

Magical gem: Crowned baboon

Cbd-Number	Cbd-986
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 399, EA 56399
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 399 (EA 56399)
References	Chifletius-Macarius, no. XIV 58; Michel, BM, no. 627; Michel, DMG, no. 42.2.b_2
Material	jasper, green to black
Dimensions	13 x 9 x 2 mm
Dating	17th-18th c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	animal: cynocephalus; crown, lotus?; scepter, unspecified
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
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A: Cynocephalus in three-quarter view to right, one paw raised and holding a staff (or a palm branch?). On the head, a crown (lotus?). In the free field around the baboon, letters in mirror writing: $\iota\alpha\omega \rightarrow \text{Ἰάω}$.

B: Plain.

The gem may have been designed after a drawing in [Chifletius-Macarius, Abrasax](#), see [Cbd-2829](#). For a related piece in the British Museum, see also [Cbd-987](#).

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on Cbd-986](#)

[Michel, DMG](#), 321, 42.2.b_2

[The British Museum Collection database on Cbd-986](#)

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