

Papyrus no: A114 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* 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*: *حفظك الله وعافاك*. The writer requests the addressee to visit two churches (الكنيستين) and make inquiries concerning a certain person. The end of the letter is missing.

Papyrus no: A115 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 15 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif in most cases does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وابقاك واتم نعمته عليك وزاد فيها عندك. The fragmentary traces of the body of the letter mention the place name Tinnis.

**Papyrus no:* A116 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 20.5 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto, and 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. *Sin/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. The left side is missing. Text opens, after *basmala*, with an indication of the addressee: [] سلم عليك . لابي قدرة حفظه الله . اما بعد عافاك الله . These features suggest that the letter predates the 3rd century A.H.

VERSO

Script

Small hand written with a fine pen.

Content

Fragment of an account, expressing amounts in Greek numerals. Also traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A117 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 9.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, 15 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Ṣīn/ṣīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: جعلت فداك من كل سو واطال الله بقاءك. The writer states that he has sent the address a remedy (قد بعثت اليك الدواء). Closes with the same formula as it opened with.

Papyrus no: A122 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 37 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 18 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 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 missing on all sides.

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* has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke. Numerous consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Opening is missing. Concerns financial accounts (ارفع احسابا 'I draw up an account').

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Possibly this contains a fragment of a letter. Only the first word of each line is extant. It is in large script with wide spaces between the lines, which suggests that it is of an official nature.

Papyrus no: A123 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 14 cm. x 28 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. Text is missing at the bottom.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. The stroke of *dāl* turns back at the top in one cases. The bottom stroke of initial *'ayn* extends to the right. *Sīn* has teeth. The tail of final *yā'* bends backwards.

Content

Letter. Early epistolary format. The *basmala* is followed by the address, then the blessing formula: فانى احمد اليك الله الذى لا اله الا هو. The body of the letter opens on a new line after the phrase اما بعد. The writer states that he is in good health at the time of writing.

VERSO

Address of letter on the recto. Obliterated in places.

Papyrus no: A138/2 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 13.5 cm. Long *lacunae* across the middle. Writing on one side only, written in faded black ink, 10 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Only the ends of the lines are extant. The writer makes a request of the addressee, with a prayer that God reward him (ان يكافيك).

Papyrus no: A148 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 23 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. Text missing at the bottom.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. Opening is missing. The writer states that he would not have written the letter if it was not for the pressing need of the addressee.

**Papyrus no:* A149 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 11.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 20 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing at the top and on the left side.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطلال الله بقاءك. Concerns commerce and the shipment of various goods. The writer asks the addressee to send something to him 'Before the (Persian) New Year (قبل الناروز) and to buy a dirham of good flax (درهم كتان جيد). Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

Papyrus no: A150 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 9 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 31 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Small hand. 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.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions the lake of Fayyūm (بحر الفيوم).

Papyrus no: A151 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 35 cm. x 10 Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 25 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 20 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* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. To the left of the *basmala* there is the note: اعذرني في القرطاس 'Forgive me concerning the papyrus'. It seems he is apologizing for writing a letter on a sheet that already has writing on it. This original writing must have been written parallel to the fibres on the other side of the sheet.

Text opens after *basmala*: حفظك الله وابقائك وامتع بك. The writer begins the body of the letter: قد فهمت كتابك وكل ما ذكرت 'I have understood your letter and all that you mention'. He has some queries about the content of the letter.

VERSO

Script

Same hand as recto.

Content

Address of letter on the recto and a commercial account.

Papyrus no: A153 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 27 cm. x 10 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in the right margin. Text missing on the right side.

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.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله. The writer mentions the estate of somebody (ضيعته) and states that he hopes to come to visit the addressee.

Papyrus no: A155 (Box 4)

Two pieces

PAPYRUS A

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

Physical description: 31 cm. x 8 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 17 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 is missing from the top on both sides.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* and *šīn* are written without teeth and with a surmounting horizontal stroke.

