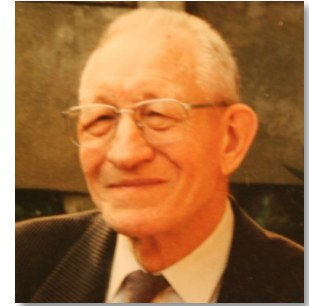




The Copper Scroll of The Temple Treasure

The Copper Scroll, so named after the metal on which it is inscribed, is the only Dead Sea scroll on metal. It describes in detail the hiding places probably used to conceal the vast Temple treasure before it was ransacked by the Romans in 70 AD. It provides an independent confirmation of the importance of the Second Temple and is considered to be one of the best sources of first century Hebrew.



Henri de Contenson (top), a French archaeologist, and Józef Milik, a famous early Dead Sea Scrolls scholar, discovered the Copper Scroll accidentally in 1952 in Cave 3 near Qumran during a survey of the hundreds of caves along the western shore of the Dead Sea.

The Copper Scroll was found in two pieces, rolled and buried in the cave. After 2000 years hidden there, it had become corroded and could not be unrolled.



In order to separate and unroll the fragile scroll, in 1955 the two rolls were sent to the Manchester College of Technology in England where, with a fine saw, they were cut into 23 cylindrical segments.

Forty years later, and after further deterioration, the segments were sent by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities to the Laboratoire EDF-Valecra in Paris for restoration and scientific, scholarly analysis.

Fragment 15 (left) showing the Hebrew letters pounded into the copper, is part of the 11th column of text and is an example of how each of the strips looked after restoration. The scroll names the locations of the many hiding places and lists a vast quantity of silver and gold but, tantalisingly, does not reveal where to start the search!

Fragment of an ancient scroll with Hebrew text, showing several columns of writing in a cursive script. The fragment is dark brown and heavily damaged, with irregular, jagged edges. The text is arranged in approximately six columns, with some characters appearing to be in a different script or dialect than the surrounding text.

Fragment of an ancient scroll with Hebrew text, showing several columns of writing in a cursive script. The fragment is dark brown and heavily damaged, with irregular, jagged edges. The text is arranged in approximately four columns, with some characters appearing to be in a different script or dialect than the surrounding text.

Fragment of an ancient scroll with Hebrew text, showing several columns of writing in a cursive script. The fragment is dark brown and heavily damaged, with irregular, jagged edges. The text is arranged in approximately five columns, with some characters appearing to be in a different script or dialect than the surrounding text.

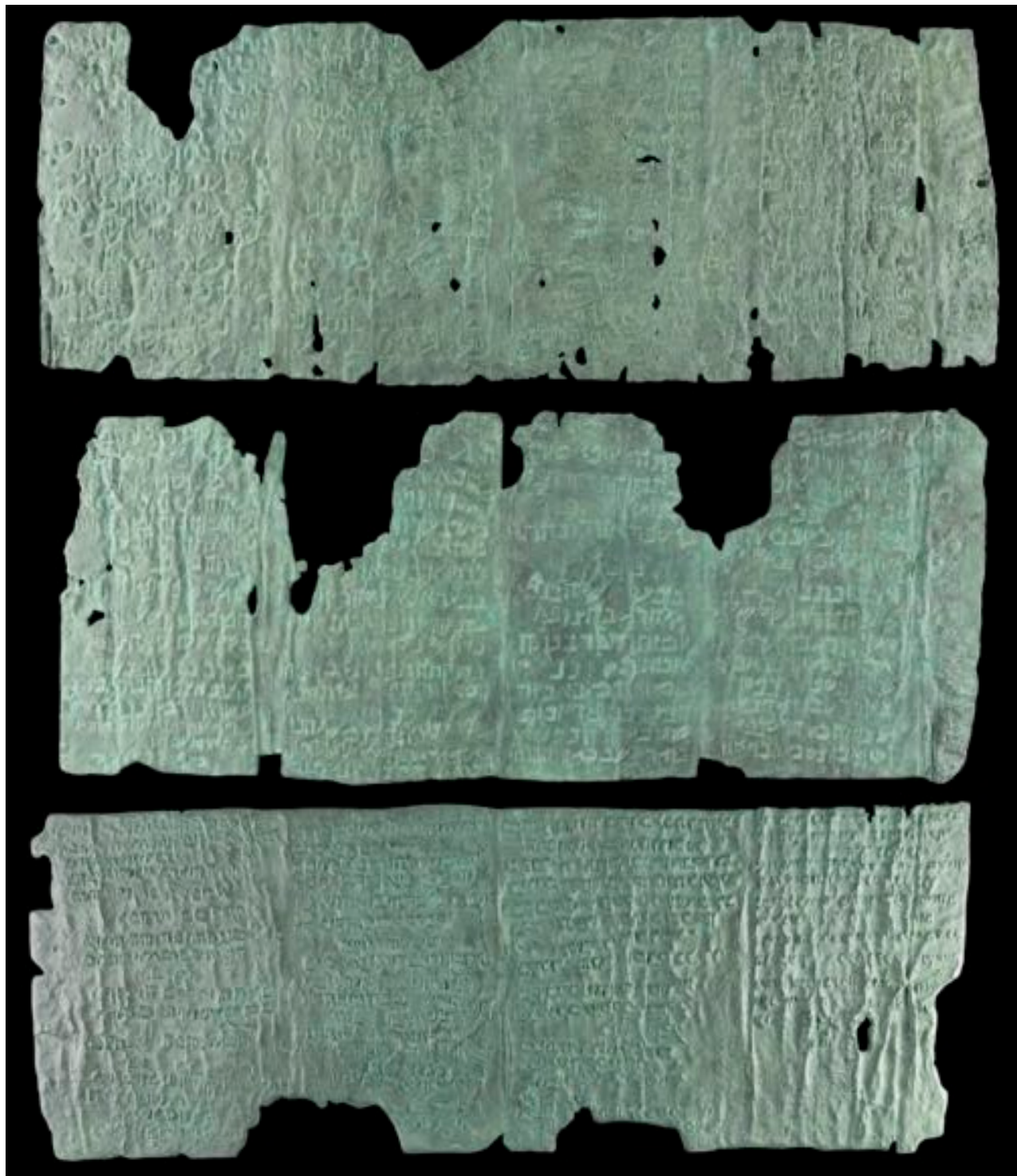
Utilising Laboratoire EDF-Valecra's research as a basis, Facsimile Editions of London worked for two years with 3D imaging specialists, metallurgists and patinators to reconstruct the 23 strips into a solid copper replica of the original scroll.

The scroll is approximately 2.4 metres in length, 30cm wide and 1mm thick.

Made of copper, the precise outline of the edges and holes of the original have been faithfully reproduced and finished by hand.

The back of each panel was recreated from 3D computer data derived from scanning the front of each plate.

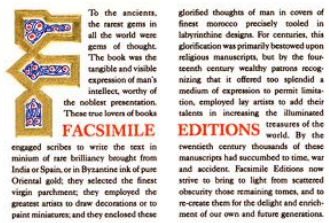
The facsimile edition, strictly limited to 20 sets, is presented in specially constructed, heavy-duty cases custom designed to fully protect the scrolls during transportation or long term storage.



The three panels after patination and before final finishing.

The top two panels depict the front faces of panels 1 and 2.

The back of panel 3 is depicted in the third image.



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