

Papyrus no: A503 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 8 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 23 lines, parallel to the fibres + 1 line in right margin.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn/šīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Draft of a letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله. The writer refers to wheat (قمح). Many repetitions and deletions.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Letter. The beginning is obliterated. Concerns the delivery of wheat (قمح).

Papyrus no: A504 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 6.5 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 15 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Jim is written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight stroke.

Content

Fragmentg of a letter. Beginning of opening formula reads: ... جعلت فداك.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ... ابقاك الله وحفظك. Concerns a slave girl (جارية).

Papyrus no: A505 (Box7)

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

Physical description: 20.5 cm. x 13.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles 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. Sporadic diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطلال الله بقالك يا ابا جعفر وادام عزك. The writer request the addressee to come to him at the time of the afternoon prayer.

Papyrus no: A507 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 17.5 cm. x 12 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 11 lines, parallel to the fibres, + 2 lines in the right margin. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif sometimes 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. Opening is obliterated. Write asks the addressee to send him a letter (الرقعة) concerning various people.

VERSO

Script

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

Fragment of a letter. The beginning is obliterated. Mentions *karāj* tax. At the top of the leaf there is an address (... من محمد بن احمد), which relates to the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A508 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacuna* 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. *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*: جعلنى الله من كل سوء ومكروه فداك. Concerns a meeting with the addressee. Closes with the *tašliya*.

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

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala* with long blessing formula: اطلال الله بقائك وادام عزك وكرامتك «وتا»بيدك وسعادتك واتم نعمه عليك وزاد في احسانه اليك و«جعلنى» من كل سو ومكروه فداك

Papyrus no: A 509

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

Physical description: 20.5 x 12.5 cm. *Lacunae* in the top half. Writing on both sides in black ink. Recto: 14 lines. Verso: 4 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written across the breadth of the papyrus piece parallel to the fibres. The script on the verso is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* regularly extends below the connecting stroke.

Initial *tā'* written with a very high *hasta* in *تعمل* (line 12).

Sporadic diacritics. Three dots are written over *sīn* arranged in a horizontal line in *قسم* (line 1), where the letter is written without teeth. Elsewhere *sīn* is written with teeth and without diacritical dots.

Orthography

Defective orthography of long *ā* in name *أبي القسم* 'Abū al-Qāsim.

Content

Letter. Address at the top above the *basmala*: *أبي القسم إبقاه الله*. Text opens: *اطال الله* *بقاك وادام سعادتك*. The addressee is requested to pass on instructions to a third party and reply to the addressee.

VERSO

Script

Resembles script used in later Fāṭimid official correspondence. Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. Unconventional ligature of *'alif* to following letter.

Content

The end of three lines of text and the traces of a fourth. There are wide spaces between the lines (3-4cm.), which is characteristic of official correspondence. It appears to be some kind of official letter. The addressee is referred to in second person (*عليك* line 1).

Papyrus no: A 510

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

Physical description: 19 x 10 cm. *Lacunae* in places. Writing on both sides in black ink. Recto: 10 lines. Verso: 12 lines + 1 line in right margin. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written across the breadth of the papyrus piece parallel to the fibres. 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. *Dāl* approximates to a straight vertical stroke.

Sporadic diacritics. *Fā'* has a superscribed dot.

Content

Letter. Opens: جعلت فداك . The addressee is requested to send news of himself and of a certain 'Abū Milh (فاكتب اكرمك الله الى ... خبرك وخبر ابو ملح).

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* regularly extends below the connecting stroke. Final *nūn* has a long straight oblique stroke in من ('the one who' line 7).

Content

Fragment of a letter. Only the right side of the lines are extant. The beginning is lost. The addressee is requested to deliver something to the man conveying the letter (فتوجه به الى من اوصل كتبي). There is reference to the sale of a small house (باع باع) 'he sold his small house'. A certain 'Abū Ya'qūb is mentioned in the margin.

Papyrus no: A 516

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

Physical description: 215 x 5 cm. *Lacunae* in the top half. Writing on both sides in black ink. Recto: 6 lines. Verso: 3 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written along the length of the papyrus piece at right angles to the fibres. 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. *Sīn* normally has teeth. Sporadic diacritics. A dot is written over the *rā'* in درهمين (line 2). The tail of final *kāf* is extend in final word of the text to fill the line.

