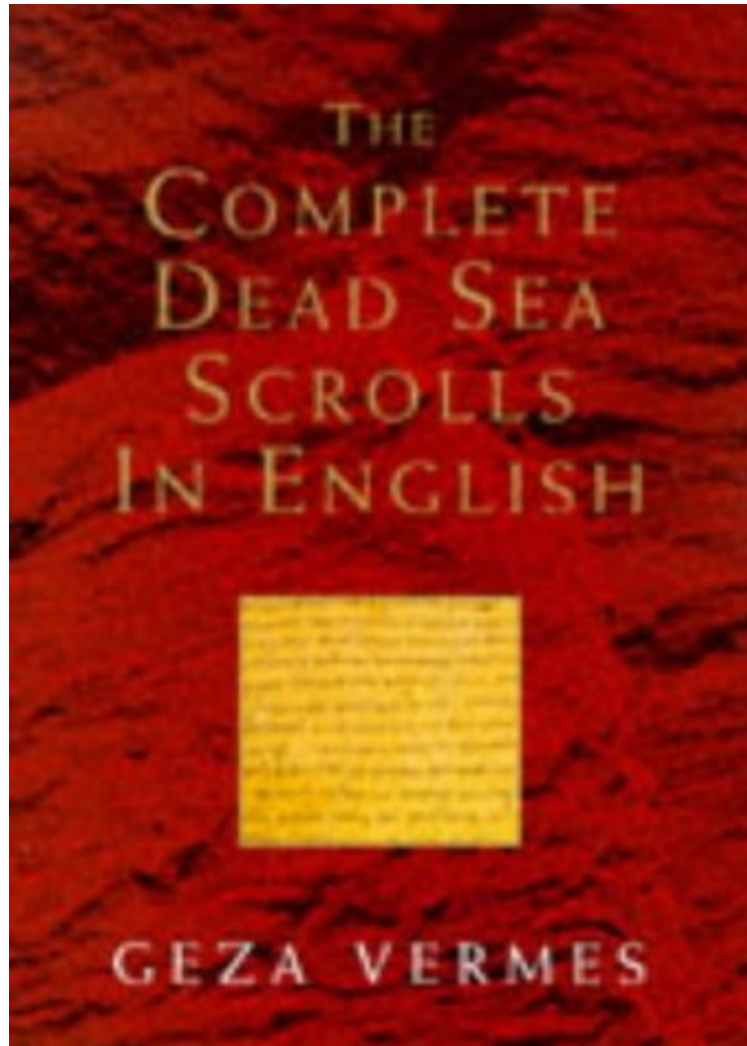


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The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English

Geza Vermes

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Geza Vermes : The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English:

184 of 187 people found the following review helpful. Suffers heavy abridgement! DECEIPTIVE TITLE!
By David D. Owens
This is nowhere near the complete Dead Sea scrolls, and I'm not referring to the portions that are absent due to the original text being damaged and unreadable, I'm talking about entire sections that exist in English but for some reason are not included in this "complete" collection. Firstly, it only contains the non-biblical Dead Sea scrolls but even those suffer a painful abridgement. For example, the Genesis Apocryphon does not include any text from columns 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 or 10 (and go figure I was specifically needing column 5). The introduction even admits that they

exist and have even been translated and is kind enough to provide information on where to look if you wish to read them. Kind, yes, but insulting given the book's title and \$22 price mark. If this were called "Abridged Portions of Selected Dead Sea Scrolls in English" I would respect it as that would be a wonderfully accurate title, but we all know that it would not sell nearly as well as it has if it had been labeled honestly. This blatant marketing deception fueled by greed is probably to be placed upon Penguin Classics and not the late Geza Vermes, who is an exceptional biblical scholar. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great buy By Ortrud Jones great buy 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Dead Sea Scrolls By William Billingslea Awesome book. I find this book to be a great addendum to my spiritual library. I use it to supplement my historical and background knowledge the same as I use the Book of Jasher, the Book of Jubilees, Josephus and the Book of Enoch. The book was in great shape and arrived on time. A great value for what the reader gets. The only draw back was the size of the type font. I find that as I'm getting older it's getting harder to read smaller type font, but that's why the Lord has me wearing tri-focals. Get the book, you'll be glad you did.

Nothing in the modern study of ancient Judaism and the birth of Christianity can match the 50-year saga of these documents, discovered by a lowly goatherd in the spring of 1947. Now, 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 the established standard English version.

.com It's been 50 years since a Bedouin youth named Muhammed edh-Dhub went looking for a stray sheep and instead found the Dead Sea Scrolls. In the intervening decades, the scrolls have been enveloped in a storm of controversy and bitter conflict: the scholars entrusted with translating and editing the texts sat on many of them instead, creating suspicions that escalated to conspiracy theories about supposed cover-ups of sensitive, even damaging material. Geza Vermes, a former professor of Jewish studies at Oxford and a noted authority on the scrolls, marks the 50th anniversary of Muhammed edh-Dhub's find with his book *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*; the title, however, is misleading, for the collection of documents is by no means complete. Vermes has left out the copies of Hebrew scriptures that are available elsewhere, instead focusing on the sectarian writings of the Essene community at Qumran and the intertestamental texts, and these are indeed complete translations. Vermes has also included an overview of five decades of research on the scrolls and a thumbnail sketch of the Qumran community's history and religion. For anyone interested in biblical history, *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English* is a worthwhile read. From *Library Journal* This one-volume translation of the Dead Sea Scrolls joins those of Florentino Garcia Martinez (*The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated*, Eerdmans, 1996) and Michael Wise and others (*The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation*, *LJ* 12/96) and is the latest edition of *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, first published in 1962. In a 90-page introduction, Vermes (emeritus, Jewish studies, Wolfson Coll., Oxford) briefly summarizes the 50-year history of scrolls research. He presents an overview of the sectarian community associated with the scrolls (whom he identifies as the Essenes), its history, and its beliefs. Though dubbed "complete" (the preface explains that "meaningless scraps or badly damaged manuscript sections are not inflicted on the reader"), Vermes's translation is generally the most selective of the three. This sometimes saves the reader from the possible frustration of line upon line of brackets and ellipses, but it gives a limited idea of the extent of the textual material available. However, the translation is good and has stood as the standard for many years. As with Bibles, libraries should have more than one version of the Dead Sea Scrolls. ?Craig W. Beard, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham Lib. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. The result is an excellent up-to-date report on the Dead Sea Scrolls and a competent translation of the bulk of the nonbiblical texts. It will enable the general public to read the nonbiblical scrolls and to judge for themselves their importance. -- *The New York Times Book*, Joseph A. Fitzmyer