

Magical gem: Harpocrates sitting on lotus (A) vox (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-509
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 537, EA 56537
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 537 (EA 56537)
References	Goodenough, JS, III, no. 1102; Michel, BM, no. 109; Michel, DMG, no. 19.1.a_26
Material	magnetite (black)
Dimensions	15 x 12 x 4 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Harpocrates seated with legs extended; Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; plant: lotus buds (2); gesture, hand raised to mouth; cornucopia; flail; headband
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; voces, unidentified



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
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A: Horus-Harpocrates sitting to left on a lotus flower with legs hanging down, under the flower two stalks without buds. Small baseline. He is wearing a headband on his head, his right hand raised to his mouth, his left holds a flail and a cornucopia. Around the figure: letters; on the left side of the figure: ι, on the two sides of the lotus stalk: αω → ἰάω.

B: Inscribed in two lines: ησν|τε → unidentified vox.

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

[Michel, BM on CBd-509](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-509](#)