*Papyrus no:* A503 (Box 7)

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

*Physical description:* 25 cm. x 8 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 23 lines, parallel to the fibres + 1 line in right margin.

*Text:*

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm, hā* and *kā* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn/sīn* normally has no teeth.

*Content*

Draft of a letter. Text opens after *basmala:* الآركمك الله. The writer refers to wheat *(نَعْمَاء).* Many repetitions and deletions.

**VERSO**

*Script*

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

*Content*

Letter. The beginning is obliterated. Concerns the delivery of wheat *(نَعْمَاء).*
**Papyrus no:** A504 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 21 cm. x 6.5 cm. 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, 15 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Jim is written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight stroke.

*Content*

Fragment of a letter. Beginning of opening formula reads: ...جعلت فذاك.

**VERSO**

*Script*

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

*Content*

Letter. Text opens after basmala: ...ابنك الله وحفظك. Concerns a slave girl (جارية).
**Papyrus no:** A505 (Box7)

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

**Physical description:** 20.5 cm. x 13.5 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**

Final 'alif in most cases does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dal* approximates to a straight line. Sporadic diacritics.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطَّل الله بقاك يا ابا جعفر ودام عزك. The writer requests the addressee to come to him at the time of the afternoon prayer.
Papyrus no: A507 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 17.5 cm. x 12 cm. 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, 11 lines, parallel to the fibres, + 2 lines in the right margin. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet.

Text:

RECTO

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

Content
Letter. Opening is obliterated. Write asks the addressee to send him a letter (الرقمة) concerning various people.

VERSO

Script
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Jim, hā' and ǧā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Sin/ṣin is written without teeth.

Content
Fragment of a letter. The beginning is obliterated. Mentions ḥarāj tax. At the top of the leaf there is an address (من محمد بن أحمد ...), which relates to the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A508 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 11 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. Jim, hā' and ǧā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/ḍāl approximates to a straight line.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala: جعلنل الله من كل سوء ومكره فداك. Concerns a meeting with the addressee. Closes with the tasliya.
Script
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Jim, hāʾ and kāʾ 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.

Content
Beginning of a letter. Text opens after basmala with long blessing formula: اطلاع الله بفاقك وافادم عرك وكرامتك دون نبينك وسعادتك واتم نعمه عليك وزاد في احسناءك اليك وجعلني من كل سوء ومكروه فداك
Papyrus no: A 509

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

Physical description: 20.5 x 12.5 cm. Lacunae in the top half. Writing on both sides in black ink. Recto: 14 lines. Verso: 4 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written across the breadth of the papyrus piece parallel to the fibres. The script on the verso is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif regularly extends below the connecting stroke.
Initial ra’ written with a very high hasta in (line 12).
Sporadic diacritics. Three dots are written over sin arranged in a horizontal line in (line 1), where the letter is written without teeth. Elsewhere sin is written with teeth and without diacritical dots.

Orthography
Defective orthography of long a in name ’Abū al-Qāsim.

Content
Letter. Address at the top above the basmala: امات ابى القسم اباه الله حيالك وادام سعادتك. The addressee is requested to pass on instructions to a third party and reply to the addressee.

VERSO

Script
Resembles script used in later Fātimid official correspondence. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Unconventional ligature of 'alif to following letter.

Content
The end of three lines of text and the traces of a fourth. There are wide spaces between the lines (3-4cm.), which is characteristic of official correspondence. It appears to be some kind of official letter. The addressee is referred to in second person ( عليك line 1).
**Papyrus no:** A 510

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

**Physical description:** 19 x 10 cm. Lacunae in places. Writing on both sides in black ink. Recto: 10 lines. Verso: 12 lines + 1 line in right margin. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written across the breadth of the papyrus piece parallel to the fibres. The script on the verso is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Dāl approximates to a straight vertical stroke. Sporadic diacritics. Fā has a superscribed dot.

*Content*

Letter. Opens: جعلت فداك. The addressee is requested to send news of himself and of a certain 'Abū Milḥ (فاكتب اكرمنك الله الي ... خبرك وخبر امو ملح).

