

**ROUND THE WORLD; A SERIES  
OF INTERESTING ILLUSTRATED  
ARTICLES ON A GREAT  
VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. VOL. II**

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Round the world; A series of Interesting Illustrated Articles on a Dreat Variety of Subjects. Vol. II by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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**ROUND THE WORLD SERIES**

**VOLUME II**

# ROUND THE WORLD

*A Series of Interesting Illustrated Articles  
on a Great Variety of Subjects*

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## VOLUME II

American Cut Glass. Street Scenes in Different Lands. A Visit to Mammoth Cave. How Flax is Made. The Great Arizona Desert. Plowing in Many Lands. A Word About Turkey. The Grape and Raisin Industry in the United States. The Capitol at Washington. From Greece to Italy. Cadet Life at West Point. Grains, and How it is Handled

2552

WITH 103 ILLUSTRATIONS

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## American Cut Glass

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NOWHERE is the intelligence and adaptability of the American workman better illustrated than in the making of glass. It is but a few years since this was an infant industry; but so well has the industry thriven that to-day the infant has almost attained maturity, for, in many branches, the glass we manufacture excels that of all other countries.

An ancient art it is, and its history is so replete with interest that it has attracted many students. But few questions have been more discussed than the origin of glass. Phœnicia, Phrygia, Thebes, and Sidon, each has its champions, who claim for it the discovery of the process of vitrification.

Others still place its origin even further back, claiming that when man first discovered fire and subjected natural bodies to its action, he must have discovered the vitrification of certain substances.

If the last theory is to be accepted we must conclude that glass was discovered less than a hundred and fifty years after the birth of the world. In Genesis we are told that Tubalcain, son of Lamech

and Sella, who was born in the year of the world one hundred and thirty, "was a hammerer and artificer in every work of brass and iron."



*roughing.*

Pliny, the eminent Roman scientist who lost his life during the terrible eruption of Vesuvius, attributed the discovery of glass to the Phœnicians. According to his account, some of these ubiquitous traders landed upon the shore of the sea of Judea, near the mouth of the Belus river, and, unsuccessful in their search for stones upon which to place the pot for cooking a meal, used some pieces of niter instead. When the fire was applied it fused the niter and the sand upon the shore; and the result was the substance which we know as glass. Another account attributes the discovery to the children of Israel in practically the same manner. Neither of these claims seem worthy of credit, however, because it has never since been found possible to fuse the substances forming glass in the open air and without specially constructed furnaces.

More certain means of arriving at the proper conclusion are supplied by the tombs of Beni Hassan which are said upon good authority to date from about the year two thousand before Christ. Upon them are found paintings which unquestionably represent Theban glass blowers. Even more certain is the necklace bead found in Thebes, bearing the name of the queen for whom the ornament