Papyrus no: A702

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

Physical description: 12 cm. x 21 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 10 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
Carefully executed. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The body of tāʾ and sād are horizontally extended with straight horizontal strokes. The tail of final yāʾ is extended to the right.

Content
Fragments of poetic prose (ṣaḥ), with rhyming lines.

VERSO

Content
Continuation of text of recto.
Papyrus no: A705

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

Physical description: 11 cm. x 21 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines + 1 line in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

Text:
RECTO
Script
Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial kāf is formed by one stroke.
Content
Letter. The initial blessings are mostly obliterated. The body of the text opens: (this) letter of mine (is sent) to you on Wednesday.

VERSO
Content
Address of letter on recto: من عبد الله جل محمد بن يوسف إلى فرح بن عبد الله. After this a later hand has added pen exercises in writing epistolary formulae.
*Papyrus no: A709*

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

**Physical description:** 20 cm. x 13 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 7 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the verso. The script on the verso, written at right angles to the fibres, is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sporadic consonantal diacritics. 
Fā' has one dot below and qāf one dot above.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens with the address before the basmala: أَلَيْ اهْتَمَبَ بِعَمَرٍ. After the basmala comes the initial blessing: حَفَظَكَ اللَّهُ وَعَافَكَ. The writer refers to the 'matter of the portico' (أمر السقيفة) and instructs him not to slacken his efforts with regard to it.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Various hands. Final 'alif generally extends below the connecting stroke. In one instance the stroke of dāl bends back at the top. Connecting strokes extended to fill out line. Defective orthography of long ā in شهادته (ṣahādatu, line 1)

**Content**
Witness clauses of a legal document. Includes the phrases: اشهده على شهادته بما في هذا الكتاب من اوله إلى آخره وكتب شهادته بيده. The witnesses state that they have written their testimonies with their own hand.
**Papyrus no:** A716

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

**Physical description:** 8.5 cm. x 15 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink that has become faint, 5 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial kāf is written with a single stroke.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. Contains the blessing أطال الله بقاك ودام عزك وكرامتك in the middle of the text.

**VERSO**

**Script**
The tail of final nun is extended to the left.

**Content**
End of an official document concerning agrarian administration. Probably a receipt for tax. The final line contains a reference to a measurement of land in faddāns, with Greek numerals.
**Papyrus no:** A723

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

**Physical description:** 16 cm. x 12.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 11 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and and on the verso parallel to the fibres. The text on the verso is written upside down relative to that on the recto.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Large script with wide spaces between the lines. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. The vertical hastae of letters are elongated.

**Content**
Fragment of an official document.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Final 'alif usually extends below the connecting stroke. Ḥāʾ is written once with a small stroke underneath (a cursive form of a miniature form of the letter).

**Content**
Fragment of a letter.
Papyrus no: A727

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

Physical description: 18.5 cm. x 12 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in reddy-brown ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in reddy-brown ink 5 lines, and black ink, 6 lines. The script on the recto is written parallel to the fibres and on the verso at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after basmala: الكربك الله يسعده... واسعده بعففته. Concerns trade of fish. Mentions the matter of the muqāṭā'a.

VERSO

Content

Continuation of letter on recto. Above this are some notes from a commercial account (written in black ink). It appears that these notes were the original text on the papyrus and that it was subsequently used for the letter.
*Papyrus no:* A735

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

_Physical description:* 14.5 cm. x 13 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines + 2 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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_
Written with a fine pen. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Sin is written as a straight stroke surmounted by three dots arranged in a horizontal line.

_Content_
Letter. Text opens after _basnala:_ حافظنا الله و آياك من السوء. The writer states that he has heard that the addressee has been given instructions orally by his (the writer’s) father concerning something but that the addressee would like these in a written document (حجة تكون في يدك). The writer tells the addressee to be content with the oral instructions.

**VERSO**

_Script_
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Sin is written as a straight stroke surmounted by three dots arranged in a horizontal line.

_Content_
Fragment of a letter. The left side has been cut off. Concerns _karaṭ_ tax.
**Papyrus no:** A736

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

**Physical description:** 17 cm. x 12.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines, faint in places. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written parallel to the fibres and upside down relative 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. Strokes of final letters at the end of lines are extended diagonally to the left to fill out the line.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: جعلت فداك واطال الله بفاك وانم نعم عليك. The writer states that he has received the letter of the addressee. He instructs the addressee to take ten ‘irdabs of some commodity as commission for his services.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. extended spaces between some letters.