**VERSO**

*Script*

Final 'alif regularly extends below the connecting stroke. Final nun has a long straight oblique stroke in من ('the one who' line 7).

*Content*

Fragment of a letter. Only the right side of the lines are extant. The beginning is lost. The addressee is requested to deliver something to the man conveying the letter (باع). There is reference to the sale of a small house (ewriterه 'he sold his small house'). A certain 'Abū Ya'qūb is mentioned in the margin.
**Papyrus no:** A 516

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

**Physical description:** 215 x 5 cm. Lacunae in the top half. Writing on both sides in black ink. Recto: 6 lines. Verso: 3 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written along the length of the papyrus piece at right angles to the fibres. The script on the verso is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*
Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Sin normally has teeth. Sporadic diacritics. A dot is written over the ra' in درهمين (line 2). The tail of final kaf is extend in final word of the text to fill the line.

*Content*
Letter. The text opens on the same line as the basmala: جملعك فداك The addressee is requested to send two dirhams and also ripe, juicy fruit. He is not to send it if it is not ripe. Note the lack of feminine agreement of the adjective at the end of the nominal phrase in 'juicy, ripe fruit'. The letter closes: جملعك فداك.

**VERSO**

*Script*
Larger than recto Final 'alif regularly extends below the connecting stroke. Sin has teeth.

*Content*
The opening formula of a letter. It may be a writing exercise. The first word of the basmala is written twice. The formula reads ابقاك الله وحفظك وامن نعمته لديلك وزاد في احسانه اليك.
Papyrus no: A 520

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

Physical description: 21 x 6 cm. Top of text missing. Writing in black ink at right angles to the fibres. 6 lines. Verso is blank.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. There are some features of early papyrus script. In some cases 'alif bends to the right at the bottom. The body of ṭā' and initial kāf are horizontally extended. The bottom stroke of initial 'ayn is extended to the right. The tail of final mim is very short. The upper strike of dal, however, does not turn back at the top.

Content
The end of a letter. The addressee is asked to convey greetings to various people, all of who are women: 'Umm Ḥabīb, Saʾīda, 'Umm ʿUmar, 'Umm Mūsā.
**Papyrus no:** A 526

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

**Physical description:** 23 x 11 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in reddy-brown ink, 5 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 regularly extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sin* normally has teeth.

*Content*
Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بفاك وجعلت فذاك. The writer refers to a servant (عَلَم).

**VERSO**

*Script*
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sin* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

*Content*
Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala* with long blessing formula: اطال الله بفاك وادام عزك وكرامتك وونعك وسعادتك واتم نعمة عليه وزاد في إحسانه يكون وجعلت عينك وكمروه فذاك.
**Papyrus no:** A528 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 26 cm. x 12 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 5 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 sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. 'Im, hā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dal approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has teeth.

**Content**

**VERSO**

**Script**
The top of 'alif slants to the left. Sād/dād is horizontally elongated.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. Only the first few letters of each line are extant. Wide spaces between lines (up to 7cm.).
**Papyrus no:** A 532

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

**Physical description:** 22 x 13 cm. Writing on one side only in black ink at right angles to the fibres. 9 lines + 1 line in left margin. There are small *lacunae* in the middle. On the blank verso there is staining, which may be caused by the seal.

**Text:**

*Script*
Final *'alif* sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. When extending below usually bends to the left at the bottom. Final *ya* is occasionally written with a loop at the top.

*Content*
Fragment of a letter. Beginning missing. The writer reports on the health of various people and requests the addressee to reply to his letter.
Papyrus no: A 533

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

Physical description: 20.5 x 10.5 cm. Fibres frayed around the top and side edges. Writing on both sides in black ink. Recto 11 lines, at right angles to fibres and at right angles to the text on the verso. Verso, 3 lines. 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 sometimes extends below the connecting.

