

Papyrus no: A302 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 8 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 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/sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: حفظك الله. The writer states that wrote on the second of Shawwāl. Mentions the *karāj* tax.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: لابي محمد ابقاه الله عبد الله بن محمد بن خلف من احمد بن ابراهيم.

Papyrus no: A304 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 14 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. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, faint in places, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif in most cases 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* normally has no teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text opens after *basma*la: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك. The body of the letter begins in a new paragraph on a new line, separated from the initial blessings by a space. Most of the text is obliterated and cannot be read.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto. Mentions the 'oil seller' (الزيات). Most of the text is obliterated.

Papyrus no: A307 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 17.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. The beginning of the opening blessings is missing. The main body of the letter begins: « لقد علمت انى كلفتك » . The writer asks the addressee to look into a matter with the formula: انظر فى ذلك حاجتى لم يخف عليك .

Papyrus no: A308 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 24 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 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 horizontal stroke. *Šīn* has no teeth and is surmounted by three dots in a horizontal plane. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning is missing. Concerns agricultural commodities. Mentions barley (الشعير). Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

Papyrus no: A309 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 23.5 cm. x 17.5 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, 9 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 no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal bar.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقالك وادام عزك وكرامتك. The writer requests the addressee to send him a saddle (سرج). Mentions a sailor (النوتي). Closes with the same formulae as it opened with.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Note concerning letter on recto. Does not have full epistolary formant. The address appears in top left corner: ... كتب ابو الطاهر احمد من محمد عبد الله المغيرة ... 'Abū al-Ṭāhir 'Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad wrote ...' Mention the saddle (السرج).

Papyrus no: A311 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 24 lines, parallel to the fibres + 2 lines in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines, widely spaced, 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* normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. Arranged in paragraphs, each paragraph beginning a new line. The beginning is missing. Mentions trefoil (قرط) and the tank of a house (حوض دار). The writer asks the addressee to send some *dīnārs* urgently.

VERSO

Script

Larger script than on recto. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* is written without teeth. Several unconventional ligatures.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Closes with the blessing *الحرمك الله* and the *ḥasbala*.

Papyrus no: A312 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 27.5 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, faint in places, 14 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* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. Concerns a dispute connected with a share (سهم) of something. The writer is desirous of avoiding harm being done to a certain woman in this dispute (لا يمكن سهل واخوك من ظلم هذه المرأة).

Papyrus no: A317 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 17 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. Verso, written in black ink, 20 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke. Several unconventional ligatures.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke. Final *yā'* is extended backwards.

Content

List of personal names for accounting purposes. Mentions periods of time, possibly relating to debts. Greek numerals are used.

Papyrus no: A319 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 13.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, at 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* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله و«اطال» بقاك واتم نعمته عليك. The body of the letter opens in a new paragraph, beginning on a new line: انصرفنا من عندك ايدك الله ... 'We left your place, may God support you'. Requests news from the addressee.

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning and right side are missing. Contains the request formula: .. رايك 'Resolve to ...' / 'Give you opinion concerning ..'.

Papyrus no: A320 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 10.51 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, 5 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. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله. Refers to commercial transactions involving money orders (سفتج).

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto and its address: لابی العالیة ابقاه الله.

Papyrus no: A322 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 13 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 right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 12 lines, at right angles 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* normally has no teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics, in which two dots are written on a diagonal plane.

Content

Letter. The beginning of the opening blessing is missing. Opens after the *lacuna*: ﴿ كما الله وعافا كما ﴾. Mentions the holy sanctuary (بيت الله الحرام). Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

A series of marks consisting of circles and short vertical dashes, apparently used for accounting purposes.

Papyrus no: A324 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 13.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines + 6 lines, parallel to the fibres, arranged in two columns around a vertical fold in the papyrus. Verso, written in black ink, 8 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.

Content

Apparently an exercise in writing, in which a pupil has copied a literary text. Several phrases are copied twice. Sections are punctuated by lines and circular sigla. The literary text is of a philosophical nature.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Šin* and *šīn* are usually written with teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Concerns commercial transactions. Refers to a 'great profit' (

يكون ربحه كثير).

Papyrus no: A326 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 10 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 7 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 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* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلنى الله فداك واطال الله بقاءك. The main body of the text opens: .. فارقتك 'I left you ..'. Mentions a servant boy (غلام). The address of the letter on the verso is at the top of the leaf.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The right side and bottom are missing. Mentions agricultural produce (الغلة) and its conveyance to a place known as المنية الكبيرة.

Papyrus no: A333 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 25 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, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres, + 5 lines in very faint brown ink at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وحفظك. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions 'the amount of the measure' (مبلغ الكيلة).

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

**Papyrus no.* A368 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 27.5cm. x 13 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Legal document. The beginning is missing. It appears to have been an acknowledge document (*'iqrār*). It confirms receipt of the sum of one *dīnār* and a sixth and certifies that the recipient of the money has granted the other party a quittance (إبراء منه). Dated to the seventies or nineties of the 3rd century (the unit is missing). Closes with witness clauses written in the same hand as the document.

Papyrus no: A369 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 31 cm. x 13.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 19 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 sometimes 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. At the top of the sheet there are 5 lines of what appears to be a postscript to the main letter. Opens after the *basmala*: اطال الله بفاك. The writer asks the addressees to inform him at what price they wish him to buy something: عرفوني بكم تريدوا ان اشترى لكم. This is followed by the main letter, which is addressed to a single person. It opens, after the *basmala*: فدتك نفسى يا ابنى.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Concerns agrarian administration. Mentions the 'survey' (المساحة), the 'tenancies' (القبالات), 'registration' (قد اسجلوا). Also refers to the 'governor' (السلطان).

