A CATALOGUE OF THE
ARABIC PAPYRI
IN THE MICHAELIDES COLLECTION
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BY
GEOFFREY KHAN
**Papyrus no:** A1 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 24 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 4 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. Text is missing at the bottom and on the left side of the recto.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dal/dāl* approximates to a straight line.

*Content*

Letter. Beginning of opening blessing is missing, ends وأحسنه عندك .... The writer states that he has sent the grapes (العنب) and the hat (الفشوة) to the addressee.

**VERSO**

Address of the letter on the recto: To 'Abū Sayyid.
**Papyrus no:** A3 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 24 cm. x 22 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

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

**Content**

Letter. Addressed by writer to his mother. Text opens after *basmala* on the same line: ابقاك الله يامى بقا في عافية وحفظك. The writer complains that he has not received a letter from the addressee. He then reports on various commercial transactions and mentions ‘orchards’ (كرعم).

**VERSO**

Address of letter on the recto: موسى بن حسن والدته.
*Papyrus no: A4 (Box 4)*

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

**Physical description:** 35 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl/dal approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has teeth.

*Content*

Petition. Text opens after *basmala:*  حفظك الله واطال يدك. The writer refers to a case concerning the manufacture of chains for lamps (سلسلة للفناجين), which he has put before the 'amīr. He request the writer, in a separate paragraph, to remove the obstacles from their being manufactured:  فرائك يصلك الله في الأمر بترك العرض لهم موقعاً ان الله يعفها. Closes with the blessing formula with which it opened.

**VERSO**

*Content*

Address of recto:  لايى جعفر من ابى العباس
*Papyrus no: A5 (Box 4)*

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

**Physical description:** 26.5 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 19 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 lines, parallel to the fibres. Text is missing on the left side.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial kaf is hairpin shaped. The stroke of dâl sometimes bends back at the top.

**Content**
Letter. Early epistolary format. Address comes immediately after the basmala: لا يهم نعيم. The writer states that he has received the letter of the addressee, that he is pleased that he is in good health, and that he has understood what he says in the letters. Closes with the phrase: ‘It was written with two days remaining of Dhû al-Ḥijjah’.

**VERSO**
Address of letter on recto, partly obliterated.
**Papyrus no:** A 5 (pink) (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 35.5 cm. x 16.5 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 28 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

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

**Content**
Letter. Right and bottom are missing. Extant opening formula includes: وزاد في احئائه الابك. The writer states that he requires the presence of certain people (وقد احتجت الى حضور اهل). Closing formula is missing.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Small hand. Final 'a' 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/sin is written without teeth.

**Content**
Beginning of a letter. Text opens after basmala with the blessing: حفظك الله. Mentions the maidservant of somebody: 'and her maidservant has not been granted the power'.
**Papyrus no:** A 8 (pink) (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 30 cm. x 19 cm. Small lacunae 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, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto. 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.Jim, hā' and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Sin/ṣin normally has teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: جعلت فذاك واطال الله بقاك وادام عزك وكرامتك وتم نعمته عليك وزاد في احسانه عليك في الدنيا والاخرة برحمته كتابي: The main body of the letter begins: كتبنا اليك وانا في حال ١. The writer asks the addressee to find out some information concerning somebody who is not replying to his letters. The request formula is: فإن كنت عازم فافعال. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people and finally with the blessings that it opened with. The address of the letter is written above the basmala, upside down relative to the text of the letter: لابي على ... من محمد بن عبد الله

**VERSO**

**Script**

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

**Content**

Letter. Opens, after the basmala: جعلت فذاك واطال الله بقاك. The main body of the letter opens: كتبنا اليك برسالة الله عن سلامه. Mentions profit (الربحة) and tithes (الاعشار), also commercial/administrative dealings (المعاملة). Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.
Papyrus no: A 9 (pink) (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24.5 cm. x 18 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 14 lines + 1 line in left margin and 1 line in right margin, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:
  
  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/sīn normally has teeth.

  Content
  Letter. The beginning is missing. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions an account (حسابه). Closes with the conveyance of greetings and, at the end, with the blessing حفظك الله.
**Papyrus no:** A16 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 27 cm. x 23 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 18 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.*

*Content*

Letter. Beginning is missing. Concerns commercial matters. The writer says that he urgently needs 3 dīnārs, which he is asked to send with Muqbil his servant (معجل بها الى مع مقبل جاريك). The writer requests a reply by the formula: اطيل الله بكيرك وحالك وجميع حوايحك. Closes with a blessing beginning فِي الكتاب الى بيخرك وحالك and finally with the *tasliya.*

**VERSO**

Traces of the addresss of the letter on the recto.
*Papyrus no:* A21 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 27 cm. x 31 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing at the top.

