

73, Chatsworth Court
Pembroke Road
London, W8
England
3 July 1978

Dear Drs. Coon and Fall,

I was with Meyer Rubin of the U.S. Geological Survey last week at the Nuclear Structure Laboratory of the University of Rochester. We were discussing the "Noah's Ark" carbon dating and I told Meyer I wanted to learn what the results were. I only know a limited amount of the project and am writing on the possible carbon-dating of the Turin Shroud and it would be very helpful for me to know what took place with this test.

What particular group contacted you for the test? Was it SEARCH? Have the results been made public and if not, why? Those of us involved with the carbon dating possibility of the Shroud certainly want to keep the matter "above-board" and learning more about the

"Noah's Ark" test would help in this respect.

Since I am stationed in London, I have been unaware of this episode and have been trying to find out as much as I can while in the States in July. It already seems to me that one of the problems has been objectivity with the apparent sectarian interest in the project. Maybe I am wrong but a book I just finished, THE ARK ON ARARAT seemed to "reek" of this difficulty.

I look forward to hearing from you and would gladly pay for any materials you could send me.

My very best regards--

Sincerely,

David Sox

The Revd H. David Sox

Good old Meyer! If you feel so inclined, answer per. Sox. If not, chuck it

Cordially, A.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE TURIN SHROUD

73 CHATSWORTH COURT, PEMBROKE ROAD, LONDON W8

Jeannette
took care of this -
sending photo

10 Sept. 1978.

Dear Prof. Ralph

Thank you so much for your C-14 information on the "Ark," fascinating. Dr. Burleigh of The B.M. had given me the National Physical Lab. results.

I enclose part of a young Englishman's report on an engraved gem I would love to track down if possible and since you are near the Museum in question I would greatly appreciate your aid. If this gem stone exists, it would have a great bearing on the Turin Shroud's history. I've investigated so many leads that I do not get too excited about such as the enclosed - but if it did appear in the 1902 "Harper's" it should have an author's biography.

I look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your help which I will acknowledge in my forthcoming book.

Best wishes -
David Sox

The magazine the article is in, is Harper's Monthly. The date is September 1902. The article which mentions the shroud is 7 pages long. It is entitled "EPOCHS OF GEM-ENGRAVING" BY MAXWELL SOMMERVILLE

Professor Of Glytology, University Of Pennsylvania

It is a general article on Glytology 500 B.C. to 1300 A.D.

It is illustrated with photos of engraved-gems all probably from the professor's collections.

The part of the article about the shroud is a photo of a gem.

WHAT THE PHOTO IS OF ?

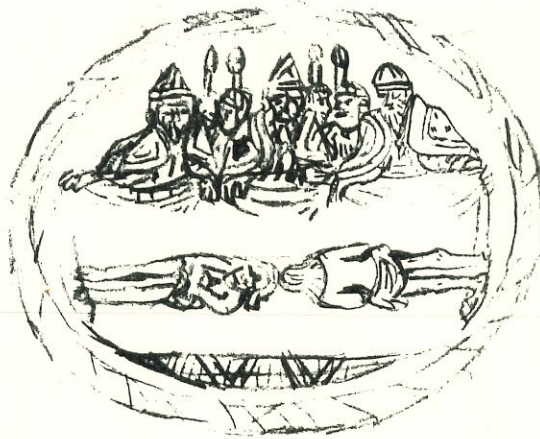
The photo is entitled "' A True Portait Of The Holy Sudarium " An ancient gem of the Second Century "

It shows 3 "Priests " holding the shroud in the tyical way . 4 guards stand behind the "Priests".

The first part of the title must have been inscribed on the back of the gem and maybe the date as well and as he was a professor of Glytology he probably could guess the date .

I did not photo copy the picture as it would not come out very well , I have drawn it instead.

The Gem (metal frame ?)
" A TRUE PORTRAIT OF THE
HOLY SUDARIUM "
2nd Century



CORRECT DATING

The gem probably is of the 2nd century because the author of the article would not have assigned it to this period unless it was inscribed on the back of the gem because of what I am going to mention in the next paragraph

CORRECT DATING
(& PLACE)

The Christian of the Roman World before Constantine would only carry gems of symbolic meaning e.g. a dove, not any representation of the life of Christ. After Constantine when Christianity became the official religion many gems on the life and death of Christ were engraved.

