhaps: $\beta\epsilon\rho\sigma\zeta \rightarrow$ unidentified voces.

Bibliography

[Bonner 1951 on CBd-724](#)

[Michel, BM on CBd-724](#)