Papyrus no: A (6) 1 (Box 2)

Date: 1st-2nd century A.H./7th-8th century A.D.

Physical description: 12 cm. x 13.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 4 lines at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Features of script from early papyrus period. Independent 'alif sometimes bends to the right at the bottom. The stroke of dāl bends back to the right at the top. Note also that sin is written with teeth and surmounted by three dots arranged on a horizontal plane. Other sporadic diacritics, including two dots where Classical Arabic would have tāʾ (i.e. al-Hārit), reflecting the dialectal shift of t > ṭ.

Content
List of personal names, apparently for accounting purposes. There are traces of Greek numerals in the final line.


**Papyrus no:** A (6) 2 (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 12.5 cm. x 14 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 6 lines (one very faint) at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

*Script*

Features of script of the early papyrus period. The stroke of ḏāl/ḏāl bends round to the right at the top. The horizontal stroke of initial ʿayn is extended to the right. Initial and independent kāf are hair-pin shaped. Loops of letters are open.

*Content*

Fragment of a letter. Text missing from all sides.
*Papyrus no:* A (15) (Box 2)

**Date:** 1st-2nd century A.H./7-th-8th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 14.5 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 12 lines at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**
Features of script of the early papyrus period. The horizontal stroke of initial ‘ayn is extended to the right. Initial and independent *kāf* are hair-pin shaped. Note, however, that *dāl/dāl* does not bend round to the right at the top.

**Content**
Letter. Beginning and end are missing. Text is laid out in paragraphs. The extant portion begins إِذَا الْمَعْمُونَ, the initial blessings having been lost. The first paragraph heaps fulsome praise on the addressee, who is said to have been endowed by God with sound opinion (حسن الرأى). In the second paragraph the writer states that he has sent many letters to the addressee but has so far not received any reply.
**Papyrus no:** A (30) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 8.5 cm. x 26 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 1 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Small script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ﻮاِيِبْكَ ﺧَﻠْوَنَ مِن ﺮَجْبَ. This is followed by the date on which the letter was written: لسِعْ ﺧَﻠْوَنَ مِن ﺮَجْب. The writer states that he has received the addressee's letter. The body of the letter concerns trading matters. It closes with: ﻮاِلِلّ ﻦَـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰـٰ~

**VERSO**

**Content**
Address of the letter on the recto: ﻮاِيِبْكَ ﺧَﻠْوَنَ مِن ﺮَجْبَ. Beginning of a letter.
*Papyrus no:* A (31) (Box 2)

*Date:* 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

*Physical description:* 24 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in brown ink, 16 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 7 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the verso. The script on the verso, written at right angles to the fibres, is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

*Text:*

**RECTO**

*Script*
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

*Content*
Fragment of a letter. Mentions leather bags (مرباط).

**VERSO**

*Script*
Small script written with a fine pen. The tail of final yāʾ is extended to the right.

*Content*
Account, probably relating to land-tax, with amounts expressed in Greek numerals. Various provinces (عَرْضِيَات) are referred to.
**Papyrus no:** A (32) 1 (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 13.5 cm. x 23 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 8 lines parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

**Content**
**Papyrus no:** A (32) 2 (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 10 cm. x 27 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 3 lines at right angles to the fibres and 4 lines written over these at right angles to them, i.e. parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

*Script*

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Sin has no teeth and is surmounted by an oblique stroke. The Upper stroke of initial kāf is detached from the lower stroke. The tail of final ya‘ extends to the right. Unconventional ligatures. Wide spaces between the lines

*Content*

Text at right angles to the fibres: Fragment of a letter. The wide spacing between the lines suggests it is written to a dignitary. Opening blessings are extant: اكرملك الله و ابداك وحفظك. The script written across this, parallel to the fibres, contains pen-exercises.
*Papyrus no:* A (33) 1 (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 10.5 cm. x 30 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, faint in places, 4 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

*Script*

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Dāl and rā' approximate to a straight line.

*Content*

Letter. Concerns the receipt of wheat measured in irdabs.
Papyrus no: A (33) 2 (Box 2)

Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 23 cm. x 7.5 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif in most cases does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content
Letter. Opening is missing. The writer instructs the addressee to make a payment to Naṣr the cook (ناصر الطبخ).
Papyrus no: A (34) (Box 2)

Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 16 cm. x 25 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 9 lines at right angles to the fibres, + one line in right margin.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke.

