

Papyrus no: A600 (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, 11 lines, 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, 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* normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطلال الله بقاءك. The writer states that he intends to 'break the sugar cane and press it in a press': وقد عزمنا على كسر القصب وعصره في معصرة. Closes with the same blessings as it began.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* is written with teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning and end are missing. Mentions the seeds of sugarcane (زرع القصب).

Papyrus no: A602 (Box 4)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 24 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 3 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Large script. The vertical *hastae* are 1.5cm. - 2 cm. Large spaces are left between the lines (5cm.). The stroke of final *kāf* is horizontally extended at the end of the line.

Content

Fragment from the lefthand corner of a letter. Remainder of opening formula, after the *basmla*: Text opens after *basmla*: (و) اداام عزك وكرامتك. Judging by the size of the script it is of an official nature.

VERSO

Script

Large script. Vertical *hastae* are 1cm. - 2cm. Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* has no teeth and is surmounted by a stroke. The connecting stroke between letters is extended in one instance.

Content

End of an official letter concerning the payment of maintenance (النفقة).

**Papyrus no:* A605 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 26 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, 18 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/sīn* normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *حفظك الله وعافاك وابقاك*. The writer states that he is worried since he has not received a letter from the addressee. Closes: *اتم الله عليك* النعمة وهناك كرامته. At the bottom of the leaf there are traces of the address of the letter on the verso.

VERSO

Script

Same hand as recto.

Content

Letter. Only traces of the opening formula are extant. It has the form characteristic of the early papyrus period, though the script is characteristic of the 3rd century: *من عيسى الى « فاني احمد اليك الله الذي لا اله الا هو واسله ان يتم على سيدى نعمته ..* The writer states that he has bought 2 dīnārs of eggs to bring to the addressee (*اشتريت دينرين بيض لاقدم به اليكم*). The close of the letter is obliterated.

Papyrus no: A607 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 31 cm. x 23 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, 8 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*: جعلت فداك واعزك الله واكرمك. Written by a government clerk. Concerns agrarian administration. Refers to trefoil (قرط). There is a rosette shaped siglum in the top left corner of the document, which is found in government documents at this period.

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/sīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطال الله بفاك. Official communication concerning agrarian administration. Mentions trefoil (قرط).

Papyrus no: A626

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

Physical description: 17 x 15.5 cm. Writing on one side only, in black ink. 5 lines written at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Ṣin* has no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke. Final *nūn* approximates to a straight line.

Content

Verses of poetry.

Papyrus no: A627

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

Physical description: 17 cm x 19 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines + 4 lines in right and top margins. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written at parallel to the fibres. 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 stroke. *Dāl* approximates to a straight stroke, vertical stroke. Sporadic diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلنى الله فداك من السو. The writer refers to trade in various commodities. He has delivered goods to the addressee through the agency of the 'wife of Aḥmad' (مرت احمد). The addressee is instructed to sell البرنية ('dates' or 'earthenware vessel') if he is able to sell for a dirham (وان استباعت لك البرنية بدرهم) (فبيعها). The writer states that he has also send by the wife of Aḥmad 'a third of a dirham' and the addressee is ask to send 'a read dirham, a white dirham, half a yellow and half a black' (درهم احمر ودرهم ابيض ونصف اصفر ونصف اسود).

VERSO

Script

High *hastae*. Final 'alif regularly extends below the connecting stroke. Connecting strokes are extended to justify lines.

Content

Official account. Sums measured in *dīnārs*. Refers to to provisions (للميرة) provided for various people, including the porters (الحمالين). *Fuṣṭāṭ* is mentioned. In the spaces of the text there are pen exercises.

Papyrus no: A628 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 15.5 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, 9 lines, parallel to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto. 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

Small hand. 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* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *جعلنى الله فداك واطال بقاءك وكرامتك واتم نعمته عليك*. The writer states that he has not seen the addressee for many days: *لم ارك بسلامتك منذ ايام كثيرة* ('I have not seen you in your health for many days') and that he has travelled to some place to seek word of him.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning, end and right side are missing. Mentions 'Our Lord and Master, the Great 'Amīr': *سيدنا ومولانا الامير الديبر اطال الله بقاءه وادام عزه وعلوه*.

Papyrus no: A629

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

Physical description: 19 cm x 15.5 cm. Small *lacunae* at the top and in the middle. Writing on one side only in black ink, faint in places. 10 lines at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Ṣād* is horizontally extended with straight horizontal strokes in صرت (line 3).

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: [] واطال الله بقاءك ومد في عزك (السوق). The writer refers to transactions in the market (السوق).

Papyrus no: A630

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

Physical description: 12 cm x 18 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 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 is the remains of the original document. The text on the left side has been cut off. The script on the verso is written at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. The strokes of final *ḍād* and *nūn* are extended diagonally to the left. Final *yā'* is extended horizontally to the right.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله وحفظك واتم نعمه عهيك. The writer refers to the cultivation of land.

VERSO

Script

Ṣād is horizontally compressed. Defective orthography of long *ā* in النصرني 'the Christian'.

Content

Beginning of a receipt opening with the formula اخذ فلان ... من فلان 'so-and-so took from so-and-so'. The two names both have the *nisba* النصرني 'the Christian'.

Papyrus no: A631

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

Physical description: 13 cm x 17 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, 6 of which are very faint. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and is parallel to the fibres on the verso.

Text:

RECTO

Script

The first line is written in larger script than the rest of the text. Initial *bā'* slants to the left. Lines 2-10: Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Line 1: The remains of larger text. Contains the personal name محمد بن الوليد

Lines 2-10: Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله.

VERSO

Content

Address of letter on recto.

**Papyrus no:* A632

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

Physical description: 14 x 15 cm. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres. The script on the verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Large script. Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. Final *nūn* is extended obliquely to the left. Unconventional ligatures.

Content

Fragment from the middle of a letter. Contains blessings .

VERSO

Script

Written with fine pen. Strokes at the end of words extended.

Content

Pen exercises.

Papyrus no: A635

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 11.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, faint in places. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. Letters at the end of lines and at the end of the opening blessing formula are horizontally extended.

Content

Letter. The right side of the text has been cut off. Remains of opening formula:]

[واحسانه اليك وعندك]

VERSO

Content

Address of letter of recto. Over this a later hand has drawn a number of geometric shapes, including medalions.

**Papyrus no:* A688

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

Physical description: 17.5 x 8 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, faint. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Contains a list of commodities, which the writer requests the addressee to send, including 'chains' (سلاسل). Mentions al-Fuṣṭāṭ.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

List of commodities.