

Magical gem: Harpocrates, baboon and two falcons in papyrus boat (A) Ἄβρασαῖξ (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-523
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 522, EA 56522
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 522 (EA 56522)
References	Michel, BM, no. 123; Michel, DMG, no. 19.3.d_3
Material	jasper, green to black
Dimensions	12 x 16 x 2 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	animal: cynocephalus; flail; gesture, greeting; bird: falcons (2); boat, papyrus; crown, double; side-lock of youth; gesture, hand raised to mouth; moon, crescent; star; plant: lotus buds (2); Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; gesture, ithyphallic; headband
Divine Names & Voces	Ἄβρασαῖξ



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A: Harpocrates sitting to left on a lotus flower in the middle of a papyrus boat; under the flower two lotus stalks with buds. Two falcons are sitting on both ends of the boat, wearing the double crown of Egypt and facing each other. The god's knees are drawn up, his right hand raised to his mouth, his left holds a flail. A long side-lock of youth is falling to his neck and he is wearing the double crown of Egypt, and a headband in his hair. On the left side of Harpocrates an ithyphallic cynocephalus standing to right, facing the god and raising its arms in a greeting gesture. In the free place above the god an eight-pointed star and a crescent.

B: αβρασαῖξ → Ἄβρασαῖξ.

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-523](#)

[Gordon 2011](#), 43, pl. 1.

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-523](#)