**Text:**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Final ya’ extends backwards in straight line.

**Content**
Petition. Opening of text is missing. The various sections of the document (*narratio, petitio, blessings*) are separated by spaces. The addressee is requested to give support to his family, who are impoverished. Request formula opens: فَان رَأى ادّم الله عزك ان تَتَّقِرب إلى [ ] . If you, may God cause your strength to endure, resolve to approach [ ]. Closes with a blessing (... اطّال الله بَقِاكَ), the *tashiya* and the *hamdala*. 
Papyrus no: A22 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 21 cm. Small lacunae 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. Text missing at the top.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. ‘ilm, ha’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dalil al approximates to a straight line. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content
Letter. Opening is missing. The writer requests the addressee to purchase certain commodities. closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO
Faint traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
*Papyrus no:* A23 (Box 6)

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

**Physical description:** 24 cm. x 23.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif generally extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *hāʾ* and *kāʾ* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin/sīn* normally has no teeth and is normally surmounted by a bar.

**Content**

Letter. In the top left corner there is the *tarjama*: علي بن الاشْهَث. Text opens, after *basmala:* ... حفظك الله وابناك وآكركمك... Written on Saturday, 8th of Ramadān (كتابي اليالك) اكمرك الله ليوم السبت لثمن خلون من شهر رمضان. Refers to the dispatch of messengers to Ḥimṣ.

**VERSO**

Address of letter on recto.
*Papyrus no:* A24 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 24 cm. x 21 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines + 2 lines in top margin, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres, an upside down relative to the text on the recto.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jim, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has teeth. Sād/dād are horizontally compressed.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: اَكْرِمْكَ اِنْ شَاءَ اَللَّهُ وَ اَيْفَكَا. The writer, who is a resident of Fustat, acknowledges receipt of a letter from the addressee. He is happy that a certain woman (addressee’s wife?) is now in good health after an illness. Refers to the sale of a grove of palm-trees.

**VERSO**

Continuation of letter on recto and address.
Papyrus no: A26 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 19 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Ink faint due to rubbing.

Text:

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

Content
*Papyrus no: A27 (Box 4)*

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

**Physical description:** 32.5 cm. x 23 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, 1 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif in most cases does not extend below the connecting stroke. Medial ṣād is sometimes horizontally compressed. Dāl/dal often approximates to a straight line. Sin has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after *basmala:* اِلْهَاَمُّ لَّيْكَ. The writer apologizes for being detained from coming to the addressee. He states that he was on his way to see him, when certain friends came to visit him. These friends have been staying with him since Wednesday (وَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ اعْتَزَكَ اللَّهَ نَزْوَلُ عَنْدَكَ مِنْذِ يَوْمِ الْارْبَعَا). Closes with same formula as it opens with.

**VERSO**

Address of letter on recto.
*Papyrus no:* A28 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 27.5 cm. x 24.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 + 7 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

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

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فذاك واطال الله بفاك. Concerns family matters. Mentions the mother of the addressee and closes with extensive greetings from various people.

**VERSO**
Address of letter on recto: To ‘Abū Bakr Hasan ibn Ja’far .. from Qāsim ibn Sa’īd in Fustāṭ. Together with 7 line of faint pen exercises.
**Papyrus no:** A29 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 18 cm. x 31.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Large spaces between lines (4cm). Text missing at the top and bottom.

**Text:**

**Script**

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Final yā’ extends backwards in a horizontal line.

**Content**

Letter. Opening is missing. Official correspondence containing instructions to somebody subordinate to the writer. Writer refers to the arrival of certain benefactors (المغطرين) at the place of the recipient of the letter.
Papyrus no: A30 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 8.5 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

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/sin normally has no teeth.

Content
Letter. Text opens, after basmala: ابَقَاءِ اللهِ وَحَفْظُكَ وَأَكْرُمَكَ. The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee. He mentions monetary transactions involving qirāts and dāniqs.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A31 (Glass)

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

**Physical description:** 21 cm. x 7 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 22 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

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

**Content**

Letter. Text opens, after basmala: حَفْظُكَ اللَّهُ وَعَافِيكَ وَاتَّمِنعُ بِكَ صالِحا. Concerns transactions in various commodities, including wheat (قمح). The addressee is requested to make purchases with the request formula: فَأَن رَأَى الشَّرَى مِنِهِ فَفَعَّلْتَ.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
*Papyrus no:* A43 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 25 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Text missing on the left side. Written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

*Script*
Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/Dal* sometimes approximates to a straight line. Sporadic diacritical dots.

*Content*
Petition to an 'amīr concerning a debt. Text opens after *basmala:* ἀπελεύθερωσέν μοι ὁ θεός. The petitioner is a man called al-Hasan ibn Turaybi al-Bustabāni. Mentions the payment of rent over a period of two years at 80 dinār a year. The request formula is: ‘If the 'amīr resolves to look into my affair, he will be rewarded for this’. Closes with the same blessing formula as occurs at the beginning. Published: G. Khan, BSOAS ...
**Papyrus no:** A47 (Glass)

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

**Physical description:** 19 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. جيم, حاء, and كاف are usually written with a single curved stroke. دال/دال approximates to a straight line. سين/سين normally has teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens, after *بسم الله و遇难اك واياك*: حفظتلك الله وعاناك وياك. Concerns various monetary transactions. Mentions *dinārs* and *qirāts*. The close of the text is missing.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: A50 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 24.5 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 18 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing at the top and bottom.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Jīm, ḥāʾ and kāʾ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dal approximates to a straight line.

