

Magical gem: Ouroboros enclosing human-headed scarab (A) Scorpion (B)

Cbd-Number	Cbd-994
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 90, EA 56090
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 90 (EA 56090)
References	Chifletius-Macarius, no. XXIV 98; Michel, BM, no. 635; Michel, DMG, no. 50.2.b_2
Former Collections	Towneley Collection
Material	chalcedony, white to brown/grey
Dimensions	12 x 14.5 x 6 mm
Dating	17th c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	scarab, human-headed; Ouroboros; rays (8); scorpion; gesture, orant



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
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A: Ouroboros, with head in profile to right, enclosing a scarab with human head and arms. Around the head, eight rays.

B: Scorpion from above, crawling to right.

The gem may have been designed after a drawing in [Chifetius-Macarius, Abraxas](#), see [Cbd-2851](#).

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on Cbd-994](#)

[Michel, DMG](#), 331, 50.2.b_2

[The British Museum Collection database on Cbd-994](#)

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