

# Magical gem: Ouroboros enclosing Greek inscription and triple-lined pattern (A) Ἴάω (B)

<b>Cbd-Number</b>	Cbd-851
<b>ID-Number</b>	GB-BM-MMEu_G 1986,5-1,154
<b>Collection</b>	GB_London, The British Museum
<b>Inventory</b>	G 1986,5-1,154
<b>References</b>	Michel, BM, no. 493
<b>Material</b>	serpentine (green)
<b>Dimensions</b>	38 x 28.5 x 5 mm
<b>Dating</b>	4th-6th c. AD? (Michel)
<b>Iconography</b>	Ouroboros; star; concentric motifs
<b>Divine Names &amp; Voces</b>	Ἴάω; Ἀθερνεκλησιχ and variants; οροννωφριος; Ἀρχενθεχθα



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A: Ouroboros with head in profile to right, enclosing an octagonal construction with triple lines projecting from the centre (four diagonally, two horizontally). In the centre, at the top, a six-pointed star, below, two hemispheres. Above the image:  $\iota\alpha\omega \rightarrow \text{Ἴάω}$ . Inscription around, in two lines, with outer line beginning on the left in the middle:  $\alpha\sigma\theta\epsilon\rho\nu\epsilon\kappa\lambda\eta\sigma\iota\chi\sigma\sigma\omicron\rho\omicron\nu\nu\omega\phi\rho\iota\sigma\sigma\omicron\mu\alpha\rho\alpha\rho\chi\epsilon\nu\theta\epsilon\chi\theta\alpha \rightarrow$  voces including variant of Ἀθερνεκλησιχ, οροννωφριος, Ἀρχενθεχθα, inner line also beginning on the left in the middle:  $\iota\upsilon\chi\omicron\omicron\rho\epsilon\pi\epsilon\nu\theta\alpha\sigma\mu\epsilon\alpha$  - containing names and epitheta for Aphrodite/Hathor and Horus.

B: Inscription upside down:  $\iota\alpha\omega \rightarrow \text{Ἴάω}$ .

## Bibliography

[Michel, BM on Cbd-851](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on Cbd-851](#)

Last modified: 2015-01-13 14:00:14