

# The Mysterious Sphinx That Traveled Thousands of Miles to Reach Philadelphia

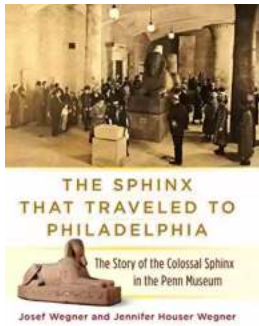


Philadelphia, a city known for its rich history and iconic landmarks, had a surprise visitor in 1913 - an ancient Egyptian Sphinx. This magnificent piece of antiquity traveled thousands of miles to find its new home in the heart of the city. The story of how the Sphinx made its journey to Philadelphia is as fascinating as the Sphinx itself.

## The Discovery

Our journey begins in the early 20th century when a team of archaeologists unearthed the Sphinx at its original location in Egypt. For years, it had remained buried beneath the sands of time, but now it was ready to take on a new

adventure. The Sphinx, weighing over 15 tons, was carefully transported from Egypt to the United States.



## The Sphinx That Traveled to Philadelphia: The Story of the Colossal Sphinx in the Penn Museum

by Jessica Smyth (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 325061 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 256 pages

Screen Reader : Supported

X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled





Word quickly spread about this incredible finding, and many museums and cities around the world expressed their desire to have the Sphinx displayed in their galleries. Yet, it was Philadelphia that won the bidding war and became the proud destination for this ancient, enigmatic creature.

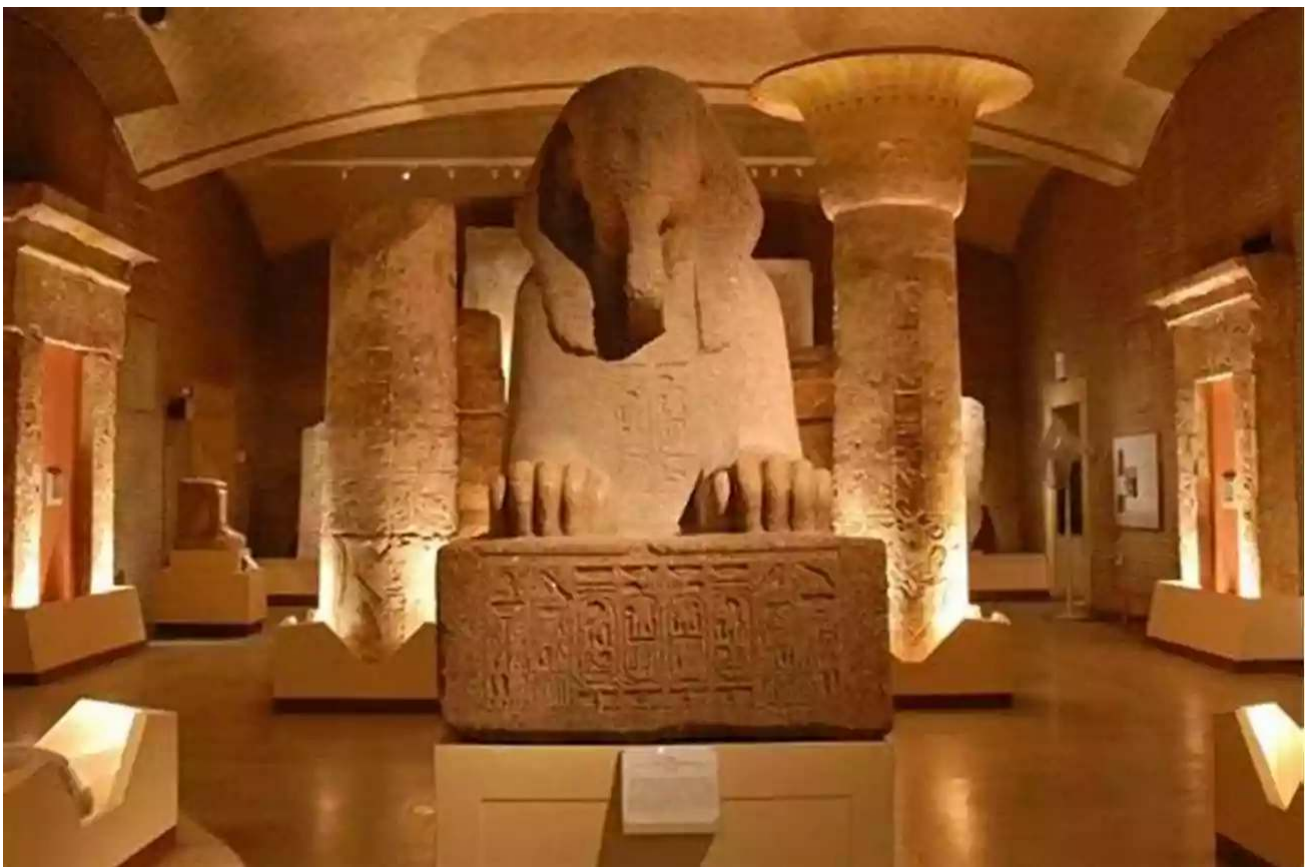
### **The Journey Begins**

The transportation of such a massive artifact was no easy feat. A team of experts meticulously planned the logistics, ensuring that the Sphinx would arrive safely in Philadelphia. It was carefully loaded onto a large vessel, where it began its journey across the Atlantic Ocean. The voyage took several months, with the

Sphinx accompanied by a team of archaeologists and historians who safeguarded its journey.

