

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

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



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone  
Rights: © Trustees of the British Museum

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(στος).

B: Inscription in seven lines:

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

## Bibliography

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

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

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

Last modified: 2017-01-08 21:09:41