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Catherine M. Murphy -- LIST OF PLATES / Catherine M. Murphy --PREFACE / Catherine M. Murphy -- ABBREVIATIONS / Catherine M. Murphy -- INTRODUCTION / Catherine M. Murphy -- WEALTH IN THE DAMASCUS DOCUMENT TRADITION / Catherine M. Murphy -- WEALTH IN THE RULE OF THE COMMUNITY / Catherine M. Murphy -- WEALTH IN INSTRUCTION / Catherine M. Murphy -- WEALTH IN OTHER LITERATURE FROM QUMRAN / Catherine M. Murphy -- ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF WEALTH FROM THE QUMRAN SITE AND VICINITY / Catherine M. Murphy -- WEALTH IN THE DOCUMENTARY TEXTS FROM THE JUDEAN DESERT / Catherine M. Murphy -- SECONDARY TESTIMONY TO ESSENE ECONOMIC PRACTICES / Catherine M. Murphy -- SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS / Catherine M. Murphy -- PARALLEL PASSAGES ON WEALTH IN ALL DAMASCUS DOCUMENT MANUSCRIPTS / Catherine M. Murphy -- PARALLEL PASSAGES ON WEALTH IN ALL RULE MANUSCRIPTS / Catherine M. Murphy -- OUTLINE OF THE RULE OF THE COMMUNITY (IQS) BASED ON PARAGRAPH MARKINGS / Catherine M. Murphy --

24-VII 25 / Catherine M. Murphy -- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PLAN OF

ARRANGEMENT OF THE RULES OF COMMUNAL DISCIPLINE IN 1 QS VI

THE QUMRAN COMPOUND / Catherine M. Murphy -- COMPARATIVE STRUCTURE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF DOCUMENTARY TEXTS / Catherine M. Murphy -- TRANSCRIPTIONS OF PLATES / Catherine M. Murphy -- THE DEAD SEA REGION / Catherine M. Murphy -- BIBLIOGRAPHY / Catherine M. Murphy -- INDEX OF SIGNIFICANT HEBREW, ARAMAIC AND GREEK TERMS / Catherine M. Murphy -- INDEX OF SCRIPTURAL CITATIONS AND ANCIENT SOURCES / Catherine M. Murphy -- INDEX OF MODERN AUTHORS / Catherine M. Murphy -- INDEX OF SUBJECTS / Catherine M. Murphy -- PLATES / Catherine M. Murphy -- STUDIES ON THE TEXTS OF THE DESERT OF JUDAH / Catherine M. Murphy.

Sommario/riassunto

This volume is concerned with exploring sectarian attitudes toward wealth and the economic practices that gave rise to and issued from those attitudes. An introductory chapter establishes the state of the question. Three subsequent chapters focus on major sectarian texts: the Damascus Document, the Rule of the Community, and 4QInstruction A. Other sectarian and non-sectarian texts that mention wealth are discussed in a fifth chapter, while archaeological evidence from the Qumran region and contemporary documentary texts are introduced in chapters seven and eight. Finally, ancient secondary testimony on Essene economic practices is discussed. The book breaks new ground in arguing for several biblical rationales for the practice of shared wealth. Its integration of archaeological and documentary evidence sheds surprising new light on the economic organization of the Qumran community.