

Magical gem: Harpocrates with animal triads (A) voces (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-147
ID-Number	GB-Cambridge, Corpus Christi_C 12
Collection	GB_Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, Lewis Collection
Inventory	C 12
References	Henig, Lewis, no. 245; Michel, DMG, no. 19.4_6
Material	jasper, green to black
Dimensions	17 x 13 mm (lower face 15 x 11 mm)
Dating	3rd c. AD (Henig)
Iconography	Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; boat, papyrus; bird: falcons (3); animal: crocodiles (3); animal: goats (3); scarabs (3); flail; gesture, hand raised to mouth; Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; plant: lotus buds (2)
Divine Names & Voces	voces, unidentified; Βαῖνχωωχ, variants



Credits:

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A: Harpocrates sitting nude, with knees drawn up, to right on a lotus flower with two buds, which rests upon a papyrus boat. Left hand raised to mouth, right hand holding a flail. Around, triads of animals, clockwise from the top: scarabs, falcons, crocodiles, goats.

B: Inscription in six lines: βαῖνχ|ωωχ|ωι|αωω|λω|ρ|χερσε|ν|ηενε||νθω → Βαῖνχωωχ, Ἰάω, voces unidentified.

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](#).

Bibliography

[Henig 1975](#), 59, no. 245.

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