

Magical gem: Harpocrates sitting on a crocodile (A) Ἰάω, Σαβαώθ (B)

Cbd-Number	Cbd-543
ID-Number	GB-BM-MMEu_G 538, EA 35438
Collection	GB_London, The British Museum
Inventory	G 538 (EA 35438)
References	Michel, BM, no. 144; Michel, DMG, no. 19.6_3
Material	haematite (black)
Dimensions	15 x 14 x 2 mm
Dating	3rd c. AD (Michel)
Iconography	animal: crocodile; scepter, was; Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; solar disk; scorpion; scarab; bird: ibis; bird: falcon
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; Σαβαώθ



Credits: Photo: Christopher A. Faraone
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A: Harpocrates sitting to left on the back of a crocodile. His knees are drawn up and he is holding a was-scepter with both his arms in front of his body. On the top of the head the solar disk. Around Horus: a scorpion, a scarab, an ibis, an uraeus and a falcon.

B: Inscribed in three lines: ἰαω|σαβα|ωθ → Ἰάω, Σαβαώθ.

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 scheme represented on the gem is a descendant of the Horus on a lotus flower scheme.

Bibliography

[Michel, BM on Cbd-543](#)

[The British Museum Collection database on Cbd-543](#)