

Magical gem: Figure with large serpent (A) names of archangels (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-823
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 1986,5-1,76
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 1986,5-1,76
References	Michel, BM, no. 465; Spier, Gems, no. 630; Michel, DMG, no. 2.5. a_3
Former Collections	Ogden Collection
Material	steatite, green to black
Dimensions	33 x 4 mm
Dating	5th c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	figure, male; snake; scepter, unspecified
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; Μιχαήλ; Γαβριήλ and variants; Οὐριήλ; Χερουβίμ; Οὐθριήλ?; Χριστός



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A: Circle enclosing a human figure (on the right), to front, head in profile to left, right hand raised and stretched out, left hand resting on a staff (Moses?). Facing him, a large, rearing snake (on the left), its head damaged by the hole bored through the stone. Behind the snake, a diamond-patterned semi-circle. In the free field on the right, from top to bottom: ιαω → Ἰάω. Below the figure: χι → Χ(ρ)ι(στός).

B: Inscription in seven lines:

ια[.]|μιχα|ουριη[.]|ουθριη[.]|γαβριηλ||χερουβι|υ → Ἰά[ω], Μιχα[ήλ], Οὐριή[λ], Οὐθριή[λ], Γαβριήλ, Χερουβί{υ}<μ>.

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-823](#)

[Spier, Gems on CBd-823](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-823](#)

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