Papyrus no: X1

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

Physical description: 53 cm. x 17 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines in same as as recto + 19 lines faint 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. Jīm, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/ḍal approximates to a straight line. Sīn/ṣīn is written without teeth. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content
Letter. After the basmala, the text opens: 

VERSO

Script
Large hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sīn/ṣīn is written without teeth.

Content
Closure of a letter. Includes the hamdala.
**Papyrus no:** X20 (Box D)

**Date:** 2nd-3rd century A.H./8th-9th century A.D.

**Physical description:** Fragments of papyrus codex. Consists of 5 leaves. 16.5cm. x 13 cm. Large *lacunae* in the middle of all leaves. Only a small amount of the first leaf is extant. Writing on both sides of each sheet. Black and faint brown ink. Recto of first sheet is written at right angles to the fibres, as is the case with the third and fifth leaves. The recto of the second and fourth leaves, however, is written parallel to the fibres. 11-12 lines on each side.

**Text:**

**Script**

Features of early papyrus script. The loops of ⱡ and Ɫ are horizontally elongated. The tail of final nun is lower on the left side than on the right. Final ‘alif generally does not extend below the connecting stroke. The remains of one letter on the first leaf is written large with an outline in dots.

**Content**

Text largely of a liturgical nature consisting of declarations of faith, e.g. اشهدوا ان لا اله الا الله ‘Bear witness that there is no god but Allāh’.
**Papyrus no:** X21a-h (Box D)

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

**Physical description:** A series of sheets that originally belonged together in a codex. X21a: 16.5 cm. x 8.5 cm. Three sheets of papyrus stuck together. X21b: 13cm. x 7cm. X21c: 12cm. x 8cm., X21d: 13cm. x 11cm. X21e 13cm. x 11cm. X21f: 12xcm. x 7cm. X21g: 2 leaves 12cm. x 11cm. X21h: 4 leaves 14cm. x 11cm.

**Text:**

**Script**
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jīm, ḥā’ and ƙā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sīn/sīn is written without teeth.

**Content**
Little continuous text is preserved. Sections are divided by circular sigla. The use of words from the root fsr at various points suggests the leaves contained a Qur’an commentary tafsir of some kind.
**Papyrus no:** X100

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

**Physical description:** 36 cm. x 32 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, 23 lines, parallel to the fibres, and 2 in right margin.

**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/sīn* is written without teeth. There are no diacritical dots.

**Content**

Letter. The beginning and end are missing. Mentions sailors (*نوابي*) and shipyards (*صنعتك عمرها الله*). The letter is divided into paragraphs.

**VERSO**

Continuation of the text on the recto.
*Papyrus no:* X101

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

**Physical description:** 48 cm. x 30 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 19 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing on all sides. Fibres are damaged.

**Text:**

**Script**
Large hand written with a thick pen. No unconventional ligatures between letters. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sin/shin normally has teeth. There are numerous diacritical dots.

**Content**
Letter. The beginning and ending are missing. The writer is petitioning a dignitary (cf. the address *بِإِنْ سَأْلَُكُمُ 'Oh my master!*). There is reference to the hunger of somebody (جوعهم), probably the writer’s family.
**Papyrus no:** X102

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

**Physical description:** 37 cm. x 33 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, 14 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. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin/sīn is written without teeth. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

**Content**
Letter. Beginning is missing. The writer discusses commercial matters. He refers to 'this year's loss' (الخسارة في هذه السنة).

**VERSO**

**Script**
Larger hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sin/sīn is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

**Content**
Papyrus no: X103

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

Physical description: 55 cm. x 24 cm. Writing on one side only. 26 lines written in black ink, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sin/šin is written with teeth. There are numerous consonantal diacritics.

Content
Letter. The beginning is missing. The writer discusses commerical matters. Reference is made to Damascus and to cotton (قطن).
*Papyrus no: X104

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

Physical description: 50 cm. x 23 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 18 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing at the top.

Text:

Script
Final ‘alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jim, hā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dal/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin/sīn is written without teeth. Sin is surmounted by a horizontal bar or by a horizontal row of three dots.

Content
Letter. Opening formula is written in a separate paragraph: جعلني الله فذاك ياخلي أطال الله مبكاك ودام عزك The writer gives the recipient instructions concerning trade. Closes with the same formula as it begins.
**Papyrus no:** X105

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

**Physical description:** 52 cm. x 20 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Faint script. Recto, written in black ink, 23 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres. Text loss at the top and bottom.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**
Features of early script. Independent 'alif bends to the right at the bottom. The stroke of dāl bends back at the top. Medial 'ayn is V-shaped. Kāf is hairpin-shaped.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. Writer gives instructions to the addressee. The word ارجوک 'I request you' is visible.

**VERSO**

**Content**
Written in the same hand as recto. Contains a record of payments. Each entry consists of the word دفع followed by a personal name.
Papyrus no: X106

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

Physical description: Two pieces. 33 cm. x 25 cm. and 30 cm. x 27 cm. Piece A: Written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Piece B: Written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Both pieces are from the same document.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif generally does not extend below the connecting stroke. Jīm, ḥā' and ǧā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/ḍāl approximates to a straight line. Sin/ṣin is written without teeth and is surmounted by a bar. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content
Fragments from a letter. The writer states that the wages of the addressee should not be delayed: فليس ينبغي أن يتأخر اجرتاك
Papyrus no: X107

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

Physical description: 46 cm. x 30 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, 11 lines, parallel to the fibres. Text loss on right, left and bottom.

Text:

**RECTO**

Script

Large hand. Distinct letters. Final 'alif generally does not extend below the connecting stroke. Sin/Sin is written with teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text opens, after basmala: املا الله يغرك

**VERSO**

Content

Fragment of a letter in the same hand as recto. Text opens, after basmala: املا الله يغرك
**Papyrus no:** X108

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

**Physical description:** 52 cm. x 31 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 24 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 24 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. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin/sin is written without teeth. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

**Content**
Letter. Opening is missing. Refers to servant girls: اطال الله مع جماعة من الجوار. Closes سقاك.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Large hand, written with thick pen. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sin/sin is written with teeth.

**Content**
Letter. The opening formula is obliterated. Concerns landed property of some kind ملك.)