

**Papyrus no*: A1322 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 35 cm. x 28 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* normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke. Several unconventional ligatures.

Content

Letter. The first few words are missing. Opens with blessings: « واتم نعمته عليك وزاد في احسانه اليك وجعلني في كل سو فداك ». The writer reports the arrival of 'Abū Ja'far and 'Abū Ṭabīb. There is a reference to the 'the receipt of the money of Admaniyya (a place name?)' (قبض مال ادمنية). The writer requests the advice of the addressee (فرايك فيما اعلمتك). Mentions also the 'cultivators of Admaniyya' (جميع المزارعين من ادمنية).

VERSO

Address of letter on the recto: لابي العباس.

Papyrus no: A1324 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 32 cm. x 24.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, faint in places, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres + two in right margin.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* normally has no teeth. *Šīn* is written without teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك. The writer expresses the wish that the addressee will come to visit him in the near future. Closes with the conveyance of greetings from various people.

VERSO

At the top of the sheet there are traces of the address of the letter on the recto. In the bottom half there is a second letter:

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* is written without teeth.

Content

Letter. Parts are obliterated. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله. The writer complains that somebody had ceased corresponding with him (قد قطع كتابه).

**Papyrus no*: A1326 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 30.5 cm. x 30 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 widely spaced lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 7 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Large hand. Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. Final *yā'* extends backwards.

Content

Official letter. Text opens after *basmala*: هذا كتاب من ابي القسم ايوب بن احمد عامل ابي ايوب ادم الله عزه على خزانة الحكمة لمحمد بن مسرور 'This is a letter from 'Abū al-Qāsim 'Ayyūb ibn 'Aḥmad, the accountant of 'Abū 'Ayyūb, may God cause his strength to endure, over the warehouse of 'wisdom', to Muḥammad ibn Masrūr'. Concerns some matter relating to this warehouse.

VERSO

Same hand as on recto. Contains fragments of monetary accounts.

**Papyrus no*: A1329 (Box 3)

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, 18 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. *Ṣīn* normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: حفظك الله وعافاك. The writer reports that he has acquired a plot of low lying land (بقعة) in a place known as ابناج. He proposes to give half to the addressee to sow it with trefoil (لزعه قرط) and requests him to send urgently what he can of the dues (فرايك حفظك الله في تعجيل الكتاب الى بما يكفيها من). Closes with same blessing as appears at the opening.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: لابي العلا.

Papyrus no: A1330 (Box 3)

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, 18 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. *Bā'* is distinguished from *tā'* by a high vertical extension, e.g. كتبت 'I have written' (line 5). *Sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* with a blessing that has an usual syntax: انا افديك والله يبيحك ويديم سلامك وعافيتك. The writer states that he has already sent the addressee a letter (وكتبت اليك كتاب قبل هذا). He requests him to send pieces of money (وابعث الي قطع).

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: لابي على الشاكري.

Papyrus no: A1333 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 37 cm. x 25 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, 22 lines, parallel to the fibres, and upsided down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basma*la: اكرمكما الله وابقاكما واتم نعمته عليكمما فى الدنيا والاخرة.
Mentions the sum of seven hundred dīnārs and several commercial transactions.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A1334 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 32 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 19 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 7 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* and *šīn* normally have no teeth. *Šīn* is surmounted by three dots, sometimes arranged on a horizontal plane.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. There is a large space left between paragraphs at the top of the leaf. Concerns commercial transactions. Mentions wheat (قمح) and a certain 'Abu Bišr. The writer request the addressee to send him his news.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto. Refers to al-Fuṣṭāṭ.

**Papyrus no:* A1335 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 34 cm. x 26 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:

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 horizontal line.

Content

Letter. Beginning is mostly lost. Fragments of the opening blessings survive (e.g. *واتم نعمه عليك*). Mentions somebody known as Ya'qūb al-Jihī (?) who is responsible for the oil press of the addressee (*يعقوب الجهى الموكل بمعصرتك*). Closes with blessings (*اطال الله بقاءك ..*).

VERSO

Address of letter on recto: *لابى العباس اطال الله بقاءه من على بن عبد الرحمن*.

**Papyrus no:* A1337 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 33 cm. x 20.5 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Well executed script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* normally has teeth. Final *yā'* sometimes extends horizontally backwards.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *حفظك الله وكلاك ورعاك*. The writer states that he has undertaken a boat trip from Fustāṭ to al-Fayyūm, which took him five days. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people and blessings.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: *الى داود بن ابراهيم من عمران بن ابراهيم*.

Papyrus no: A1339 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 44 cm. x 28 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, faint in places, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Large script. Final *'alif* generally extends below the connecting stroke. *Sin/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

End of a letter. Mentions the receipt of money by the 'office of the governor' (الدننير وتصح في ديوان السلطان). The verb *ṣahḥa* is used elsewhere to refer to receipts by government offices.

Papyrus no: A1341 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 32.5 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, faint in places, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 3 lines in right margin. The verso is blank.