Content
Letter. Traces of address above the basmala. It is separated from it by a space of 4cm. Text opens after basmala: ْعَفَانَا اللَّهُ وَأَيَامَكَ مِنَ السُّفِينَة. The writer refers to a the unloading of a ship (سفينة). Closes with the hamdala.

VERSO

Script
Larger script than on recto. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Connecting strokes of letters and also the tails of final ya’, kaf and ta’ are elongated to fill lines.

Content
Closing formula of a letter: ْحَفَظَ اللَّهُ وَأَيَامَكَ فِي نَعْمَهُ عَلَيْكَ. This formula is followed by وَكَتَب ‘and it has been written’ to mark the closure of the text.
**Papyrus no:** A535 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 24 cm. x 9 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, 17 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

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

*Content*
Letter. The left side has been torn away. The beginning is missing. Mentions the coast (الساحل). The sender asks the addressee to write to him.

**VERSO**

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

*Content*
Letter. Text opens after *hāsmala*. Mentions a certain Isma'īl. Closes with the formula: فاعلم ذلك اكرمك الله وابقاك وحفظك واتم نعمة عليك وعندك.
**Papyrus no:** A 536

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

**Physical description:** 22.5 x 11.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto on one side only in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres. The top of the text has been cut off.

**Text:**

*Script*

Final 'alif regularly extends below the connecting stroke. 
*Jīm, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Sin normally has teeth.*

The orthography reflects the cliticization of the prepositional phrase *li* (‘to me’) to the verb in *(قال لي)* ‘he said to me’.

*Content*

End of a letter. Last line of main body of letter, followed by five lines containing the closing formula, which is a long version of the type of formula that occurs at the opening of letters: اطول الله بقاك وادام رك وكرامتك ونبوتمك وسعادتك وانعمه عليك وزاد فضلنا واحسانه عليك …
Papyrus no: A 537

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

Physical description: 19.5 x 11 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only in black ink. 11 lines written at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif regularly extends below the connecting stroke. Sin and sin are written without teeth. Sporadic diacritics, including tā' (لع). 

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala: ﷺ The writer requests the addressee to send (wajjih) something to him quickly. Closes with the same formula as it opened with.
Papyrus no: A538 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 14 cm. x 25 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 7 lines, parallel to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke.

Content
End of a letter. Greetings conveyed to various people. Closes with blessing formula: ... جعلني { الله فذاك من كل شر والطلاق الله يبقاك ودام عرك ... } followed by the tasliya.

VERSO

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. "Jim, ḥā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke.

Content
Letter. Opening formula is obliterated. Mentions sugar-cane (العصب) and a press (المعصرة). Closes with the formula: إبقاك الله وجعلني الله فذاك من سر ان شاء الله ... an address appears at the top of the leaf: الى ... مولى رفاعة بن محمد.
Papyrus no: A540 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 55 cm. x 26 cm. Two halves of one leaf. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres.

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. Sin has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

Content
Letter. Beginning is missing. The writer acknowledges receipt of a letter from the addressee. Mentions a certain 'Abū al-Qāsim ibn Muḥammad.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto also a second letter:

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content
Beginning of a letter. Text opens after basmala with blessing formula: جملت فداك ياخي واطال الله يفاك وادام عزك. There are traces of the body of the letter, in which the writer states that he has bought something for the addressee.
**Papyrus no:** A543 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** Two pieces from the same leaf. 24 cm. x 22 cm, 26 cm. x 25 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 22 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 extends below the connecting stroke. Jim, ḥā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/ḍāl approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has not teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: (أطال الله بفاك وَاذاك عزيز ونابيتك وكرامتك وسلامتك) Only fragments of the body of the letter are extant. Mentions a certain ‘Abū al-‘Abbās (also referred to as ‘Abū ‘Abbās, without the definite article). Closes with the formula with which it opened.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto and another text at right angles to this:

**Script**

Small hand. Sin is written with teeth.

**Content**

Fragment of an account. The entries are headed by personal names and contain a series of Greek numerals.
*Papyrus no:* A544 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 29 cm. x 28 cm. Small lacunae 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, 7 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. Jīm, hā’ and ǧā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin and sīn have no teeth and are surmounted by a stroke.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after basmala: ...

