

Magical gem: Harpocrates sitting on lotus (A) αρπουχνουφι- logos (B)

Cbd-Number	Cbd-520
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 257, EA 56257
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 257 (EA 56257)
References	Bonner 1951, no. 32; Michel, BM, no. 120; Michel, DMG, no. 19.1.c_1
Former Collections	Rollin & Feuarent (auction house, 1867-1953)
Material	jasper, green to black
Dimensions	18 x 13 x 2 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	gesture, greeting; Harpocrates seated with one leg bent in knee; Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; plant: lotus buds (2); primeval mound?; rays, double; rays (7); side-lock of youth; flail?
Divine Names & Voces	vocales; Ἰάω, variants; σεμεσειλαμ and variants; Λαῖλαμ and variants; vocales, αηιουω
Logoi	αρπουχνουφι-logos



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A: Harpocrates sitting in frontal view on a lotus with the left leg bent in knee; under the flower two lotus stalks with buds. Baseline indicating primeval mound? His right hand raised in a greeting gesture, his left holds a whip. A long side-lock of youth is falling to his neck; nimbus and seven double rays around the head. Around: vocales: αηιουω → The Greek vowel series.

B: Inscribed in eleven lines:

αρχιενχνουφιβριντατηνωφριβρισκυλμαβ||ρισκυλμωιαηωλαιλαμψσεμεσιλαμψδειχαριντη||υρουαι
→ variant of the αρπονχνουφι-logos(αρπονχνουφιβριντατηνωφριβρισκυλμα), vocales, variant of Λαϊλαμ, variant of σεμεσειλαμ. δὸς χάριν τῆ Ζυρουα. (S. Michel).

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](#), [CBd-1386](#).

Bibliography

[Bonner 1951 on CBd-520](#)

[Michel, BM on CBd-520](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-520](#)

Last modified: 2020-12-29 21:06:30