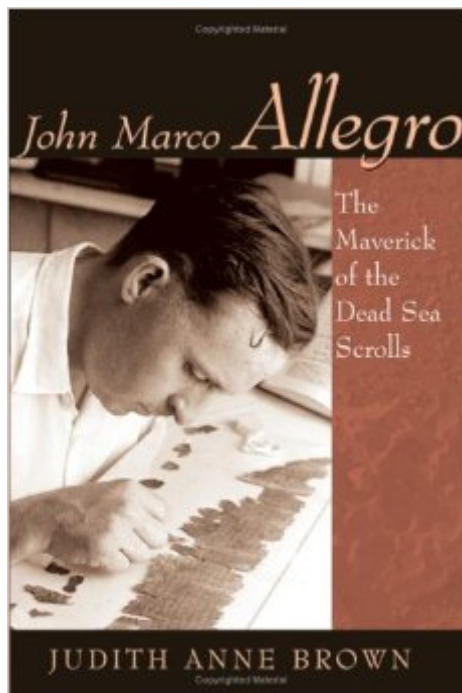


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John Marco Allegro: The Maverick Of The Dead Sea Scrolls (Studies In The Dead Sea Scrolls & Related Literature)



Synopsis

This book is the first to fully explore the life and ideas of John Marco Allegro (1923–1988), freethinker and rebel, whose work on the Dead Sea Scrolls led him to challenge the church, the team of scholars in charge of editing the Scrolls, and most conventional assumptions about the development of Christianity. As the first British member of the Scrolls editing team, Allegro shared the excitement, the insights, and the eyestrain of deciphering these invaluable ancient fragments. He made it possible for the Copper Scroll to be opened in Manchester and did much to focus worldwide attention on the Scrolls as a whole. But he made his name – or gained his notoriety – from questioning orthodox assumptions about how Christianity began. Allegro's views soon set him apart from fellow Scrolls scholars and even from the church itself. He asked questions that many people found disturbing if not outrageous. He wondered, for example, about the interweaving of history, myth, faith, and tradition in the New Testament, and about the nature of the church's authority. Allegro went on challenging the establishment all his life, and he relished the arguments he provoked. For over thirty years he campaigned for open access to the Scrolls and for wider debate about their significance. To him it was a campaign for free speech and free opinion. Judith Anne Brown's John Marco Allegro is a fascinating, probing, inside account of this man of ideas who was independent, irrepressible, and, above all, always original. Making extensive use of Allegro's letters, lecture notes, draft manuscripts, and other previously unpublished writings, Brown brings to life anew the extraordinary discoveries and debates that began in the caves by the Dead Sea over half a century ago.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Marco Allegro - The Maverick of the Dead Sea Scrolls- By Judith Anne Brown -daughter of John Allegro.John Marco Allegro is hereby vindicated! Scholars of the world beware!Judith Anne Brown has inherited the same writing style, razor sharp wit, and knack for forcing people to think, as well as for stirring trouble and controversy that her father had.Judith takes us through a riveting and fascinating glimpse at the life of John Marco Allegro. From John's youth as the son of an immigrant family, to his beginnings in the British Navy, to starting his studies as a Methodist minister. While studying for the ministry, she shows his personal, detailed letters that start him questioning the authority of Biblical teachings; to finally leaving the ministry to begin his studies at Manchester, and then Oxford, making him noticed as an up and coming biblical and language expert and Dead Sea Scrolls authority. Then finally on to his discovery that Christianity and religion is primarily based on entheogen (drug) use and star/sun worship.Judy takes the reader through the times of laughs and the times of tears and turmoil.She provides an outline of John's personal history, his family, his life as a playboy, the falling apart of his marriage, to the inner turmoil and outrage he had that no one would look at his views open mindedly and seriously, because they challenged the orthodox.She provides an excellent breakdown of the content of each of his books, screen writes, and personal letters; proving John's side of the story. Judith gives the reader interesting and easy to follow story line, with a deep understanding into the most controversial of topics in recent decades.

I just want to express how much the world owes a debt of gratitude to Judith Anne Brown for writing this touching and informative biography of her father, John M. Allegro, and thus setting the record straight regarding the role he played with the Scrolls and in history.Before I proceed let me apologize in that this writing is not actually a proper review of the book, but an emotional expression of relief caused by this book's mere existence.As a free-thinking individual who is neither for nor against organized religion, I was always and will always be interested in the origins of humanity's spiritual belief systems and ideologies, its temporal authorities and institutions, and the way in which these forces come together to form 'civilization.' It surprises me how ignorant some people are about the context within which their chosen or inherited faith originated, and I've always thought it important to question established doctrines and particularly rituals, lest they become mindless and mechanical. It still boggles my mind how in the 21st century we are still struggling to reconcile faith

with daily living, and how so many conflicts can result from a perceived clash of ideologies that in reality share so much in common. Allegro thought this way over half a century ago when knowledge of ancient history was still not easily accessed by the laity. Allegro was therefore a pioneer thinker whose dedicated work and scholarship helped to propel us forward in our understanding of the nature and origins of Semitic or monotheistic religious traditions, and their relationship to other belief systems that had existed worldwide over thousands of years.

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