

Magical gems: Horus, triads of animals (A) triads of vowels (B) χαβραχ-logos (C)

CBd-Number	CBd-525
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 558, EA 54278
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 558 (EA 54278)
References	Michel, BM, no. 125; Michel, DMG, no. 19.4.a_8
Former Collections	Rose, Rev. W. J., M. A.
Material	heliotrope
Dimensions	26 x 21 x 3 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	gesture, hand raised to mouth; crown, of Upper Egypt?; animal: goats (3); snakes (3); scarabs (3); bird: falcons (3); crown, of Lower Egypt; solar disk; side-lock of youth; star; moon, crescent; boat, papyrus; plant: lotus buds (2); Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; flail
Divine Names & Voces	vocales, triads of
Logoi	χαβραχ-logos



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A: Horus-Harpocrates sitting to left on a lotus flower in the middle of a papyrus boat; under the flower two lotus stalks with buds. 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, on the top of his head the solar disk. Above the god an eight-pointed star and a crescent. Around Harpocrates triads of animals: scarabs; falcons (two of them wearing the crown of Lower Egypt - S. Michel: the crown of Lower Egypt and the crown of Upper Egypt); crocodiles; uraei and goats.

B: Inscription in seven lines: αα|εε|ηη|ιι|οοο||υυ|ωω → triads of vocales.

C: Around, the inscription is damaged: χα[...]|χ[...]|σχηρφ|χρ|φνρ|ωφω|χωβ|ωχ[- -] → χαβραχ-logos

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-525](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-525](#)