Content
Letter. Opening missing. Concerns commerce. Refers to the transfer of various sums of money.
*Papyrus no: A55 (Glass)*

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

**Physical description:** 17 cm. x 16.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Fine pen. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial kāf is horizontally extended. Final yāʾ is often horizontally extended.

**Content**

Letter. Exhibits the opening formulae characteristic of the early papyrus period. Opens with the address: لا يَزْكِرُ مِنْ مَسَّك مُولِي عَمَرَان which is followed by the early blessing formula: فَلَاي إِحْمَادُ الْبَلَكِ الَّذِي لا أَهْلُهُ الاَّ هُوَ The content of the letters is largely formulaic. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A56 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 26 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. The tail of final yā' extends to the right.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens on line after *basmala* with the address لاجئ معاوية, followed on the next line with the formula حافظاً الله وياك. Concerns the affair of a certain woman. The writer states that he has order 'her messenger' (رسولها) to do something.

**VERSO**

Faint traces of two lines, of a text of uncertain content.
Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 24 cm. x 21 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif generally 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/ṣīn normally has no teeth.

Content
Letter. Text opens, on the same line as the basmala: ابقاك الله وحفظك وزاد في احسانه. Addressed to a mother, requesting her to write. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto: من محمد بن جعفر .. إلي .... بالضطاط
Papyrus no: A66

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 12 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text is missing at the bottom.

Text:

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

Content
Petition. Text opens after basmala: The writer states that he has sent a certain group of people a letter and that he has sent the addressee a copy of this letter yesterday. The writer request the addressee to allow this group of people to 'go out': 'If you, may God prolong your life, should resolve to allow them to leave, may you do so and be rewarded, God willing.'
**Papyrus no:** A67 (Box 4)

Two pieces.

**PAPYRUS A**

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

**Physical description:** 23 cm. x 11 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines, parallel to the fibres. On both sides the ink is very faint. Text missing at the bottom.

**Text:**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim, hā* and *kā* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl* approximates to a straight line.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: لاَ تَرَكْكِ اللَّهُ وَحَفْظَكَ. The writer states that he is concerning to hear from the addressee that he is detained from coming.

**PAPYRUS B**

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

**Physical description:** 21 cm. x 11 cm. Writing on both sides. one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Ink is very faint. Text missing at the bottom.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

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

**Content**
Letter. Opens after *basmala*: اَطْلَالِ اللَّهِ يَفْتَكَ وَاعْزَرَكَ. The text after initial blessing has been lost.

**VERSO**

**Script** *Dāl* approximates to a straight line.

**Content**
Faint vestiges of a text relating to commerce.
Papyrus no: A70 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 27 cm. x 21 cm. Small lacunae 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, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

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/sin normally has no teeth.

Content
Letter. Right corner of the text is missing. Extant portion of opening formula reads: حفظ الله وعافاك. Refers to the payment of kārāj tax. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO
Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A71 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 25.5 cm. x 20 cm. Large *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in brown ink, 15 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 4 lines in the right margin. Verso, written in brown ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl* approximates to a straight line. Initial kāf is hairpin shaped. *Sīn* normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics, two diacritical dots being written vertically or obliquely. The diacritic of *fā’* is written below the letter.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ُحَفُّظُكَ اللَّهُ وَابْقِي. Concerns a debt.

**VERSO**

Vestiges of the address of the letter on the recto: [لايي حفص]
Papyrus no: A72 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 27.5 cm. x 15 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 6 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 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. Sīn normally has no teeth.

Content
Letter. Beginning and left side are lost. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions the shipment of various goods, including wheat (قمح).

VERSO

Script
Final ‘alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Jīm, hā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Sīn is written without teeth.

Content
Account. Entries are headed by names of people. Amounts are expressed in Greek numerals.
**Papyrus no:** A73 (Glass)

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

**Physical description:** 17 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres, and 3 lines in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final ‘*alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim, hā*’ and *kā*’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin/ṣīn* normally has no teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اَكْرُمُكَ اللهُ وَحَفْظُكَ. Mentions various transactions concerning agricultural produce, include wheat (قمح). Closes with the same blessings as it begins with.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A74 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 21 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

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

*Content*


**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A76

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

**Physical description:** 18.5 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres, and one line in top margin, upside down relative to the rest of the text.

**Text:**

*Script*
Large hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sin/sin normally has teeth.

*Content*
Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطَلال الله بِقَالَ يَا سَيِدِي وَادَمْ عَزْك. Mentins small children (هذه الاطفال صغار). The writer refers to the letter as
**Papyrus no:** A88 (Glass)

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

**Physical description:** 20.5 cm. x 13.5 cm. Small lacunae 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

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

*Content*

Letter. Text opens, after basmala, with a prayer that the recipient recovers from an illness:

The body of the letter contains further wishes for recovery.

**VERSO**

Address of the letter on the recto: من عبد الله بن شاكر إلى أحمد بن عبد الله.