

## Israel and the Dead Sea Scrolls

*Edmund Wilson*

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**Edmund Wilson : Israel and the Dead Sea Scrolls** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Israel and the Dead Sea Scrolls:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Edmund's Fascinating Research Narrative of DS Scrolls and JudaismBy Didaskalex"The Dead Sea Scrolls had its origin in that winter of Hebrew studies at Princeton when,... Edmund Wilson added the wonder of an archaeological and journalistic flight into the very heart of old Palestine." Leon Edel, ForewardOur First Encounter:One day in late 1970 or early 71, while working for a refinery in Kuwait, a senior process engineering associate, Marino Coss, mentioned the relatively recent discovery of ancient Hebrew/Aramaic scrolls, and the power politics behind their dominance. That same evening, I drove to the only downtown Kuwait bookshop, and asked the manager, an English expatriate, about any book on the subject, he may have encountered. He told me that all related books are banned in Kuwait, but to my great astonishment he sneaked a book into my hands. "This is my review copy, I already presented my report to the censorship!" The book: The Dead Sea Scrolls 1947-1969, by Edmund Wilson was my great catch, that hot humid day in Kuwait. Wilson, a past reporter of the New Yorker magazine, visited the discovery site and met some of the key actors.Dead Sea Scrolls:The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has been one of the greatest events in biblical archaeology. No other similar event has helped us to better understand the Bible against the backdrop of time and history. Although the subject has been discussed at length by scholars and common folk, the truth is that few people fully understand what are commonly called the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS). Many visitors to Israel have had the opportunity to see these scrolls in the Jerusalem Museum's Shrine of the Book. It is truly awe inspiring to see fragments of the collection of parchments and replicas of the full scrolls when considering the archeological treasure exhibited there. But what are the DSS? What

new truths are revealed in them? Do they contradict or support our basic understanding of the Bible? Is there an "earth shattering" discovery that hasn't been made public for fear of creating a doctrinal debacle? Are Jesus, John the Baptist, or other disciples mentioned in these writings? (David Sedaca) Israel Dead Sea Scrolls: Wilson pursued the complex and still revealing discovery as the kind of subject that inspired his imaginative reconstruction based on a historical analysis of the great archaeological discovery. Wilson's essay on Israel, here included, started with his first reading Genesis in the attic of his mother's house, reflects the still continuing paradox of the Jewish Nation survival struggle. An excellent introduction by a famous critic concerning the discovery and early theories about the Qumran community. First appeared in the New Yorker in the 1950's where it introduced millions of Americans to the Dead Sea Scrolls. "An incredible find it was! The whole world soon was electrified with the announcement of the Dead Sea scrolls. Their importance can hardly be over rated. Not only have they confirmed the accuracy of the Old Testament, but they have shed light on the years just before Christ's coming." (Christian History Institute: What Happened this Day in Church History ) Edmund Wilson: Wilson, Edmund, 1895-1972, American critic and author, grad. Princeton, 1916. He is considered one of the most important American literary and social critics of the 20th cent. From 1920 to 1921 he was managing editor of Vanity Fair, and he was later on the staffs of the New Republic (1926-31) and The New Yorker (1944-48). Wilson supplied an account of the origin, discovery, and implications of the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947. He would update his original essay as The Dead Sea Scrolls, (1947-1969), with new findings. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Does Do the Editors Do?? By Kish Mir in TuchusAbout the AuthorThe scrolls of the Essenes and the history of this Jewish sect's possible antecedence to Christianity intrigued EDMUND WILSON and drew him, in 1954, to Israel ISREAL?!?!?! Hello, proofreaders anyone? Spell check? Thank you for your contribution to the age of "good enough," .6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. "Must" reading for all students of the Dead Sea scrolls. By Midwest Book ReviewThe scrolls of the Essenes and history of this Jewish sect intrigued Wilson and in 1954 he journeyed to Israel to study the scrolls. His research first appeared in the New Yorker and was revised just before his death this returns his out of print classic to new audiences.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, a collection of 972 documents discovered between 1946 and 1956, are of immeasurable religious and historical significance. They include the oldest known surviving copies of Biblical-era documents. The manuscripts shed considerable light on forms of Judaism never known before. These forms contain hints of Christianity, or as put elsewhere, it was the Judaism amid which Christ and his first followers lived, thought, and wrote. Edmund Wilson's book is a record of this great scholarly find. Wilson was a prolific literary critic and social commentator, not an academic, and therefore Israel and the Dead Sea Scrolls reads like a journalist's reportage. This unique personal account weaves together threads of folklore, history, and intrigue. As Leon Edel writes in his foreword, Reading him, it is not difficult to imagine the ardor with which Edmund Wilson pursued his complex subject; it was the kind of subject he had always liked best, involving as it did history, politics, ancient lore, and all his faculties for imaginative reconstruction and historical analysis. . . . No book quite like this has been written in our century. The scrolls of the Essenes, and the history of this Jewish sect's possible antecedence to Christianity, led the author to Israel and to the revelations contained in the scrolls. This book contains his resulting account of the scrolls history. Originally published in 1978, this edition of Wilson's classic is made contemporary with a new introduction by Raphael Israeli, which illustrates the ongoing academic controversy surrounding the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Editorial on .com from previous publication of Israel and the Dead Sea Scrolls: "Mr. Wilson has been a wizard in his conquering of the facts of an incredibly involved archaeological story." Christian Century About the Author Edmund Wilson (1895-1972) is commonly considered the greatest American literary critic of the twentieth century. For many years a reviewer for the New Republic and the New Yorker, he is the author of such classic volumes as Axels Castle, The Wound and the Bow, The Triple Thinkers, and Patriotic Gore. Leon Edel (1905-1997) was a renowned critic and biographer. He is the author of the five-volume Henry James: A Biography. Raphael Israeli teaches Islamic, Chinese, and Middle Eastern History at Hebrew University. Israeli is the author of forty-six books and one hundred scholarly articles in the fields of Islamic studies, the Modern Middle East, and the opening of China by the French.