

A true discovery

THE ESTHER SCROLL of 1746



*The amazing tale of how
Queen Esther saved her people*

The scroll is 6.5 meters (over 21 feet) long!

Limited edition of only 1,746 copies

TASCHEN



The Esther Scroll of 1746

A facsimile edition, limited to only 1,746 copies, of the exquisitely illuminated Hanover Scroll

The use of scrolls dates back to ancient times, and one of the best known examples in history is the Esther scroll, or Hebrew *megillab*, which is devoted solely to the story of Queen Esther and is read on the feast of Purim. An uninhibitedly joyful festival, Purim celebrates the salvation of the Jews in the Persian empire of the 5th century under the rule of King Xerxes I. The word Purim is derived from the Hebrew “pur,” meaning “lot,” and refers to the fact that the Persian minister Haman determined by lot the time that all Jews should be destroyed. This circumstance, related in the Hebrew Bible’s Book of Esther, is publicly read out from the *megillab* in the synagogue at Purim.

TASCHEN’s facsimile of the Esther scroll is a major achievement in publishing history. It is produced from a very fine and rare example of the scroll held by the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Library in Hanover, dated 1746 and measuring 6.5 meters long; this particular *megillab* is unique not only in terms of its lavish illuminations but also because it contains a contemporary German version of the story of Esther. For many centuries, the creator of the Hanover scroll was unknown. Piecing together information from various sources, and performing his own stylistic analysis of this and other works of art from the period, author Falk Wiesemann recently made an enthralling discovery: the artist of the Hanover scroll was Wolf Leib Katz Poppers, a Jewish scribe and illustrator from Hildesheim.

The author:

Falk Wiesemann, the author of the commentary volume, is a specialist in German-Jewish history, the history of Jewish booklore and 20th-century German social history.

- Richly illustrated, continuous text, 6.5 m (over 21 ft) long, unfurls to the left from a leather-bound cylinder
- Commentary volume contains the introduction, the biblical text of the *Book of Esther* and a fold-out sheet with an overview of all the illustrations
- Facsimile edition, limited to only 1,746 copies

The Esther Scroll

Commentary volume by Falk Wiesemann

Cloth-bound and gilt-edged, 33.5 x 22 cm (13.2 x 8.6 in.), 184 pages

Four-language edition with texts in English, French, German and Hebrew

Manuscript scroll (642 x 33.5 cm / 252.8 x 13.2 in.)

in a handcrafted walnut veneer display case

Edition of 1,746 numbered copies

ISBN 978-3-8365-1778-2

€ 500 / \$ 700 / £ 450



"It is unbelievable that such an unusual masterpiece now suddenly surfaces. I cannot wait to see TASCHEN's facsimile. It promises to be a wonderful contribution to the field!"

— Sharon Liberman Mintz, Curator of Jewish Art,
The Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary, New York



nig gesaget hat. ⁹ Dagieng Haman des Tags hinaus fro-
 lich und gutes Muths. und daer sahe Mardachai im Thor des
 Königes das er nicht auffstund noch sich für ihm beugete war
 er voll Zorns über Mardachai aber er enthielt sich. ¹⁰ und da
 er heim kam sandte er hin und lies holen seine Freünd und
 sein Weib Seres. ¹¹ und erzehlet ihnen die Serlichkeit seines
 Reichs tühms und die menge seiner Kinder und alles wie
 ihn der König so groß gemacht hatte und daß er über die Fürst-
 en und Knechte des Königs erhoben were. ¹² Auch sprach Sa-
 man: und die Königin Esther hat niemand lassen kömen
 mit den König zum Mahl das sie zu gerichtet hat ohne mich
 und bin auch Morgen zu ihr geladen mit dem König. ¹³ Ab-
 er andem allem habe ich kein genügen so lang ich sehe den
 Juden Mardachai am Königs Thor sitzen. ¹⁴ Da sprach zu
 ihm sein Weib Seres und alle seine Freünd: man mache
 einen Baum fünfzig Ellen hoch und sage Morgen dem
 König daß man Mardachai dran henge so kömst du mit
 dem König frölich zum Mahl: Das gefiel Haman wohl /
 und lies einen Baum zurichten:

