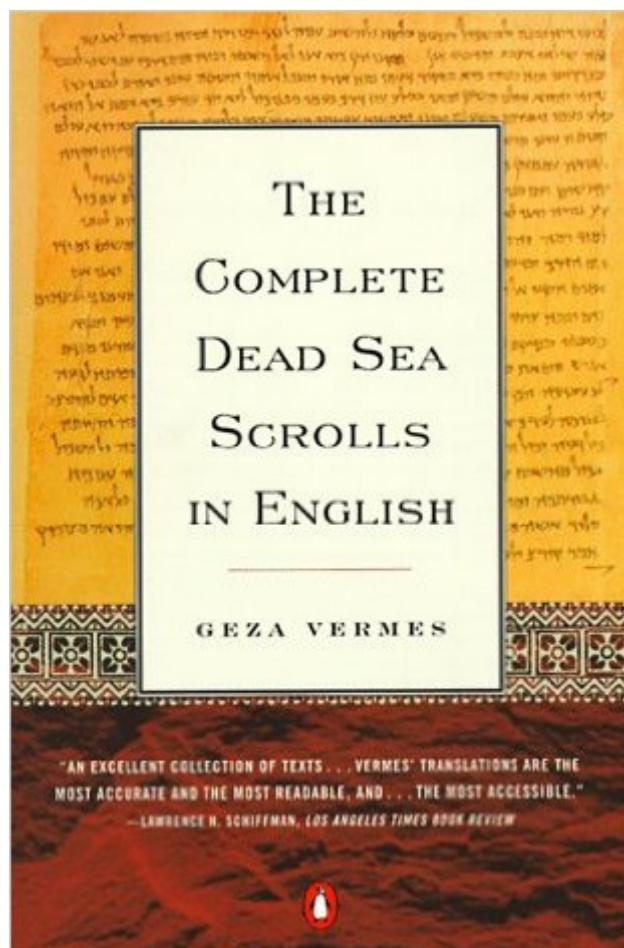


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Complete Dead Sea Scrolls



Synopsis

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls by a Bedouin goatherd in 1947 transformed our understanding of the Hebrew bible, early Judaism, and the origins of Christianity. Nothing in the modern study of the ancient Mideast can match the fifty-year saga of these documents hidden by a Jewish sect existing before and during the time of Jesus. After years of academic debate and maneuvering as tense as any espionage novel, the Dead Sea Scrolls and fragments are at last available in their entirety, in an established standard English version. The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English--the crowning achievement of esteemed biblical scholar Geza Vermes--provides not only reliable, direct access to these intriguing documents but a wealth of scholarly information and an outline of the history surrounding them. Here, for scholars, students, and the fascinated general reader, are the texts which endure as the nonbiblical center of Judeo-Christianity and the foundation of Western literary traditions.

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Customer Reviews

Geza Vermes' book, The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English, is a worthy capstone to a long and distinguished scroll career. Vermes entire career, from his student days to this present work, has been concentrated largely on the Dead Sea Scrolls and related topics. His doctorate in 1953 was completed with a dissertation on the historical framework of the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is difficult to find any scholar with as complete a knowledge of the scrolls as has Vermes; it is impossible to find one who knows them better. This book was released in 1997, 50 years from the time the first Arab

shepherd climbed into a cave in search of a wandering animal and instead fell upon the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Following the 'revolution' of 1991 (to use Vermes words), everyone interested could have unfettered access to the Scrolls, and yet, as inaccessible as they had been previously due to physical restriction, they remained just as inaccessible due to the problem of language and translation.'In addition to the English rendering of the Hebrew and Aramaic texts found in the eleven Qumran caves, two inscribed potsherds (ostraca) retrieved from the Qumran site and two Qumran-type documents discovered in the fortress of Masada, and brief introductory notes to each text, this volume also provides an up-to-date general introduction, outlining the history of fifty years of Scroll research and sketching the organisation, history and religious message of the Qumran Community.'This is the latest volume of a series: when Vermes first published an edition in 1962 (then 15 years after the discovery of the first scrolls), the book had 262 pages; the current edition has 648.

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