

Magical gem: Ouroboros enclosing naked woman (A) womb, scarab (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-759
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 389 (EA 56389)
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 389 (EA 56389)
References	Bonner, SMA D. 145; Michel, BM, no. 388; Michel, DMG, no. 54.4.a_1
Former Collections	Towneley Collection
Material	jasper, red
Dimensions	17 x 15 x 2 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Ouroboros; figure, female, pregnant; gesture, childbirth; uterus, octopus-like; stool, birthing
Divine Names & Voces	κκκ; αρρωριφρασικ and variants; ορωριουθ, variants; vocales, αηιουω



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
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A: Pregnant woman squatting naked over a birthing stool. Head in profile to left, long loose hair falling on the shoulders, hands grasping the arm-rests of the stool. The scene is encircled by an Ouroboros, head in profile to right. Inscription outside the Ouroboros, beginning above the head of the snake: αηιουωθορωριφρασικορωριουθ → vocales including the Greek vowel series, variant of αρρωριφρασικ, ορωριουθ.

B: In the centre: a scarab crawling vertically upwards. Above: κκκ. Below: Octopus-like uterus.

Bibliography

[Bonner, SMA on CBd-759](#)

[Michel, BM on CBd-759](#)