

Magical gem: Harpocrates on the lotus (A) Ἄβρασάξ (B)

CBd-Number	CBd-95
ID-Number	GB-Cambridge, Fitzwilliam_B 316 (CM)
Collection	GB_Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum
Inventory	B 316 (CM)
References	Henig, Cambridge, no. 495; Michel, DMG, no. 19.1.a_9
Material	jasper, green to black
Dimensions	14.5 x 11 x 2 mm (lower face 12 x 8 mm)
Dating	2nd-3rd c. AD (Henig)
Iconography	Harpocrates seated with knees drawn up; Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; flail; gesture, hand raised to mouth; plant: lotus buds (2); crown, lotus
Divine Names & Voces	Ἄβρασάξ



Credits: Photo: Robert Wilkins / Charlotte Attwood
Rights: © Beazley Archive, Oxford

Description: Upright oval, both faces flat. Chipped at the edges. Green jasper.

A: Harpocrates sitting nude with knees drawn up, to left, upon a lotus flower with two buds. Head topped with the lotus-crown. Right hand raised to mouth, left hand bent in elbow and holding a flail.

B: Inscription in two lines: ἀβρα|σαξ → Ἄβρασάξ.

A praxis known from a papyrus (PGM LXI 1-38) specifies that love charms had to be incised with the image of Harpocrates on a lotus flower and the magical name Abraxas. Pieces with the Harpocrates-scheme used as love charms: [CBd-533](#), [CBd-534](#).

Bibliography

[Henig 1994](#), 223-34, no. 495.

[Michel, DMG](#), 19.1.a_9

Last modified: 2019-12-14 10:30:22