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## Review of The Texts from the Judaean Desert: Indices and an Introduction to the Discoveries in the Judaean Desert Series, by Emanuel Tov et al.

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*The Texts from the Judaean Desert: Indices and an Introduction to the Discoveries in the Judaean Desert Series*, by Emanuel Tov with contributions by Martin G. Abegg, Jr., Armin Lange, Ulrike Mittmann-Richert, Stephen J. Pfann, Eibert J.C. Tigchelaar, Eugene Ulrich, Brian Webster. DJD 39. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2002. Pp. x + 452. Price: £ 95/\$ 150. ISBN 0-19-924924-5.

As the official publication process for the texts from the Judaean Desert, or the Dead Sea Scrolls, has drawn to a close, Emanuel Tov, the Editor-in-Chief of the project, has prepared a volume meant to serve as an introduction to and a guide through the series *Discoveries in the Judaean Desert*. Such a volume is necessary given the complicated nature and protracted time span of the series. The first volume was published in 1955, while the last one to contain original editions was just published in 2005. Eight volumes were written in French, the other thirty-one in English. Four different Editors-in-Chief, de Vaux, Benoit, Strugnell, and Tov, oversaw the work of 106 editors and contributors from North America, Europe, and Israel. Manuscripts discovered at the following sites are included in the series: Wadi Daliyeh, Ketef Jericho, Qumran, Wadi Murabba'at, Wadi Sdeir, Naḥal Hever, Naḥal Mishmar, and Naḥal Se'elim (p. 3). Most remarkably, approximately 1000 manuscripts, in Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic and Greek, ranging in paleographical date from c. 250 BCE to the 11th century CE, have been published. The scholar or student who opens one of these volumes for the first time can be forgiven a certain sense of bewilderment. This volume is meant to help the user out of that bewilderment.

The volume contains ten sections, containing, as Tov states in the Foreword, "a combination of objective and subjective data" (p. ix). Tov begins with an Introduction, giving the history of the project and describing the system of the presentation of the manuscripts as it developed over the lifetime of the series. These pages contain a great deal of helpful information, and acknowledge some of the problems one may encounter in working with the DJD series. For example, on p. 11 Tov recognizes the fact that the names assigned to various texts have changed over the years, leading to confusion in the scholarly literature. This volume uses the latest title assigned by the editor to the manuscript, but supplies the earlier titles.

Section B presents a list of the texts from the Judaean Desert, revised from four earlier inventories. This list contains a wealth of data in its columns, including the inventory number of the text, its name as published in DJD, the photographic plate numbers, and all publication information.

Sections C–E categorize the texts in various ways. Section C contains an annotated list of the non-biblical texts from the Judaean Desert classified by content and genre. This is an admittedly subjective exercise (p. 115), given the fragmentary state of many manuscripts, and the fact that the genres used to classify these ancient texts are modern. The various groupings are: Parabiblical Texts, Exegetical Texts, Texts Concerned with Religious Law, Calendrical Texts, Poetic and Liturgical Texts, Historical Texts and Tales, Apocalyptic and Eschatological Texts, Magic and Divination, Documentary Texts, Treasure Lists, Letters, Scribal Exercises, and Unclassified Manuscripts. Many of the manuscripts fit into more than one of these categories (for example, the Enoch manuscripts are listed in the Parabiblical, Calendrical, and Apocalyptic and Eschatological categories). I found this section the most difficult to use in the volume, and, because of its more subjective nature, disagree with some of its categorizations. When using this section the reader should remember that the several find sites yielded different corpora of texts, often very different in nature. For example, the Qumran caves represent the library or collection of a specific religious community in existence for at least 150 years, while the documents recovered from the caves of Wadi Murabba'at were the personal possessions of Jewish refugees fleeing from the Romans, and only span a short period of time. Thus one should be careful in forming any conclusions about the nature of the Judaean Desert texts as a whole, or about the various categories into which the texts fall.

Section D contains a list of the biblical texts from the Judaeen Desert, along with a list of all the passages represented. The term “biblical” here refers to those books that became part of the Jewish canon, and so excludes apocryphal books such as Tobit. Section E collects texts that fall into specific categories that distinguish them from the vast majority of the manuscripts: Papyrus texts, opisthographs, palaeo-Hebrew texts, Greek, Aramaic and Nabataean texts, and texts in Cryptic scripts.

A concordance of proper nouns in the non-biblical texts from Qumran follows in Section F. This section, which points out the interesting fact that only twelve actual historically identifiable names have been found in the Qumran texts (pp. 233–35), gives all geographical and person names according to the spelling conventions of the Revised Standard Version. Section H collects all the scribal notations found in the texts, and presents them with a discussion of their history and significance.

B. Webster has prepared a chronological index in Section J. “Chronological” refers mainly to the paleographical date assigned to each manuscript by its editor, although a small minority of the texts contains date formulae. Before presenting his tables, Webster gives an extremely helpful discussion of the various methods used to date the manuscripts and their strengths and weaknesses, including Carbon-14 dating and its newer version, accelerated mass spectrometry, and paleography (pp. 351–55). He also describes the difficulty of coordinating and reconciling the various dating conventions found in the volumes of DJD. Finally, the last section, Section K, lists the abbreviations used in the volume.

This is obviously not a volume meant to be read from cover-to-cover, but used as a tool to unlock the secrets of the DJD volumes. Scholars with varying interests will all find something of use in it, and no set of DJD volumes is complete without it. Tov and his collaborators are to be congratulated for producing this monumental final volume for what is a monumental series.