

Papyrus no: A 210 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. Sporadic diacritics.

Content

End of a letter. Contains conveyance of greetings from various people to the addressee.

Papyrus no: A213 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: [وجعلنى من السوفداك] The writer states that he has gone somewhere with his mother (خرجت مع الوالدة). The letter relates largely to family matters. The addressee is requested to reply to the letter.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A 223 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 16.5 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, 9 lines, parallel to the fibres, faint due to rubbing.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Opening formula missing. The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee. Refers to an estate (الضيعة).

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* is written with teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke. Final strokes of a number of letters are extended to the left.

Content

Letter. Parts of opening formulae visible, thereafter the text is illegible.

Papyrus no: A 225

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif in most cases does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke.

Content

Letter. Opening formula are obliterated. The writer asks the addressee to come to him without delay (واخرج الى ما قبلى ولا تتخلف).

VERSO

Address of letter on recto.

Papyrus no: A 227 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 15 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight stroke. *Sīn* is written without teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

Content

Letter. Right side has been torn away. Remaining portion of opening formula reads: احسانه اليك وجعلت فداك [] It closes with the same formula followed by the *tašliya*.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto

Papyrus no: A 228 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 17.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres, faint. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines, parallel to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sin* is written without teeth and is surmounted by a straight stroke.

Content

Letter. *Basmala* is indented. Most of text is illegible due the faintness of the script.

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sin* is written with teeth.

Šin is written without teeth and is surmounted by a bar in the phrase ان شا الله.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The recipient is addressed as يا سيدى. There is reference to هذه الخدمة, literally 'this service'. The term may be referring to the document, since this was the technical term for a report in the Fāṭimid period.

Papyrus no: A229 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 19 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are sometimes written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* sometimes approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Refers to the release of somebody from custody (اطلاقه).

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif 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. *Sīn/šīn* is usually written with teeth¹.

Content

Letter. Right side is missing. The beginning of the opening blessing is missing. The extant text begins: وعافاك وابقاك واتم نعمته عليك وكرامته The writer states that he is send the letter from Damascus: كتابي اليك من دمشق. Mentions also the town of Homs in the body of the letter.

Papyrus no: A231 (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, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres + 3 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, faint in places, 9 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 usually 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/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطال الله بفاك. The precise nature of the content is not clear from the extant text. Concerns some problem relating somebody. Mentions كسله 'his laziness'.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بفاك. The writer requests forgiveness for what he has written previously: العذر جعلني الله فداك فيما كتبت ... Closes with the same blessing as it began with, followed by the *ḥamdala* .

Papyrus no: A232 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24.5 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/ḏāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله ياخى وحفظك وتولا بك بحسن العافية ودفع عنك المكاره. Concerns family matters. Conveys greetings to various people.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter that appears on the recto can be seen at the top of the verso. Under this there is another letter:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/ḏāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* is usually written with teeth.

Content

Letter. Opens, after *basmala*: ابقاك الله وحفظك واتم النعمة عليك. Concerns family matters. Mainly blessings and greetings. The address appears at the top of the letter, above the *basmala*: لابي العلا ابقاه الله من ابيه علا.

Papyrus no: A 233 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 18.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in left margin. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres, faint.

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 stroke. *Sin* is written with no teeth and is surmounted by three dots arranged in a horizontal line.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. The writer asks the addressee to send news about his family and conveys greetings to various people.

VERSO

Script

Same hand as recto.

Content

Note recording monetary transaction. Head by the title: ذكر الحق.

Papyrus no: A234 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 20 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 4 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. *Sīn/sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: حفظك الله وحماكما وابقاكما واتم النعمة عليكما فى الدنيا والآخره برحمته (تفسير). End is missing.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: ... لابی محمد زکری Also a) some marks, which may have been made for accounting purposes.

Papyrus no: A235 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 11 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif 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 no teeth.

Content

Letter. Left side is missing. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. Main text opens: كتابي اليك عن سلامة والحمد لله كثيرا لا شريك له. The writer states that he has sent to the addressee a surveyor (ماسح). Closes with the same formulae as it opened with.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif 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* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. The right side is missing. The writer opens by apologizing for writing on a papyrus that has already been used: فى القرطاس فانى لم اقدر ادخل اليهم. The main text opens with the report that the addressee's letter has arrived: واصل كتابك اعزك الله. The writer asks for further instructions with the formula: ... رايك اعزك الله فى الامر.

Papyrus no: A 236 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres, faint in places, due to rubbing. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximate to a straight stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basma*la: *اطال الله بقاءك واكرمك واعزك واتم نعمه عليك* and closes with the same formula.

Papyrus no: A 239 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 6 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. The tail of final *nūn* is straight and extends on an oblique plane down to the right. Several unconventional ligatures.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Part of opening formula visible: سعادتك

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter.

Papyrus no: A 242

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

Physical description: 8 cm. x 10.5 cm. Small piece. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 4 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Hā* is written with a single curved stroke.

Content

Fragment from the closing formulae of a letter: احسانه اليك.

Papyrus no: A244 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 22 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 12 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*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. Concerns a sea voyage. The address is written in the top margin, upside down relative to the text of the letter:

لابي رافع اطال الله بقاءه وادام عزه من على ان سعيد

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif 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. *Sīn/sīn* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. Opens after the *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. Refers to the cultivation of sugar cane (زرع الارض قصب). Closes with the same blessings as it began with.

Papyrus no: A245 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 19.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres, upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. Refers to a ship (مركب) that travelled from Jaffa to Ashkelon but was prevented from entering (منع من النفوذ).

VERSO

Continuation of letter on the recto. Mentions the Syrian towns Damascus and Homs in connection with trade.

Papyrus no: A 246 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 21.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 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. *Dāl/dāl* and *rā/zāy* are written with a similar shape, approximating to a straight line. Sporadic diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: فدتك نفسى. The writer states that he has received a note from the addressee (وصلت رقعتك). Mentions material (القماش).

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter.

Papyrus no: A247 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 22 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 15 lines + 1 line in the right margin, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. Mentions agricultural produce, including wheat (قمح), and an inventory of goods (التفسير).

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn/šīn* is written with teeth. *Sīn* is surmounted by a curved diacritic.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. The writer asks forgiveness for not going to the shop of the addressee (تبسط لعبدك العذر فيه من المصير الى دكانك). The following paragraph opens with 'وبعد' and furthermore' and the writer expresses the wish that the addressee will give him protection: وبعد فاني اسأل الله حوطتك ورعايتك وحفظك. Closes with the *taṣliya*.

Papyrus no: A 249 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 25 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, 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. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basma*la: اكرمك الله. The writer asks the addressee to come to him without delay (واحب ان شا الله ان تتعجل القدوم).

VERSO

Address of letter on recto: لابي جعفر اكرمه الله.

Papyrus no: A256 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. Mentions the transport of commodities by boat (المركب). Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A 257 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 18.5 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 15 lines, parallel to the fibres, upside down relative to the script on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight stroke. *Jim*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاكما وادام عزكما وتاييدكما. The addressees are referred to with both dual and plural second person pronominal forms. The writer mentions the virtue of 'patience': والصبر فهو اصل كل ما انتم فيه.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A258 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, faint in places, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *حفظك الله وامتع بك*. Concerns family matters. The writer conveys greetings to various people.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A 259 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 15 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 9 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Mentions wheat (قمح).

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final *yā'* extends backwards.

Content

Fragment of an account regarding deliveries. The surviving text opens 'he has delivered' (سلم). Amounts are expressed in Greek numerals.

Papyrus no: A 261 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 25 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, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres + 1 line in the top margin.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Greetings conveyed to various people including a certain 'Abū Muḥammad Hārūn.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* on the same line: ابغاك الله. The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee and 'has read and noted' its contents (وقراته وفهمت ما ذكرت فيه من سلامك ...).

Papyrus no: A 265 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24.5 cm. x 14.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 23 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 17 lines, parallel to the fibres, upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وحفظك وابقاك واتم نعمه عليك. Concerns trade. Quantities expressed in *qirāts* and bales (عدل).