Content

Petition. Beginning missing. Refers to the need for a garment (كسوة). The request component is: فان رايت اعزك الله نظرت في امرى وامرت بما تصلحني فعلت متفضلا ان شا الله 'If you resolve, may God grant you strenght, to look into my affair and give orders for what would benefit me, then do so and be rewarded, God willing'. Closes with blessing: اطال الله بقاءك وجعلني من كل سو ومكروه فداك.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Refers to a tank (الحوض).

PAPYRUS B

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 3.5 cm. Long thin strip. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 37 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Ink is faint due to rubbing.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ... الحمد لله لك ابقاك (cf. the early epistolary formula احمد اليك الله). Mentions the lake of Fayyūm (بحر الفيوم).

***Papyrus no:** A156 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 34 cm. x 10.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 28 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the verso is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

List recording petitions. Four entries are extant and the beginning of a fifth. Each entry is headed by the phrase *خلى لصاحبه* 'allow it to its (i.e. the petition's) owner'. The body of the entry opens with the word *قصة* 'petition' followed by the name of the sender, then a summary of its contents.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

The left side of a petition. The text is divided into paragraphs that are separated by a space. The request section contains the phrase: *يسل ان يسهل علينا* '...asks that he gives us relief'.

**Papyrus no*: A157 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 8.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. The loop of *mīm* is sometimes open. The loop of final *'ayn* has a flat top. The oblique strokes of *jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* usually extend below the line. One word (العافية) is split across two lines. Features of transition from the early papyrus period to the late one.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: مساك الله بالعافية والكرامة وفع التوعيد برحمته. The writer conveys a message from a certain 'Abū Bakr, who requests the addressee to meet him either at the mosque or at home. Closes: اراك الله العافية ودفع عند المكروه والسلام عليه ورحمته فى وكاله.

Papyrus no: A159 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 31 cm. x 19 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres, + 1 line in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, faint in places, 7 lines, parallel to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif generally does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Beginning and end are missing. The writer requests the addressee not to delay in sending wheat and barley (لا توخر عنى هذا القمح وهذا الشعير).

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto. Refers to the dispatch of a servant (غلام) with some commodity.

Papyrus no: A165/1 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 12 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines, parallel to the fibres, faint in places. 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. *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. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. The body of the letter contains a request expressed in the customary request formula: ان رايت ايدك الله ان تتفضل بالمخزوم الاخرى فعلت ان شا الله (a *makzūm* is a type of ledger). The text closes with the *taṣliya*.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Contains the end of the opening blessing formula: ايدك []
[] واسعدك واتم نعمته [] وفضله عندك وجعلني []
extant from the body of the letter.

Papyrus no: A165/2 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 14 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, 10 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

Fragment of a letter. The beginning, end and right side are missing. The extant text refers to agricultural produce (العلات).

VERSO

Fragment of a letter. This appears to be the continuation of the letter on the recto. The writer is saddened by the fact that he had not seen the address, as he had hoped (لقد كنت اتمنى ان ارالك).

Papyrus no: A177 (Box 7)
TWO PIECES

FRAGMENT A

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 6 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines, at right angles to the fibres 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 usually 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

Collection of gnomic sayings.

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.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The writer requests news concerning a certain place: الينا ...
من خبر ذلك الموضوع

FRAGMENT B

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

Physical description: 11 cm. x 12.5 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, 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 teeth.

A 177 continued

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basma*: ابقاك الله وحفظك واتم نعمته عليك. The writer states that he is worried about the addressee since he has not received a letter from him: لم ارا لك كتاب فغمنى ذلك. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: من يعيش الى شاكر.

Papyrus no: A185 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 24 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, 8 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basma*la: اكرم الله وجهك عن النار ووصلك بالايمان ورفع عنك جميع (ان ملك في الدنيا والاخرة برحمته تتفضل).

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/šīn* is are usually written with teeth.

Content

Letter. Opens, after the *basma*la, on the same line: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. The writer requests the addressee to inspect the state of some water. Closes with the same blessings as it began with.

