

# Magical pendant: Harpocrates, ibis, Chnoubis (A) Ἀβρασάξ (B)

<b>CBd-Number</b>	CBd-102
<b>ID-Number</b>	GB-Cambridge, Fitzwilliam_B 320 (CM)
<b>Collection</b>	GB_Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum
<b>Inventory</b>	B 320 (CM)
<b>References</b>	Henig, Cambridge, no. 498; Michel, DMG, no. 19.4.f_1
<b>Material</b>	serpentine (green to black)
<b>Dimensions</b>	28 x 22 x 2.75 mm (lower face 26 x 19 mm)
<b>Dating</b>	3th-4th c. AD (Henig)  Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; animal: goats (2); crab?; cord; animal: crocodiles (3); bird: falcons (3); plant: lotus buds (2); bird: ibis, tied to an altar; rays, double; rays (5); Chnoubis, lion-headed; flail; gesture, hand raised to mouth; Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; nimbus
<b>Iconography</b>	
<b>Divine Names &amp; Voces</b>	Ἀβρασάξ; Ἰάω



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A: Harpocrates, to left, sitting on a lotus flower with two buds, which is placed upon a tall altar (Henig: naos?). The right hand of Horus is raised to his mouth, the left hand holds a flail. To the left of the altar, an ibis, to left, tied to one of the lotus buds with a cord; to the right of the altar, the lion-headed Chnoubis, also to left, head surrounded with a nimbus and five double rays. Around Harpocrates, animals, from left to right: three crocodiles, a falcon, a crab(?), two more falcons and two goats. Inscribed: ἰαω? → Ἰάω.

B: Inscription in two lines: α[- -]α|σαξ → Ἀβρασάξ.

Pierced at the top for suspension. A praxis known from a papyrus (PGM LXI 1-38) specifies that love charms had to be incised with the image of Horus on a lotus flower and the magical name Abraxas. Pieces with the Horus-scheme used as love charms: [CBd-533](#), [CBd-534](#), and this gem may also have been used as a love charm, although the representation of Chnoubis and the ibis tied to the altar suggests that it may also have had a digestive function.

## Bibliography

[Henig 1994](#), 225-26, no. 497.

[Michel, DMG](#), 19.4.f\_1