

Magical gem: Caracteres in Ouroboros, Greek inscription (A) Greek inscription (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-981
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 276, EA 56276
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 276 (EA 56276)
References	Chifletius-Macarius, no. XVII 69; Bonner 1951, no. 64; Michel, BM, no. 622
Former Collections	Towneley Collection
Material	carnelian (colour unspecified)
Dimensions	22 x 18 x 6 mm
Dating	17th c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Ouroboros; stars (4) σεσεγγενβαρφαραγγης and variants; vocales;
Divine Names & Voces	Ἄκραμμαχαμαρεί and variants; σεμεσειλαμ and variants; Ἄβρασάξ, variants; Μιχαήλ



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A: At the top: Ouroboros with head to right, enclosing seven Greek letters and characteres. On the two sides of the Ouroboros: six-pointed stars (top) eight-pointed stars (bottom). Below: inscription in mirror writing in ten lines:

αγωσλωαλωνσ|σμεσιααμλβρ|ασσξζυρρλητηκρλμ|λκραμλκαμλρισσε|ιτενβλλφλραυνη||
σμοσιλλμωεν|λμμλινμωιειων|αρουλντλμχ|ληληλαωο|ξααλχσ → voces including variant of σεμεσειλαμ, variant of Ἄβρασάξ (2-3), variant of Ἄκραμμαχαμαρεί, variant of σεσεγγενβαρφαραγγης (4-5), variant of σεμεσειλαμ (6), αρουαντα (8), Μιχαήλ (8-9), vocales (9).

B: Inscription in mirror writing in fifteen lines:

ρνεστωτλρ|ιλωρεωηλφον|λιωληητοσ|ωλιμλωηλο|ιωλουουση||
ωλισηληιο|ληειιουσ|ηληεουεωλ|τηεεωιλεε|ωηλωηνηιφτ||ηαωσηλλψ|σηηλιλοψ|ληηιωωψη|ιωωτηη|
ωι → voces including chiefly vocales.

Post-antique. Copy after Chifletius-Macarius, Abraxas XVII 69. See also:

- 1) Haematite: [CBd-982](#)
- 2) Chalcedony: [CBd-2188](#)
- 3) Garnet: [King, Gnostics](#), 289; , No. 264.
- 4) Dark red agate, once Whelan collection: [King, Gnostics](#), 290.

Bibliography

- [Chifletius-Macarius, Abraxas](#), XVII 69.
[Bonner 1951 on CBd-981](#)
[Michel, BM on CBd-981](#)
[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-981](#)

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