

Papyrus no: A702

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

Physical description: 12 cm. x 21 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 10 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

Carefully executed. Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. The body of *tā'* and *ṣād* are horizontally extended with straight horizontal strokes. The tail of final *yā'* is extended to the right.

Content

Fragments of poetic prose (*saj'*), with rhyming lines.

VERSO

Content

Continuation of text of recto.

Papyrus no: A705

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

Physical description: 11 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines + 1 line in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines. 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. Initial *kāf* is formed by one stroke.

Content

Letter. The initial blessings are mostly obliterated. The body of the text opens:
كتابى اليك يوم الاربعاء '(this) letter of mine (is sent) to you on Wednesday'.

VERSO

Content

Address of letter on recto: من عبد الله جل محمد بن يوسف الى فرح بن عبد الله. After this a later hand has added pen exercises in writing epistolary formulae.

**Papyrus no:* A709

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 13 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 7 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. Sporadic consonantal diacritics. *Fā'* has one dot below and *qāf* one dot above.

Content

Letter. Text opens with the address before the *basmla*: الى احمد بن عمرو. After the *basmla* comes the initial blessing: حفظك الله وعافاك. The writer refers to the 'matter of the portico' (امر السقيفة) and instructs him not to slacken his efforts with regard to it.

VERSO

Script

Various hands. Final 'alif generally extends below the connecting stroke. In one instance the stroke of *dāl* bends back at the top. Connecting strokes extended to fill out line. Defective orthography of long *ā* in شهدته (*šahādatahu*, line 1)

Content

Witness clauses of a legal document. Includes the phrases: اشهده على شهادته بما فى هذا الكتاب من اوله الى اخره وكتب شهادته بيده. The witnesses state that they have written their testimonies with their own hand.

Papyrus no: A716

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

Physical description: 8.5 cm. x 15 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink that has become faint, 5 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. 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. Initial *kāf* is written with a single stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Contains the blessing *اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك* in the middle of the text.

VERSO

Script

The tail of final *nūn* is extended to the left.

Content

End of an official document concerning agrarian administration. Probably a receipt for tax. The final line contains a reference to a measurement of land in *faddāns*, with Greek numerals.

Papyrus no: A723

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 12.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 11 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres. The text on the verso is written upside down relative to that on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Large script with wide spaces between the lines. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. The vertical *hastae* of letters are elongated.

Content

Fragment of an official document.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif usually extends below the connecting stroke. *Hā'* is written once with a small stroke underneath (a cursive form of a miniature form of the letter).

Content

Fragment of a letter.

Papyrus no: A727

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

Physical description: 18.5 cm. x 12 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in reddy-brown ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in reddy-brown ink 5 lines, and black ink, 6 lines. The script on the recto is written parallel to the fibres and on the verso at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basma*la: الكرمك الله ب... واسعدك بمغفرته. Concerns trade of fish. Mentions the matter of the *muqāṭa'a*.

VERSO

Content

Continuation of letter on recto. Above this are some notes from a commercial account (written in black ink). It appears that these notes were the original text on the papyrus and that it was subsequently used for the letter.

**Papyrus no:* A735

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

Physical description: 14.5 cm. x 13 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines + 2 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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

Written with a fine pen. Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sin* is written as a straight stroke surmounted by three dots arranged in a horizontal line.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: عافانا الله واياك من السو. The writer states that he has heard that the addressee has been given instructions orally by his (the writer's) father concerning something but that the addressee would like these in a written document (حجة تكون في يدك). The writer tells the addressee to be content with the oral instructions.

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sin* is written as a straight stroke surmounted by three dots arranged in a horizontal line.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The left side has been cut off. Concerns *karāj* tax.

Papyrus no: A736

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 12.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines, faint in places. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written parallel to the fibres and upside down relative 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. Strokes of final letters at the end of lines are extended diagonally to the left to fill out the line.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاءك واتم نعمه عليك*. The writer states that he has received the letter of the addressee. He instructs the addressee to take ten 'irdabs of some commodity as commission (حقوق) for his services.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. extended spaces between some letters.

