

## Magical gem: Harpocrates sitting on lotus

<b>CBd-Number</b>	CBd-521
<b>ID-Number</b>	GB-BM-MMEu_G 416, EA 56416
<b>Collection</b>	GB_London, The British Museum
<b>Inventory</b>	G 416 (EA 56416)
<b>References</b>	Michel, BM, no. 121; Michel, DMG, no. 19.1.c_2
<b>Former Collections</b>	Castellani Collection
<b>Material</b>	jasper, green to black
<b>Dimensions</b>	13 x 9 x 3 mm
<b>Dating</b>	3rd c. AD (Michel)
<b>Iconography</b>	gesture, hand raised to mouth; Harpocrates seated with one leg bent in knee; Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; plant: lotus buds (2); flail



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone  
Rights: © Trustees of the British Museum

A: Harpocrates sitting in frontal view on a lotus with the left leg bent in knee; under the flower two lotus stalks with buds. His right hand raised to his mouth, his left holds a flail. Around the figure: pseudo-letters.

B: Plain.

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-521](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-521](#)