Content

Letter. The text opens on the same line as the *basma*: جعلك فداك The addressee is requested to send two dirhams and also ripe, juicy fruit. He is not to send it if it is not ripe. Note the lack of feminine agreement of the adjective at the end of the nominal phrase in فاكهة رطبة حاضر 'juicy, ripe fruit'. The letter closes: جعلك فداك.

VERSO

Script

Larger than recto Final 'alif regularly extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* has teeth.

Content

The opening formula of a letter. It may be a writing exercise. The first word of the *basma* is written twice. The formula reads ابقاك الله وحفظك واتم نعمته لديك وزاد في احسانه اليك .

Papyrus no: A 520

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

Physical description: 21 x 6 cm. Top of text missing. Writing in black ink at right angles to the fibres. 6 lines. Verso is blank.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. There are some features of early papyrus script. In some cases *'alif* bends to the right at the bottom. The body of *tā'* and initial *kāf* are horizontally extended. The bottom stroke of initial *'ayn* is extended to the right. The tail of final *mīm* is very short. The upper stroke of *dāl*, however, does not turn back at the top.

Content

The end of a letter. The addressee is asked to convey greetings to various people, all of who are women: 'Umm Ḥabīb, Sa'īda, 'Umm 'Umar, 'Umm Mūsā.

Papyrus no: A 526

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

Physical description: 23 x 11 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in reddy-brown ink, 5 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* regularly 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 بقالك وجعلت فداك. The writer refers to a servant (غلام).

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

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala* with long blessing formula: اطال الله بقالك وادام عزك وكرامتك «وتا»بييدك وسعادتك واتم نعمه عليك وزاد في احسانه اليك و«جعلنى» من كل سو ومكروه فداك.

Papyrus no: A528 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 12 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines, parallel to the fibres. 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 is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. Mentions wheat (قمح). Closes with formula: مد الله في
عمرك واعزك واكرمك وزاد في احسانه اليك

VERSO

Script

The top of 'alif slants to the left. *Ṣād/dād* is horizontally elongated.

Content

Fragment of an letter. Only the first few letters of each line are extant. Wide spaces between lines (up to 7cm.).

Papyrus no: A 532

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

Physical description: 22 x 13 cm. Writing on one side only in black ink at right angles to the fibres. 9 lines + 1 line in left margin. There are small *lacunae* in the middle. On the blank verso there is staining, which may be caused by the seal.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. When extending below usually bends to the left at the bottom. Final *yā'* is occasionally written with a loop at the top.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning missing. The writer reports on the health of various people and requests the addressee to reply to his letter.

Papyrus no: A 533

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

Physical description: 20.5 x 10.5 cm. Fibres frayed around the top and side edges. Writing on both sides in black ink. Recto 11 lines, at right angles to fibres and at right angles to the text on the verso. Verso, 3 lines. 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 sometimes extends below the connecting.

Content

Letter. Traces of address above the *basmala*. It is separated from it by a space of 4cm. Text opens after *basmala*: عافانا الله واياك من السو. The writer refers to a the unloading of a ship (سفينة). Closes with the *ḥamdala*.

VERSO

Script

Larger script than on recto. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Connecting strokes of letters and also the tails of final *yā'*, *kāf* and *tā'* are elongated to fill lines.

Content

Closing formula of a letter: حفظك الله وابقاك في نعمه عليك . This formula is followed by 'and it has been written' to mark the closure of the text.

Papyrus no: A535 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 9 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, 17 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. The left side has been torn away. The beginning is missing. Mentions the coast (الساحل). The sender asks the addressee to write to him.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ... *انعم الله مساك واطال الله بقاءك واعزك واكرمك*. Mentions a certain Isma'īl. Closes with the formula: *فاعلم ذلك اكرمك الله وابقاك وحفظك واتم نعمه عليك وعندك*.

