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Eshel, Hanan. *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Hasmonean State*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008. 208 p. \$28.00 (ISBN 978-0-80286-285-3).

This book provides detailed examinations of those documents among the Dead Sea Scrolls that describe, discuss, or allude to the Hasmonean kingdom. The desire for further information about the Hasmoneans is worthy, and the author, a professor at Bar Ilan University's Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, shows himself a careful scholar. However, many, or perhaps all, of the documents are fragmentary, and the texts tend to be somewhat symbolic. This makes many of the theories and conclusions the author develops tentative and uncertain. This technical book is appropriate for academic collections.

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