

"NEW" DEAD SEA SCROLLS

at the San Diego Natural History Museum

The San Diego Natural History Museum's exhibition, Dead Sea Scrolls, will trade the 12 Dead Sea Scrolls (from Israel) that are currently on exhibition for a second set of 12 scrolls. The new scrolls will be on display October 15–December 31. The three Dead Sea Scrolls from Jordan, including the Copper Scroll, will remain on exhibit.

Five of the "new" scrolls have never been exhibited. Among them is a scroll that features the Ten Commandments—the oldest and best preserved of all Deuteronomy manuscripts discovered in the caves near the Dead Sea. The Ten Commandments have influence far beyond their Middle Eastern origins.

Says Dr. Michael Hager, Museum President and CEO, "One of the best features of this exhibition is that it's the first to have two sets of scrolls from the Israel Antiqui-

ties Authority (IAA). The IAA is necessarily very concerned with the conservation and preservation of the scrolls—they limit exhibitions to 12 scrolls for each three-month exhibition. However, through negotiation, we received permission to have two sets of 12."

As of September 9, over 142,000 visitors have seen Dead Sea Scrolls. "We hope many visitors will come back to see the second set. By December 31, we expect that over 400,000 people will have visited the exhibition," said Museum COO/CFO George Brooks-Gonyer.

Other scrolls of interest include:

- **Genesis Commentary** Six fragments written by the same scribe comprise the Genesis Commentary. The piece on display, the best-preserved of these texts, includes excerpts from the flood story (Genesis 6–8) and accompanying commentary.

- **Shirot olot ha-Shabbat (Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice)** The text contains 13 songs of praise for the first 13 Sabbaths of the year. It seems likely that the text originally contained 52 individual compositions, one for each Sabbath of the year.

- **Enoch** This oldest version of the book of Enoch belongs to the Pseudepigrapha, a collection of texts written in the names of famous biblical characters. These books were not included in the Jewish Bible. Genesis mentions Enoch only once, yet from this minimal passage, a rich literary tradition about Enoch developed, especially during the Second Temple Period.

This exhibition will not travel. The presenting sponsor of Dead Sea Scrolls is the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation.