Content

Letter. Text missing on the left side. After *basmala* there is the initial formula: *جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاءك*. Ends with the conveyance of greetings to various people: *فاقراهم باسلم* (i.e. *fa-gra'hum bissalām*) exhibiting, in the form *باسلم*, *scriptio defectiva* of long *ā* and the phonetic spelling of the definite article.

**Papyrus no:* A737

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines. 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. Note the orthography *يا با القسم* 'Oh, 'Abū al-Qāsim'.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك و [] وجعلنى من كل سو فداك. The writer asks the addressee, 'Abū al-Qāsim, to convey the two pieces of cloth (الثوبين) and the kerchief (المنديل), which he had sent to him to their required destination and to take a sixth of a dīnār from the man delivering the letter.

VERSO

Content

Address of letter on recto: لابی القسم اكرمه الله من .

Papyrus no: A739

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

Physical description: 14.5 cm. x 12.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines + 2 lines in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto and upside down relative to the text on the verso 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. Initial *kāf* is written with a single stroke.

Content

Letter. To the left of the *basmala* there is the note: اعذرني اعزك الله في القرطاس 'Forgive me, may God strengthen you, concerning the papyrus' (i.e. excuse the fact that I am using a sheet that has already been used). Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاءك ودام كرامتك. The writer states that he has received a note (رقعة) from the addressee concerning a debt owed to him by a certain 'Abd-allāh al-Qanā'ī.

VERSO

Content

Fragment of an account, consisting of a list of Greek numbers followed by a diagonal checking mark.

Papyrus nos. 740, 743, 755 SEE JILL.

Papyrus no: A742

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

Physical description: 13.5 cm. x 13 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 12 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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 extends below the connecting stroke. Note the orthography حتى for حتى.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ... اعلمك ابقاك لله ان ... Concerns the cultivation of barely. The addressee is requested to send barley to be planted in the place that has been eaten by worms. Also mentions the 'partridges' (كروان). The addressee's opinion is sought with the formula: فاكتب الى برايك حتى اعلم عليه.

VERSO

Script

Same hand as recto.

Content

Letter. Top and left side are missing.

Papyrus no: A743

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

Physical description: 11.5 cm. x 11 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, faint in places, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/ḍāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* is written without teeth. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطلال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. The writer request the recipient to deliver some item. Closes with a formula that is the same as the one it opened with.

VERSO

Script

Very few Arabic letters are extant. 'Alif bends round to the left at the bottom of the stroke.

Content

Fragment of an account. The visible text consists of series of Greek numerals.

Papyrus no: A748

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

Physical description: 13 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 9 lines. The script on the recto is written parallel to the fibres and on the verso at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter concerning various agricultural products measured in *'irdabs* and *waybas*. Beginning of text is missing.

VERSO

Content

Continuation of letter on recto.

Papyrus no: A752

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

Physical description: 18.5 cm. x 14 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black faded ink, 12 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 13 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Two hands. Lines 1-7: Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final yā' extends to the right. Lines 8-12: Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Vertical *hastae* are elongated. The tail of final yā' extends to the right. *Scriptio defectiva* of long ā in الكتَب (al-kitāb).

Content

Witness clauses of a legal document, written by the witnesses in their own hand (cf. line 6: شهد ... على ما فى (وكتب شهادته بخطه). Refers to an 'iqrār 'acknowledgement': هذا الكتَب واقرار فاطمة ابنت ... 'So-and-so testified to what is in this document and the acknowledgement of Fāṭima daughter of ...'.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

End of a letter. Contains conveyance of greetings to various people.

Papyrus no: A753

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

Physical description: 19.5 cm. x 11.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter concerning agricultural matters.

VERSO

Content

Continuation of letter on recto.

Papyrus no: A755

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

Physical description: 12 cm. x 11 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, 1 line, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Well executed script. 'Alif is vertically extended in places. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/šīn* is written with teeth.

Content

Draft of a letter. Opens after the *basmala*: *حفظك الله وعافاك*. Concerns the division of property.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A759

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

Physical description: 13 cm. x 13 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines + 2 lines in top margin. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines. 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. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. End of opening formula extant: [] عليك وزاد في احسانه لديك وعندك

VERSO

Content

Continuation of letter on recto on its address (لابي القاسم اكرمه الله).

