

Magical pendant: Aphrodite in naiskos (A) Horus as child sitting in papyrus boat (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-533
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 139, EA 56139
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 139 (EA 56139)
References	Michel, BM, no. 133; Michel, DMG, no. 19.4.e_7
Former Collections	Praun and Mertens Collection; Eastwood, George
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	39 x 26.5 x 6 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	Aphrodite anadyomene; plant: lotus buds (2); snakes (3); flail; bird: ibises (3); side-lock of youth; crown, Isis-; mirror; stars (7); vessel: hydria; naiskos; bird: falcons (3); animal: goats (3); boat, papyrus; Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; Harpocrates seated with one leg bent in knee; gesture, hand raised to mouth; Erotes (3)
Divine Names & Voces	Ἀφροδίτη; Ἴάω; ἁρρωριφρασις and variants



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A: Nude Aphrodite standing in three-quarter view in a naiskos. She is wringing out her hair and wearing an Isis-crown on her head. On the left a small winged figure (Eros) standing to right and holding a mirror towards the goddess. On the right a jar at the left foot of the goddess. Above: two winged, flying Erotes holding a wreath. Next to the columns vertical inscriptions. On the left from top to down, on the right from bottom to top: ἀρωριφ|ρασις → variant of ἀρωριφρασις.

B: In the middle of the pendant Harpocrates sitting in frontal view on a lotus flower in a papyrus boat; under the flower two pairs of horizontal stalks with lotus buds. The god's left leg is bent in knee, 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 a crown. Around: four eight-pointed stars, under the boat three more eight-pointed stars. Around Harpocrates triads of animals: scarabs; crowned falcons; crocodiles; uraeus snakes; ibises and goats. In the free space inscription in two lines: ἰάω, Ἀβραάξ → Ἰάω, Ἀβραάξ.

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. The Aphrodite-scene on the obverse of the pendant supports this interpretation. A gemstone with the Horus-scheme that was presumably also a love charm: [CBd-534](#).

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on CBd-533](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on CBd-533](#)

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