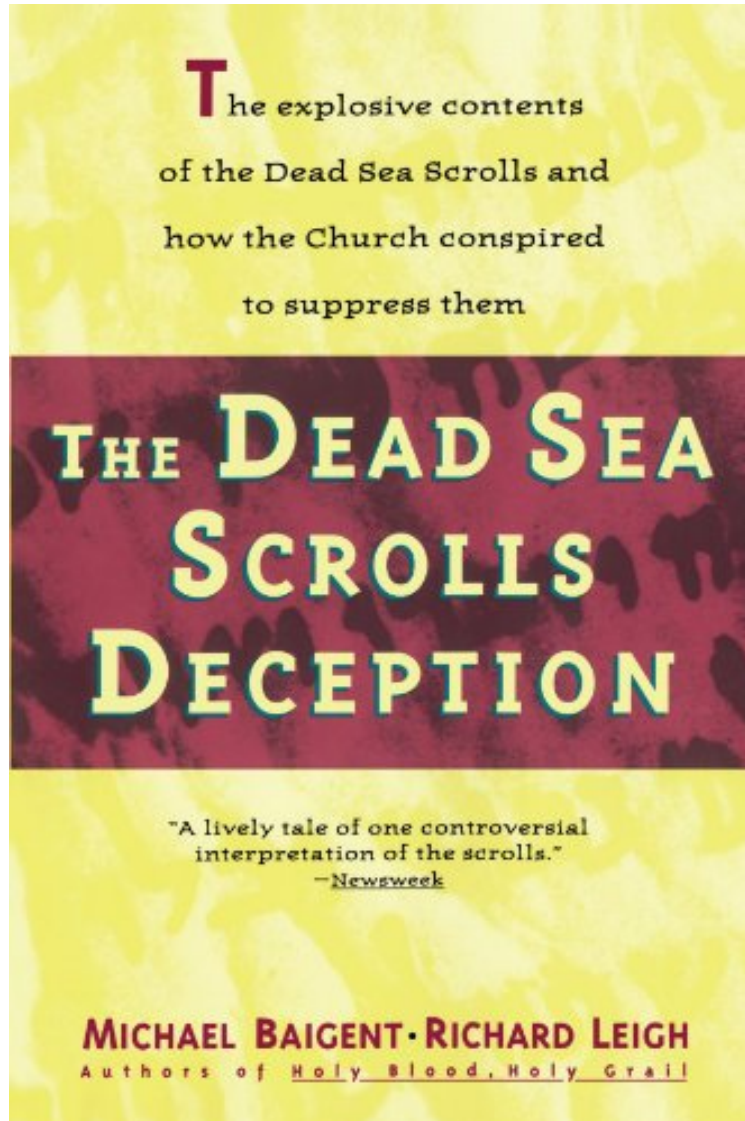


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Dead Sea Scrolls Deception

Michael Baigent

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Michael Baigent : Dead Sea Scrolls Deception before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dead Sea Scrolls Deception:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. DEAD SEA SCROLLS' THE HIDDEN TRUTH By Robert Williams The Dead Sea Scrolls Deception is the kind of book everyone likes to read but has a very hard time believing. Such is the grip that religion has on Christians. Cave 1 containing The Dead Sea scrolls was discovered in Judea in 1947 by Muhammad adh-Dhib, AKA Muhammad the Wolf, a member of the Ta'amireh tribe of Beboin. Subsequently, 10 other caves with scrolls were found and explored. To make a long story short, the scrolls eventually

wound up in the hands of "the international team" of scholars encamped in the Ecole Biblique, the French-Dominican archaeological school in Jerusalem. The team was predominately Catholic, as was the Ecole. The scrolls were supposed to be studied by the team, then published for all scholars to study. This never happened, at least not as it was supposed. The international team dragged their feet and refused to let any outsiders have access, see or photograph them no matter how qualified they might be. This lasted, amid many protests until 1991. In Sept., 1991, The Huntington Library in California disclosed that it had a complete set of photographs of all the unpublished scroll material that had been entrusted to the library by Betty Bechtel. Having learned of the photographs existence, the "team" demanded them back. The library refused and then made them available to any scholar who wanted them. The authors, Baigent and Leigh contend that the team, controlled by the Church, wanted to conceal the scrolls as long as they possibly could in order to protect the Catholic doctrine should the scrolls contain anything adverse to those teachings. Also that they enjoyed having a scholastic monopoly on them and the prestige that went with it. The authors go even further and proclaim that there is in fact material within the scrolls that conflicts with the opinions of the "international team" as well as Catholic Church doctrine. I enjoyed reading this book and believe that much of what they say is the truth. It is well documented. However, I believe that their opinions regarding the Christian connection are too nebulous to be accepted as the truth. Judea during that era was in such chaos and turmoil, it may never be discovered what actually occurred. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tell me about deception By Paulo Reimann The book is a deception per se. Want a Dead Sea Scrolls good book? - stick to Geza Vermes. Not worth the time and effort. Holly Blood and Holly Grail Wale entertaining. This one sucks. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. very informative book By Papper The first part of the book is tedious, but you get rewarded if you read all the way through to the end.

