

Magical gem: Magna mater, Helios and Selene (A) Aphrodite, Ἴάω (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-1162
ID-Number	GB-AshMus_2003.103
Collection	GB_Oxford, Ashmolean Museum (Σ)
Inventory	2003.103
References	Henig–MacGregor 2004, no. 13.14
Material	heliotrope
Dimensions	26.7 x 19.1 x 3.1 mm
Dating	2nd c. AD (Henig - MacGregor)

Iconographical elements Aphrodite, Venus victrix-type; birds, unspecified; clothing, unspecified; clothing: garment; clothing: mantle; column; Danubian riders (2); figure, female; figures, unidentified (2); garland; gesture, greeting; gesture, hand raised to mouth; gesture, lying; Helios; ladder; Magna Mater; moon, crescent; objects, unidentified; rays (5); Selene; snakes (4); stars (7); tripus?; vessel, unspecified; weapon: helmet; weapon: shield; weapon: spear; whip; wreath

Names & Voces Ἴάω

A: Woman dressed in a long garment, standing with head to left, right arm raised in greeting (Magna Mater). She is flanked by the two Danubian riders (or the Dioscouri?) facing him, crowned with wreaths, and holding whips in their outer hands, inner hands raised in greeting. The horsemen each trample on figures lying naked on the ground. Behind the horseman on the right, a female figure standing in a long robe with hand to mouth (Sigé). Above, the busts of Selene (on the left) and Helios (on the right) facing each other, flanked by two serpents. Two other snakes are also represented along the lower edge of the gem, framing small birds or vessels (?) in three lines. On the right edge and the lowest line, unidentified objects. In the center, perhaps a tripod (?). Scattered in the free field in the upper segment, seven six-pointed stars and a ladder (?).

B: Aphrodite, Venus victrix (Henig – MacGregor: Athena) standing semi-nude, to left, her mantle covering only her legs. With her right hand, she is leaning on a garlanded column, topped with a vessel (?), and looking at a helmet held in her outstretched left hand. A spear is shown in front of her, a shield is placed at her feet. Letters in the free field: ιαω → Ἴάω.

Bibliography

[Henig - MacGregor 2004](#), 124, no. 13.14



Credits by Robert L. Wilkins

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