The writer mentions the sale of trefoil (بِلْدَة) and states that the companions of the addressee had given him ten ‘washed’ dinārs (وَأَنَّ الْمُنْتَجَاءَ عَشَرَةَ دِينَارٍ بيناء). He requests the addressee to reply with the formula: فَأَرْكُكَ أَعْرَكُ اللَّهُ فِي مَا ... والكتاب عن ... وحويجك موفقًا ان شاء الله. Closes the with blessing with which it opened.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto and another document:

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

**Content**
Account. List of various items followed by Greek numerals.
*Papyrus no:* A545 (Box 5)

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

*Physical description:* 28 cm. x 26 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. Faint in places, due to rubbing.

*Text:*

**RECTO**

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

**Content**
Letter. Beginning is obliterated. The writer requests the addressee to send certain items urgently.

**VERSO**
Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A546 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 30 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres. 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. Initial kāf is hairpin shaped. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line.

**Content**


**VERSO**

**Script**

Final 'alif usually extends below the connecting stroke. Medial sād is horizontally extended. Kāf is hairpin shaped. The tail of final yā’ extends to the right.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Refers to a village (قرية).
**Papyrus no:** A547 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 34 cm. x 26 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 20 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 3 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line parallel to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the text on the verso. 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. *Dāl/ḏāl* approximates to a straight line. The tail of final ya’ extends to the right.

*Content*

Letter. Beginning is missing. Requests the urgent conveyance of some item.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto and of an account, written at right angles to the fibres, containing Greek numerals.
**Papyrus no:** A549 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 31 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif usually extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. Initial *kāf* is horizontally compressed.

**Content**

Letter. Opening is obliterated. Refers to the sending of a note (رَنُقَت). Closes with a blessing: ... إِنَّاللَّه يُبَلْكِيكَ.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A550 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 31 cm. x 22 cm. Large *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. Some lines are very faint due to rubbing.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Dal/*dal approximates to a straight line. *Sin* often has no teeth. In one case it is surmounted by three dots in place of teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after *basmala:* ... اطلاع الله بِثَّك. The writer states that he has sent the address a sealed purse (صحاب نفسه) containing 5/6 of a dinár and a ‘grain’ (عُنبر). Closes with the conveyance of greetings and the *hamdala.*

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A552 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 30 cm. x 23.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 22 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines (upside down relative to the script on the recto) + 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl/ḍāl approximates to a straight line.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after *basmala:* حفظك الله وابنهاك. The writer expresses joy that the addressee and his household are well. He refers to a woman called 'Amat al-Rahmān, concerning who he wished to seek a decision from the governor (وأردت). Mentions later the official known as *مديرة السائلان* (ان استسقى عليها بالسلطان). He states that he wishes to sell a house (انا عازم ابيع ذلك المنزل).

**VERSO**

End of the letter on the recto. Closes: *السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.* At the other end of the sheet there are traces of the address.
**Papyrus no:** A556 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 21.5 cm. x 8.5 cm. One side of sheet is missing. 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 extends below the connecting stroke. Sin/Sin normally has no teeth. The horizontal stroke of letters at the end of the line is extended.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. Right side is missing. Most of opening formula is lost. Surviving texts has حفظك الله. Mentions a certain كبيل ابن مقاره and a district. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

**VERSO**
Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: A559 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 24 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, 9 lines, parallel to the fibres, upside down relative to the script on the recto. Some text obliterated due to rubbing.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jīm, hā' and ǧā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sporadic consonantal diacritics. Two dots are written obliquely.

Content
Letter. The beginning has been obliterated. The confirms receipt of a letter and states that he has sent the addressee and states that a group of people have set off on Friday to visit the addressee.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto. The writer asks the addressee to send a message to a certain woman posthaste (مع كل مكارى). Closes with the conveyance of greetings.
**Papyrus no:** A561 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 29 cm. x 22 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *hāʾ* and *kāʾ* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dal/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin* normally has no teeth. The tail of final *yāʾ* sometimes extends to the right.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اَلَّا ِبِكَ َفَتَاكَ وَادَمَ َعَزُّكَ. Main body of the text opens: قد تعرف جعملني فنذاك ... Most of content has been obliterated.

