

Magical gem: Pregnant woman, uterus with key (A) octopus-like uterus (B)

Cbd-Number	Cbd-758
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 1986,5-1,32
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 1986,5-1,32
References	Michel, BM, no. 387; Michel, DMG, no. 54.4.a_2
Former Collections	Ogden Collection
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	16 x 13.5 x 3 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	uterus, in the form of a cupping vessel; uterus, octopus-like; key (7-bitted); figure, female, pregnant; Ouroboros; stool, birthing; gesture, childbirth
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; voces, unidentified; ορωριουθ; ορωριουθ, variants



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A: Pregnant woman squatting naked over a birthing stool, which has arm-rests ending in animal-heads (ram-heads?). The woman's hands are clasped above the head, her long hair falling on the shoulders. Below, the symbol of uterus with a seven-bitted key. Inscription on the uterus: $\iota\omega \rightarrow \text{Ἰάω}$. Below the uterus: $\iota\omega \rightarrow \text{Ἰάω}$. The scene is encircled by an Ouroboros. Inscription around in the free field, beginning at bottom left: ορωριουθ[- -]μυρδι \rightarrow voces including ορωριουθ and unidentified voces.

B: Turned upside down. Octopus-like uterus, with inscription around, beginning at top right: ορωριουθαειητουω \rightarrow voces including ορωριουθ and the Greek vowel series.

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on Cbd-758](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on Cbd-758](#)