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. The *basmala* is followed by the *ḥamdala* and the *taṣliya*. This is followed by the opening blessings: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. The writer complains that he has not received news from the addressee. Mentions a certain 'Abū Ṭāhir.

Papyrus no: A1344 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 42.5 cm. x 23 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, 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. *Sīn/sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basma*: *حفظك الله*. Refers to a monetary transaction involving 106 *dīnārs*. Closes with conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A1346 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 48 cm. x 20.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 36 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Features of script of early papyrus period. Independent 'alif bends to the right at the bottom. The upper part of *dāl/dāl* bends backwards. *Ṣād/dād* is horizontally extended. Finally *ā'* is extended backwards.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Traces of the opening formula of the early papyrus period: *بسم الله (احمد) يد اليك الله*. Concerns a slave girl (غلامة).

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A1347 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 42 cm. x 26.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 24 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Traces of the initial blessing are extant: وسعادتك. Concerns trade. Mentions a quantity of baskets (قفف), expressed in Greek numerals, the arrival of a boat (مركب) at night. The addressee is asked to do something on Saturday, since the disbelievers are working today. Mention a press (معصرة). Closes with the blessing with which it began.

VERSO

Address of letter on the recto: لابي العباس اطال الله بقاءه.

Papyrus no: A1349 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 39 cm. x 21 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 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.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: حفظك الله وبقاك وامتع بك. The writer states that he is writing to the addressee this morning to inform him of the pleasing news that certain goods have reached the family (وكتبت اصباح الى ان اوصيك بسر وقد اوصلت الى العيال المتاع : note the orthography of *aṣ-ṣabāḥ*).

VERSO

Traces of the address of the the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: 1351

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

Physical description: 51 cm. x 19 cm. . Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 20 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 16 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*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* is written without teeth. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطلال الله بقاءك وادام عزك.

VERSO

Content

Letter written in same hand as recto. Opens: جعلت فداك واعزك الله.

***Papyrus no:** A1354 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 33 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 25 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Script of the early papyrus period. The upper part of the stroke of *dāl/dāl* bends backwards. The lower stroke of initial *‘ayn* extends to the right. The top of final *‘ayn* is ‘V’-shaped. *Kāf* is generally hairpin-shaped even in final position. Sporadic consonantal diacritics. The dots of *šīn* are arranged in a straight line.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. Writer is concerned about somebody who has disappeared (لم ار ا له وجهه ... ولا يرفع بقول راسا). Reports the birth of a slave (غلام) and slave-girl (جارية). Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Script

Script of early papyrus period. Same hand as on recto.

Content

Letter. Right corner is damaged with some text loss. Opens with address after the *basmala*: من ام ورعة (؟) لابي محمد (?). This is followed by the opening formula that is characteristic of the early papyrus period: سلم عليك فاني احمد اليك الله الذي لا اله الا هو. Mainly contains conveyance of greetings.

**Papyrus no:* A1355 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 44 cm. x 22 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, 7 lines, parallel to the fibres. Ink is faint in places due to rubbing.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Features of early papyrus script. Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Hasta* of *tā'* slants to the right. The tail of final *qāf* projects straight downwards before bending to the left. The bottom stroke of initial *'ayn* extends to the right. In some cases there are large spaces between the letters of a withing a word. *Fā'* has a lower diacritic and *qāf* a single upper diacritic. Final *nūn* extends downwards as a vertically line. *Ṣād* is horizontally extended.

Content

Letter. Early epistolary formula. Address comes after the *basmala*: من وسامة بن طلق
The writer announces the death of somebody (ابو [] توفى). This is followed by blessings and a eulogy of him.

VERSO

Script

Same hand as recto

Content

Address of letter on recto and additional message from the writer of the recto, in which he requests the addressee pay a dirham to the wife of his maternal uncle.

Papyrus no: A1356 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 37 cm. x 30 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 21 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres.

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 teeth.

Content

Official letter. Beginning is missing. The body of the text consists mainly of a list of personal names. Some of the final blessings are extant (وزاد في فضله واحسانه اليك).

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto, written upside down relative to the text on the recto. Also traces of another letter.

**Papyrus no.*: A1357 (Box 6)

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

Physical description.: 38 cm. x 26 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text.

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Beginning is lost. Writer requests a report on events in an estate (الضيعة). He states that he has sent a messenger to Fusṭāṭ to bring back a speedy reply from the the addressee.

VERSO

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. *Sin/šīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. The writer requests the addressee to dispatch textiles, include two shirts (قميصين). Closes with formula: جعلت فداك ياخى واطال الله بفاك.

Papyrus no: A1360 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 34 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 11 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* has no teeth and is surmounted by three dots or a stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك واكرمك. Letter divided into paragraphs that are separated by spaces. The writer request the addressee to reply to explain the action of various people in connection with a surety (ضمان). Closes with the same formulae as it began with.

Papyrus no: A1361 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 34 cm. x 29 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres, + lines in the right margin.

