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BY

GEOFFREY KHAN

Papyrus no: A1 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 4 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. Text is missing at the bottom and on the left side of the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line.

Content

Letter. Beginning of opening blessing is missing, ends واحسانه عندك The writer states that he has sent the grapes (العنب) and the hat (القلنسوة) to the addressee.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: To 'Abū Sayyid.

Papyrus no: A3 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 22 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line.

Content

Letter. Addressed by writer to his mother. Text opens after *basmala* on the same line: ابقاك الله يامى بقا فى عافية وحفظك. The writer complains that he has not received a letter from the addressee. He then reports on various commercial transactions and mentions 'orchards' (كروم).

VERSO

Address of letter on the recto: من حسن بن موسى الى والدته

**Papyrus no:* A4 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 35 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Petition. Text opens after *basmala*: حفظك الله واطال بقاءك. The writer refers to a case concerning the manufacture of chains for lamps (سلاسل للقناديل), which he has put before the 'amīr. He request the writer, in a separate paragraph, to remove the obstacles from their being manufactured: فرايك ابقاك الله فى الامر بترك العرض لهم موقفا ان شا الله. Closes with the blessing formula with which it opened.

VERSO

Content

Address of recto: s.لابى جعفر من ابى العباس

**Papyrus no:* A5 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 26.5 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 19 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 lines, parallel to the fibres. Text is missing on the left side.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Initial *kāf* is hairpin shaped. The stroke of *dāl* sometimes bends back at the top.

Content

Letter. Early epistolary format. Address comes immediately after the *basmla*:

لابى نعيم. The writer states that he has received the letter of the addressee, that he is pleased that he is in good health, and that he has understood what he says in the letters. Closes with the phrase: *وكتب ليومين بقيا من ذى الحجة* 'It was written with two days remaining of Dhū al-Ḥijjah'.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto, partly obliterated.

Papyrus no: A 5 (pink) (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 35.5 cm. x 16.5 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, 28 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Right and bottom are missing. Extant opening formula includes: وزاد في احسانه اليك وقد (احتجت الى حضور اهل). Closing formula is missing.

VERSO

Script

Small hand. 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 written without teeth.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala* with the blessing: حفظك الله. Mentions the maidservant of somebody: وما سلطت جاريتها 'and her maidservant has not been granted the power'.

Papyrus no: A 8 (pink) (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 30 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, 10 lines, at right angles to 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 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. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك واطال الله بفاك وادام عزك وكرامتك وتم نعمته عليك وزاد في احسانه اليك في الدنيا والاخرة برحمته كتابي «
اليك وانا في حال » . The writer asks the addressee to find out some information concerning somebody who is not replying to his letters. The request formula is: فان كنت عازم فافعل . Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people and finally with the blessings that it opened with. The address of the letter is written above the *basmala*, upside down relative to the text of the letter: لابي على ... من محمد بن عبد الله .

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/šīn* usually has teeth.

Content

Letter. Opens, after the *basmala*.,: جعلت فداك واطال الله بفاك . The main body of the letter opens: كتابي اليك اعزك الله عن سلامة . Mentions profit (الريحة) and tithes (اعشار), also commerical/administrative dealings (المعاملة). Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

Papyrus no: A 9 (pink) (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24.5 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 14 lines + 1 line in left margin and 1 line in right margin, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

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. The beginning is missing. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions an account (حسابه). Closes with the conveyance of greetings and, at the end, with the blessing حفظك الله.

Papyrus no: A16 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 27 cm. x 23 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, 2 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. *Dāl/ḍāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Concerns commercial matters. The writer says that he urgently needs 3 *dīnārs*, which he is asked to send with Muqbil his servant (تعجل بها الى مع مقبل جاريك). The writer requests a reply by the formula: *رايك اعزك الله* (اطال الله بقاءك) and finally with the *taṣliya*.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

**Papyrus no*: A21 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 27 cm. x 31 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing at the top.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Final *yā'* extends backwards in straight line.