Content
Letter. Beginning is missing. The writer wishes the addressee safe voyage if he is planning to travel: فَهَانَ كَانَ يَا نِشْهُ خَيْرٌ عَلَى الْخَروْجِ فَا خُرِجْ عَلَى بِرَكَةِ اللَّهِ وَعَوْنَهُ He closes by mentioning the price of wheat: والقمح بخمسة وعشرين دينار ‘wheat is twenty-five dinars’.
**Papyrus no:** A (37) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 29 cm. x 15 cm. There is a joint of in the papyrus 6 cm. from the top of the sheet. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 1 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight stroke.

**Content**
Letter. The extant part of the opening blessings reads: [الله عليكم ورَّادُ في] إحسانه اليكم وجعلت من كل سوَّ [فداكم]. The addressees are referred to by dual pronouns. The writer instructs the addressees to purchase wheat. Closes with conveyance of greetings to various people.

**VERSO**

**Content**
Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A (39) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 26 cm. x 22 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter.

**VERSO**

**Content**
Continuation of the letter on the recto. The top half of the sheet is left blank, presumably to allow a portion of the papyrus without text to be wrapped round the letter when it was sealed.
**Papyrus no:** A (40) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 19 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Loops of letters sometimes lose graphic distinctness.

**Content**

Letter addressed by a certain Ibrāhīm ibn Faraj to a freedwoman named ʿAzza.

Text opens after *basmala*: عافانا الله وآياكَ. Main body of letter opens: ٍوَفَقَ فِي نَفْعَكَ ٍفِي كَتَابِكَ وَمِن صِلَاحِ حَالِكَ...

**VERSO**

**Content**

Address of letter on recto: من إبراهيم بن الفرج إلى عزة مولات هادة...
**Papyrus no:** A (41) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 22 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. The script on the recto is written parallel to the fibres and on the verso at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sin normally has teeth.

*Content*

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ﷀٓلاَّهُمَّ اَفْتَقِ اَنَّكَ وَحْفَظْكَ وَاُكْرِمْكَ وَاتْنَمْ نَعْمَهُ عَلَيْكَ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالآخِرَةَ تَبَارَكَ بِحَمْطَهُ

The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee. Concerns trade. Mentions Tripoli اطرافَة — note the prosthetic 'alif) and Fustāṭ. The writer arrived in Homs two days previously ﷀٓكَمْ وَقُضِيَتِ الْحَمَصَ مَدْجَدِيِّمَينَ.

**VERSO**

*Content*

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: A (42) (Box 2)

Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 13 cm. x 23.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Small script. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala: اطال الله بفَاك وادام عَزْك وكرامتك واتم نعمتة عليك ... وجعلني من الاوّال فذاك

VERSO

Script
Written with thick pen.

Content
Address of letter on recto: ... لا يبرهيم حن محمد...
**Papyrus no:** A (44) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 19 cm. x 29.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in right margin parallel with the fibres.

**Text:**

*Script*
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sporadic consonantal diacritics. *Sin* has no teeth and is surmounted by an oblique stroke. The tail of final *ya*' extends to the right in places.

*Content*
Fragment of a letter.
**Papyrus no:** A (45) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 26 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. The *basmala* at the beginning of the text is written in black ink, the rest of the text is written in reddy-brown ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

*Script*  
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Sād is horizontally extended.

*Content*  
Letter addressed to a woman (indicated by the feminine form of the verbs). The sender, also, is probably a woman. Text opens after *basmala.*  
جعلت فداك واطال الله يفاك واتم نعمته عليك وزاد في احسانه. Main body of text opens on a new line. The writer requests the addressee to send a box to put clothes in since the writer fears that her clothes may be stolen. The writer will purchase a lock:  
احب ابقاك الله ان توجهين الي باصدوع حتى اجعلني في يباني وافله علوا فاني اخف ان يسرق ... يباني وانا احب ان توجهين حتى اشترى ... Note the *sriptio plena* of the short vowel of the preposition in باصدوع which corresponds to *bi-sundūq* in Classical Arabic.
**Papyrus no:** A (46) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 28 cm. x 13 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines + 1 line in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

*Content*

Fragment of a letter.

**VERSO**

*Content*

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: A (51) (Box 2)

Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 17.5 cm. x 25 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, written at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content
Letter addressed to a woman (shown by feminine verb forms). Beginning is missing. Mentions a ‘dealer in wheat’ (تشار) and monetary transactions. Closes with conveyance of greetings (أخصى نفسك بالسلام كثير وفمي عبالتك وودنك) and finally, on a separate line, with the tasliya.
**Papyrus no:** A (52) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 17 cm. x 20 cm. Much of text obliterated by disturbance of fibres. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines + 2 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke

**Content**

Letter. The end of the opening blessing is preserved: [ ].