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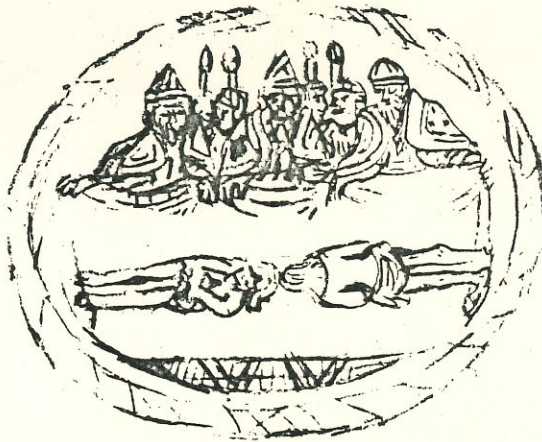
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Mt'd in gold & yellow cardboard
When did the high church officials start to wear cleft headress?

translucent

73, Chatsworth Court
Pembroke Rd.
London, W-8
England
25 Sept. 1978.

Dear Professor, Ralph,

pastel from

Somerville

Angel w. wings not mt'd

My "source" finally sent me a copy of the article I wrote to you about.

Do you think it is possible to locate this Jew? I can not believe that it is second century - but if it is, it has profound implications.

It appears to be a part of Somerville's private collection - which may now be in the University's possession.

Sorry to bother you with this, but I am anxious to 'check it out.'

Thank you. My very best -

Cordially,

N. David Sox

The Revd H. David Sox

auth - Maxwell Sommerville Professor of Glytology
CV sept. 1902
no. 208 VIII
univ. of Pa.



ODENATHUS AND ZENOBIA, ENGRAVED BY DEMETRIUS THE GREEK

human heart in the mummy; many these contain very curious inscriptions addresses to the soul, which I have ly described elsewhere.

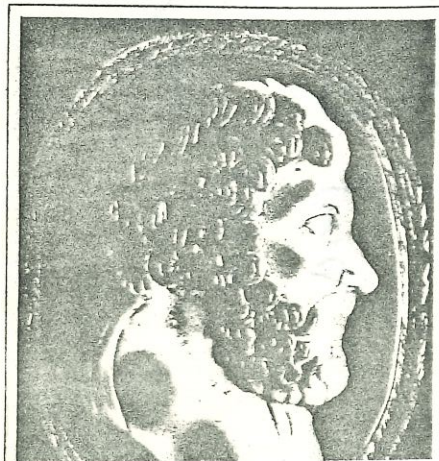
Persia wrought principally on cylinders and seals, and thousands of specimens have been recently unearthed in Assyria and Nippur. At times we meet with extremely beautiful intaglios during excavations in that country. One recently come into my possession is a portrait of King Sapor I., the second of the Sassanians, who ruled in the third century.

This gem has an inscription in Sassanian. Sapor's contests with the army of Zenobia before Palmyra enhance our interest in this profile gem. Cylinders are without doubt the oldest form of seals in use, though I have seen some on sections of wooden reeds; and as bearers of messages from such a remote period we attach a greater interest to them than to the more beautiful Greek and Roman gems. We have cylinders and impressions from the Assyrian, Persian, Hittite, Phœnician, and Cyprian nations. Among the various bequests of

age and peculiar designs render many of them exceedingly interesting.