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto, including the address.

Papyrus no: A 266 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 12 cm. Small *lacuna* 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 stroke.

Content

Letter. Right side has been torn away. The *basmala* is followed by the *taṣliya*. Surviving part of opening formula read: *واتم نعمه عليك وزاد في احسانه*. Mentions the coast of Damietta (ساحل دمياط).

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The hook on the left of *ṣād* has lost graphic distinctness.

Content

Account. List of personal names against which are marked various sums that have been expended. The amounts are expressed in dirhams, *qīrāṭs* and *dāniqs*. The text ends with an indication of the total sum that has been expended.

Papyrus no: A 267 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 13 cm. x 23.5 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, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres, upside down relative to the text on the recto + 2 lines in bottom margin.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وابقاك واتم نعمانه عليك وزاد فى احسانه اليك (المصادرة شديدة) وعندك

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto, together with the address (لابى ا..... بن يعقوب... من) (وهب بن سلمى بالفسطاط).

Papyrus no: A268/1 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 6 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 2 lines, at right angles to the fibres and 7 lines in top margin. 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* has no teeth.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Only the first line is extant. Text opens, after *basma*: جعلت كتابي هذا جعلت فداك ... يوم السبت: فداك واطال الله بقاءك.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: كتاب ابى العباس محمد بن الى منزل جاريتته برفح

Papyrus no: A268/2 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 6.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 2 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Only the opening blessings are extant. Text opens, after *basma*: اطلال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وتاييدك وسعادتك وكرامتك واتم نعمته عليك

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: لابي جعفر اطلال الله بقاءك واعزه احمد بن محمد بن سلامة من عبد الله بن محمد الجراعى

Papyrus no: A 269 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres, faint in places. 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. *Sīn* normally has teeth. Independent *dāl* is written with two strokes, with an angle on the right side. One word is split across two lines.

Content

Letter. Opening formula after *basmala* has been obliterated. Mentions the arrival of a woman pilgrim (الحاجة).

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter.

Papyrus no: A 270 (Box7)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 12.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 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. Full orthography of long \bar{a} even in the word *سذلك*

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. Refers to monetary transactions. Ends with request formula: *فرايك فى ذلك* 'Give me your opinion on this matter'.

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* is written without teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter.

Papyrus no: A276 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 6 lines, at right angles the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto. 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/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter addressed to a woman. The beginning is mutilated, but can be read, after *basmala*, as : اطلال الله بقاءك واتم نعمه عليك : اعلمك يا اختى.

VERSO

Script

Large hand. Final 'alif 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. *Sīn/sīn* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Refers to the purchase of items.

Papyrus no: A278 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 13 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, parallel to the fibres, and three lines in right margin, very faint in places. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines, parallel to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto.

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/sin* normally has teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Mentions various monetary transactions.

VERSO

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/sin* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Opens, after the *basmala*: .. [اطال الله بقاءك وادام سلامتک مامرة ... قد كان في ورکها ..]
Concerns some medical matter relating to the lower limbs of a woman. The addressee is asked to look into the matter (... فانظر اطال الله بقاءك الى ...).

Papyrus no: A280 (Box 1a)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 13 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Damaged on one edge. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 2 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 does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* in most cases approximates to a straight line. The horizontal strokes of final letters are sometimes extended.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* with the blessing: اكرمك الله بنعماه. The writer states that he has received the *dīnār* that the addressee had sent him (قد وصل الدينار) (الذى وجهت به) and will adjust his accounts by removed the *dīnār* from his credit (انا الله يلذنا ببقاك ... ولا ارانا فيك (ادفع الدينار من عندى). Closes with various blessings including: 'May God grant the enjoyment of your life. ... May he not cause us to see evil afflict you ... May he cause your wellbeing to endure'

VERSO

Script

Larger script than on recto. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. Medial *kāf* consists of straight vertical stroke. Many unconventional ligatures.

Content

Fragment from the end of a letter contain some of the closing blessings.

