

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND  
PALAEOLOGY; MANUAL DESCRIPTIVE  
OF A COLLECTION OF TALISMANS  
ENGRAVED ON STONES AND METALS OF  
VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND EPOCHS**

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University of Pennsylvania, Department of Archaeology and Palaeontology; Manual  
Descriptive of a Collection of Talismans Engraved on Stones and Metals of various Countries  
and Epochs by Maxwell Sommerville

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**MAXWELL SOMMERVILLE**

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University of Pennsylvania,  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHÆOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.

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MANUAL

DESCRIPTIVE OF A COLLECTION OF TALISMANS ENGRAVED  
ON STONES AND METALS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND  
EPOCHS, ILLUSTRATIVE OF WHAT MAN HAS  
WORN FOR HIS PROTECTION FROM  
ACCIDENT AND DISEASE;  
ALSO, ANCIENT GEMS, BABYLONIAN CYLINDERS,  
PERSIAN SEALS, ETC.:

BRING PART OF THE IMPORTANT GLYPHIC COLLECTION OF

MAXWELL SOMMERVILLE,

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE MUSEUM.

LOANED ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF

THE PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS,  
THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,  
THE COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDDLE STATES AND  
MARYLAND,  
THE FOLK-LORE SOCIETY OF AMERICA,  
THE SCHOOL-MASTERS' ASSOCIATION.

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PHILADELPHIA:

NOVEMBER, 1889.

This Loan Collection was kindly prepared by  
Mr. Sommerville in response to the following letter:

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

MAXWELL SOMMERVILLE, ESQ.,

Dear Sir:—Learning of your return to America with additional collections in the line of the magnificent museum you have formed, I hasten to extend to you a cordial invitation, on behalf of the University of Pennsylvania, to permit a loan exhibition of these specimens during the ensuing month of November, when

THE PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS,  
THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,  
THE FOLK-LORE SOCIETY,  
THE COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDDLE STATES AND  
MARYLAND,  
THE SCHOOL-MASTERS' ASSOCIATION,  
will meet at the University.

Yours respectfully,

WILLIAM PEPPER,

October 23, 1889.

Provost.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

Nov. 12th, 1889.

The Talismanic addition to the Glyptic Collection of Mr. Maxwell Sommerville has been necessarily arranged in a very short time.

The following is intended to give a general description of the objects displayed.

The author hopes at his leisure to prepare a more complete catalogue raisonné.

WILLIAM PEPPER.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.

AUTHOR'S NOTE.

The subject of Glyptology is at last meeting with so much appreciation among learned men in our land that in all probability its consideration will soon form one feature in the list of sciences which should be taught to those seeking a finished education.

Whilst making the classified collection now on loan at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, I have been led from one branch and epoch to another until all phases of the art have been represented. The part of that collection now on view at the University of Pennsylvania represents the ethnological branch of my subject. These Talismans or Amulets have been worn on the bodies of peoples of many countries and epochs, in earnest confidence with superstitious belief in their efficacy.

I find them, therefore, to be more interesting on account of their ethnological relation, than those gems which were engraved and worn simply in view of their ornamentation.

The work of one who has industriously followed the



excavations of Southern Europe, Egypt and Asia Minor, sought and found antique treasures in many strange countries, would, in a measure, be incomplete without the aid of earnest, capable scholars in fully deciphering the mass of inscriptions which there present themselves.

In this sense I acknowledge gratefully the assistance of Dr. Herman V. Hilprecht, Professor of Assyrian, in the University of Pennsylvania, in the examination and classification of Ancient Babylonian Cylinders.

To Dr. Morris Jastrow, Jr., Professor of Arabic and Rabbinical Literature, in the University of Pennsylvania, I am greatly indebted for the zealous manner in which he has, with scholarly ability, applied himself to the more perfect explanation and rendering of the Arab inscriptions on the Persian, Arab and India Talismans of this part of my collection.

MAXWELL SOMMERVILLE.

29th NOVEMBER, 1889.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
Philadelphia, November 23d, 1889.

An opportunity has been afforded me of seeing an advance copy of Mr. Maxwell Sommerville's work,

“ENGRAVED GEMS. THEIR HISTORY AND AN ELABORATE  
VIEW OF THEIR PLACE IN ART,”

which is now about to be issued in Philadelphia.

The voluminous book of seven hundred and eighty-three pages is printed on beautiful paper of superior quality, tone and color. One hundred original drawings by the author illustrate his skilful description of the source and history of Engraved Gems, and add to the interesting and instructive account of the author's travels in the pursuit of his antique treasures.

Over five hundred fac similes of the gems form a welcome addition to the Catalogue Raisonné, which is remarkable for its terse and compact form.

The text and illustrations, as well as the binding, are of the finest mechanical execution.

The whole handsome volume is a proof of the enthusiasm and zeal of its author, and bears witness to the taste and talent of one who has devoted his life to art for art's sake, and has made glyptology a study of affectionate interest.

H. V. HILPRECHT.