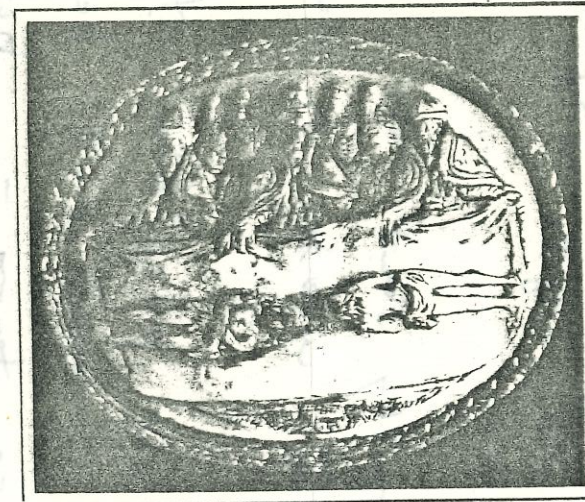
From their country in ancient Italy, west and south of the Ciminian Forest, centuries before Christ, the Etruscans sent out to the then known world the scarabei in sard and chalcedony, engraved in a most peculiar manner. Their style was unique; they commenced with a knowledge of their design by making a series of deeply drilled cavities. These incisions when joined together formed figures of men and animals, which were frequently strange in shape, because the artist was compelled to complete his subject, sometimes of three figures, on the very limited space of the under flat face of a small scarabeus. Until now a vast amount of learning and energy has been expended in efforts to interpret their inscriptions, and although these attempts have been unsuccessful, they do not deter the scientists of to-day from endeavoring to fathom their meaning.

Two thousand five hundred years ago the Phœnicians inhabited a narrow, mountain-guarded strip of land in Syria, from whose western shore they looked out on the Mediterranean Sea. Here and there we have unearthed a graven stone and inscribed cylinder, or a scarabeus. In their ancient colony at Tharros, on



AESOP
E. about 500 B.C.

PTO



"A TRUE PORTRAIT OF THE HOLY SUDARIUM"
An ancient Gem of the Second Century

the island of Sardinia, we have found the most unquestionably authentic Phœnician scarabei; with these fragments in stone of that nation's bequests we have obtained some idea of the glyptic art of the people of Phœnicia.

The Greek gems of the earliest epoch left much to desire; they then represented objects rather carelessly; eventually, however, by artistic study and delineation of the beautiful in the human form, Greece became the source of the finest and richest glyptic art treasures in all decorative work. Their minute engravings on stone were faithful intaglio representations of the living subjects who thronged their ateliers.

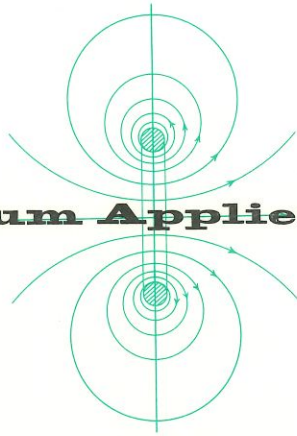
The Greeks were not restricted by modern social ideas. In representing the mythological deities they had every opportunity to study the nude form, and thus they reproduced the beautiful women of their day in the masterly and faithful portraiture of nature.

The many classic gems of the Roman period give us the only perfect portraits in miniature that have been preserved

and patroness of the then known world, it became the vortex into which hosts of artisans were attracted. They were well received, and were given plenty of occupation and emolument. At first the colonists incised what was known as the Hellenic style, and then as they fraternized with the Romans, and as the Romans made incisions under their instruction, Roman glyptic work showed the Greek influence, and such works constituted the gems of the Græco-Roman epoch. We recognize the first century in Rome as the prolific period, celebrated for the greatest diversity of subjects, both in cameos and intaglios.



CHARON



Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology

Froelich Rainey, Director

Elizabeth K. Ralph, Associate Director

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM F1 • UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

33rd & SPRUCE STREETS • PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19174
386-7400 (Area Code 215) Cable Address "Antique"

The Reverend H. David Sox
73 Chatsworth Court
Pembroke Rd.
London W.8
ENGLAND

October 2, 1978

Dear Reverend Sox:

We have located the gem. It is in the care of Mrs. Caroline Dosker, Assistant Registrar.

It is translucent and mounted in yellow and gold-colored cardboard. It consists of what is called 'paste', and it is from Sommerville's collections.

We are wondering if you know when the high church officials started to wear cleft headresses.

Since the gem is not of great value, we could probably send it to you to look at if you desire.

Please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth K. Ralph