**Papyrus no:** A Q1

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

**Physical description:** Two pieces. 14.5 cm. x 7 cm, 11 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 and 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl approximates to a straight line. The tail of final yā' extends to the right.

**Content**

Letter. Beginning is missing. The writer states that he has received something. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.
**Papyrus no:** A Q2

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

**Physical description:** 22.5 cm. x 9 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines + traces of 1 line, slightly faded. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, slightly faded. 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**
Large script. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sin* has teeth. Consonantal diacritics and vocalization added.

**Content**
Fragment of literary text. Qur’ān?

**VERSO**

**Script**
Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial *kāf* is hairpin-shaped.

**Content**
End of a letter. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people. Closes with blessing formula: اطال الله بفَدَاك وَادَام عَرْك وَتَابِيَتْك وَكَرَامَتْك وَانْت نَعْمَهٔ عَلَيْك وَزاَد فِي احْسَانِهِ البَلِيك... في الدنيا والآخرة وسلم تسليما.
**Papyrus no:** A Q8

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

**Physical description:** 4.5 cm. x 10 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 3 lines. Verso, written in black ink, very faint, 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**

*Sin* has teeth. Initial *kāf* is hair-pin shaped. *Qāf* has a single diacritical dot.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Opening *blessing* after *basmala*: ... *الله قدرك واكرم وجهك...* 'May God ... your strength and honour your face ...'.

**VERSO**

**Content**

Faint traces of a texts. No certain identification is possible.
**Papyrus no:** A Q14 (Box 2)

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

**Physical description:** 19 cm. x 19 cm. Small *lacuna* 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. *Jim*, *hā’* and *kā’* are usually written with a single curved stroke. The tail of final *yā’* extends to the right.

**Content**

Letter. Opens with early letter formula consisting of address and the blessing “الله الذي لا هو إلا هو شديد الصبر.” The letter is sent by two men, one of which is slave/eunuch (*خادم*). They state that they have sent the pack-animals (*اندوناب*) and that they are coming to the addressee (*وانا قادمين*). Closes with the conveyance of greeting to various people.

**VERSO**

Address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A Q15 (Box 2)

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

**Physical description:** 20 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

*Script*

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final ya’ extends backwards to the right.

*Content*

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after basmala: حفظكم الله وعافاكم ودفاع السو عنكم برحمته The main body of the letter opens in a new paragraph: ...’ I (hereby) inform you, may God grant you health, ...’

**VERSO**

Address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** A Q16 (Box 2)

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

**Physical description:** 17 cm. x 14.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

***Script***

Early papyrus script. Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. The top of the stroke of ḏāl/ḏāl bends to the right at the top. The lower stroke of initial ‘ayn i horizontally extended to the right. The tail of final qāf extends down vertically. Sporadic diacritics. Fā’ has a dot under the letter. The pair of dots und medial yā’ is written on a vertical plane.

***Content***

Fragment of a letter. Beginning missing. Refers to an ‘amīr and also the ‘Commander of the Faithful’. Mentions family allowances (عطا العيال) and the arrival of men from Syria.
**Papyrus no:** A Q17 (Box 2)

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

**Physical description:** 21.5 cm. x 20 cm. Small *lacuna* 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*

Some features of early papyrus script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The upper part of dāl/dāl sometimes bends back to the right. The tail of final yā’ extends to the right.

*Content*

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* with the address + the formula (الله) الَّذِي لا إِلَه إِلَّا هُوَ. Main body of letter begins: .... The writer states that he has sent twenty dinārs to the addressee, with which he should hire something (*نَكَار الي* ‘hire for me’).

**VERSO**

Address of letter on recto.
**Papyrus no:** A Q18 (Box 2)

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

**Physical description:** 17.5 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 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.*

**Content**
Letter. The addressee is a woman, as shown by a feminine verbal form. Text opens after *basma:* حفظك الله وايماك. The writer states that he has sent various items to the addressee by the agency of sailors.

**VERSO**
Address of letter on recto.
**Papyrus no:** A Q19 (Box 2)

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

**Physical description:** 16 cm. x 19 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Early papyrus script. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. The upper part of *daal/dal* bends back to the right. *Sad* is horizontally extended. Medial 'ayn is ‘V’ shaped. The tail of final *ya’* is extended to the right. Sporadic diadritics. *Fa’* has one dot below the letter and *qaf* one dot over.

