

Papyrus no: A1401 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 48.5 cm. x 27.5 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, 14 lines, 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

Letter. Text opens after *bāsmala*: جعلنى الله من السو فداكما واطال (بقاكما) وادام عزكما اتم. نعمته عليك (ما). Refers to the person conveying the letter (موصل كتابى). The writer urges the recipient to issue orders for something to be expedited without delay for the owner of this thing is a creditor of the sender: فاحب جعلنى الله فداك ان تفضل فى الامر بتعجيل الحاجة مع فان صاحبها له عل حق واجب. The phrase *ḥaqq wājib* is characteristic of the formulae of documents of debt. End of letter 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* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. Beginning of the opening formula is missing: () واتم نعمته عليك ... Answers question posed to him by addressee in a previous letter concerning the payment of the porters on a boat (النقالين فى مركب). The writer states that he has customarily given them one and a quarter *qirāṭs* and instructs the addressee to do the same: فانى قطعت قراطين غير ربع لكل منهم فاعمل على حسب ذلك. Ends with a blessing formula beginning جعلت فداك.

**Papyrus no*: A1416 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 23 cm. 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*, *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. Complete text is extant. The *basmala* is followed by a siglum in the shape of a cross. The text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله وحفظك واتم نعمته عليك وزاد في احسانه. وفضله عندكم. The writer and addressee are Christian women. The writer asks the addressee to send her news from Ramla or on arrival in Fuṣṭāṭ. She requests the addressee to receive the conveyor of the letter hospitably (بوجه المسيح 'with the face of the Messiah'). Mentions a certain 'Abū 'Alī, who appears to be the guardian or husband of the addressee. Closes with blessings and greetings.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto, directing it to 'Abū 'Alī.

Papyrus no: A1466 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 8 cm. x 8.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 2 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Tiny fragment. The extant text may be from a blessing formula of a letter: ... الله ...

رب العالمين)

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Šīn is written without teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Insufficient text to allow identification, but it seems to be a fragment from a letter. The phrase ان شا الله can be read.

Papyrus no: A5001 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 44 cm. x 15.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 28 lines, parallel to the fibres, + one in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 15 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 generally extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: يا سيدى اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وتاييدك. The writer states that his family and the estate (الضيعة) is in a good condition. He reports that the addressee's letter has been delivered to him by Sa'd the warden (الحارس). Refers to a plot of land belonging to a church (قطيعة ارض من الكنيسة). Closes with the formula: اطال الله بقاءك.

VERSO

Script

Large 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 and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. Beginning and left side are missing. The writer requests the addressee not to delay in sending something to somebody: ولا توخر ذلك عليه. Mentions the governor (سلطان). Closes with the formula: اطال الله بقاءك.