## **A Grand Welcome**

As news of the Sphinx's impending arrival spread throughout Philadelphia, the city prepared for a grand welcoming ceremony. Thousands of people lined the streets to catch a glimpse of this legendary creature as it made its way to its final destination.



The Sphinx's arrival in Philadelphia was nothing short of a spectacle. It was carefully transported from the harbor to the museum, where a specially built gallery awaited its presence. The opening ceremony attracted dignitaries, scholars, and enthusiasts from all over the world.

## **The Enigma Unveiled**



Once settled in its new home, the Sphinx became the center of attention for researchers and historians. Its inscriptions and enigmatic features captivated the minds of scholars, leading to extensive studies and research. The Sphinx's presence in Philadelphia sparked a renewed interest in ancient Egyptian culture, inspiring further exploration and excavation.



The Sphinx, with its watchful gaze and mysterious smile, has become an integral part of Philadelphia's cultural identity. It continues to attract visitors from all around the world, inviting them to ponder the secrets of ancient civilizations and marvel at the craftsmanship of those who came before us.

### **A Symbol of Unity**

The presence of the Sphinx in Philadelphia symbolizes the power of culture and the unity of civilizations. It serves as a reminder that despite our geographical

distances, we are connected by our shared history and the wonders left behind by our ancestors.



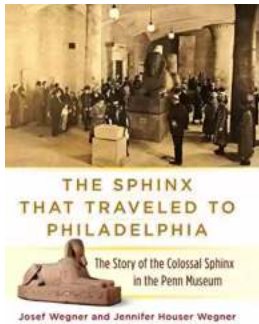
Today, the Sphinx remains a beloved and revered icon in Philadelphia. Its mysterious allure continues to fascinate and intrigue generations to come. It stands as a testament to the enduring power of human curiosity and the timeless beauty of ancient artifacts.

## **The Legacy Lives On**

As we explore the story of the Sphinx that traveled to Philadelphia, we are reminded of the remarkable journeys that artifacts can undertake. This tale also highlights the significance of preserving our cultural heritage for future generations to appreciate and learn from.

So, the next time you find yourself in Philadelphia, take a moment to visit the enigmatic Sphinx. Let it transport you back in time and immerse you in the

wonders of ancient Egypt. Its presence is a reminder of our collective history and the marvels that continue to shape our world today.



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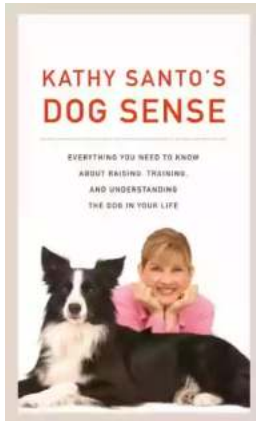
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Written to celebrate the centennial of the Sphinx's arrival in Philadelphia, *The Sphinx That Traveled to Philadelphia* tells the fascinating story of the colossal sphinx that is a highlight of the Penn Museum's Egyptian galleries and an iconic object for the Museum as a whole. The narrative covers the original excavations and archaeological history of the Sphinx, how it came to Philadelphia, and the unexpected ways in which the Sphinx's story intersects with the history of Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Museum just before World War I.

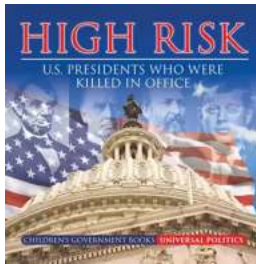
The book features ample illustrations—photographs, letters, newspaper stories, postcards, maps, and drawings—drawn largely from the extensive materials in the Museum Archives. Images of related artifacts in the Penn Museum's Egyptian collection and other objects from the Egyptian, Near East, and Mediterranean

Sections (many not on view and some never before published), as well as pieces in museums in the United States, Europe, and Egypt, place the story of the Penn Museum Sphinx in a wider context. The writing style is informal and text is woven around the graphics that form the backbone of the narrative. The book is designed to be of interest to a wide audience of adult readers but accessible and engaging to younger readers as well.



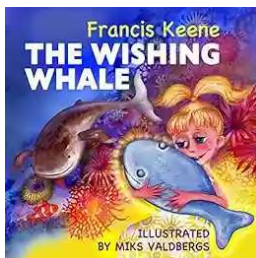
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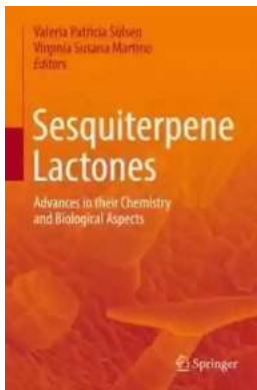
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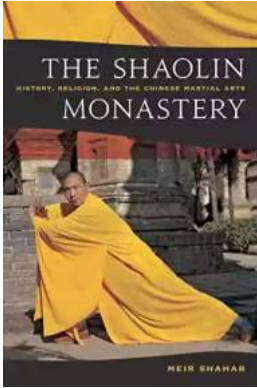
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