Papyrus no: A186 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 10 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 no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: حفظك الله وابقاك ياخي. The writer requests the addressee to extent constant protection to somebody (فاحب ان لا تالوه حوطة). The end is missing.

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 written without teeth, *šīn* having three diacritical dots written on a horizontal plane.

Content

Account. Lists entries opening with the word غلالة 'tunic', which is followed by a price expressed in dīnārs and dirhams.

Papyrus no: A187 (Box 7)
TWO PIECES

FRAGMENT A

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 19.5 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, 7 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. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*, on the same line: ابقاك الله. Concerns various commercial transactions. Refers to the prices in the market place.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto and traces of the address.

FRAGMENT B

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 9 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, 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 teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله واطال الله بقاك. Concerns commercial transactions. The writer instructs the addressee to make purchases for him.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

**Papyrus no:* A190 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 20.5 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Sin/sin* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *حفظك الله وعافاك وامتعني بك*. The body of the letter opens on a new line: *كتبت اليك وانا في عافية والله محمود*. The writer informs the addressee that he is coming to visit him and that he has arranged for goods to be sent to him. Ends with the same blessings as it began with. Closes finally with *وكتب* 'and it has been written'.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

**Papyrus no*: A191 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 25.5 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك واتم نعمته عليك. The writer states that he is coming to the addressee in the evening and he wishes him to dispatch to him the remaining ornamented garments that he (the addressee) owes him: انا صاير اليك اعزك الله وقت المغرب ان شا الله فاحب اعزك الله ان توجه الى، عندك بباقي الحلل الوشى التي ل، عندك. Closes with the *tasliya*.

Papyrus no: A 192

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Beginning of a letter to a dignitary. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقا سيدنا الاستاذ
و ادا م عزه

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Beginning of a letter. Opening blessing omitted. Begins: اعزك انا شكوانا اليك اعزك
الله 'our complaint has come to your attention. Mentions a dignitary called موسى
المظفر.

Text opens after *basmala* with long blessing formula: اطال الله بقاءك و ادا م عزك و كرامتك
«وتا ييدك وسعادتك واتم نعمه عليك وزاد في احسانه اليك و«جعلني» من كل سو ومكروه فداك

Papyrus no: A193 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 19 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Large hand. Final *'alif* usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sin* sometimes has no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal bar.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. Mentions various animals including 'six swift camels': *ومن الجمل ستة فرهة*. Also mentions the relocation of various agricultural works (*اشخاص المزارعين*). End is missing.

Papyrus no: A 194 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 3 lines in top margin parallel to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Petition from a woman in the form of a letter. The right side and bottom are missing. In the top margin appears the note: قصة عبید الله بن احمد 'The petition of 'Ubaydallāh ibn 'Aḥmad'. The beginning of the opening blessing is missing. The extant portion reads: « اطال الله بقاءك واعزك واكرمك واتم نعمه عليك وزاد في ». The main body of the petition opens: « اعلمك اعزك الله انى مرة ضعيفة » ... ما لى احد الا الله. Concerns a debt of money. The end is missing.

Papyrus no: A195 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 31 cm. x 19 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* has no teeth.

Content

End of a letter. Top and right side are missing. The extant portions of the text contain various blessings, such as رَفَعَ اللهُ عَنْكَ. Closes with اَطَالَ اللهُ بِقَاكَ.

Papyrus no: A196 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 20.5 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, 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*: ابقاكم الله. The writer tells the addressee that he has written several copies of a letter to him: قد كنت كتبت اليكم مع الام نسخ.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto: لابي على ... من والده.

Papyrus no: A197 (Box 7)
TWO PIECES

FRAGMENT A

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 20 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in left margin and 1 line in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif usually 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 teeth.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. Letter concerns a legal dispute relating to financial matters. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* is usually written with teeth.

Content

End of a letter. Mentions the Armenians (الارمنيين).
Closes with the *taṣliya*.

FRAGMENT B

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

Physical description: 11 cm. x 10 cm. Large *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 4 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* has no teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Traces of the opening formula.