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2231. [Qumran] SIMONE PAGANINI, *Qumran le rovine della luna. Il monastero e gli esseni, una certezza o 'un' ipotesi?* (Studi biblici 61; Bologna: EDB, 2011). Pp. 223. Paper €21. ISBN 978-88-10-41013-4.

P.'s volume aims to provide a wider public with an up-to-date account of the discoveries at Qumran, the history of scholarship concerning these, and especially the linkage (or lack thereof) among the Qumran settlement, the manuscripts found in the nearby caves, and the Essenes as known from the writings of Josephus, Philo, etc. In particular, P. highlights the problems surrounding the "classic" thesis of R. de Vaux according to which Qumran was the center of an Essene "monastic" community whose members produced the manuscripts found in the caves. By way of an alternative to this reconstruction, P. argues that during the Herodian period—during which the site experienced its greatest development—Qumran was inhabited by persons of (mostly) priestly extraction who devoted themselves to the production of ritually pure pottery that was distributed throughout Palestine. As for the manuscripts found in the caves, these were not produced at the site or by its inhabitants; rather, they were brought there from (priestly) libraries at Jerusalem and Jericho as a precautionary measure in view of the impending Roman invasion. The writings making up the manuscript corpus are not the work of any one, known Jewish group but rather reflect the conceptions of a wide range of religious factions (though with a shared underlying priestly outlook). In a concluding chapter, P. summarily reviews the similarities and differences between the Qumran corpus and the NT, both of which reflect a late Second Temple matrix in which interpretation of and controversies about the Law had a central place. His work comes with a number of line drawings, informational "boxes" (these featuring, e.g., mini- biographies of figures associated with the Qumran finds and quotations from the Qumranic material), and bibliographical indications (these citing both print and Internet resources).—C.T.B.