

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

CBd-Number	CBd-511
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 1986,5-1,58
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 1986,5-1,58
References	Michel, BM, no. 111; Michel, DMG, no. 19.1.b_9
Former Collections	Ogden Collection
Material	jasper, green to black
Dimensions	15 x 12 x 2 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; plant: lotus buds (2); gesture, hand raised to mouth; snake; side-lock of youth; primeval mound?; crown, double; flail
Divine Names & Voces	voces, unidentified



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
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A: Harpocrates sitting to right on lotus with knees drawn up. A snake is coiling around the lotus stalk; under the flower two smaller stalks with buds. Baseline indicating primeval mound? Horus' left hand raised to his mouth, his right holds a flail. A long side-lock of youth is falling to his neck, on the top of his head the double crown of Egypt.

B: Inscribed in two lines: ορπανουσουμου → unidentified voces.

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-511](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-511](#)