**VERSO**
Traces of the address of the letter on their recto.
**Papyrus no:** A562 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 34 cm. x 20.5 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

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

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: ﷺ. The body of the letter begins on a new line, that is separated from the initial blessing by a space. Consists mainly of good wishes conveyed to the addressee.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A563 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 30 cm. x 22 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines, at right angles to the fibres + in the top margin, upside down relative to the rest of the text. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. Faint in places due to rubbing.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

Script  
Final 'alīf extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Initial kāf is hairpin shaped.

Content  
Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فدك واطال الله يفاك. The writer complains that he has not received a letter from the addressee for many days (لم ارا لك كتبين منذ ايام).

**VERSO**  
Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: A564 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 20 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. Faint due to rubbing in places.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Žim, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Đāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Šin normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content
Letter. The first few words of opening blessing are missing: مكر رامتك وتاينك وسعادتك واتم نعمه عليك . Mentions the house of Alexander (منزل الاسكندر). End missing.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto: لا اي القسم اكرمهم الله
**Papyrus no:** A565 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 25 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. 'Im, 'a` and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: جعلت فداك وادام الله كرامتك. Request the addressee to send his news. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

**VERSO**

Address of the letter on the recto: إلى عجد الله أبو محمد من عمرو ابن عبد الرحمان.
**Papyrus no:** A566

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

**Physical description:** 17.5 x 12 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Bottom missing. Writing on one side only in dark brown ink. 7 lines, written at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**

Final 'alif regularly extends below the connecting stroke. The *hasta* of tā' slants to the right. Features of early papyrus script: The loop of mim is open. The upper stroke of final kāf bends to the right at the top. Wide spaces occur between some letters. Words are divided across lines.

**Content**

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala*: انعم الله مسائاك واطال في الخير بفاك. The writer refers to the delivery of herbs measured in *qīrāts* including قیراطين خیریه 'two *qīrāts* of viola alba (yellow gilliflower)' and قیراطين بنفسج 'two *qīrāts* of violets'.
**Papyrus no:** A567 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 30 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. Verso, written in black ink, 8 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has no teeth.

*Content*

Fragment of a letter. Beginning and end are missing. Paragraph divisions are marked by spaces between sentences. The writer requests information on various matters.

**VERSO**

*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 is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

*Content*

List of various items together with an amount expressed in qirāṭs.
Papyrus no: A568 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 31 cm. x 17 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, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final ‘alif usually extends below the connecting stroke. ‘Im, hā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dal approximates to a straight line. Sin and šin normally have no teeth and are surmounted by a stroke.

Content
End of a letter. In the extant portion the writer requests the addressee to send him his news. He uses a standard request formula: ان رأيت اطلاع الله بقاك ان تامر التكاب الي بخبرك وحالك وامرك ونهبك .... فعلت موقفا ان شاء الله Closes with a blessing (اطلاع الله بقاك ..) and the tasliya.

VERSO

Script
Final ‘alif does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content
Traces of an account expressing amounts in words.
*Papyrus no: A571 (Box 5)*

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

**Physical description:** 27.5 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tails of final mīm and final yā‘ extend to the right in a straight line. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line.

*Content*

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*. The body of the letter opens: حفظك الله وَابْتَقَكَّ يَا بَنِى مَكَّةُ لِمِثْلِي مَيْتَتَى. I sold foodstuffs ... to the nobility of Fustāṭ and closed an outstanding account (لاقَالَ مَا يَقْبِلُ). Refers to ‘large ships loaded with seven-hundred irdābbs of goods and four more ships’ (وَوَاحِدَ أَربَعَةٍ مَراكِب).