Content

Petition. Opening of text is missing. The various sections of the document (*narratio*, *petitio*, blessings) are separated by spaces. The addressee is requested to give support to his family, who are impoverished. Request formula opens: فان رايت [] ادام الله عزك ان تتقرب الى [] 'If you, may God cause your strength to endure, resolve to approach []. Closes with a blessing (... اطلال الله بقاءك ...), the *taṣliya* and the *ḥamdala*.

Papyrus no: A22 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 21 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. Text missing at the top.

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. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Opening is missing. The writer requests the addressee to purchase certain commodities. closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Faint traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

**Papyrus no*: A23 (Box 6)

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, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

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. *Sīn/sīn* normally has no teeth and is normally surmounted by a bar.

Content

Letter. In the top left corner there is the *tarjama*: على بن الاشعث. Text opens, after *basmala*: ... حفظك الله وابقاك واكرمك. Written on Saturday, 8th of Ramaḍān (كتابى اليك (أكرمك الله ليوم السبت لثمن خلون من شهر رمضان). Refers to the dispatch of messengers to Himṣ.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto.

**Papyrus no:* A24 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 21 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines + 2 lines in top margin, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres, an 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. *Ṣād/dād* are horizontally compressed.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وابقاك. The writer, who is a resident of Fustāṭ, acknowledges receipt of a letter from the addressee. He is happy that a certain woman (addressee's wife?) is now in good health after an illness. Refers to the sale of a grove of palm-trees.

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto and address.

Papyrus no: A26 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 19 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Ink faint due to rubbing.

Text:

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* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك. Concerns a slave girl (الجارية).

**Papyrus no*: A27 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 32.5 cm. x 23 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* in most cases does not extend below the connecting stroke. Medial *ṣād* is sometimes horizontally compressed. *Dāl/dāl* often approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك. The writer apologizes for being detained from coming to the addressee. He states that he was on his way to see him, when certain friends came to visit him. These friends have been staying with him since Wednesday (وهم والله اعزك الله نزول عندي منذ يوم الاربعاء). Closes with same formula as it opens with.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto.

***Papyrus no:** A28 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 27.5 cm. x 24.5 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 + 7 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*: جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاءك. Concerns family matters. Mentions the mother of the addressee and closes with extensive greetings from various people.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto: To 'Abū Bakr Ḥasan ibn Ja'far .. from Qāsim ibn Sa'īd in Fuṣṭāṭ. Together with 7 line of faint pen exercises.

Papyrus no: A29 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 31.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Large spaces between lines (4cm). Text missing at the top and bottom.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. Final *yā'* extends backwards in a horizontal line.

Content

Letter. Opening is missing. Official correspondence containing instructions to somebody subordinate to the writer. Writer refers to the arrival of certain benefactors (?) (المعطين) at the place of the recipient of the letter.

Papyrus no: A30 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 8.5 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, 1 line, 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: ابقاك الله وحفظك واكرمك. The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee. He mentions monetary transactions involving *qirāṭs* and *dāniqs*.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A31 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 7 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 22 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/sin* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: حفظك الله وعافاك وامتع بك صالحا. Concerns transactions in various commodities, including wheat (قمح). The addressee is requested to make purchases with the request formula: فان رايت الشرى منه ففعلت.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

**Papyrus no*: A43 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Text missing on the left side. Written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* sometimes approximates to a straight line. Sporadic diacritical dots.

Content

Petition to an *'amīr* concerning a debt. Text opens after *basma*la: اطل الله بقا الامير. وادام عزه. The petitioner is a man called al-Ḥasan ibn Turaybi al-Bustabāni. Mentions the payment of rent over a period of two years at 80 dīnārs a year. The request formula is: فان را الا(مير ان ينظر) في امرى فانه فى ذلك ماجور مثابا 'If the *'amīr* resolves to look into my affair, he will be rewarded for this'. Closes with the same blessing formula as occurs at the beginning. Published: G. Khan, BSOAS ...

Papyrus no: A47 (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, 12 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/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: *حفظك الله وعافاك وابقاك*. Concerns various monetary transactions. Mentions *dinārs* and *qirāṭs*. The close of the text is missing.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A50 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 24.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 18 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing at the top and bottom.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. Opening missing. Concerns commerce. Refers to the transfer of various sums of money.