Papyrus no: A 536

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

Physical description: 22.5 x 11.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto on one side only in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres. The top of the text has been cut off.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif regularly extends below the connecting stroke.

Jim, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn* normally has teeth.

The orthography reflects the cliticization of the prepositional phrase *lī* ('to me') to the verb in قال لى (= قال لى 'he said to me').

Content

End of a letter. Last line of main body of letter, followed by five lines containing the closing formula, which is a long version of the type of formula that occurs at the opening of letters: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك وتاييدك وسعادتك واتم نعمه عليك وزاد فضله واحسانه اليك ...

Papyrus no: A 537

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

Physical description: 19.5 x 11 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only in black ink. 11 lines written at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* regularly extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* and *šīn* are written without teeth. Sporadic diacritics, including *tā'* (ثلاثة).

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *مد الله في عمرك وابقاك وحفظك واتم نعمه عليك*. The writer requests the addressee to send (*wajjih* وجهه) something to him quickly. Closes with the same formula as it opened with.

Papyrus no: A538 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 14 cm. x 25 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, 7 lines, parallel to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

End of a letter. Greetings conveyed to various people. Closes with blessing formula: ... [جعلنى] الله فداك من كل شر واطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك ... followed by the *tasliya*.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Opening formula is obliterated. Mentions sugar-cane (العصب) and a press (المعصرة). Closes with the formula: ابقاك الله وجعلنى الله فداك من سر ان شا الله. An address appears at the top of the leaf: الى ... مولى رفاعة جن محمد.

Papyrus no: A540 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 55 cm. x 26 cm. Two halves of one leaf. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 13 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* has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. The writer acknowledges receipt of a letter from the addressee. Mentions a certain 'Abū al-Qāsim ibn Muḥammad.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto also a second letter:

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

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala* with blessing formula: جعلت فداك ياخي واطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. There are traces of the body of the letter, in which the writer states that he has bought something for the addressee.

Papyrus no: A543 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: Two pieces from the same leaf. 24 cm. x 22 cm, 26 cm. x 25 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 22 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 6 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. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* normally has not teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: (اطال الله بقاءك وا) دام عزك وتأييدك وسعادتك وكرامتك وسلامتك. Only fragments of the body of the letter are extant. Mentions a certain 'Abū al-'Abbās (also referred to as 'Abū 'Abbās, without the definite article). Closes with the formula with which it opened.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto and another text at right angles to this:

Script

Small hand. *Sīn* is written with teeth.

Content

Fragment of an account. The entries are headed by personal names and contain a series of Greek numerals.

**Papyrus no*: A544 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 29 cm. x 28 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, 7 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* and *šīn* have no teeth and are surmounted by a stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ... و تاييدك وسعادتك (؟) واعزك و ادام حراستك (؟) و تاييدك وسعادتك (؟). The writer mentions the sale of trefoil (جميع القرط) and states that the companions of the addressee had given him ten 'washed' dīnārs (وان الذى اعطاني اصحابك عشرة) الدينار مغسولة. He requests the addressee to reply with the formula: فرايك اعزك الله فيما .. والكتاب عن .. وحوايجك موقفا ان شا الله. Closes the with blessing with which it opened.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto and another document:

Script

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

Content

Account. List of various items followed by Greek numerals.

Papyrus no: A545 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 28 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. Faint in places, due to rubbing.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Beginning is obliterated. The writer requests the addressee to send certain items urgently.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A546 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 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, written at right angles to the fibres, is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.x

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Initial *kāf* is hairpin shaped.

Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight line.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basma*la: *ابقاكم الله وحفظكم*. Concerns commercial matters. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* usually extends below the connecting stroke. Medial *šād* is horizontally extended. *Kāf* is hairpin shaped. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Refers to a village (قرية).

Papyrus no: A547 (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, 20 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 3 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line parallel to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the text on the verso. 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Requests the urgent conveyance of some item.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto and of an account, written at right angles to the fibres, containing Greek numerals.

Papyrus no: A549 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 31 cm. x 23.5 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* usually extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. Initial *kāf* is horizontally compressed.

