

Magical gem: Peacock with star and crescent (A) Greek inscription (B)

Cbd-Number	Cbd-829
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 506, EA 56506
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 506 (EA 56506)
References	Michel, BM, no. 471; Michel, DMG, no. 55.2.d_6
Former Collections	Chester, Greville John (1830-1892)
Material	sandstone
Dimensions	20 x 18.5 x 2 mm
Dating	5th c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	bird: peacock; moon, crescent; star; plant: palm branch?
Divine Names & Voces	ἰάω, variants



Credits: From the British Museum Collection database

Rights: © Trustees of the British Museum

A: Peacock in profile to left, standing on an unidentified object serving as the baseline. Below the breast of the bird, a (perhaps palm?) branch, above the bird a six-pointed star (on the left) and a crescent (on the right) open to left. Perhaps based on the Kyranides recipe for 'tau' (Nagy 2011).
B: Horizontal inscription: αω → according to Kyranides (I. 19), the cry of the peacock, and also perhaps an anagramma for ἰάω.

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on Cbd-829](#)

[Nagy 2011](#), 76, pls. 3a-b.

[The British Museum Collection database on Cbd-829](#)

Last modified: 2016-04-25 15:01:51