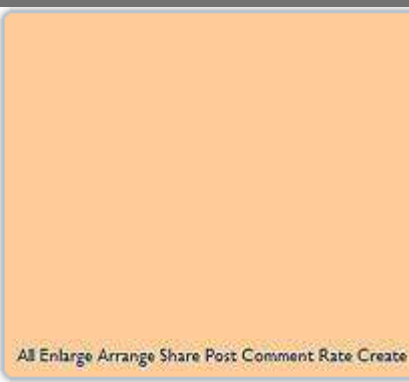


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"We are working closely with the Israel Antiquities Authority. In fact, two curators from the IAA are here working with us now and will be here until the exhibit opens," Daly said.

"I think that many of the people who come to the exhibit will be left thinking about Israel in a different light from the normal 6 o'clock national news. They'll learn how much work has been done, by Israelis as well as people of many other countries, to preserve and translate the scrolls over the past 55 years. They'll also learn how important the scrolls are to the religious heritage of both Christianity and Judaism," said Daly.

Many of the world's leading experts on the Dead Sea Scrolls will be participating in special public programs and events in conjunction with the presentation of the special temporary exhibition

Prof. Emanuel Tov, editor-in-chief of the Dead Sea Scrolls official publication series, "Discoveries in the Judaean Desert", will be at the Van Andel Museum Center on two occasions: for the opening of The Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition on February 16 and again on April 1 to present a lecture entitled "Publishing the Scrolls: An Editor's Viewpoint" in The Dead Sea Scrolls Tuesday Night Adult Education Series.

The Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition will include fragments of 12 different scrolls, including fragments from the books of Exodus and Psalms. There are also numerous artifacts from Qumran, the ancient Judaean settlement located near the caves where the scrolls were discovered, including ancient coins, leather sandals, a scroll storage jar, and a pottery inkwell believed to be connected with the writing of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Plans for the exhibition call for a simulated cave, through which visitors will walk, catching a glimpse of the Dead Sea through a "window" in its wall. The main exhibition gallery will be organized into areas highlighting the story of the discovery and publication of the scrolls, the Qumran community, and the biblical text scrolls.

The Dead Sea Scrolls were written on parchment and papyrus in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek from between c. 250 bce to around c. 68 ce. Among these manuscripts are parts of every book of the Hebrew Bible except the book of Esther. They also contain sectarian documents such as community laws reflecting the lives and beliefs of the people of Qumran.

Editions of transcriptions and translations of the scrolls began to be produced in 1948, almost immediately after they were discovered. The first English-language translation of scrolls appeared in 1962. And there have been countless scores of editions of scrolls published since.

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