Papyrus no: A765

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

Physical description: 16.5 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only, in black ink, 6 lines. The script is written at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: [فداك] اطلال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وجعلنى عن كل سو

Papyrus no: A767

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 12 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines. Verso, written in reddy-brown ink, 6 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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 does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* is regularly written without teeth.

Content

Letter making a polite request. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاء سيدى . فان راى سيدى اعزه الله ان يامر لها باخذ التبن ... فعل ان شا الله .

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Right side of text is missing. The writer makes a polite request expressed by the formula: فان راى سيدى فعل ان شا الله . The writer refers to the letter as a *ruq'a*.

Papyrus no: A770

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 10.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in reddy-brown ink, 6 lines. 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. *Dāl* and *ḏāl* are reduced to a single straight stroke.

Content

End of a letter. Closing blessings.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

End of a letter. Concerns betrothal of a woman.

Papyrus no: A771

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

Physical description: 12.5 cm. x 20 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, faint in places. Verso, written in black ink, 1 lines. 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 sometimes extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* on the same line: ... اطلال الله بقاك وادام عزك . Main body of letter begins: ... اعلمك .

VERSO

Content

Address of letter on recto.

Papyrus no: A 772

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

Physical description: 22.5 cm. x 11.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, some obliterated by smudging. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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. The tail of final *yā'* is extended to the right.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basma*: ... ابقاك الله.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Right side is missing. The write requests the addressee to write to him (واكتب الى).

Papyrus no: A 773

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 12 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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.

Content

Letter. Initial blessings after *basmala* are mostly obliterated. The main text of the letter opens: ... بلغنى ان 'it has been communicated to me that ...' Note the conditional structure: ... فان يکن يحتاج 'if he needs ...'

VERSO

Content

Fragment of an account with Greek numerals and checking marks in the form of crosses.

Papyrus no: A 774

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

Physical description: 16.5 cm. x 14 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 1 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.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* is regularly written without teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text missing at the top and the right side. Concerns commercial transactions.

VERSO

Script

Sīn has teeth. Final *nūn* is written as an extended oblique stroke.

Content

Basmala written as a pen exercise.

Papyrus no: A 775

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

Physical description: 11.5 cm. x 15 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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 extends below the connecting stroke. The loop of *mīm* is usually open.

Content

Lines of poetry.

VERSO

Script

Sād is horizontally compressed.

Content

End of a letter. Top and right sides are missing. Closes with the *taṣliya*: صلى الله على

محمد وآله وصحبه وسلم تسليما

Papyrus no: A 776

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

Physical description: 13.5 cm. x 15 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written parallel 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* in most cases does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Top of text is missing. The writer requests the addressee to send him four *dīnārs* and refers to an item of business with a certain *'Abū 'Ayyūb*.

VERSO

Script

Final *nūn* is horizontally extended.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Only the beginning of the last three lines is extant. It appears to be a formal petition. Line 2 begins with the request formula: ... فرايك .

Papyrus no: A 777

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

Physical description: 19.5 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines, faint in places. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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* does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. The initial blessings after the *basmla* are obliterated. Main body of letter opens: ... كتبت اليك ونعم الله عندي متواترة ... 'I am writing to you, while I enjoy abundant blessings of God ...'. Contains exchanges of greetings.

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Final *nūn* is extended in an oblique stroke.

Content

End of a letter. Top and left side is missing. Contains the conveyance of greetings to various people.

***Papyrus no:** A 778

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

Physical description: 9.5 cm. x 18.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres and on the verso parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Exhibits feature of script from the early papyrus period. Independent 'alif often bends round to the right at the bottom. Final 'alif does not usually extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl* and *dāl* bends up at the top. *Ṣād*, *īā'* and *kāf* are horizontally extended. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right. The vertical *hastae* are elongated.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Top and bottom missing.

VERSO

Content

Continuation of recto.

