**Papyrus no**: A600 (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, 11 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 13 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. Jiim, 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. Text opens after basmala: اَللَّهِ اَيُّهَا الَّذِيَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَىٰ نَاسِ. The writer states that he intends to 'break the sugar cane and press it in a press': وَقَدْ عَزَمَنَا علَى كَسَرِ الْقَصْبَ وَعَصَرَهُ فِي مَعْصِرَةً. Closes with the same blessings as it began.

**VERSO**

**Script**

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

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Beginning and end are missing. Mentions the seeds of sugarcane (زرع القصب).
**Papyrus no:** A602 (Box 4)

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

**Physical description:** 25 cm. x 24 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 3 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*
Large script. The vertical *hastae* are 1.5 cm. - 2 cm. Large spaces are left between the lines (5 cm.). The stroke of final *kāf* is horizontally extended at the end of the line.

*Content*
Fragment from the lefthand corner of a letter. Remainder of opening formula, after the *basmala*: Text opens after *basmala*: (و)إذام عزك وكرامتك. Judging by the size of the script it is of an official nature.

**VERSO**

*Script*
Large script, Vertical *hastae* are 1 cm. - 2 cm. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sin* has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke. The connecting stroke between letters is extended in one instance.

*Content*
End of an official letter concerning the payment of maintenance (*النفقة*).
**Papyrus no:** A605 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 26 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, 18 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sin/sin normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: حفظك الله وعفاك وابناؤك. The writer states that he is worried since he has not received a letter from the addressee. Closes: اتتم الله علیك النعمة وهناك كرامته. At the bottom of the leaf there are traces of the address of the letter on the verso.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Same hand as recto.

**Content**

Letter. Only traces of the opening formula are extant. It has the form characteristic of the early papyrus period, though the script is characteristic of the 3rd century: ..

The writer states that he has bought 2 dinars of eggs to bring to the addressee. The close of the letter is obliterated.
**Papyrus no:** A607 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 31 cm. x 23 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, 8 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/sin normally has no teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala:* جعلت فذاك واعتك الله واكرمك. Written by a government clerk. Concerns agrarian administration. Refers to trefoil (فرط). There is a rosette shaped siglum in the top left corner of the document, which is found in government documents at this period.

**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/sin is written without teeth.

**Content**

**Papyrus no:** A626

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

**Physical description:** 17 x 15.5 cm. Writing on one side only, in black ink. 5 lines written at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

*Script*
Final ’alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Sin has no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke. Final nun approximates to a straight line.

*Content*
Verses of poetry.
**Papyrus no:** A627

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

**Physical description:** 17 cm x 19 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines + 4 lines in right and top margins. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written at parallel to the fibres. 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 stroke. Dāl approximates to a straight stroke, vertical stroke. Sporadic diacritics.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: ﷺ. The writer refers to trade in various commodities. He has delivered goods to the addressee through the agency of the ‘wife of Ahmad’ (مرت أحمد). The addressee is instructed to sell ‘dates’ or ‘earthenware vessel’ if he is able to sell for a dirham (و ان استباعت تلك الورنية بدرهم). The writer states that he has also send by the wife of Ahmad ‘a third of a dirham’ and the addressee is ask to send ‘a read dirham, a white dirham, half a yellow and half a black’ (درهم احمر ودرهم أبيض ونصف اصفر ونصف أسود).

**VERSO**

**Script**

High hastae. Final ‘alif regularly extends below the connecting stroke. Connecting strokes are extended to justify lines.

**Content**

Official account. Sums measured in dinārs. Refers to to provisions (العمرة) provided for various people, including the porters (الحمالين). Fustat is mentioned. In the spaces of the text there are pen exercises.
**Papyrus no:** A628 (Box 3)

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

**Physical description:** 22 cm. x 15.5 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines, parallel 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**
Small hand. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Ḡim, ḥā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has no teeth.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after basmala:  جعلني الله فداك واطال بقاك وكرامتك واتم نعته عليك The writer states that he has not seen the addressee for many days: لم ارك بسلامتك منذ ايام كبيرة (‘I have not seen you in your health for many days’) and that he has travelled to some place to seek word of him.

**VERSO**

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

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. Beginning, end and right side are missing. Mentions ‘Our Lord and Master, the Great 'Amīr’، سيدنا ومولانا الأمير العظيم اطال الله بقاه وادام عزه وعله.}
Papyrus no: A629

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

Physical description: 19 cm x 15.5 cm. Small lacunae at the top and in the middle. Writing on one side only in black ink, faint in places. 10 lines at right angles to the fibres.

Text:
Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. سد is horizontally extended with straight horizontal strokes in صف (line 3).

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala: [ ] The writer refers to transactions in the market (السوق).
Papyrus no: A630

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

Physical description: 12 cm x 18 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 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 is the remains of the original document. The text on the left side has been cut off. The script on the verso is written at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. The strokes of final dād and nūn are extended diagonally to the left. Final ya‘ is extended horizontally to the right.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala: ابِبَّناكَ اللَّهُ وَحَفْظَكَ وَانْتَ عَمَّهَ عِنْدَهُ. The writer refers to the cultivation of land.

VERSO

Script
Sād is horizontally compressed. Defective orthography of long ā in النصراني ‘the Christian’.

Content
Beginning of a receipt opening with the formula احدُ فلان... من فلان 'so-and-so took from so-and-so’. The two names both have the nisba النصراني ‘the Christian’.
**Papyrus no:** A631

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

**Physical description:** 13 cm x 17 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, 6 of which are very faint. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and is parallel to the fibres on the verso.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
The first line is written in larger script than the rest of the text. Initial ُبُ slants to the left. Lines 2-10: Final ʿاد extends below the connecting stroke.

**Content**
Line 1: The remains of larger text. Contains the personal name محمد بن الوليد.

**VERSO**

**Content**
Address of letter on recto.
*Papyrus no:* A632

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

**Physical description:** 14 x 15 cm. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres. The script on the verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Large script. Final 'ālīf does not extend below the connecting stroke. Final nun is extended obliquely to the left. Unconventional ligatures.

**Content**
Fragment from the middle of a letter. Contains blessings.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Written with fine pen. Strokes at the end of words extended.

**Content**
Pen exercises.
**Papyrus no:** A635

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

**Physical description:** 19 cm. x 11.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, faint in places. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. 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* does not extend below the connecting stroke. Letters at the end of lines and at the end of the opening blessing formula are horizontally extended.

**Content**
Letter. The right side of the text has been cut off. Remains of opening formula: ]]

**VERSO**

**Content**
Address of letter of recto. Over this a later hand has drawn a number of geometric shapes, including medalions.
*Papyrus no:* A688

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

**Physical description:** 17.5 x 8 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, faint. 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. Contains a list of commodities, which the writer requests the addressee to send, including 'chains' (سلسل). Mentions al-Fusṭāṭ.

**VERSO**

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

**Content**
List of commodities.