

Magical gem: Harpocrates sitting on lotus (A) reclining figure (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-510
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 157, EA 56157
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 157 (EA 56157)
References	Michel, BM, no. 110; Michel, DMG, no. 19.1.a_14
Former Collections	Praun and Mertens Collection; Eastwood, George
Material	jasper, green to black
Dimensions	14 x 11 x 4.5 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; torch?; object, unidentified; uraeus; wig?; flail; crown?; side-lock of youth; gesture, hand raised to mouth; Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; mummy?
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; Ἀβλαναθαναλβα, variants



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
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A: Horus-Harpocrates sitting to left on a lotus flower with knees drawn up. The lotus with the small horizontal stalks and the double baseline resembles a djed pillar. He is wearing a band or crown on his head, his right hand raised to mouth, his left holds a flail.

On the left side of the head: ια, on the right side of the head: ω → ἰάω. On the left side of the figure: αβαλ, on the right side of the figure: βαλθαν → variant of Ἀβλαναθαναλβα-palindrome.

B: Reclining figure to left, wearing some kind of a head-cloth (wig?) on his head with an uraeus at the front. His legs are wrapped in bandage (as a mummy?). He is holding an unidentified object (rhyton or cornucopia?) in his stretched right arm, while leaning onto a long bar (torch?) with his left hand.

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-510](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-510](#)