**VERSO**

**Content**

At the top appears the address of the letter and in the lower half of the sheet the continuation of the letter.
**Papyrus no:** A (53) (Box 2)

**Date:** 1st-2nd century A.H./7th-8th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 14 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Features of script from the early papyrus period. Independent *alif* sometimes bends round to the right at the bottom. Initial *kāf* is sometimes hairpin-shaped. The tail of final *mīm* is short. Occasionally there are excessively large spaces between letters. Note, however, that the stroke of *dāl* does not bend to the right at the top.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* with the address and blessing: من قصة جل عيد ... الي جن يونه سلم عليك واني احمد الیك الله الذي لا اله الا هو اما بعد ... The main body of the letter is laid out in a new paragraph beginning by ... The writer states that he has written to somebody in the interests of the addressee: ‘for I favour your protection’. Closes with: *وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ وَرَحْمَتُ اللهۡ*.

**VERSO**

**Content**

Address of letter on recto: لابي يونه.
*Papyrus no:* A (54) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 20 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

*Content*
Fragment of a letter. Mentions a certain 'Abū Sa'id.

**VERSO**

*Content*
Vestiges of the address of the letter and pen-exercises.
Papyrus no: A (57) (Box 2)

Date: 2nd century A.H./8th century A.D.

Physical description: 19 cm. x 28 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Fine pen. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Some features of script from early papyrus period: The loop of mim is open. The tail of final ya' extends to the right in a straight, horizontal line.

Content
Letter. Beginning is missing. Closes with conveyance of greetings to various people.
*Papyrus no:* A (61) (Box 2)

**Date:** 1st-2nd century A.H./7th -8th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 20 cm. x 25.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**
Large script with wide spaces between the lines. Features of script from the early papyrus period. Independent 'alif bends round to the right at the bottom. The stroke of dāl bends back to the right at the top. The horizontal stroke of initial 'ayn is extended to the right. Initial kāf is hairpin-shaped. Letters in the same word are sometimes separated by a space. Vertical *hastae* are elongated.

**Content**
Fragment of an official letter. Top and bottom are missing. Laid out in paragraphs. Refers to land tax (جرياتهم) and allowances. ‘I have informed you at the bottom of this letter of mine the number of their allowances of every kind and the value that they have established for them.’
**Papyrus no:** A (77) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 17 cm. x 26.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Final kāf is hairpin-shaped.

*Content*

Letter. Beginning and end are missing. The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee and is glad to hear that all is well: وحسن دفاع الله عنك وسرني ذلك. Mentions buying and selling and a man called Suhayl.
*Papyrus no:* A (79) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 21 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**
Small script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

*Jim, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Sin normally has teeth.*

**Content**
Letter. Beginning and right side are missing. Concerns trade. Mentions arrival of various loads (*حمل*). Refers to the town of *Baṣra* and a broker (*دلَّ*).
Date: Sha'bán 280 A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 26 cm. x 14.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at parallel to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Scriptio defectiva of long ā in the name al-Qāsim. Sād is horizontally compressed in places.

Content
Legal document: Acknowledgement ('iqrār) of a debt of 30 dinārs. Opens: ...... أقر. Dated in the Coptic month Qy of the Muslim year 280 A.H. The debtor is 'Abū al-Qāsim al-Husayn ibn ... At the end the scribe indicates his name (Ḥārith ibn 'Abdallāh) and the date in which he wrote the document (280 A.H.), giving the Muslim month (Sha'bán) rather than the Coptic one.
**Papyrus no:** A (81) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 17.5 cm. x 22 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

*Script*
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final ya' extends backwards in a straight line.

*Content*
Letter addressed to a group of people. Basmala is missing. Opening blessings: ابقاؤكم الله وحفظكم واتم تعمه عليكم وزاد في احسانه اليكم وعندكم. Writer expresses the desire to see the recipients soon. Closes with conveyance of greetings to various people.
Papyrus no: A (96) (Box 2)

Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 22 cm. x 17.5 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Loops of letters often lose graphic distinctness.

