**Papyrus no:** A 801

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

**Physical description:** 20.5 cm. x 10 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 15 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

**Content**

Account relating to bails of commodities (عدل). Opens with epistolary formula, consisting of basmala followed by حفظك الله وابياك وامتح بك. This is followed by a list of personal names arranged into two sections. Against each section there are clerical checking marks. At the top of the document, above the basmala, there are clerical notes, including صح ‘it is valid’ and نسخ ‘it has been copied’.
Papyrus no: A802 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 17 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial and medial kāf iis hairpin shaped. Sin and shin have teeth. Shin is surmounted by three dots written on a horizontal plane. Numerous consonantal diacritics.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala: فَذَٰلِكَ نَفْسِي نَاخَ. The writer says that he was very pleased to receive the letter of the addressee and that he misses him. Closes with conveyance of greetings and the same blessings as appear at the beginning.
**Papyrus no:** A822 (Box 5)

Two pieces.

**Papyrus A:**

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

**Physical description:** 32 cm. x 29 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, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto, + 1 line parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

RECTO

**Script**

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

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: يَا بَيْنَاء الْحَسْنَ كُبِّتْ عَن سَلَامَةَ ابْنِي وَمِن أَخَوَةِ . . . وَالْخَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَثِيرًا دَافِعًا. The writer requests the addressee to purchase raisins and honey (ژبیب ...)((_وسعل

VERSO

Address of letter on recto: يَوْصِلِ لِإِلَى ابْنِ الْحَسْنَ عَلَى بِنْ مُحَمَّدٍ جَنِ مَاضِي إِعْزَةَ اللَّهِ

A second letter:

**Script**

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

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Text opens after *basmala* with اطَلَّ الله يَفْتَقَكَ يَأْخِي. Consists mainly of greetings conveyed to the addressee from various people.

**Papyrus B:**

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

**Physical description:** 23 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin. 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. Note the defective orthography in كرمنك (كرمنك).

Content
Beginning of a letter. Text opens after basmala: اطال الله بفأك ودام عزك وكرمنك وزاد في احسانه عليك. The body of the letter is not extant.

VERSO

Script
Final 'alif usually 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 is written without teeth. The tail of final yā' extends to the right.

Content
Fragment of a letter. The writer states that he has sent the addressee a basket containing ten waybas of wheat (وقد وجهت اليكم تليل فيه عشر وبيات قمح).
**Papyrus no:** A840 (Box 5)

Two pieces:

**Papyrus A:**

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

**Physical description:** 27 cm. x 24 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. ḥim, hā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dal approximates to a straight line. Sin normally has no teeth. The tail of final yā’ extends to the right.

**Content**

Letter. Opening blessing is missing. Concerns trade of various items.

**VERSO**

Address of letter on recto: لا بِإِنَّكَ مِنْ نَاسِ.

**Papyrus B**

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

**Physical description:** 9 cm. x 8 cm. Small fragment. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 2 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final ‘alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. ḥim, hā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dal approximates to a straight line.

**Content**

Fragment from a letter.
**Papyrus no:** A843 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 23.5 cm. x 24.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres. The first few letters of line have been broken off. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres, two of these are upside down relative to the text on the verso.

**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* normally has teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اوكرتم الله وابنكم واتم نعمة عليك. Mentions the sending of various sums of money and their receipt. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

**VERSO**

Continuation of letter on recto upside down relative to the text on the recto.

**Address:** 

لا أبي بكرو حفظتك الله محمد بن أحمد بن النعمان اكرمه الله من أحمد بن عبد الرحمن.
**Papyrus no:** A844 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 27.5 cm. x 23.5 cm. Light brown papyrus. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres, faint in places. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Scripts**

Final 'alif usually extends below the connecting stroke. The upper stroke of initial kāf is often written detached from the top of the letter.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: اطلاق الله بفاك وادام عزك. Refers to the conveyance of various sums of money. Closes with same formula as it began.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address.
**Papyrus no:** A845 (Box 5)

Two separate pieces.

