

Magical gem: Harpocrates in papyrus boat, triads of animals (A) vocales (B)

Cbd-Number	CBd-529
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 1986,5-1,61
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 1986,5-1,61
References	Michel, BM, no. 129; Michel, DMG, no. 19.4.b_3
Former Collections	Ogden Collection
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	32 x 14 x 3.5 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	gesture, hand raised to mouth; crown, unspecified; bird: falcons (3); animal: crocodile; star; scarabs (3); plant: lotus buds (2); Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; boat, papyrus
Divine Names & Voces	vocales; vocales, αηιουω



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A: Fragment of a magical gem. Harpocrates sitting to left on a lotus flower in the middle of a papyrus boat; only the left lotus stalk with a bud remains. The god's right knee is drawn up, his right hand raised to his mouth, his left side missing. Presumably around him triads of animals: above, two scarabs, on the left three falcons (the upper wearing a crown), under the boat the hindquarters of a crocodile. In the free field an eight-pointed star.

Around: fragments of an inscription between two concentric oval lines: [- - - -]αηιελω[- - - -] → vocales.

B: Caracteres and inscription: αηιουω → The Greek vowel series.

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-529](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-529](#)