

Magical gem: Uterus with deities (A) voces (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-749
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 79, EA 56079
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 79 (EA 56079)
References	Michel, BM, no. 378; Michel, DMG, no. 54.2.k_2
Former Collections	Towneley Collection
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	21 x 18 x 4 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	uterus, in the form of a cupping vessel; clothing: kilt; figure, ram-headed; throne; side-lock of youth; flail; gesture, hand raised to mouth; Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; Bes akephalos; solar disk; crown, Isis-; object, unidentified; clothing: tunic; clothing: mantle; Isis; key (6-bitted); Ouroboros; hieroglyph, ankh
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; vocales, αηιουω
Logoi	σοροοο-logos



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A: Ouroboros, head to left, encircling a uterus-symbol with a six-bitted key. Above the uterus, a group of deities. On the left: frontal view of Isis, head to right and crowned with the Isis-crown, wearing a long robe and mantle. Right hand raised and holding an unidentified object, left hand holding a small uterus-symbol. In the middle: Bes akephalos, to front, with bent knees; substituting Bes' head: Harpocrates sitting with knees drawn up, right hand holding a flail, left hand raised to mouth, head crowned with the sun-disk, side-lock of youth visible. On the right: ram-headed figure sitting on a throne, in profile to left, wearing a kilt. Right arm stretched forward, left arm lowered beside the body and holding the hieroglyph 'ankh' (Khnum or Amun). Inscription on the uterus-symbol: ιαω → Ἰάω. Beginning below Isis: αηιουω → The Greek vowel series; between Isis and Harpocrates: ι; between Harpocrates and the ram-headed deity: αω → Ἰάω. Outside the Ouroboros: σοο[- -]ρ[.].μερφεργα[- -]αρμαραιο[- -]ηιαω → part of σοροοο-*logos*, Ἰάω.
B: Rest of an inscription: [- -]ωρανα[- -] → <οὐ>{ω}ραν<ί>α. (S. Michel) 'Heavenly'?

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-749](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-749](#)