**Piece A**

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

**Physical description:** 23 cm. x 11 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text is missing at the bottom. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jim, hā' and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin has no teeth. The tail of final yā’ extends backwards.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Text opens after basmala: جعلت فدناك واطال الله بخاك. Mentions a village (القرية).

**VERSO**

Traces of the address.

**Piece B**

**Papyrus no:** *000

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

**Physical description:** 17 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. Faint. Text missing on the right side. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres. Faint.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial kāf is hairpin shaped.

**Content**


**VERSO**

Traces of the address.
**Papyrus no:** A 847

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

**Physical description:** 18 cm. x 11 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Features of script of early papyrus period. Independent 'alif often bends to the right at the bottom. Kāf is hair-pin shaped. The stroke of final nūn extends downwards in an almost vertical line. Words are split across lines. There are nevertheless some features of later script: dāl does not bend backwards at the top and medial 'ayn is a loop. Note also that final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke.

**Content**
Letter. Right and left sides are missing. Early epistolary formula. Opens with address after basmala, followed by: ...
**Papyrus no:** A848 (Box 5)
Two pieces

**Piece A**

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

**Physical description:** 26 cm. x 9 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, faint traces of 6 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. A distinct angle is made in the meeting of the strokes of *jim*, *ḥāʾ* and *kāʾ*. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اَلَيْكَ اللَّهُ The writer states that he has not seen the addressee today and wishes to know whether he has received a certain sum of money and commodities: لم اراك اليوم فاحب تعلمني مال كان من... هل جاك بشى م من الدنيا أو أحد من الحوايب شى.

**VERSO**

Faint script. Apparently traces of pen exercises in epistolary formulae.

**Piece B**

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

**Physical description:** 21 cm. x 7.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing at the bottom.

**Text:**

**Script**
Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. Final *yāʾ* extends backwards.

**Content**
Order of payment. Text opens after *basmala*: ادفع الي... خمسة عشر درهما. Closes with date (most of which is lost) and siglum characteristic of official orders of payment and receipts.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Final ‘alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥāʾ* 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: اطال الله بفاذك و ادام عزك و كرمنك و دهشتك و سعادتك و اتمن نعمة عليك وزاد في احسانه عليك و اجعلني من كل سوء ومكر و فداءك.
**Papyrus no:** A849 (Box 5)  
Two pieces  
**Piece A**

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

**Physical description:** 26 cm. x 11.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

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

*Content*

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

**Physical description:** 27 cm. x 9 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

*RECTO*

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

*Content*
Letter. Beginning is missing. Refers the conveyance of money. Mentions the sending of 'a whole dirham' (درهم تمام).
**Papyrus no:** A850 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 21.5 cm. x 8 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 209 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in the right margin.

**Text:**

*Script*

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

*Content*

**Papyrus no:** A851 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 23 cm. x 9.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

*RECTO*

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jīm, ḥāʾ and kāʾ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin/sin normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

*Content*

Letter. The beginning is missing. Concerns monetary transactions. The writer states that he has received a dinār (دَينَارٌ).
**Papyrus no:** A851 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 9.5 cm. x 5.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**
Small hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jim, hāʾ and kāʾ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Sin/šin is written without teeth.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. The extant part contains various blessings on the addressee.
**Papyrus no:** A874 (Box 5)

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

**Physical description:** 38.5 cm. x 24 cm. Large pieces missing in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sin normally has teeth. The tail of final yâ' often extends to the right.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after basmala: حفظك الله و عافاك وايضاً عزى عزى عليه. The writer states that he is in good health. The main body of the letter is missing. Closes with blessings.

**VERSO**

Address of letter on the recto: لا يِ جعفر أكرمك الله من خلف ... بالفسطاط.
Papyrus no: A875 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 40 cm. x 27 cm. Parts are torn away on three edges. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in faint black ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Large hand. Letters are carefully executed. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final yā sometimes extends backwards.

Content
Letter. The beginning is lost. Refers to purchase of commodities. Mentions trefoil (قُرْط), which, according to the writer, has not attracted many purchasers. Closes, in a separate paragraph, with blessings, only fragments of which are extant.