The oldest Biblical manuscripts in existence, the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves near Jerusalem in 1947, only to be kept a tightly held secret for nearly fifty more years, until the Huntington Library unleashed a storm of controversy in 1991 by releasing copies of the Scrolls. In this gripping investigation authors Baigent and Leigh set out to discover how a small coterie of orthodox biblical scholars gained control over the Scrolls, allowing access to no outsiders and issuing a strict "consensus" interpretation. The authors' questions begin in Israel, then lead them to the corridors of the Vatican and into the offices of the Inquisition. With the help of independent scholars, historical research, and careful analysis of available texts, the authors reveal what was at stake for these orthodox guardians: The Scrolls present startling insights into early Christianity -- insights that challenge the Church's version of the "facts." More than just a dramatic exposé of the intrigues surrounding these priceless documents, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Deception* presents nothing less than a new, highly significant perspective on Christianity.

From Publishers Weekly For the lay reader, this crystalline, well-documented work offers substantive evidence that for more than 40 years a small coterie of Catholic scholars established a stranglehold on access to the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were discovered in the Qumran caves east of Jerusalem in 1947. Baigent and Leigh (*Holy Blood, Holy Grail*) claim that the elite group had direct links to official Vatican propaganda offices, that at least two among them were outspoken anti-Semites, and that they suppressed material that connects early Christianity to the Qumran community as well as to the zealous defenders of the fortress of Masada. Drawing on the findings of independent Dead Sea Scrolls scholar Robert Eisenman of California State University, the authors advance startling theories that should change the way we view ancient Judaism and nascent Christianity. They argue that the Essenes, Zealots and Nazorenes or early Christians in first-century Palestine weren't different Jewish sects but were, rather, various sobriquets for members of a broad messianic nationalistic movement dedicated to upholding the Law of Moses and determined to violently overthrow the Roman occupiers. The authors also amass evidence that the Habakkuk Commentary and other Dead Sea Scrolls refer to the same events as those recounted in Acts, in Josephus and in the works of early Christian historians; that Paul was sent forth by the hierarchy in Jerusalem for the express purpose of recruiting an army, and by preaching a new religion, he was depoliticizing and emasculating the militant movement; and that Paul might have been a Roman agent or informer. Baigent and Leigh demonstrate the perfidies of clandestine, cliquish scholarship that isn't accountable to the public and make urgent the forthwith publication and translation of all Scrolls material. Photos. BOMC and QPB selections. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This emotional account of the events surrounding the discovery and translation of the scrolls attempts to uncover the theological and political efforts by individuals, governments, and religious institutions to keep controversial documents unpublished, ostensibly to preserve orthodox interpretations. The English authors, Baigent and Leigh, base their study on the work of Robert Eisenman and other religious scholars who maintain that a conspiracy of consensus led to stagnant reinterpretation of old doctrine, rather than true research which would contest preconceived notions with newly discovered evidence. New theories by Eisenman and others, which challenge the roots of Christianity as well as New Testament doctrine and history, are discussed. Standard works such as John M. Allegro's *The Dead Sea Scrolls the Christian Myth* (LJ 6/1/84), Roland De Vaux's *Discoveries in the Judean Desert* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 1977), and Geza Vermes's *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English* (Viking, 1988. rev. ed.), and many others are preferable to this acrid

introductory "expose."-- Paula I. Nielson, Loyola Marymount Univ. Lib., Los Angeles Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. Newsweek A lively tale of one controversial interpretation of the scrolls. Antiquity (U.K.) An engrossing read.... A racy tale of archaeological sins, religious bigotry, academic megalomania, misconduct and possible criminality, along with bizarre political intrigue. Publishers Weekly Crystalline, well-documented.... Baigent and Leigh advance startling theories that should change the way we view ancient Judaism and nascent Christianity.... John Leonard New York Newsday A wonder of savage detail.... The reading of the archaeological, historical and analytic-textual evidence is always ingenious. Chicago Tribune Not for the theologically faint of heart.