Papyrus no: A376 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 24.5 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Opening formulae of a letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقالك واعزك واكرمك
واتم نعمته عليك

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto. The extant portion reads: « اطال الله بقالك واعزك واعزك واكرمك »
ببى خبزة من نلده مصا الجوفى فرح الله عنه

Papyrus no: A381 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 8 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, 10 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin/sin* normally has teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning and end are missing. The extant text conveys greetings to the addressee from various people.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto. Only isolated words are extant.

Papyrus no: A 383 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 10 cm. x 23.5 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

Small hand. Final 'alif sometimes 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 نعمته عليك. The writers state that they are sending the addressee pieces of cloth (اثواب) and requests him to reply to his letter.

VERSO

Content

Address of the letter on the recto. 'To 'Abū al-Ḥasan ... from Muḥammad ibn Zayd and Ḥassān ibn 'Ibrāhīm the cobbler (الخرّاز)'.
'

Papyrus no: A385 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 10.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in brown ink, 6 lines, parallel to the fibres, at right angles to text on recto, faint.

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. Initial *kāf* is horizontally extended.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text is missing on the right side and top. Remnants of the opening formula include [ادم] عزك. Largely concerns family matters. Ends with the conveyance of greetings and closes with the formula: جعلت فداك واطال الله بفاك.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning and the end are missing. Concerns various commercial matters.

Papyrus no: A387 (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 brown ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif normally 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. . Text is missing on the left side and at the bottom. Opens, after *basmala*: اطال الله يا سيدى بقاك وادام عزك. The extant text from the beginning of the body of the letter is *وانا اعزك الله رجل نصرانى وفي حجرى اطفال* 'I, may God grant you strength, am a Christian man with children in my care (literally: lap)'. This suggests that the letter is a petition. Most of the remaining text, however, is missing.

VERSO

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/sīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Only a few words are extant. Mentions the dispatch of some item (قد وجهنى اليك).

Papyrus no: A389 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* 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, 7 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/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning is missing and only isolated phrases are extant.

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* normally has teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning is missing. The writer refers to various payments.

Papyrus no: A390 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 23.5 cm. x 15 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, often very faint, 20 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. Some features of script from the early papyrus period, e.g. the horizontal stroke of initial *'ayn* is extended to the right. There are also features characteristic of the later period, e.g. the upper part of the stroke of *dāl* does not bend back to the right. Sporadic consonantal diacritics. Two dots are written on a vertical plane.

Content

Letter. The left side and bottom are missing. Text opens after *basmala* with the address: «الذى لا اله الا هو» من هشام بن مهدى الى سلام بن صهيب سلم عـ. The body of the letter begins on the next line, and reports the receipt of the addressee's letter (بلغنى كتابك).

VERSO

One line written in same hand as recto, faint. Apparently not the address. Possibly a pen exercise.

Papyrus no: A391 (Box 3)

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, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

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* normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal bar.

Content

Letter. Text missing at the top and bottom and on the right side. Mentions 'the large kerchief' (المنديل الكبير) and 'the birds' (الطيور). The writer says that he is appealing to the view of the addressee concerning some matter (ارجع الى رأيك).

Papyrus no: A392 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacunae* 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:

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. *Sin* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*, on the same line as the *basmala*: اكرمك الله وابقاك
قسط. واتم نعمته عليك

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A393 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 23.5 cm. x 12.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, faint in places, 16 lines + 1 line in top margin, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 13 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 occasionally 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. The beginning of the opening blessings is obliterated. When they become legible they read: واكرمك واتم نعمته عليك. The writer states that textile material that he had hired from the addressee had now been returned to the addressee (قد وردت اليك الاثواب التي كنت اجرتها لى).

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Right side and bottom are missing. The beginning of the opening blessings is obliterated. The addressee is requested to write a letter (ارجو (غلام). (يكون كتابك)

Papyrus no: A394 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 12.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in brown ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in brown ink, 5 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. *Sin/sin* normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning of the opening blessings is missing. The surviving text is: وَأَزَادَ فِي إِحْسَانِهِ إِلَيْكَ وَعِنْدَكَ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ: } The writer states that he is worried about something (فَعَنَى ذَلِكَ). The end is missing.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A395 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 15 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 7 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. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth. Initial *kāf* is elongated.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: جعلت فداكم. Refers to various monetary transactions.

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. *Sīn/šīn* is written without teeth.

Content

List of names and isolated phrase. These appear to be pen exercises.

Papyrus no: A397 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 15 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 8 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. *Sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. The writer states that he is coming to participate in an exhibition and request the addressee to look into some matter (انا جعلنى الله فداك صائر اليك فى هذا اليوم لاشترك فى امر عرض فاحب جعلنى الله فداك ان تنظرى) (فى) . It appears from the verbal morphology that the addressee is a woman.

VERSO

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* is written without teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Mentions a place called *ساحة الصخر*.

Papyrus no: A398 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 11 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, 9 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. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك واتم نعمه عليك وجعلني فذاك. The writer requests the addressee to come to him: احب ان تتفضل ... بالسفر الى منزلك الذى انا فيه.

VERSO

A second letter by the same writer as the one on the recto and presumably to the same addressee. The writer makes a request concerning his father (والدى).

Papyrus no: A399 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 11 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in reddy brown ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 7 lines, parallel to the fibres, very faint and smudged.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sin/šīn* normally has teeth. *Ṣād* is horizontally elongated. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: (ل) حفظك الله وابقاك وامتع بك صالح. The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee and requests him to send some goods (فاحب ان تبعث ... المتاع).

VERSO

Very faint traces of a letter.