

Joseph Emanuel Sanzo

Scriptural Incipits on Amulets from Late Antique Egypt

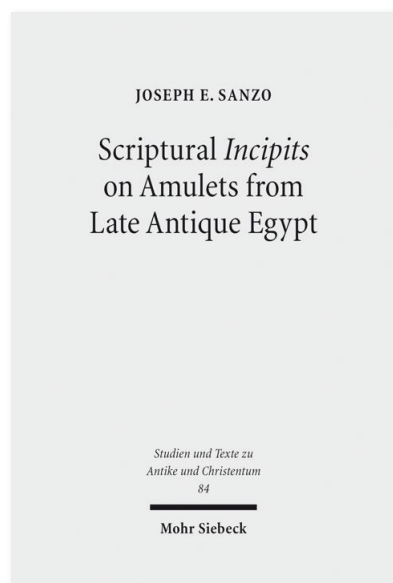
Text, Typology, and Theory

[Scriptural Incipits on Amulets from Late Antique Egypt]

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The use of biblical and parabiblical texts on amulets and other apotropaic objects was ubiquitous in late antique Egypt. Among the passages most frequently cited were the opening lines (*incipits*) of the Gospels, the Psalms, and other scriptural texts. Scholars have repeatedly observed the apotropaic use of such *incipits*, but have yet to subject them to thorough and focused analysis. In the present volume, Joseph E. Sanzo addresses this scholarly need by offering the first sustained study of the scriptural *incipits* on Greek and Coptic amulets and other apotropaic objects from late antique Egypt. In addition to providing a catalog and edition of these texts, the author draws on insights from cognitive linguistics, ritual studies, and the history of the book to establish a typology of the *incipits* and to determine their ritual functions.

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