DEAD SEA SCROLLS

1947 Bedouin shepherd boy while searching for lost goat found several large Roman type earthern jars. 7 mi south of Jericho in rocky cliffs high above NW shore of Dead Sea. Taken to merchant in Bethlehem, 4 sold to St. Mark's Syrian Orthodox Monastery in Old City and 3 to Heb. U. Now Heb. U. has all. 2 were Isa, 100 B.C. and 1st c. AD. Manual of Discipline. Comm on Hab. War bet Children of Light and of Darkness. Many more found and most in Jordan's Pal Museum. On exhibit are original jars, mss, writing table and inkwell from Essene Lib at Qumran. In Cave 4 400 mss and 10's of 1000's of tiny leather fragments and papyrus--main library of Qumran. Essenes began center there about 100 BC. Earthquake destroyed in 31 B.C. but community rebuilt about 4 B.C. Finally destroyed in 68 by Romans.

All OT books represented (tho not complete) except Esther. Date from last few centuries BC to early part of 1st c AD..Some LXX mss and some Targums--Aramaic targum of Job.