Papyrus no: A 282

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

Physical description: 24.5 cm. x 14.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 11 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn* has no teeth and is surmounted by a bar. Some unconventional ligatures.

Content

Letter. The left side has been torn away. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. The closing paragraph contains a request introduced by ... فرايك اعزك الله ... In between the lines of this letter the same writer has added a postscript, in which he instructs the addressee to send somebody papyrus on receipt of the letter (ووصله). (القرطاس في مجي هذه الرقعة).

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn* has no teeth and is surmounted by a bar.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala* with long blessing formula: اكرمك الله وابقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك ونعمتك و سعادتك (الغلام). Closes with the formula it opens with.

Papyrus no: A288 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 16.5 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, 8 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/šin* normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. Concerns some kind of dispute, in which one party is making a claim (فكان هذا اصل ما حركه فيما زعم). Ends with a request that the addressee send his news. Closes: حفظك الله وابقاك وكتب. Note the formula *kutiba* 'it has been written' that explicitly marks the close.

VERSO

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/šin* is written with teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. Mentions payments in connection with bequests (المواريث). Closes: والسلام عليك ورحمة الله وكتب.

Papyrus no: A289

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

Physical description: 13.5 cm. x 10.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines, and one line in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 5 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*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وابقاك وامتع بك. Concerns trade in skins (الجلود). Reports the delivery of skins in Qayrawān. Mentions a certain 'Abū al-'Abbās who is involved in the trade.

VERSO

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. *Sīn/sīn* is written with teeth.

Content

Fragment from the end of a letter. Contains the phrases that convey greeting to various people. The formula تقرو له السلم كثير occurs. The letter closes with the formula اكرمك الله.

**Papyrus no:* A294 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 14.5 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, 7 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* normally 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. *Sīn/sīn* normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. Beginning and right side of text are missing. Concerns the managing of an estate (ضبعة). Closes with the *hasbula* (حسبنا الله ونعم الوكيل).

VERSO

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* is usually written without teeth.

Content

End of a letter. Mentions the sending of somebody on a commission (فمنظر اليه فان). Closes: يا سيدى اطال الله بقاءك (كان تصلح سيرته سيرناه).

Papyrus no: A295 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 18.5 cm. x 16.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 5 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. *Jim*, *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. The beginning and end are missing. Concerns transactions. Mentions the malpractice of a commercial agent (وكيل).

VERSO

Script

Large hand with wide spaces between the lines. 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/sin* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Fragment of an official letter. Refers to the postponement of some matter (تاخر الامر) due to neglect.

Papyrus no: A296 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 33 cm. x 10 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, 15 lines, parallel to the fibres, and upside down, relative to the text on the recto. 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 does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* and *šīn* normally have no teeth and are surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basma*: اطال الله بقالك وادام عزك وجعلنى فداك. The confirms in writing the receipt of four dirhams from the addressee: انت تعلم اعزك الله الذى قبضت منك وهو اربعة دراهم. If the addressee does not recognize anything in the account, he is asked to return it: فان انكرت شيا رجعت الى الحاسبة.

VERSO

Script

Well executed script. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Final *yā'* extends backwards horizontally.

Content

Fragment of an account. Mentions payments. Amounts are expressed in Greek numerals.

Papyrus no: A297 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 33.5 cm. x 20 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, faint in places, 18 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 4 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*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* normally has teeth, which are sometimes surmounted by three dots written in a horizontal row.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning is missing. Concerns agricultural land (اراض). Mentions sewing (الغرس)

VERSO

Script

Clearly executed script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* has teeth.

Content

Note, apparently written in a different hand from the hand of the recto, yet seems to be an addendum to the letter. No *basmala*. States that the sewing took place on the Thursday after the writing of the letter: واعلمك فديتك ان الغرس يوم الخميس بعد .كتابى اليك

Papyrus no: A299 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 29.5 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 26 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter (?). Beginning and end are missing. Narrativ account in 1st person singular telling of the writer's various illnesses, including a headache (صداع الراس).