

Magical gem: Jonah and the whale, Noah (A) Good Shepherd, Jonah (B)

Cbd-Number	CBd-822
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 583, WAA 82816
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 583 (WAA 82816)
References	Michel, BM, no. 464; Spier, Gems, no. 438; Michel, DMG, no. 2.4_4
Material	serpentine (green to black)
Dimensions	39 x 42 x 4 mm
Dating	5th c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Jesus Christ; animal: ram; shoes: boots; clothing: kilt; bird: dove; plant: tree; boat; Noah; gesture, kriophoros; Jonah; animal: whale



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
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A: On the left, a boat and a figure with outstretched arms on board (Jonah). Beside the boat, on the right, a square with an 'x' in its middle, above this, the upper body of a figure, head in profile to right, arms raised towards a bird, facing him (Noah). Below the bird, a small tree. The two scenes are divided with notches. In the lower segment, also divided by notches, a crocodile-like monster. In the free field, untransliterated alphabetic letters, perhaps $\eta\sigma$.

B: On the left, a frontal figure with head in profile to right, wearing boots and a kilt (Jesus as the Good Shepherd). Both arms are raised and hold the legs of a sheep, whose head is visible in profile to left. On the right a figure, sitting in profile to left within a tent of gourds, pointing downwards with his finger (Jonah). Around, untransliterated alphabetic letters. Below the figures: marks imitating letters.

C: Around the edge, untransliterated alphabetic letters and characteres.

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-822](#)

[Spier, Gems on CBd-822](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-822](#)