

# Magical gem: Harpocrates on the lotus (A) Ἀβρασάξ (B)

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



Credits: Photo: Robert Wilkins / Charlotte Attwood  
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**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 → Ἀβρασάξ.

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

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