

Magical gem: Harpocrates on the lotus, with animals (A) πέπτε, characteres (B)

Cbd-Number	Cbd-1242
ID-Number	NL-Leiden-RMO_GS-01125
Collection	NL_Leiden, Rijksmuseum van Oudheden
Inventory	GS-01125
References	Michel, DMG, no. 19.4.d_2
Former Collections	Hague, Royal Coin Cabinet
Material	jasper, green and red
Dimensions	33 x 20 x 4 mm
Iconography	Ouroboros; Chnoubis-sign; plant: lotus buds (2); animal: crocodile; scorpions (2); bird: swallows (2); stars (19); gesture, hand raised to mouth; flail; Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; scarab, with outstretched wings; concentric motifs; snakes (2); solar disk



Credits:
Rights: © Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden

Description: Upright oval (almost oblong), both faces straight. Shape 8-9. Greenish brown jasper (heliotrope). Small chip at the edge (right side of the obverse).

A: Harpocrates sitting nude, to left, with knees drawn up, on a lotus flower with two buds. Right hand raised to mouth, left hand holding a flail, head crowned with the solar disk. Above him, a star and a scarab with outstretched wings. Below, a crocodile, to right. On the sides: swallows facing inwards (top), scorpions crawling to top (center), rearing snakes with 'hands' raised in a protective gesture. (For an interpretation, cf. [Cbd-2](#).) The scene is encircled by concentric motifs made up of dots and an Ouroboros, head at top to right. Around, in the free field, eighteen stars.

B: Inscription horizontally: πέπτε → πέπτε. 'Digest!' Around: large characteres (bottom right: Chnoubis-sign).

Bibliography

- [Jonge, CdE](#), no. 1161.
- [Maaskant-Kleibrink 1978](#), 357, no. 1125.
- [Michel, DMG](#), 19.4.d_2.
- [Nagy 2012, comm. ad Bonner IV 60-61](#)
- [Rijksmuseum website on Cbd-1242](#)