Papyrus no: A402 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 10 cm. Small lacunae 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. Jim, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin/ṣin normally has teeth.

Content
Letter. Text opens, after basmala: اكرمك الله. Concerns transactions relation to agricultural produce. Closes with the same formula as it opens with.
Papyrus no: A403 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 10 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres, and two lines in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres, and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

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

Content
Letter. The beginning is missing. The writer requests the addressee to send urgently to a certain Hārith.

VERSO
An appendix to the letter on the recto conveying greetings from various people.
**Papyrus no:** A404 (Glass)

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

**Physical description:** 18 cm. x 14 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, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Large hand. Final ‘alif generally does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sin*/*sin* normally has teeth.

*Content*

Fragment of a literary text. The numerous *lacunae* do not permit a more specific description of contents.

**VERSO**

*Script*

Final ‘alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *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*

Fragment of a letter. The beginning and end are missing. Contains a request formula: ...

* غراءك اطالا يدك فأكل مي ...*
**Papyrus no:** A413 (Box 3)

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

**Physical description:** 24 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'ālīf extends below the connecting stroke. ʻīm, hāʾ and kāʾ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Initial and medial kāf curve round to the left. Sin normally has no teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after *ḥasmala:* اکرمک الله و حفظک و ایباقک واتم نعمه علیک. The writer acknowledges receipt of a letter from the addressee. Concerns commercial matters. The beginning of a request formula is preserved: ...

**VERSO**

Address of the letter on the recto: ...

لایی سعید اکرمک لله.
**Papyrus no:** A417 (Box 3)

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

**Physical description:** 29 cm. x 16.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 21 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 12 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. *Jim, hā’* and *kā’* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sin* and *ṣin* normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

**Content**

Letter addressed to a woman. Text opens after *basmala*, on the same line: دُنِيك حبيبي سيدي. Concerns a legal dispute.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Final ‘alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jim, hā’* and *kā’* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl* ḏal approximates to a straight line. *Sin* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions registration (تسجيل) and a servant boy (انعلام).
**Papyrus no:** A421 (Glass)

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

**Physical description:** 22 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres, and 3 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 10 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 teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. The writer reports that he gave one dinār to somebody to aid in some adversity (*وَفَقَد دَفْعَتِ الْيَدَ يَدِهِمْ عِنْدَ مَا رَأَيْتَ مِنْ امْرِهِ ما رَأِيَْ*).

**VERSO**

Script

Final 'alif normally 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 normally written with teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee and refers to wages (*غَصْبَة* due from the addressee. End is missing.
**Papyrus no:** A423 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 28 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 21 lines, parallel to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in right margin, very faint. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. 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. *Jīm, hāʾ* and *kāʾ* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin* has no teeth and is surmounted by a bar.

*Content*
Fragment of a letter. Beginning is missing. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions various payments.

**VERSO**

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

*Content*
Fragment of a letter. The writing is too faint to read in most places.
**Papyrus no:** A 429 (Box 2)

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

**Physical description:** 25 cm. x 6 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 12 lines, parallel to the fibres, badly rubbed.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Features of early papyrus script. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl bends back to the right at the top. The Medial and final 'ayn/gayn is 'V' shaped. Final ḥā' is horizontally elongated. Sporadic diacritics. Dots on șin are arranged in a horizontal line.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. The right, left and bottom sides are missing. Parts of the blessing formulae are preserved.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Early papyrus script. Dāl bends back to the right at the top.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. The right, left and bottom sides are missing. Most of text has been obliterated by rubbing.
**Papyrus no:** A 432 (Box 2)

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

**Physical description:** 26 cm. x 7 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 18 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 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. *Sin* and *Sin* normally have no teeth, *sin* is surmounted by a horizontal bar.

**Content**
Letter. Obliterated on right side. Concerns trade.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Final ‘*alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim* is written with a single curved stroke.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. Top and bottom are missing.
**Papyrus no:** A434 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 23.5 cm. x 9 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. The sheet has been formed by glueing together two pieces of papyrus, the joint running from top to bottom. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres, some very faint. Verso, written in black ink, 19 lines, parallel to the fibres, + 3 from another text, at right angles to the fibres, on the second of the two pieces that are glued together.

