

Papyrus no: A402 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 10 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*, *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*: اكرمك الله. Concerns transactions relation to agricultural produce. Closes with the same formula as it opens with.

Papyrus no: A403 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 10 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres, and two lines in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 5 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. *Sin/ṣin* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. The writer requests the addressee to send urgently to a certain Ḥārith.

VERSO

An appendix to the letter on the recto conveying greetings from various people.

Papyrus no: A404 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 14 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, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a literary text. The numerous *lacunae* do not permit a more specific description of contents.

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/šīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning and end are missing. Contains a request formula: ... فرايك اطال الله بقاءك في ...

Papyrus no: A413 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 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. Initial and medial *kāf* curve round to the left. *Sīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وحفظك وابقاك واتم نعمه عليك. The writer acknowledges receipt of a letter from the addressee. Concerns commercial matters. The beginning of a request formula is preserved: ... وان يتھيا لابی سعيد.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: ... لابی سعيد اكرمه الله.

Papyrus no: A417 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 29 cm. x 16.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 21 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 extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn* and *šīn* normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter addressed to a woman. Text opens after *basmala*, on the same line: فذلك
حياتي سيدتي. Concerns a legal dispute.

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions registration (تسجيل)
and a servant boy (الغلام).

Papyrus no: A421 (Glass)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres, and 3 lines in right margin. 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 teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. The writer reports that he gave one dīnār to somebody to aid in some adversity (وقد دفعت اليه دينرا عند ما رايت من امرها ما رايت).

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif normally 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 normally written with teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee and refers to wages (نفقة) due from the addressee. End is missing.

Papyrus no: A423 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 21 lines, parallel to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in right margin, very faint. 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*, *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 bar.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning is missing. Concerns commercial matters. Mentions various payments.

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 writing is too faint to read in most places.

Papyrus no: A 429 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 6 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 12 lines, parallel to the fibres, badly rubbed.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Features of early papyrus script. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* bends back to the right at the top. The Medial and final 'ayn/gayn is 'V' shaped. Final *hā'* is horizontally elongated. Sporadic diacritics. Dots on *šīn* are arranged in a horizontal line.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The right, left and bottom sides are missing. Parts of the blessing formulae are preserved.

VERSO

Script

Early papyrus script. *Dāl* bends back to the right at the top.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The right, left and bottom sides are missing. Most of text has been obliterated by rubbing.

Papyrus no: A 432 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 7 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 18 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 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* extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* and *šīn* normally have no teeth, *sīn* is surmounted by a horizontal bar.

Content

Letter. Obliterated on right side. Concerns trade.

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm* is written with a single curved stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Top and bottom are missing.

Papyrus no: A434 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 23.5 cm. x 9 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. The sheet has been formed by glueing together two pieces of papyrus, the joint running from top to bottom. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres, some very faint. Verso, written in black ink, 19 lines, parallel to the fibres, + 3 from another text, at right angles to the fibres, on the second of the two pieces that are glued together.

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* has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: يا سيد، اطال الله بقاءك. Concerns the release of somebody (اطلاقه). The writer states that 'the 'amīr will not oppose you, God willing' (فالامير لا تخالفك ان شا الله). Closes with the formula ومثل الصدر, i.e. repeat the opening blessings.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Letter, written in different hand from the one on the recto but with similar formulae. Text opens after *basmala*: يا سيدى اطال الله بقاءك وجعلنى فداك. It seems to be the reply to the recto. The writer states that 'we have released him' (اطلقناه). Closes with the formula: مثل الصدر. On the right there are traces of the opening formulae of another letter. This was written on a separate sheet, which was later glued to the main piece.

Papyrus no: A435 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 8 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. Faint.

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 teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك لله وحفظك وامتع بك. The writer instructs the addressee to confirm the receipt of something.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A 436 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 13 cm. x 25 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

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 stroke.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. Concerns commerce. Refers to monthly transactions.

Ends with the formula: اطلال الله بقاك وادام عزك وكرامتك واتم نعمته عليك وزاد في احسانه اليك.
Closes with the *taṣliya*.

Papyrus no. A 439 (Box 2) Ragheb, photography. 24.3.93.

Papyrus no: A441 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 13 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres (NB!). Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, 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 teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله وحفظك وامتع بك. The writer replies to a request of the addressee concerning wheat (قمح) that he has none but that someone had promised to give him some: وقد اوعدني رجل ان يهب لي شى. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: لا بى عبد الله ابقاه الله من

Papyrus no: A445 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 27 cm. x 11 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 8 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke and other times does not. *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

Fragment of a letter. The right side is missing. The opening formula is missing. The addressees are asked not to oblige the writer to speak to somebody (ولا تحوجونى الى الكلام). Mentions bedouin Arabs (الاعراب). Closing blessing contains the phrase ويكفى المومنة 'may he (God) be sufficient for the burden of trouble'.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/šīn* is written with teeth. There are sporadic consonantal diacritics. Two dots are written on a vertical plane.

Content

Short note. Address is written at the top above the *basmala*: الى ... ابقاه الله. The text of the letter omits an opening formula. It begins: يدخل هذا الرجل الذى ... هذه الغلة بيت مظل وفرش حوله جاف 'let the man who ... this produce enter a sheltered place with dry bedding around him'. No closing formula.

Papyrus no: A494 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 10.5 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, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn/šīn* have no teeth, *sīn* being surmounted by a horizontal bar.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك جعلت من كل سو فداك. Short note about commercial transactions. Closes with the *taṣliya*.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

letter. Text opens after *basmala* with formula: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك وسعادتك و. زاد في احسانه اليك. The body of the text opens: ... اعلمك اعزك الله انه. The writer informs the addressee of that certain people have been detained. Closes with the *taṣliya*.