Content

Letter. Opening is obliterated. Refers to the sending of a note (رَقْعَة). Closes with a blessing: ... اطل الله بفاك.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A550 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 31 cm. x 22 cm. Large *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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. Some lines are very faint due to rubbing.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* often has no teeth. In one case it is surmounted by three dots in place of teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ... اطلال الله بقاك. The writer states that he has sent the address a sealed purse (صرة مختومة) in containig 5/6 of a dīnār and a 'grain' (دينار الا سدس و حبة). Closes with the conveyance of greetings and the *ḥamdala*.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

***Papyrus no:** A552 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 23.5 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, 6 lines (upside down relative to the script on the recto) + 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basma*: حفظك الله وابقاك. The writer expresses joy that the addressee and his household are well. He refers to a woman called 'Amat al-Raḥmān, concerning who he wished to seek a decision from the governor (واردت). Mentions later the official known as مزيت السلطان (ان استقضى عليها بالسلطان). He states that he wishes to sell a house (انا عازم ابيع ذلك المنزل).

VERSO

End of the letter on the recto. Closes: والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته. At the other end of the sheet there are traces of the address.

Papyrus no: A556 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 8.5 cm. One side of sheet is missing. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 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. *Sīn/šīn* normally has no teeth. The horizontal stroke of letters at the end of the line is extended.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Right side is missing. Most of opening formula is lost. Surviving texts has **حفظك الله** . Mentions a certain **كَيْلِ ابْنِ مِقَارِهِ** and a district **الناحية**. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A559 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 24 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, 9 lines, parallel to the fibres, upside down relative to the script on the recto. Some text obliterated due to rubbing.

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. Sporadic consonantal diacritics. Two dots are written obliquely.

Content

Letter. The beginning has been obliterated. The confirms receipt of a letter and states that he has sent the addressee and states that a group of people have set off on Friday to visit the addressee.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto. The writer asks the addressee to send a message to a certain woman posthaste (مع كل مکاری). Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

Papyrus no: A561 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 29 cm. x 22 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.

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بفاك وادام عزك. Main body of the text opens: ... قد تعرف جعلنى فداك. Most of content has been obliterated.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A562 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 34 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *اطال الله بقلك وادام عزك*. The body of the letter begins on a new line, that is separated from the initial blessing by a space. Consists mainly of good wishes conveyed to the addressee.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A563 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 22 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines, at right angles to the fibres + in the top margin, upside down relative to the rest of the text. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. Faint in places due to rubbing.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'aliḥ extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. Initial *kāf* is hairpin shaped.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاك. The writer complains that he has not received a letter from the addressee for many days (لم ارا لك كتاب منذ ايام كثيرة).

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A564 (Box 5)

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. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres. Faint due to rubbing in places.

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. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. The first few words of opening blessing are missing: () وكرامتك وتأييدك
وسعادتك واتم نعمه عليك (منزل الاسكندر). End missing.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto: لابي القسم اكرمه الله.

Papyrus no: A565 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 16 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.

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. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك وادام الله كرامتك . Request the addressee to send his news. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: الى عجد الله ابو محمد من عمرو ابن عبد الرحمن

Papyrus no: A566

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

Physical description: 17.5 x 12 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Bottom missing. Writing on one side only in dark brown ink. 7 lines, written at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* regularly extends below the connecting stroke. The *hasta* of *tā'* slants to the right. Features of early papyrus script: The loop of *mīm* is open. The upper stroke of final *kāf* bends to the right at the top. Wide spaces occur between some letters. Words are divided across lines

Content

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmla*: انعم الله مساك واطال في الخير بقاءك. The writer refers to a the delivery of herbs measured in *qīrāts* including قيراطين خيري 'two *qīrāts* of viola alba (yellow gilliflower)' and قيراطين بنفسج 'two *qīrāts* of violets'.

Papyrus no: A567 (Box 5)

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, 7 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning and end are missing. Paragraph divisions are marked by spaces between sentences. The writer requests information on various matters.

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* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

List of various items together with an amount expressed in qirāṭs.

Papyrus no: A568 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 31 cm. x 17 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, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger 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. *Sīn* and *šīn* normally have no teeth and are surmounted by a stroke.

