

# Magical gem: Greek inscription, characteres (A) Multiple-headed figure (B)

<b>CBd-Number</b>	CBd-852
<b>ID-Number</b>	GB-BM-MMEu_G 472, EA 56472
<b>Collection</b>	GB_London, The British Museum
<b>Inventory</b>	G 472 (EA 56472)
<b>References</b>	Michel, BM, no. 494; Bonner, SMA D. 267
<b>Material</b>	lapis lazuli (blue)
<b>Dimensions</b>	28 x 30 x 3 mm
<b>Dating</b>	3rd-4th c. AD (Michel)
<b>Iconography</b>	tabula ansata; figure, with multiple heads; Ouroboros; wreath
<b>Divine Names &amp; Voces</b>	Ἰάω; voces, unidentified; vocales; αβλαριμαθα; Θώθ?
<b>Logoi</b>	ιωερβη-logos



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A: Fragment. Rest of an Ouroboros, head at bottom to right, body topped with unusual, sharp triangles. Within the Ouroboros, rest of an inscription in five lines: [- -]ωχιθιαορηια|[- -]θιοφατηρηηρ|[- -]αρηηχουκρ|[- -]θηκρηχοριαε|[- -]θυωοαθη|[- -]ε → unidentified voces including variant of Θώθ?. Below: characteres in two lines.

B: Frontal view of a composite figure, standing atop a tabula ansata: a square serves as its upper body, clothing indicated with diagonal notches, genitals with a 'pretzel-shaped' element. On the shoulders seven diagonal notches support three heads: on the left, an ibis-head, in the middle a bull's head, on the right a lion's head (Isis-Hathor-Hecate?). Right hand lowered beside the body and holding a wreath, enclosing the letters ε and α. Inscription in three lines within the tabula ansata: αβλαριμαθα|βηιωακερ|ιωβολχσ → voces including αβλαριμαθα, part of ιωερβη-logos. Inscription on the left in seven lines: ιαωιευου|ιαηιασιθ|ωιαεωα|θωουαω|ουιαωου||ιαεουιαεω|υαεαι → vocales including Ἰάω.

## Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-852](#)

[Bonner, SMA on CBd-852](#)