Content
Document of uncertain identity.
*Papyrus no: A (113) (Box 2)*

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 29.5 cm. x 23 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 19 lines at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin parallel with the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. žim, ħā' and kā' are written with two straight strokes. The tail of final 'ayn extends downwards without bending to the right. Fā' has a diacritical dot written below the letter.

**Content**
Letter. Beginning missing. The writer expresses his desire to purchase of the slave-girl (جارية) or salve/eunuch (خادم) of the addressee. Ends with conveyance of greetings to various people and a request for the addressee to write to him.

Closes: حفظه الله وعافاك وامتع وكتب يوم الاثنين.
**Papyrus no:** A (128) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 27.5 cm. x 14.5 cm. Text missing from the top. Writing on on one side only in black ink, 19 lines written at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**

Final ‘alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Jīm, hāʾ and kāʾ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Sin is written either with teeth or as a straight line surmounted by a bar.

**Content**

Letter. Beginning missing. Feminine verbal forms indicates that it was addressed to a woman. The addressee is requested to send something: ‘If you resolve, my lady, to send me what you wish and what is convenient for you ... then kindly do so, God willing.’
**Papyrus no:** A (129 piece 1) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 15 cm. x 23 cm. Top and bottom of text are missing. Writing on one side only, in black ink, 7 lines at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Daḻḏal approximates to a straight stroke. There are a number of unconventional ligatures.

**Content**

Letter. The beginning and end are missing. The addressee is asked to write to the sender to inform him of what he needs so that he (the sender) can hire the necessary goods from somebody (لا كري مته).
*Papyrus no:* A (129 piece 2) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 13 cm. x 23 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines + 2 lines in upper margin. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jim, hā' and kā' are usually written with two strokes. Sin normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics. Pairs of dots are arranged on an oblique slant.

*Content*

Letter. Text opens after basmala: ابذه الله ... وحفظك. Concerns trade. Mentions various people from the Maghreb.

**VERSO**

*Script*

The tail of final yā' extends to the right.

*Content*

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: A (130) (Box 2)

Date: 1st-2nd century A.H./7th-8th century A.D.

Physical description: 21 cm. x 18 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 19 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Bottom obliterated by soiling.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Early papyrus script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The top of dal/dal bends back at the top. The tail of final yā‘ extends to the right. Sporadic diacritics.

Content
Letter. Beginning and end missing. Divided into paragraphs. The writer gives instructions to the addressee concerning various people.
Papyrus no: A (132) (Box 2)

Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 24 cm. x 15 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines at right angles to the fibres, 11 lines, by a different hand, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in faint black ink, 11 lines at right angles to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script
First hand: Large hand. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Sin has no teeth and is surmounted by a bar. Second hand: Smaller hand. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Sin has teeth. The stroke of final ba’ is flat without bending up at the left end.

Content
First hand: Fragment of a letter. The addressee is requested to send notification of his needs.
Second hand: List of names of people and days of the week, apparently some kind of account.

VERSOe

Script
Dāl/qal approximates to a straight stroke. Sin is written with teeth.

Content
Document confirming receipt of money for hire of a mule. Opens, after basmala: ‘What I have received from Husayn is two dirhams less a third for the hire of a mule.’
Papyrus no: A (147) (Box 2)

Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 23 cm. x 10 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres and upside down relative to the writing on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Loops of fa' have lost graphic distinctness. Many unconventional ligatures.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala: ‘My lord and master, may God prolong your life, I have not heard from you for days.’ In the remainder of the letter the writer urges the addressee to reply to his letter and let him know his news. Refers to the letter as a رقعة.

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto. Closes with the hasbala.
**Papyrus no:** A 173 (Box 7)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 18 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*
Large hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial kāf is horizontally extended.

*Content*
End of a letter. Final paragraph contains good wishes for addressee. Closes with *وكتیت* ‘and I have written’.

**VERSO**

*Script*
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

*Content*
Account registering sums owed, expressed by circular sigla.
**Papyrus no:** A (331) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 11 cm. x 24.5 cm. Dark brown papyrus. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥa*‘ and *kā‘* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight stroke.

*Content*

Letter. Beginning missing. Concerns trade. Mentions various transactions. Closes:

اكرمك الله وابنراق اعترك واتم تعنته عليك وراذ فيها عدوك.

**VERSO**

*Script*

Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. The *hasta* of *tā‘* slants to the right. *Sin* is written with teeth.

