**Papyrus no:** x8.1

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

**Physical description:** 24.5 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres, faded in places1. Verso, written in black ink, 11 lines, parallel to the fibres. The top and bottom of the sheet are missing.

**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* normally has no teeth.

**Content**
Fragment of a letter. The opening is missing. Concerns various commercial transactions. Mentions a commercial agent (*الوكيل*).

**VERSO**

Apparently the continuation of the letter on the recto. Mentions a legal document (*الحجة*). The writer states that the addressee is responsible for defects in a commodity (*و عليه*). The closure of the letter is missing.
**Papyrus no:** x8.2

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

**Physical description:** 16.5 cm. x 7 cm. 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**

‘Alif has a high vertical extension. Final ’alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sād and final kāf are horizontally extended. Lām is vertically extended.

**Content**

Series of blessings and prayers. The top and right and left sides are missing. Contains the phrase ... ‘(I pray) that he (God) endows both us and you with ...’. Closes with the tašliya.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Final ’alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jīm, hā’ and kā’ are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/gāl approximates to a straight line. Sīn/Shīn is written without teeth.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Mentions the purchase of asses (اَشْتَرَى لِكَ هَمَّيْر). Closes with the phrase وَكِب (wa-kutiba ‘and it has been written’).
Papyrus no: x8.3

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 24 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Fibres of papyrus are disturbed in places. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, faint in places, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 15 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 normally has teeth.

Content
Letter. Beginning is missing. Mentions estates (الضباع) and land tax (الخراج).

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto. Very faint in most places. Mentions various commercial transactions.
Papyrus no: x8.4

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 19d 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 black ink, 7 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Jīm, ḥā' and ḫā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sīn/sīn normally has teeth.

Content
Fragments of witness clauses at the end of a legal document.

VERSO

Script
Final 'alif does not extend 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
Fragment of a financial account. Refers to a disbursement. The entry opens with the phrase ... خرج ('such and such was disbursed'). Mentions dates of disbursement.
**Papyrus no:** x8.5

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

**Physical description:** 28 cm. x 15.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines. Text missing on right side. Verso, written in black ink, 9 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. Jīm, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dal/dal approximates to a straight line. Sin/sin has no teeth.

**Content**
Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: مَا أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ. Mentions various commercial transactions. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

**VERSO**

**Script**
Final 'alif generally does not extend below the connecting stroke. Sin/sin is written with teeth. Kāf is horizontally extended.

**Content**
Letter. Opens after *basmala*: إِنَّ يَدَ اللَّهِ وَيْلَكَ. Refers to various commercial transactions. Quantities measured in qintārs are mentioned.
**Papyrus no:** x8.6

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

**Physical description:** 22.5 cm. x 20.5 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 black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

Final 'alif generally does not extend 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*: سلام عليك وسعادتك واتم تعمه عليك. The writer requests the addressee to send horses urgently *(عجل بالفراسی)*. Closes with blessings similar to those that opened the letter.

**VERSO**

Address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: x8.7

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 18 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, faint in places, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The vertical stroke of dāl/dāl bends back to the right slightly. Sād is horizontally extended. Spaces occur between letters within a word.

Content
Fragment of a literary texts. Narrative mentioning the location of certain people in the desert (وهم بالبادية).
**Papyrus no:** x8.8

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

**Physical description:** 18 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in brown ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in brown ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Medial kāf is horizontally extended. Sin/šin normally has teeth.

Content

Opening formulae of a letter. The *basmala* is written in the middle of the first line. Text opens, after *basmala*: جعلت فدك واطال الله يفاك نت. Note the form طال without 'alif. Mentions some event that happened on a Friday (الجمعة). Left-hand side and bottom are missing.

**VERSO**

Fragments of the address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: x8.9

Date: 6th century A.H./12th century A.D.

Physical description: Paper. 18.5 cm. x 16 cm. Writing on both sides. Vertical fold down centre. Recto, written in black ink. Two columns, 5 and 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink. One column, 10 lines.

Text:

Recto

Script
Flowing cursive script. Several unconventional ligatures. Initial 'alif is often linked to following letter.

Content
Administrative account. List of dues gathered from various places. The first column has the heading ما استخرج من النواحي ... من القطع 'The ‘pieces’ (of money) that have been collected from the regions'.

Verso
Continuation of the text on the recto. Mentions the date 545 A.H.
**Papyrus no:** x8.10

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

**Physical description:** 14 cm. x 14 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 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. Jim, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin/ṣin normally has no teeth.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Contains the conveyance of greetings and the closing formulae. Closes with the tasliya.

**VERSO**

**Script**

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

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Opening formulae are missing. Concerns the affairs of a woman, possibly an inheritance.
Papyrus no: x8.11

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 8 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script
Script characteristic of the early papyrus period. 'Alif bends to the right at the bottom. The vertical stroke of dāl bends back at the top. Medial 'ayn consists of two oblique strokes. Final kāf has the same shape as medial kāf. The tail of final yā' extends back in a horizontal stroke.

