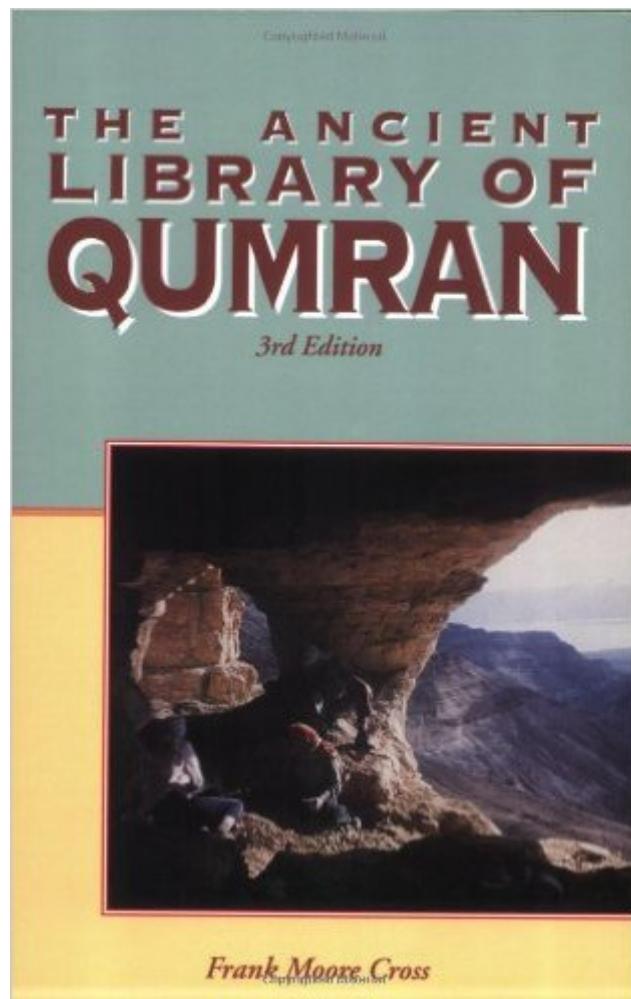


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The Ancient Library Of Qumran



Synopsis

Since the first publication of this book in 1959 it has become a classic: It is a sober and objective account by a scholar who has taken a leading part in the editing and evaluation of the Qumran texts. The book opens with an account of the history of the finds, and each subsequent chapter deals with a single but major area of scroll research. Each records an attempt to achieve in a given area a synthesis, or at least a systematic interpretation, of the facts now available. Old and new, published and unpublished data are drawn upon. For this revised edition, the history of the finds has been updated to the present, and a final chapter has been added detailing some of the author's views of and reactions to recent discussions and publications not found in the earlier editions.

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Customer Reviews

Frank Moore Cross is one of the early scroll scholars, and his book, 'The Ancient Library of Qumran' was one of the earliest popular publications of the discovery and contents of the scrolls. Originally published less than ten years after the scroll discoveries in 1947/48, this volume has proven popular enough to stay in print, being updated several times. This latest edition was published in 1995, with updated material as the scroll processes continue. Cross's first chapter examines the discovery of the scrolls, including some of the intrigues of the bedouins and antiquities dealers in the West Bank region, and subsequent explorations and excavations that revealed more caves in the Qumran region with scrolls and scroll fragments. Cross introduces a few of the key scroll players (Roland de Vaux among them) as well as the beginning process of reconstruction. In his supplement for chapter

1, updating materials, he discusses the many publications now available for the scrolls. The second chapter introduces the Essenes, the group of people responsible for the majority of the scrolls, according to the primary interpretation by the scroll scholars. These people are still enigmatic - references to them are few and far between in the ancient world, and the scrolls do not specifically identify them as the scribes and authors of the scrolls, so this interpretation still has some controversy attached to it. Chapter three develops some of the most interesting and controversial characters discovered in the texts of the scrolls - the Teacher of Righteousness and the Wicked Priest.

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