Papyrus no: A 780

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

Physical description: 7.5 cm. x 19 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines. 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 usually does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* and *šīn* do not have has teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Top and bottom missing. Concerns trade.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of an account recording sums owed. Includes various proper names. Amounts are expressed in Greek numerals.

Papyrus no: A 781

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

Physical description: 13 cm. x 9 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 8 lines, faint in places. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written at right angles to the fibres. The script on the verso, written at parallel to the fibres, is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: انعم الله صباحك 'May God make your morning pleasant'. Concerns trade in cloth (*tiyāb*).

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

End of a letter. Closes with blessings on the addressee and finally the *taṣliya*.

Papyrus no: A 784

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 8 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 7 lines. 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 usually extend below the connecting stroke. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام نعمتك وزاد في احسانه اليك وعندك (الطوب الاحمر). End is missing.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: blessing formula: ... اعلمك اطال الله بقاءك ان Refers to residences in the portico of al-Kūfī (المنازل ... في سقيفة الكوفى).

Papyrus no: A 789

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 12 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to fibres, + 1 line in right margin + 2 lines in top margin.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl* and *dāl* approximate to a straight line. *Sīn* is written with a line surmounted by a horizontal stroke or by three dots arranged horizontally, two of which have been merged together.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ... جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاءك. The writer states that he is waiting for a reply from the addressee concerning some matter. Mentions al-Fuṣṭāṭ.

Papyrus no: A 790

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

Physical description: 15 cm. x 8.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ... *جعلت فداك ومد الله في عمرك واتم نعمه عليك*. The writer request the addressee to come to him tomorrow (بالغداة).

Papyrus no: A 791

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 20 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, faint in places. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written 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* extends below the connecting stroke. Connecting strokes are horizontally extended in places.

Content

List of expenditure on various items. Introduced with epistolary formula: ابقاك الله ... وحفظك الذى نفقته من ... 'May God preserve and protect you. The expenditure of ...' (or 'what I disbursed of ...').

VERSO

Script

Large script with wide spaces between lines. Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. Several unconventional ligatures. Resembles Fāṭimid official scripts.

Content

End of a letter.

Papyrus no: A 796

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 10.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines and traces of letters of another line at the top. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line. 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 sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Kāf* is formed by two strokes. *Sīn* has teeth.

Content

Letter. Right side is missing. The extant portion of the opening blessings reads: []
كتابى اليك من الرملة. احسانه اليك وعندك. The letter was sent from the town of al-Ramlah: الرملة. The writer (a *mawlā* 'freedman') expresses the wishes to be reunited with the addressee (a woman) quickly: اسئل الله يا ستى ان يجمع بيننا عاجلا سريعا فى عافية. 'I pray to God, my Lady, that God will unite us quickly in good health'. Refers to *mawālī* in al-Ramlah.

VERSO

Content

Address of letter on recto: من مقبل مولى بن مرسل رحمه الله. 'From Muqbil, freedman of Ibn Mursil, may God have mercy upon him'.

Papyrus no: A 797

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

Physical description: 17.5 cm. x 8 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on on side only. Written in black ink, 16 lines, faint in places, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. The writer expresses the wishes to be reunited with the addressee: اسأل الله يا ستى ان يجمع بينك وبينى فى عافية 'I pray to God that God will unite us in good health'.

Papyrus no. A. 798: SEE JILL

**Papyrus no:* A 799

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 16 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 8 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written parallel to the fibres and upside down relative 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. *Mim* frequently has open loops.

Scriptio defectiva of long *ā* in كرمتك (*karāmataka*, line 2) and of long *ī* in الدنار.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* on the same line: انعم الله صباحك وادام كرمتك. The writer confirms that he has received five dīnārs from the writer: الذى قبضت منك: خمس الدنانير. He instructs the addressee to pay some expenses from a sixth dīnār and send him the remainder with a servant boy (الغلام). Note the phonetic shift of 'alif to *hā*' in the word وهما الدنار السادس فخذ منه (أماً =) هما.

VERSO

Script

Large script with wide spaces between lines. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl* approximates to a straight line. Some final letters extended to the left with an oblique stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Appears to be a formal petition. Includes the request formula: ... فان رايت 'If you resolve to ...'.