Content

End of a letter. In the extant portion the writer requests the addressee to send him his news. He uses a standard request formula: ان رايت اطلال الله بقاءك ان تامر التكااب الى (اطال الله بقاءك ..) and the *tašliya*.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content

Traces of an account expressing amounts in words.

**Papyrus no.*: A571 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 27.5 cm. x 21 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. The tails of final *mīm* and final *yā'* extend to the right in a straight line. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: حفظك الله وابقاك. The body of the letter opens: انى من مكارم اهل الفسطاط .. من مكارم اهل الفسطاط 'I sold foodstuffs ... to the nobility of Fustāḡ' and closed an outstanding account (لاغلاق ما بقى). Refers to 'large ships loaded with seven-hundred *irdabbs* of goods and four more ships' (مراكب كبار محملة سبعة مائة اردب) (واكثر اربعة مراكب).

VERSO

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

Papyrus no: A572 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 27 cm. x 19 cm. Large *lacunae*. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 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* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Left side and bottom are missing. Text opens after *basmala*: *حفظك الله*.
Consists mainly of the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto and its address.

Papyrus no: A579 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 22 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, 15 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 no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. Concerns commercial matters. The writer states that where he is wheat is selling at five *waybas* for a washed dīnār (وانما القمح عندنا) (خامس وبيات بدينار مغسول).

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto. Closes with the formula مثل الصدر (i.e. blessings like those at the beginning) and finally the *taṣliya* and the *ḥasbala*.

Papyrus no: A585 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 34 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres, upside down relative to the text on the recto. 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 usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Report concerning financial matters. There is no clear epistolary opening. Mentions النفقة على سدها 'maintenance expenditure to repair it' and the 'fiscus' (بيت المال).

VERSO

Script

Large script. Vertical *hastae* are 2 cm. Spaces between lines are 5 cm. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Fragment of official records of correspondence. Two entries, each introduced by the *basmla* record the content of letters sent by a certain سوبوس بن كيل.

Papyrus no: A588 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 35 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Large script. Vertical *hastae* are 1.5 cm. 2 cm. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* and *šīn* have no teeth. *Šīn* is surmounted by a stroke. Connecting strokes are horizontally extended in places.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning and left side is missing. Contains a request opening with the formula: ... ورايك اعزك الله فى ... The section of the request is separated from the preceding sentence on the same line by a large space. The letter closes with a blessing opening ... اطال الله بقاءك ... The blessing is in a separate paragraph.

Papyrus no: A589 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 36 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in reddish ink, faint, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

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. *Sīn/sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. End is missing. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطال الله بفاك وادام عزك. The writer informs his master (مولاي) that he wishes to undertake the pilgrimage (اردت الخروج الى الحج).

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif generally 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

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بفاك وادام عزك. The writer states that he is pleased that the addressee is in good health (سرتنى سلامتک). Closes with the same blessings as are found at the beginning.

Papyrus no: A597 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 22 cm. Large *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 20 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin. Faint in places.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning is missing. Difficult to read on account of the faintness of the script. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

Papyrus no: A598 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 29 cm. x 24 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 in places.

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.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بفاك. Mentions a group of people (جماعة). Closes with the the blessing with which it opened.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A592 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 23.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 19 lines, at right angles to the fibres. The script on the verso is upside down in relation to the that on the recto. The text on the right side of the recto and the verso has been largely obliterated by staining. Text at the bottom of the sheet is missing.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Medial *'ayn* sometime has open loops. *Sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Opening formula is obliterated. The writer refers to the document as a 'scroll' (*darj*): طرح هذا الدرّج اليك 'This scroll has been sent to you'. Concerns commerce. Mentions Sa'īd ibn 'Abī al-Rabī'.

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto. Mentions an *'amīr*, the governor (السلطان), and precious stones (الجواهر والياقوت).

Papyrus no: A 593 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 22.5 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter addressed to a woman. The writer is also a woman. Text opens on the same line as the *basma* : جعلت فداكم واطال الله بقاكم. The complains that the addressee has not written. Mentions a dyer (الصباغ).

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on recto and the address: من بركة الى غالية