VERSO

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Ḍim, ḥāʾ and kāʾ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dal/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin is written with teeth. Connecting strokes are extended at the beginning of a paragraph.

Content
Letter. Fragments of the opening blessing are extant, opening with لا كرمك الله. The writer begins the body of the letter by acknowledging receipt of a note from the addressee (فهمت رقعتك ‘I have understood your note’).
Papyrus no: A878 (Box 5)

Date: 3rd century A.H./9th century A.D.
Four fragments, including two pieces from the same MS (fragments A and B) and two different pieces (fragments C and D)

Fragments A and B
Physical description:

Fragment A
25 cm. x 17 cm. Small 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, 12 lines, parallel to the fibres, and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Fragment B
25 cm. x 7 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 faint black ink, 6 lines, parallel to the fibres, and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:
RECTO AND VERSO

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

Content
Various prophetic traditions (ḥadīth). Each tradition is presented in a separate paragraph, which closes with a siglum consisting of circle surrounded by dots.

Fragment C

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

Physical description: 23.5 cm. x 7 cm. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:
RECTO

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

Content
Letter. Beginning is missing. Mentions a ship (مركب) and an anklet (الخلخال). Closes with blessings.

VERSO
Script
Larger hand than on recto. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content
Note, which may have been intended as a response to the letter on the recto. The writer complains that the addressee has not written to him concerning a certain Muhammad: لَمْ تَكُتِبَ إِلَىِّي فِي اِمْرِ مُحَمَّدَ بَقِيلٍ وَلاَ كَثِيرٍ

Fragment D

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

Physical description: 9 cm. x 6 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 3 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 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. Jīm, hā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line.

Content
Small fragment of a letter.

VERSO
Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
*Papyrus no: A894 (Box 7)*

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

**Physical description:** 25 cm. x 24 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 18 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

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

**Content**
Letter. Text opens after basmala: {الله بِنَبَتُكْ وَإِنَّكَ مَعَهُ.} Concerns agrarian administration. Mentions the survey (المساحة). The writer makes a request using the formulae ... {نَارَبْتُ} and .. {رَابِكِ} in which he asks the addressee to arrange payment for tefoil. Closes with the same formulae as it opened with.

**VERSO**

Post-script to letter on recto and its address: {لاَيِّبِ سِهَلِ اَمْلَ حَدَّ بَقِاه}. 

لاَيِّبِ سِهَلِ اَمْلَ حَدَّ بَقِاه
Papyrus no: A896 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 23.5 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, faint in places, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres. + 2 lines in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres + 1 line in right margin.

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. Sīn/sīn in most cases has no teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Opens, after the basmala: ﷺ. The write expresses the hope that the addressee is in good health.

**VERSO**

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto. This is followed by a second letter:

**Script**

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

**Content**

Beginning of a letter. Text opens, after basmala: ﷺ. Mentions al-Fustāṭ and a ship moored on the coast (الساحل). The writer requests generosity to be shown to him by the addressee. Closes with the same blessing as it began with.
**Papyrus no:** A898 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 24 cm. x 23 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, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

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

*Content*

Letter. Above the *basmala*, in the left side of the leaf, there is a note indicating the name of the sender: ... ورقة محمد بن ... At the top of the sheet there are traces of the end of another letter. The letter that occupies most of the sheet opens, after the *basmala*: جعلت فدلك واطال الله بفلك واكرملك واتم نعمته عليك وعندك. The writer complains that the addressee has not attended to his command: كنتت عليك جعلت فدلك الا وقد بلغك امرى وما ابتليت به.

**VERSO**

*Script*

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm, há* and *kā* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin/sh* is usually written with teeth.

*Content*

End of a letter. Contains greetings to various people.
*Papyrus no:* A899 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 24 cm. x 19.5 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, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

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

**Content**

Letter. Text opens after *basmala:* 

The main body of the letter opens: 

After further blessings the writer informs the addressee that he has made an entry to his credit in the ‘ledgers of the servant boys’ (وقد وضعت البكب كتاب العمال). Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

**VERSO**

Address of the letter on the recto: 

لاُبِي عَلَى أَكْرَمُهُ اللَّهُ