**Content**

Letter. Text missing on the left side. After basmala there is the initial formula: جعلت فداك واطال الله بفاك. Ends with the conveyance of greetings to various people: فاقراهم بسلام (i.e. fa-qra’hum bissalam) exhibiting, in the form بسلام scriptio defectiva of long ā and the phonetic spelling of the definite article.
Text:

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Note the orthography 'Oh, 'Abū al-Qāsim'.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: أطّال الله بفَّاك وَ [ ] وَجُفِّطْنِي مِن كُلِّ سُوْفٍ فَاذِك. The writer asks the addressee, 'Abū al-Qāsim, to convey the two pieces of cloth (الثوبين) and the kerchief (المنديل), which he had sent to him to their required destination and to take a sixth of a dinār from the man delivering the letter.

**VERSO**

**Content**

Address of letter on recto: .... 

لأني القسم اكرمه الله من ....
**Papyrus no:** A739

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

**Physical description:** 14.5 cm. x 12.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines + 2 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto and upside down relative to the text on the verso 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. Initial kāf is written with a single stroke.

*Content*

Letter. To the left of the basmala there is the note: اعذرني اعزك الله في القرآن: ‘Forgive me, may God strengthen you, concerning the papyrus’ (i.e. excuse the fact that I am using a sheet that has already been used). Text opens after basmala: جعلت فداك وإطلا الله يلفاك ودام كرامتك (بِقِيمَة). The writer states that he has received a note (بِقِيمَة) from the addressee concerning a debt owed to him by a certain ‘Abd-Allah al-Qanâ’î.

**VERSO**

*Content*

Fragment of an account, consisting of a list of Greek numbers followed by a diagonal checking mark.
Papyrus nos. 740, 743, 755 SEE JILL.
Papyrus no: A742

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

Physical description: 13.5 cm. x 13 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 12 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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 extends below the connecting stroke. Note the orthography حَتَى for حَتَّى.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala: ... اعلمنا إيفاك الله إن. Concerns the cultivation of barely. The addressee is requested to send barley to be planted in the place that has been eaten by worms. Also mentions the ‘partridges’ (كروان). The addressee’s opinion is sought with the formula: فاكتب إلى برايك حَتَى اعمل عليه.

VERSO

Script
Same hand as recto.

Content
Letter. Top and left side are missing.
Papyrus no: A743

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

Physical description: 11.5 cm. x 11 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, faint in places, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

**RECTO**

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. ḥīm, ḥā' and ẓā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/qāl approximates to a straight line. Sin/sin is written without teeth. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after basmala: اطمعل الله يبَعَاكَ وادَمَ عَرَكَ. The writer request the recipient to deliver some item. Closes with a formula that is the same as the one it opened with.

**VERSO**

Script

Very few Arabic letters are extant. 'Alif bends round to the left at the bottom of the stroke.

Content

Fragment of an account. The visible text consists of series of Greek numerals.
Papyrus no: A748

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

Physical description: 13 cm. x 17 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines. The script on the recto is written parallel to the fibres and on the verso at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke.

*Content*

Fragment of a letter concerning various agricultural products measured in 'irdabs and waybas. Beginning of text is missing.

**VERSO**

*Content*

Continuation of letter on recto.
**Papyrus no:** A752

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

**Physical description:** 18.5 cm. x 14 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black faded ink, 12 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 13 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Two hands. Lines 1-7: Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final yā extends to the right. Lines 8-12: Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Vertical hastae are elongated. The tail of final yā extends to the right. *Scriptio defectiva* of long ā in الكتاب (al-kitāb).

**Content**
Witness clauses of a legal document, written by the witnesses in their own hand (cf. line 6: شهد ... عليه ما في خط: وكتب شهادته بخطه). Refers to an *iqrār* 'acknowledgement': وَأَقرَّارَ فَاطِمَة ابْنَتَهُ ... 'So-and-so testified to what is in this document and the acknowledgement of Fāṭima daughter of ...'.

**VERSO**

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

**Content**
End of a letter. Contains conveyance of greetings to various people.
**Papyrus no:** A753

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

**Physical description:** 19.5 cm. x 11.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final ‘alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter concerning agricultural matters.

**VERSO**

**Content**

Continuation of letter on recto.
Papyrus no: A755

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

Physical description: 12 cm. x 11 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, 1 line, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Well executed script. 'Alif is vertically extended in places. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sin/sin is written with teeth.

Content
Draft of a letter. Opens after the basmala: حفظك الله وعافاك. Concerns the division of property.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A759

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

**Physical description:** 13 cm. x 13 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines + 2 lines in top margin. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final yā' extends to the right.

**Content**
Letter. End of opening formula extant: [عليك وزاد في احسانه لديك وعندهك]

**VERSO**

**Content**
Continuation of letter on recto on its address (لأبي القاسم اكرمه الله).
**Papyrus no:** A765

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

**Physical description:** 16.5 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only, in black ink, 6 lines. The script is written at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**
- Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final yā’ extends to the right.

