

AN OLD-TIME SAVINGS BANK FROM MOAB.

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READERS of the *Quarterly Statement*, and those interested in things that pertain to the long-ago, will be glad to know of and see reproduced in picture form something that came into my possession during a recent visit to Moab.



Earthenware Jar from Moab.

It is a small earthenware jar, not unlike the ordinary drinking jars used by the fellahin in their homes. It is exactly seven and a half inches high, five inches wide, and at the bulge four and one-quarter inches across. As seen in the illustration the jar is ribbed in circles, and has its handle well-preserved, although its mouth is damaged round the top. The jar when found was full of

coins, and when given to me still contained over fourteen hundred pieces of money of different sizes.

Most of the coins are badly worn and very rusty, but some are well-preserved and are of the time of Constantine, thus making the jar and its contents about seventeen hundred years old, with the probability that many of the coins are of an earlier date.

The jar was found by an Arab whilst ploughing on the plains of the Ghor el-Mezraa, near the base of the Lisan on the east side of the Dead Sea. The point of the ploughshare made a hole in the jar, otherwise it is sound. When found, the neck of the jar was stuffed with mud so that the tiny coins could not get out and be lost.

As already stated, the jar is now in my possession, having been given me by the man who found it, as he had no use for it and so kept it till such time as I should come his way, which I recently did.

Perhaps some readers could state definitely from the ribbed jar what period it would most likely belong to. Without doubt to a time when banks were unknown, and when it was customary for those possessed of money to hide it in the earth, and dying with the secret, left their few savings to be turned up centuries later, as has been this one now in safe keeping in Jerusalem.
