

Magical gem: Sacrifice of Isaac (A) ankh-sign (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-819
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 469, EA 56469
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 469 (EA 56469) Michel, BM, no. 461; Bonner 1951, no. 53; Spier, Gems, no. 664; Michel, DMG, no. 2.1_4
References	
Former Collections	Haggard, Sir Ruder
Material	limonite (colour unspecified)
Dimensions	34 x 31 x 6 mm
Dating	5th c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	angel; Abraham; Isaac; hieroglyph, ankh; plant: tree; animal: ram; altar; clothing: garment; scene, Akedah



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A: On the left: a ram, in profile to left, head turned back to right, tied to a small tree. On the right: between two figures (a standing figure in a long robe on the left, with right hand raised, and a shorter figure on the right, with left hand raised), a small child with outstretched arms atop a small altar. Between the figures, perhaps an ankh-sign and a further figure, to front?

B: A large, linear ankh-sign (Spier: ankh-shaped christogram). Inscription around, on the right, from top to bottom: εἰς θεός, on the left, from top to bottom: ενουρανῶ → εἷς θεὸς ἐν οὐρανῶ. 'One God in heaven'.

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-819](#)

[Bonner 1951 on CBd-819](#)

[Spier, Gems on CBd-819](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-819](#)

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