**Content**
- Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله يفاك واداع عزك وجعلني عن كل سوء [فتاك]
Papyrus no: A767

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 12 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines. Verso, written in reddy-brown ink, 6 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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 does not extend below the connecting stroke. Sin is regularly written without teeth.

Content
Letter making a polite request. Text opens after basmala: اَلْلَّهُ بَقَاءَ سَيِّدِي. The request is expressed by the phrase: فَانْرَأَىِّ سَيِّدِي اعْرَأَهُ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَأْمُرُ لَهَا بِاْخْذَ الْتَّيْمَ ... فَعَلَّ الْلَّهُ. 

VERSO

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

Content
Fragment of a letter. Right side of text is missing. The writer makes a polite request expressed by the formula: فَانْرَأَىِّ سَيِّدِي . . فَعَلَّ الْلَّهُ. The writer refers to the letter as a ruq'ā.
Papyrus no: A770

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 10.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in reddy-brown ink, 6 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

Text:

**RECTO**

- **Script**
  - Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dal and āl are reduced to a single straight stroke.

- **Content**
  - End of a letter. Closing blessings.

**VERSO**

- **Script**
  - Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke.

- **Content**
  - End of a letter. Concerns betrothal of a woman.
**Papyrus no:** A771

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

**Physical description:** 12.5 cm. x 20 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, faint in places. Verso, written in black ink, 1 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala on the same line: اطَلَّاَلَّ‏‏‏‏اللَّهِ يَفْتَّ‏كَ‏وَأَدَمَّ عَزَكَ. Main body of letter begins: اعْلَمَكَ.

**VERSO**

**Content**

Address of letter on recto.
**Papyrus No:** A 772

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

**Physical Description:** 22.5 cm. x 11.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, some obliterated by smudging. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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. The tail of final yā’ is extended to the right.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after basmala: ... (بِسْمَ اللَّهِ رَحْمَةَ النَّبِيِّ)

**VERSO**

**Script**
The tail of final yā’ extends to the right.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. Right side is missing. The write requests the addressee to write to him (�َأَوَّلِكَ إِلَيْهِ).
Papyrus no: A 773

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 12 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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.

Content
Letter. Initial blessings after basmala are mostly obliterated. The main text of the letter opens: ... بلغني ال ... ‘it has been communicated to me that ...’ Note the conditional structure: ... فإن يكن يحتاج ... ‘if he needs ...’

VERSO

Content
Fragment of an account with Greek numerals and checking marks in the form of crosses.
**Papyrus no:** A 774

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

**Physical description:** 16.5 cm. x 14 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 1 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.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Sin is regularly written without teeth.

*Content*

Fragment of a letter. Text missing at the top and the right side. Concerns commercial transactions.

**VERSO**

*Script*

Sin has teeth. Final nūn is written as an extended oblique stroke.

*Content*

Basmala written as a pen exercise.
**Papyrus no:** A 775

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

**Physical description:** 11.5 cm. x 15 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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 extends below the connecting stroke. The loop of *mim* is usually open.

*Content*

Lines of poetry.

**VERSO**

*Script*

Sad is horizontally compressed.

*Content*

End of a letter. Top and right sides are missing. Closes with the *tasliya*: صلى الله على محمد واله وصحبه وسلم تسليما.
Papyrus no: A 776

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

Physical description: 13.5 cm. x 15 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written parallel 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 in most cases does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content
Fragment of a letter. Top of text is missing. The writer requests the addressee to send him four dīnārs and refers to an item of business with a certain 'Abū 'Ayyūb.

VERSO

Script
Final nūn is horizontally extended.

Content
Fragment of a letter. Only the beginning of the last three lines is extant. It appears to be a formal petition. Line 2 begins with the request formual: ...
**Papyrus no:** A 777

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

**Physical description:** 19.5 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines, faint in places. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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 does not extend below the connecting stroke.

**Content**
Letter. The initial blessings after the *basmala* are obliterated. Main body of letter opens: ‘I am writing to you, while I enjoy abundant blessings of God ...’. Contains exchanges of greetings.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. Final nūn is extended in an oblique stroke.

**Content**
End of a letter. Top and left side is missing. Contains the conveyance of greetings to various people.
*Papyrus no: A 778

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

Physical description: 9.5 cm. x 18.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

Text:

**RECTO**

Script
Exhibits feature of script from the early papyrus period. Independent 'alif often bends round to the right at the bottom. Final 'alif does not usually extend below the connecting stroke. Dāl and ḍāl bends up at the top. Šād, tā' and kāf are horizontally extended. The tail of final yā' extends to the right. The vertical hastae are elongated.

