

**THE SACRED BEETLE: A
POPULAR TREATISE
ON EGYPTIAN SCARABS
IN ART AND HISTORY**

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The Sacred Beetle: A Popular Treatise on Egyptian Scarabs in Art and History by John Ward

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JOHN WARD

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COLOSSAL SCARAB IN BLACK GRANITE. BRITISH MUSEUM.
(Length 60 in., by 33 in. high.)

THE SACRED BEETLE:

A POPULAR TREATISE
ON EGYPTIAN SCARABS
IN ART AND HISTORY.

BY JOHN WARD, F.S.A.

AUTHOR OF "PYRAMIDS AND PROGRESS," "GREEK COINS AND THEIR
PARENT CITIES," ETC.

FIVE HUNDRED EXAMPLES OF SCARABS AND CYLINDERS,

THE TRANSLATIONS BY

F. LLEWELLYN GRIFFITH, M.A.

The distinction of the styles of Scarabs is as much a special subject, as the discrimination of the manner of painters, and as invisible to those who are unfamiliar with the study.

DR. FLINDERS PETRIE, "*Historical Scarabs.*"

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1902.

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D.C.L. LL.D. ETC.

RAMESES II.



BRITISH MUSEUM.

PREFACE.

DURING many wanderings by the Nile, I have made a collection of several hundred Scarabs and Cylinders, and these from time to time have been arranged systematically, transliterated and translated by the kindness of my friend Mr. F. Llewellyn Griffith. He and others learned in Egyptological studies have frequently requested me to publish an Illustrated Catalogue of the collection ; this is my apology for issuing the present volume. For they say there are few books, treating of scarabs alone, to be obtained.

The Rev. W. J. Loftie published the first work on the subject ; this was a dainty little volume "*An Essay of Scarabs*," issued in 1884.

Subsequently a more comprehensive book appeared, by Dr. Flinders Petrie, "*Historical Scarabs.*" It contains a series of outlines of all scarabs known at the time it was written. The sketches in both these books were all drawn by the indefatigable hand of Petrie himself. But both volumes are out of print and unobtainable, even at second hand. Certainly no one who has them wants to part with them.*

In these and other publications scarabs have been hitherto represented by hand-copies, drawn with pen and ink. I have preferred to obtain my illustrations by the aid of photography, so as to reproduce the actual signs on the face, and the form of the object itself. Hieroglyphics on scarabs are frequently done in a careless manner, as if the ancient engraver were himself illiterate. Thus the inscriptions frequently give doubtful readings, and many have not been possible to translate. From a representation of the actual scarab itself, experts may be enabled to suggest the true import of the signs.

The scarabs on the earlier plates have been

* At the time this was being put in type Mr. Fraser's excellent Catalogue of his Collection had not been announced.