

Magical gem: Pantheos on Ouroboros (A) Greek inscription (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-983
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 13, EA 56013
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 13 (EA 56013)
References	Chifletius-Macarius, no. VI 24; Bonner 1951, no. 70; Michel, BM, no. 624; Michel, DMG, no. 41.1_28
Former Collections	Towneley Collection
Material	carnelian (colour unspecified)
Dimensions	23 x 14 x 5 mm
Dating	17th c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Pantheos; Ouroboros; tail of bird; scepter, unspecified; scepters (2); scorpion; flail; scarab
Divine Names & Voces	Μιχαήλ; Γαβριήλ and variants; Κουστιήλ?; Ραφαήλ and variants



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

A: Pantheos standing nude in three-quarter view to right upon a small Ouroboros. Right hand lowered beside the body and holding a flail, left hand slightly outstretched and holding a scorpion. A bird's tail projects from the back to the left, two pairs of wings attached at the height of the shoulders and the hips. A tall scepter on each side, the one on the left is crossed by two notches at the top. The Pantheos has shoulder-length hair and a beard. In the free field on the left, a scarab from above, crawling to top.

B: Inscription in six lines in mirror writing, with the names of the archangels: μιχα|ηλ|γκρ|ηλ|κου|στιηλ|ρα+α|ηλ → Μιχαήλ, Γαβριήλ, Κουστιήλ, Ραφαήλ. (Michel interprets the cross-shaped letter in line five as a phi, thus reading Raphael.)

Post-antique. The gem may have been designed after a drawing in [Chifletius-Macarius, Abrasax](#), see [CBd-2911](#). For a parallel piece in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, see [CBd-2190](#).

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-983](#)

[Michel, DMG](#), 317, 41.1_28, pl. 102, 1.2

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-983](#)

Images

Cast of CBd-983 obverse and [reverse](#) in the Gems Database of the Beazley Archive, Oxford.