

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I was dismayed to learn, from comments made on two popular biblical studies websites, that the San Diego Natural History Museum has chosen, in its upcoming Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, to give short shrift to the prominent Jerusalem theory of Scroll origins—one of the two salient theories defended today in scholarly publications.

Turning to the Museum's website in the hope of seeing these statements refuted, I was stunned to see that not a single known supporter of the Jerusalem theory has been invited to participate in the lecture series accompanying the exhibit. Adding insult to a decision that can only have been motivated by the personal animus of the exhibit's curators, one of the scheduled lectures is entitled "Who Wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls?" This, of course, is the title of historian Norman Golb's well-known book; yet, as stated, neither professor Golb nor any other supporter of the Jerusalem theory has been invited to speak. The description of the scheduled lecture makes it clear that the speaker will, in part, be describing Golb's views and no doubt commenting on them, yet neither Golb nor any other supporters of those views will have the opportunity to tell their side of the story.

I believe it is the Board of Trustees's duty to judge whether this course of conduct is appropriate, and to act accordingly. I am sending you the enclosed documents in case you wish to try and understand the anger that I and other informed people are now feeling towards your Museum. They are divided into three categories:

(1) Two articles by Golb posted on the University of Chicago website concerning the manner in which the Dead Sea Scrolls are being presented in current exhibits (in one of which articles he specifically questions the Natural History Museum's scientific conduct); for background, the preface, by the editor of the *Aspen Institute Quarterly*, to an earlier article by Golb (on the "Ethics of Museology") also posted there; and some other material concerning this remarkable scholar.

(2) A review of Golb's book by Professor Gregory Armstrong, including his statement that "what is most distressing here is the reluctance [described by Golb] of so many parties to the scrolls controversy... to engage in a full and free discussion of the many questions [involved]." This statement was meant to apply to the situation described in Golb's book, but it is equally applicable to what appears to be happening today in San Diego, in an institution ostensibly devoted to "educating" the public.

(3) A sampling of comments published on several news and biblical studies websites concerning the Museum's conduct.

Finally, I have added a few other items that are largely self-explanatory. Throughout, I have added some marginal markings to point your attention to the most significant details. In the hope you will find fruit for thought in this material, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert Dworkin