Content
Beginning of a letter. Opens with the address followed by the formula احمد اليك الله الذي لا هو الا هو. The main body of the letter opens with أما. The surviving portion of the letter conveys greetings.

VERSO
Address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** x8.12

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

**Physical description:** 30 cm. x 17 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, 4 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. Jīm, hā' and kā' are usually written with a single curved stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter. Only the opening formulae are extant. Text opens after the basmala اكرملك الله اعرك.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Large hand. Well executed Final 'alif occasionally extends below the connecting stroke.

**Content**

Fragment of an official letter. There are large spaces between the lines. The writer requests the addressee to take care of somebody. He ask him to protect him and introduce him to his caliph (حفظه التقدمة إلى خليفةك).
Papyrus no: x8.13

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

Physical description: 10.5 cm. x 9 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line.

Text:

Script
Characteristic features of script from the early papyrus period. 'Alif bends to the right at the bottom. Medial 'ayn consists of oblique strokes. Final yāʾ extends backwards in a straight line.

Content
Fragment of a letter. Opens with the address followed by the formula فاطي أحمد يأ . In the surviving portion of the body of the letter, the writer inquires after the health of the addressee.

VERSO
Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.
Papyrus no: x8.14

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 13 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script
Final 'alif generally 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 normally has teeth.

Content
Fragment of a letter. Relates to commercial accounts. Refers to disbursements and the extraction of debts.
**Papyrus no:** x8.15

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

**Physical description:** 22 cm. x 18 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, 8 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif generally 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 and is surmounted by a horizontal bar.

**Content**

Letter. The opening is missing. The writer prays that the addressee will be safe (آسِلِ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَحْسَنْ تَخْلَيْصُكَ فِي عَافِيَة). Closes with the *tašliya*.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Final 'alif generally extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line. Sin/sin is written with teeth.

**Content**

List of names qualified by the term المقطوع (literally: 'the one cut off').
**Papyrus no:** x8.16

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

**Physical description:** 22 cm. x 14 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, 6 lines, parallel to the fibres and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Features of script form the early papyrus period. 'Alif bends to the right at the bottom. The stroke of *dal* bends to the right at the top. *Mim* is a large circular loop. There are large spaces between the letters.

**Content**

Letter. The text opens after the *basmala* with the formula *إنا أحمده على الله* (I am...) Only fragments of the other words of the text are extant.

**VERSO**

Pen exercises in the writing of the *basmala* in the same script as on the recto.
Papyrus no: x8.17

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 12 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres, + one line in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends in most cases below the connecting stroke. Initial kāf is horizontally extended. Final yā' extends backwards. Sin/šin normally has teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Text opens, after basmala: احاط (الله ..) واسبع عليك من نعمايه ودفع عنك مكروه. The beginning of the body of the letter is extant, in which the writer expresses his affection for somebody. The remainder of the text is missing.

**VERSO**

Address of the letter on the recto.
**Papyrus no:** x8.18

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

**Physical description:** 44 cm. x 14 cm. Large piece containing a joint between two sheets of papyrus. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 24 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

*Script*

There are two layers of writing and most of the words are crossed through. 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*/*ṣīn* normally has no teeth.

*Content*

The original text appears to be an account of some kind. It contains references to Fustat and to a cadastral survey (مَسَاحَة). The upper script does not contain any coherent text but consists only of pen exercises.

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطْلَّالِ اللَّهِ يُنْظَرَ وَجَعَلَتْ فَدَاكَ. The writer refers to a servant (عَمَلِ).

**VERSO**

Pen exercises in the same script as on the recto. These include various letter formulae.
**Papyrus no:** x8.19

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

**Physical description:** 42 cm. x 26 cm. Small lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 18 lines, at right angles to the fibres, + one line in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 20 lines, parallel to the fibres, + 4 lines in the 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/sin normally has no teeth.

**Content**

Letter. The beginning is missing. Refers to various commercial matters and trade in various commodities, including ‘trousers’ (صراويل). Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Dāl/dāl is written with two straight strokes converging to a point.

**Content**

Pen exercises, including various blessing formulae.
**Papyrus no:** x8.20

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

**Physical description:** 56 cm. x 14 cm. Long piece with no joints between papyrus pieces visible. Large lacunae in the middle. Writing on both sides. One edge of the sheet is missing. Recto, written in black ink, 25 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 24 lines, parallel to the fibres, + 2 lines in right margin.

**Text:**

**RECTO**

**Script**

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *ḥāʾ* and *kāʾ* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Ḍal/ḍal* approximates to a straight line. *Sin/ṣin* is written without teeth.

**Content**

Letter. Beginning and right side are missing. The text is arranged in paragraphs separated by a space. Concerns various commercial matters. The text contains the request formula أني رأيت أن تؤخره 'If you determine to delay it ...' The letter closes with the *tasliya*.

**VERSO**

**Script**

Written with thick pen. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *ḥāʾ* and *kāʾ* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Ḍal/ḍal* approximates to a straight line. *Sin/ṣin* is written without teeth.

**Content**

Fragment of a letter concerning commercial matters. Very little continuous text is extant.