***Papyrus no:** A55 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 16.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Fine pen. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial *kāf* is horizontally extended. Final *yā'* is often horizontally extended.

Content

Letter. Exhibits the opening formulae characteristic of the early papyrus period. Opens with the address: لابی زکیر من مسک مولی عمران, which is followed by the early blessing formula: فانی احمد الیک اللہ الذی لا اله الا هو. The content of the letters is largely formulaic. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A56 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 25 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, 2 lines, 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. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Text opens on line after *basmala* with the address لاجى معوية, followed on the next line with the formula عافانا الله واياك. Concerns the affair of a certain woman. The writer states that he has order 'her messenger' (رسولها) to do something.

VERSO

Faint traces of two lines, of a text of uncertain content.

*?Papyrus no: A64 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 21 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, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif generally does not extend 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 no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, on the same line as the *basmala*: ابقاك الله وحفظك وزاد في احسانه اليك برحمته. Addressed to a mother, requesting her to write. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto: من محمد بن جعفر .. الى بالفسطاط

Papyrus no: A66

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 12 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text is missing at the bottom.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Petition. Text opens after *basmla*: جعلني الله من كل سو و مكروه فداك واطال بقاك. The writer states that he has sent a certain group of people a letter and that he has sent the addressee a copy of this letter yesterday (وجهت اليك اعزك نسخته البارحة). The writer request the addressee to allow this group of people to 'go out': فان رايت اطال: فان رايت اطال الله 'If you, may God prolong your life, should resolve to allow them to leave, may you do so and be rewarded, God willing'.

Papyrus no: A67 (Box 4)

Two pieces.

PAPYRUS A

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 11 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines, parallel to the fibres. On both sides the ink is very faint. Text missing at the bottom.

Recto

Text:

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.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmla*: اكرمك الله وحفظك. The writer states that he is concerning to hear from the addressee that he is detained from coming.

PAPYRUS B

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 11 cm. Writing on both sides. one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Ink is very faint. Text missing at the bottom.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif in most cases does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. Opens after *basmla*: اطال الله بقاءك واعزك. The text after initial blessing has been lost.

VERSO

Script *Dāl* approximates to a straight line.

Content

Faint vestiges of a text relating to commerce.

Papyrus no: A70 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 27 cm. x 21 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, 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 no teeth.

Content

Letter. Right corner of the text is missing. Extant portion of opening formula reads: (حف) ظك الله وعافاك. Refers to the payment of *karāj* tax. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A71 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 25.5 cm. x 20 cm. Large *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in brown ink, 15 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 4 lines in the right margin. Verso, written in brown ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. Initial *kāf* is hairpin shaped. *Sīn* normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics, two diacritical dots being written vertically or obliquely. The diacritic of *fā'* is written below the letter.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: حفظك الله وابقاك. Concerns a debt.

VERSO

Vestiges of the address of the letter on the recto: [] لابی حفص

Papyrus no: A72 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 27.5 cm. x 15 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 6 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*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Beginning and left side are lost. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions the shipment of various goods, including wheat (قمح).

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Account. Entries are headed by names of people. Amounts are expressed in Greek numerals.

Papyrus no: A73 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres, and 3 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. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وحفظك. Mentions various transactions concerning agricultural produce, include wheat (قمح). Closes with the same blessings as it begins with.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A74 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin. 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.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وابقاك وامتع بك. Concerns a slave girl (الجارية). Closes with conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

*?Papyrus no: A76

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

Physical description: 18.5 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres, and one line in top margin, upside down relative to the rest of the text.

Text:

Script

Large hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sin/sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطال الله بقالك يا سيدى وادام عزك. Mentions small children (هذه الاطفال صغار). The writer refers to the letter as هذه الرقعة.

*?Papyrus no: A88 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 20.5 cm. x 13.5 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, 1 line, 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*, with a prayer that the recipient recovers from an illness: استعوذ عند الله الحى الذى لا يموت واسله تعجيل شفاك فى عافية. The body of the letter contains further wishes for recovery.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: من عبد الله بن شاكر الى احمد بن عبيد الله