*Content*

Beginning missing. End of an account. List of sums in the possession of various people, expressed by *‘inda* + proper name.
Papyrus no: A (334) (Box 2)

Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 23.5 cm. x 15 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Šin has teeth and has three diacritical dots.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala: ابِتَبَاكُ اللَّهُ وَحَفّظْكُ. Mentions the drawing up of a contract of hire and the receipt of payment: قد شهد عليه بالكرى وكتب عليه وعستوفى الكرى منه 'he has testified to the fact that he has given in lease and he has had a document written concerning this and has collected the full rent from him'.

VERSO

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Šin is written with teeth.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala with long blessing formula: حفظك اللَّهُ وابتَبَاكَ اتَّمْ نعْمَهُ عليه وكرامته لك في الدنيا والآخرة. The writer notifies the addressee about the arrival of a messenger sent by the addressee.
**Papyrus no:** A (354) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 12 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*
Small hand. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin* normally has teeth.

*Content*

**VERSO**
Continuation of letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: A (366) (Box 2)

Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 13.5 cm. x 24.5cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres and upside-down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. 'Im, ha' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Sin normally has no teeth and is surmounted by three dots arranged in a horizontal line. Sporadic diacritical dots on other letters. The two diacritics of final yā' are written over the letter.

Content
Letter. Beginning is missing. Addressed to a woman. The writer refers to the measuring of something with the 'big qaflz' (فيكيل بالقياس الكبير). He introduces the bearer of the letter, a certain 'Abū al-Qāsim, who is described as 'an honourable man' (رجل من أهل الشرف والفضل) and complains that the addressee has not followed his instruction to look after a person referred to as 'ان تعاهذي الخليفة في كل وقت ... فلم تفعل.

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto. Contains the request formula: 'فرائك جعلت فذاك فيما كنت به عليك موفقًا ان شاء الله' (Let me know) your opinion concerning what I have written to you, God willing'. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.
**Papyrus no:** A (428) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 15 cm. x 25 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines, written at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink. Text A: 3 lines, parallel to the fibres. Text B: 5 lines at right angles to fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. جيم, حاء and كاء are usually written with a single curved stroke.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. Beginning and end رايت missing. Surviving text opens with a new paragraph, containing a request expressed by the formula: إن رايت . Concerns trade. Refers to sending of goods طاعان. Mentions profit و الربح لند and the profit is yours).

**VERSO**

**Script**
Text A: Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final يأ' extends to the right. Text B: Sloppily written. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. سين in numerals are truncated.

**Content**
Text A: Address, presumably of letter on recto, though in a different hand: ‘To Abu Jäbir Aḥmad ibn Yazīd ibn ‘Ubaydallāh, from Muhammad ibn ‘Abdallāh ... in Fustāṭ (بفسطاط مصر).
**Papyrus no:** A (591) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 16 cm. x 26 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres. Much of text on recto and verso is obliterated by soiling.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Final bā‘ is flat. Final yā‘ extends backwards.

*Content*


**VERSO**

*Script*

Small hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The stroke of final bā‘/tā‘ is flat without bending up at the left side. *Sin* is written with teeth.

*Content*

Fragment of a letter.
**Papyrus no:** A (594) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink. 18 lines + 3 lines in top margin at right angles to fibres + 1 line in right margin, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 23 lines + 2 lines in upper margin, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Large hand. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Copious diacritics. The two diacritical dots of final yāʾ are written over the letter.

**Content**
Letter addressed to a woman. The writer requests the recipient to go to her house and stay there for a day or two.

**VERSO**
Continuation of text on recto.
**Papyrus no:** A (609) (Box 3)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 36 cm. x 16 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 22 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 13 widely spaced lines, at right angles to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the verso is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jīm, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has teeth.

**Content**
Letter. Extant text opens: ‘May I be made your ransom’. The writer states that he has sent the address four dirhams with a man known as Šīhāb. He requests the addressee to write to him his news: ولا تندع الكتاب ... حالتكم وسلامتك وحاجتك موقفا ان شاء الله.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Jīm, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke. Unconventional ligatures.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. Closing formula is extant: اطال الله يبارك.
**Papyrus no:** A (880) (Box 2)

**Date:** 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** 23 cm. x 12 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, blurred and faint, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sin has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

*Content*
Letter. Beginning is missing. Refers to various monetary transactions. Mentions Alexandria.

**VERSO**

*Script*
Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Sin does not have teeth. Sporadic consonant diacritics.

*Content*
Beginning of a letter. Text opens after basmala: حفظك الله. Contains the request formula: 'Kindly give me your view on this'.