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. Beginning and end are missing. Refers to dispatch of two pieces of papyrus (فرطاسين) and cloths (رياط) and also monetary transactions involving dirhams and dīnārs.

Papyrus no: 1363

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

Physical description: 50 cm. x 21 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 25 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. *Jim*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* is written without teeth. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basma*la: حفظك الله وابقاك. The opening formula is in a separate paragraph. The writer confirms the receipt of a letter. He mentions the affairs of his estate (ضيعتي). Closes with the same formula as it began.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A (1367 piece 1) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 10 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Two pieces of papyrus have been glued together. Right piece: 6 lines, written in black ink, at right angles to the fibres. Left piece, 5 lines, written in black ink, at right angles to the fibres. The verso contains a mark consisting of circular shapes.

Text:

Script

Right piece: Final *'alif* sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm* is written with a single curved stroke. Left piece: Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Final *nūn* extends to the left in a straight, oblique stroke.

Content

Right piece: Fragment of a letter. The writer asks the addressee to send his news.

Contains the end of a request formula: موفقا امنا متفضل ان شا الله.

Left piece: Account. Mentions *waraq* dirhams.

Papyrus no: A (1367 piece 2) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 9.5 cm. x 23.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 4 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Many unconventional ligatures.

Content

End of a letter. Closes with the *tašliya*.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The *hasta* of *ṭā'* slants to the right.

Content

End of a letter. Closes with the *tašliya*.

Papyrus no: A (1367 piece 3) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 12.5 cm. 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 sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl* approximates to a straight line.

Content

Letter. Left side is missing. Text opens after *basmala*: ابغاك الله. Contains the request: فانظر ان لا تخالفه 'Be sure not to disobey him!'. Refers to a certain 'Abū 'Alī, who is described as خليفته 'his proxy' (?).

VERSO

Script

The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Traces of an address.

Papyrus no: A1368 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 28 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. Text is missing at the bottom.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Marked horizontal extensions of connecting strokes and of final *kāf*. The tail of final *yā'* extends backwards. Apart from these extensions there are no distinctive features of early papyrus script.

Content

Letter. Early epistolary format. Address after *basmala* and blessing formula: احمد .. اليك الله .. (وقد فهمت الذى ذك [رت]).

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. The loop of *mīm* is sometimes open.

Content

Letter concerning family matters. The beginning is obliterated.

Papyrus no: A1369 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 26 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres, + lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 3 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/sīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: ابقاك الله وحفظك. Mentions monetary transaction involving qīrāṭs, also a ship (مركب) and a slave-girl (جارية).

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A1371 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 29 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 27 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 15 lines, parallel to the fibres. Text is missing at the top and bottom of the 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.

Content

Letter. Opening is missing. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions various commodities and their prices, including flax (كتان), saffron (زعفران).

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. The loop of *mim* is sometimes open.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Only the initial blessings are extant. Opens on the same line as *basmala*: ابقاكم الله. The address is placed at the top of the pages.

Papyrus no: A1375 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 39 cm. x 31 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Large spaces between the lines (4-5cm.). Text missing in the top lefthand corner.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

Content

Letter. Judging by the large spaces between the lines it was of an official nature.

Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقالك وادام عزك. The writer confirms the receipt of a sum of money, apparently in connection with an *'iqṭā'*. Closes with the formula with which it opened.

Papyrus no: A 1384 SEE JILL

Papyrus no: A1384

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 11 lines, 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. *Sīn/sīn* is written without teeth. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text opens, after *basma*la: جعلني الله فداك. The writer acknowledges the receipt of a note (*ruq'a*) from the addressee and mentions a transaction consists of two *dīnārs*.

Papyrus no: A 1384/1

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

Physical description: 12 cm. x 12 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles 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* is written without teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Only the end of the letter is extant. The writer requests the addressee respond immediately upon receipt of the letter. Closes: ابقاك الله وحفظك.

Papyrus no: 1395

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, 50 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 33 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

Large hand. Distinct letter shapes. Final 'alif usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/ṣīn* is written with teeth. There are numerous diacritical dots. Two dots are arranged vertically.

Content

Pious text. Closes ادعوا بما احببت, which could be rendered 'I pray for what I want' or 'Pray for what you want'.

VERSO

Script

Large hand. 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/ṣīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Contains the petition formula: ... فان رايت اطال الله بقاءك ان يامر ... 'If you, may God preserve your life, resolve to command ...'. Closes: جعلت فداك اطال الله بقاءك.

Papyrus no: 1397

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

Physical description: 59 cm. x 21 cm. Writing on one side only, 26 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text is complete.

Text:

Script

Large hand. Well executed hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/šīn* is written with teeth. There are no unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content

Petition to an 'amīr. After the *basmala* the text opens: اصلح الله الامير واطال بقاه 'May God cause the 'amīr to prosper and prolong his life'. The body of the text contains the petition formula فان را الامير ... فليفعل 'If the 'amīr determines to ... let him do so'. The writer requests aid for his family.

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