**Content**

Letter addressed to a woman and her family. Opens with the address followed by the formula: هَلِيَّةُ اِحْمَدُ الْيَكْرُمُ الَّذِي لَا اَلَّلَّهُ اِلَّا هُوَ The writer requests the addressee to send something.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Continuation of letter on recto.
**Papyrus no:** A Q20 (Box 3)

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

**Physical description:** 17 cm. x 11.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

**Text:**

**Script**

Written in script that is characteristic of the early papyrus periods. *Dal* is horizontally extended with the upper stroke bending back to the right. Medial ‘*ayn* is formed by two oblique strokes rather than by a loop. The base of *tāʾ* is horizontally extended.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Text is missing on all sides. The first two lines appear to be an opening formula, though they do not conform to those that are commonly found in documents of this period. The opening is then connected to the main text by اما بعد. The letter mentions a certain Saʿīd ibn Rabīʿa. Closes with: السلم عليكم ورحمة
Papyrus no: A Q21 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 10.5 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif usually 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 normally has teeth.

Content
Fragment of a letter. The beginning, end and left side are missing. The writer requests that the addressee does not become involved in an affair (فاسل ان تسحب لفاعتكما 'I ask you to withdraw to your room').
Papyrus no: A Q22 (Box 3)

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

**Physical description:** 29.5 cm. x 15 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. Initial kāf is a vertical stroke resembling lām. Sin normally has teeth. The tail of final yā' extends to the right.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens with a formula that is characteristic of the early papyrus period. The *basmala* is followed by the address: "مَن المَصِبِّ بن صَبِّي يُجِرِّي...". Concerns the delay in payment for something. The writer instructs the addressee to look into the injustice done to a certain Ibrāhīm (وَبَنَانَ أَبْحَثِي عَنْهُمْ). Mentions al-Fusṭāṭ. Closes with the word "وَكَتب 'and it has been written'.

**VERSO**

Faint traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: A Q23 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 16 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, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the verso is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jīm, ḥā' and kā' 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: جعلني فذاك واطال الله بقاك. The writer requests the addressee to send him something by a messenger ورسول. Closes with the same blessings as it opened with.

VERSO

Script
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin in most cases has teeth.

Content
Fragment of a letter. Right side and bottom are missing. Concerns administration of some type, mentioning an account of income إتفاع. Also refers to a district إتاحة and al-Fustāṭ.
**Papyrus no:** A Q24 (Box 3)

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

**Physical description:** 37 cm. x 13 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 20 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines + 3 in right margin. 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. *Jīm, hāʾ* and *kāʾ* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin* normally has teeth.

**Content**

Petition in the form of a letter. Text opens after *basmala*:  فدتك نفسى باخى وسيدى. The body of the text opens:  انت تعلم ضيق الدار (وليس لي بد من شرا الحصى). This is followed by the petition formula:  فانظر يا سيدي لي نظر الله لك في جميع امورك وحماك.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Large 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* is written with teeth.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Refers to the treatment of crops (پر درز مزد سنتین).
Papyrus no: A Q26 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 33 cm. x 32 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, faint in places, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Concerns housing (النَّدِيْر). Mentions the need for agricultural products of various kinds. Closes with the conveyance of greetings. Ends with the tasliya.
**Papyrus no:** A Q27 (Box 7)

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

**Physical description:** 39 cm. x 15 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 27 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres and upside down relative to the script on the recto.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Final 'alam extends below the connecting stroke. Sin/šin normally has teeth.

**Content**
Letter. The extant portion of the opening formula is: جميلت فداك. Mentions a maid servant (جاربة).

**VERSO**
End of the letter on the recto. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.
Papyrus no: A Q28

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

Physical description: 22.5 cm. x 29 cm. Small lacuna in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Large spaces (3 cm.) between the lines. Verso, written in reddy-brown ink, 15 lines, very faint.

Text:

RECTO

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

Content
Fragment of a letter. Ends in the hamdala.

VERSO

Script
Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Final kāf is 'S' shaped.

Content
Letter. Text opens after basmala with اکرمكم اللهو ابناكم وانتم نعمه عليكم. Address appears in the top margin, upside-down relative to the text of the letter.