Content
Fragment of a letter. Top and bottom missing.

**VERSO**

Content
Continuation of recto.
Papyrus no: A 780

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

Physical description: 7.5 cm. x 19 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. Sin and šin do not have has teeth.

Content
Fragment of a letter. Top and bottom missing. Concerns trade.

VERSO

Script
The tail of final yā' extends to the right.

Content
Fragment of an account recording sums owed. Includes various proper names. Amounts are expressed in Greek numerals.
**Papyrus no:** A 781

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

**Physical description:** 13 cm. x 9 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 8 lines, faint in places. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres. The script on the verso, written at parallel to the fibres, is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

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

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: انعم الله صاحبك 'May God make your morning pleasant'. Concerns trade in cloth (tiyāb).

**VERSO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

**Content**

End of a letter. Closes with blessings on the addressee and finally the tasliya.
**Papyrus no:** A 784

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

**Physical description:** 16 cm. x 8 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 7 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif does not usually extend below the connecting stroke. The tail of final yā' extends to the right.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: اطال الله يفاك وادام تعمتك وزاد في احسامه عليك وعندك. The writer refers to red baked bricks (الطب الأحمر). End is missing.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

**Content**

Papyrus no: A 789

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 12 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to fibres, + 1 line in right margin + 2 lines in top margin.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl and dāl approximate to a straight line. Sin is written with a line surmounted by a horizontal stroke or by three dots arranged horizontally, two of which have been merged together.

Content

Letter. Text opens after basmala: ... The writer states that he is waiting for a reply from the addressee concerning some matter. Mentions al-Fustāṭ.
Papyrus no: A 790

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

Physical description: 15 cm. x 8.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl and dāl approximate to a straight line.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: ... جعلت فداك و مد الله في عمرك و اتيم نعمة عليك. The writer request the addressee to come to him tomorrow (بالتغداة).
**Papyrus no:** A 791

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

**Physical description:** 18 cm. x 20 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, faint in places. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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 extends below the connecting stroke. Connecting strokes are horizontally extended in places.

*Content*
List of expenditure on various items. Introduced with epistolary formula: إبقاك الله وحفظك الذي نفتته من ... 'May God preserve and protect you. The expenditure of ...' (or 'what I disbursed of ...').

**VERSO**

*Script*
Large script with wide spaces between lines. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Several unconventional ligatures. Resembles Fāṭimid official scripts.

*Content*
End of a letter.
**Papyrus no:** A 796

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

**Physical description:** 17 cm. x 10.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines and traces of letters of another line at the top. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Kāf is formed by two strokes. Sin has teeth.

**Content**
Letter. Right side is missing. The extant portion of the opening blessings reads: [ ] احساسه اليك وعندك The letter was sent from the town of al-Ramlah: كتباني اليك من الرملة. The writer (a mawla 'freedman') expresses the wishes to be reunited with the addressee (a woman) quickly: 'I pray to God, my Lady, that God will unite us quickly in good health'. Refers to mawāli in al-Ramlah.

**VERSO**

**Content**
Address of letter on recto: من مقبل مولى بن مرسل رحمه الله 'From Muqbil, freedman of Ibn Mursil, may God have mercy upon him'.
**Papyrus no.** A 797

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

**Physical description:** 17.5 cm. x 8 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on on side only. Written in black ink, 16 lines, faint in places, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**

Final 'alif usually extends below the connecting stroke. *Jîm*, *hāʾ* and *kāʾ* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sin* normally has teeth.

**Content**

Letter. The beginning is missing. The writer expresses the wishes to be reunited with the addressee: ‘I pray to God that God will unite us in good health’.

**Papyrus no.** A 798: SEE JILL
Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 16 cm. x 16 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 8 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written parallel to the fibres and upside down relative 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. Mim frequently has open loops.

Scriptio defectiva of long ā in كرَامَاتَكَ (karāmataka, line 2) and of long ĭ in الدنار.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala on the same line: إنعم الله صيامك ودام كرمتكم. The writer confirms that he has received five dinārs from the writer: الذي قبضت منك خمس الدنانير. He instructs the addressee to pay some expenses from a sixth dinār and send him the remainder with a servant boy (كَفَارَتِي). Note the phonetic shift of 'alif to hā in the word وما الدنار السادس فخذ منه: (أَنَا = هَمَا) وَهُمَا الدنار السادس في خذه منه.

VERSOS

Script
Large script with wide spaces between lines. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl approximates to a straight line. Some final letters extended to the left with an oblique stroke.

Content
Fragment of a letter. Appears to be a formal petition. Includes the request formula: ... فإن رايت "If you resolve to ...".