**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 has no teeth.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after basmala: بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ. Concerns the release of somebody (اعف عنه). The writer states that 'the 'amīr will not oppose you, God willing' (لا تختلف عن شأ ٱللَّهِ). Closes with the formula وَمَثَلَ الصَّدرِ , i.e. repeat the opening blessings.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin is written with teeth.

**Content**
Letter, written in different hand from the one on the recto but with similar formulae. Text opens after basmala: بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ. It seems to be the reply to the recto. The writer states that 'we have released him' (اعف عنك). Closes with the formula وَمَثَلَ الصَّدرِ. On the right there are traces of the opening formulae of another letter. This was was written on a separate sheet, which was later glued to the main piece.
**Papyrus no:** A435 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 25 cm. x 8 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. Faint.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

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

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله وحفظك وامنع بك. The writer instructs the addressee to confirm the receipt of something.

**VERSO**
Traces of the addresss of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A 436 (Box 2)

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

**Physical description:** 13 cm. x 25 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Jim, ха' and ƙa' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight stroke.

**Content**
Letter. Beginning missing. Concerns commerce. Refers to monthly transactions. Ends with the formula: اطال الله بقاك ودام عزك وكرامتك واتم نعمته عليك وزاد في احسانه عليك
Closes with the *tasliya.*
Papyrus no. A 439 (Box 2) Ragheb, photography. 24.3.93.
**Papyrus no:** A441 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 25 cm. x 13 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres (NB!). Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. Jim, ha' and ka' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dal/dal approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: ابِنَاكَ اللهِ وَحَفِظْكَ وَامْتَعِبَهُ. The writer replies to a request of the addressee concerning wheat that he has none but that someone had promised to give him some: وقد أوعدني رجل ان يهب لي شيء Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

**VERSO**

Address of the letter on the recto: .... لاَيِبِي عِبَاد اللهِ إِبَاهِهِ اللّهُ مِن...
**Papyrus no:** A445 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 27 cm. x 11 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 8 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke and other times does not. *Jīm*, *ḥā* and *kā* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin/sīn* normally has no teeth.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. The right side is missing. The opening formula is missing. The addressees are asked not to oblige the writer to speak to somebody (ولَا تحوِّجوني إلى الكلام). Mentions bedouin Arabs (العرب). Closing blessing contains the phrase 'may he (God) be sufficient for the burden of trouble'.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sin/sīn* is written with teeth. There are sporadic consonantal diacritics. Two dots are written on a vertical plane.

**Content**
Short note. Address is written at the top above the basmala: إلى ... ابقاء الله. The text of the letter omits an opening formula. It begins: يدخل هذا الرجل الذي ... هذه الغلة بيت مظل وفرش حوله جاف 'let the man who ... this produce enter a sheltered place with dry bedding around him'. No closing formula.
**Papyrus no:** A494 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 21 cm. x 10.5 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, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*
Final 'alif usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *hā’* and *kā’* are written with a single curved stroke. *Sin*/šin have no teeth, *sin* being surmounted by a horizontal bar.

*Content*
Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطَّالِ اللَّهُ يَبْقَاكَ وَادَاَمَ عَرْكَ وَكُرَامْتَكَ جَعَلْتَ مِنْ كُلِّ سَوْفَادَاكَ. Short note about commercial transactions. Closes with the *tasliya*.

**VERSO**

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

*Content*
Letter. Text opens after *basmala* with formula: اطَّالِ اللَّهُ يَبْقَاكَ وَادَاَمَ عَرْكَ وَكُرَامْتَكَ وَسَعَادَتَكَ وَاعْلَامَكَ اَعْرَكَ اللَّهَ اَنَاَ وَزَادَ فِي اِحْسَانِ الْيَلِكَ The body of the text opens: ... The writer informs the addressee of that certain people have been detained. Closes with the *tasliya*. 