

Magical gem: Sacrifice of Isaac

CBd-Number	CBd-820
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 515, EA 56515
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 515 (EA 56515)
References	Michel, BM, no. 462; Spier, Gems, no. X81; Michel, DMG, no. 2.1_3
Former Collections	Chester, Greville John (1830-1892)
Material	obsidian (black)
Dimensions	23 x 19 x 3 mm
Dating	5th c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Abraham; Isaac; gesture, arms tied; concentric motifs; weapon: knife; angel; vessel, unspecified; scene, Akedah



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A: Two concentric circles with inscription in between, enclosing the motif of sacrificing Isaac. In the centre, a figure in profile to left (Abraham), right hand raised and holding a knife. Behind him, the angel with large wings, right hand resting on the shoulder of Abraham. Isaac standing on the left of Abraham, with hands tied behind the back. Below Abraham's left hand, lowered beside the body, perhaps a sacrificial vessel? Between the two concentric circles, perhaps imitating an Ouroboros, untransliterated alphabetic letters.

B: Plain.

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-820](#)
[Spier, Gems on CBd-820](#)

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