**VERSO**

Traces of the of the address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A572 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 27 cm. x 19 cm. Large lacunae. 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**

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

**Content**

Letter. Left side and bottom are missing. Text opens after basmala: ﷺ. Consists mainly of the conveyance of greetings.

**VERSO**

Continuation of the letter on the recto and its address.
**Papyrus no:** A579 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 30 cm. x 22 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, 15 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

*Content*

Letter. Beginning missing. Concerns commerical matters. The writer states that where he is wheat is selling at five waybas for a washed dinār (وانما القمح عندنا خامس ويبات بدينار مغسول).

**VERSO**

Continuation of the letter on the recto. Closes with the formula (i.e. blessings like those at the beginning) and finally the tasliya and the hasbala.
**Papyrus no:** A585 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 34 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres, upside down relative to the text on the recto. 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 usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dal/dal* approximates to a straight line. *Sin* normally has teeth.

**Content**
Report concerning financial matters. There is no clear epistolary opening. Mentions ‘maintenance expenditure to repair it’ and the ‘fiscus’ (بيت المال).

**VERSO**

**Script**
Large script. Vertical *hastae* are 2 cm. Spaces between lines are 5 cm. Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke.

**Content**
Fragment of official records of correspondence. Two entries, each introduced by the *basmala* record the content of letters sent by a certain *سوسوس بن كيل*.
Papyrus no: A588 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 35 cm. x 25 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Large script. Vertical hastae are 1.5 cm. 2 cm. Final ‘alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Sin and șin have no teeth. Șin is surmounted by a stroke. Connecting strokes are horizontally extended in places.

Content
Fragment of a letter. Beginning and left side is missing. Contains a request opening with the formula: ... ورايك اعزك الله في ... The section of the request is separated from the preceding sentence on the same line by a large space. The letter closes with a blessing opening ... اطال الله يفاك ... The blessing is in a separate paragraph.
**Papyrus no:** A589 (Box 6)

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

**Physical description:** 36 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in reddish ink, faint, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif generally 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/sin* normally has teeth.

**Content**
Letter. End is missing. Text opens, after *basmala:* اَلْيَلِمُنَّ. The writer informs his master that he wishes to undertake the pilgrimage (اردت الخروج) إلى الحج.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Final 'alif generally 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**
Letter. Text opens after *basmala:* اَلْيَلِمُنَّ. The writer states that he is pleased that the addressee is in good health (سرتى سلامتك). Closes with the same blessings as are found at the beginning.
**Papyrus no:** A597 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 30 cm. x 22 cm. Large lacunae in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 20 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin. Faint in places.

**Text:**

**Script**
Final 'alif usually extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim, ḥā' and ḫā' are usually written with a single curved stroke.*

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. The beginning is missing. Difficult to read on account of the faintness of the script. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.
Papyrus no: A598 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 29 cm. x 24 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 in places.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jîm, hâ' and kâ' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dâl/qâl approximates to a straight line.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala: اطال الله يبارك. Mentions a group of people (جماعة). Closes with the the blessing with which it opened.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: A592 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 23.5 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 19 lines, at right angles to the fibres. The script on the verso is upside down in relation to the that on the recto. The text on the right side of the recto and the verso has been largely obliterated by staining. Text at the bottom of the sheet is missing.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. Medial ‘ayn sometime has open loops. Sin normally has teeth.

Content
Letter. Opening formula is obliterated. The writer refers to the document as a ‘scroll’ (darj): ‘This scroll has been sent to you’. Concerns commerce. Mentions Sa’id ibn ‘Abi al-Rabi’.

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto. Mentions an ’amir, the governor (السلطان), and precious stones (الجوهر والياقوت).
Papyrus no: A 593 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 22.5 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, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif generally extends below the connecting stroke. Jim, hā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke.

Content
Letter addressed to a woman. The writer is also a woman. Text opens on the same line as the basmala: ﷽. The complains that the addressee has not written. Mentions a dyer (الصباغ).

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on recto and the address: ﻟ据说 ﻷك ﻷل ﻷم ﻷب