



The Science of Gems, Jewels, Coins, and Medals: Ancient and Modern (Classic Reprint)

Archibald Billing

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A TREATISE on Gems naturally embraces the precious stones, or jewels; for although the word 'gem' has been for ages conventionally applied to stones with some subject or device engraved upon them, - such as the ring-stones alluded to by Mrecenas, one of the first connoisseur gem-collectors on record, in his epistle to Horace, *-the Romans had no name for jewel but gemma; nor for jeweller, except gemmarius. Tho Romans of the present day, however, apply the word gioia to jewel, as in the pretty Italian ballad, where it is used figuratively: " Benedetti a sia la madre. chi te fece cosi bella; Tu sei la gioia mia,"! &c. ; * " Lucentes, mea vita, nee smaragdus, Berillos mihi, Flacce, nee nitentes, Nec per candida margarita querero. Nee quos Thynica lima perpolivit Anellos, neque jaspis lapillos," - that is, "seal-rings and jasper pebbles, polished by the Thynian file," besides the jewels which he has previously enumerated. t "Non gemmis, neque p

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