

Papyrus no: A 801

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

Physical description: 20.5 cm. x 10 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 15 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Account relating to bails of commodities (عدل). Opens with epistolary formula, consisting of *basmla* followed by *حفظك الله وابقاك وامتع بك*. This is followed by a list of personal names arranged into two sections. Against each section there are clerical checking marks. At the top of the document, above the *basmla*, there are clerical notes, including *صح* 'it is valid' and *نسخ* 'it has been copied'.

Papyrus no: A802 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial and medial *kāf* is hairpin shaped. *Sīn* and *šīn* have teeth. *Šīn* is surmounted by three dots written on a horizontal plane. Numerous consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: فدتك نفسى ياخى. The writer says that he was very pleased to receive the letter of the addressee and that he misses him. Closes with conveyance of greetings and the same blessings as appear at the beginning.

Papyrus no: A822 (Box 5)

Two pieces.

Papyrus A:

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

Physical description: 32 cm. x 29 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, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto, + 1 line parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: يا ابا الحسن كتبت عن سلامة ابني ومن اخوة .. والحمد لله كثيرا دائما. The writer requests the addressee to purchase raisins and honey (زبيب ...). (وغسل).

VERSO

Address of letter on recto: يوصل الى ابي الحسن على بن محمد بن ماضى اعزه الله

A second letter:

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text opens after *basmala* with اطلال الله بقاءك يا اخي. Consists mainly of greetings conveyed to the addressee from various people.

Papyrus B:

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin. 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

A 822 continued

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Initial *kāf* is hairpin shaped. Note the defective orthography in كرمتك (= كرامتك).

Content

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرمته وزاد في احسانه اليك ...

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* usually extends below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* is written without teeth. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The writer states that he has sent the addressee a basket containing ten *waybas* of wheat (وقد وجهت اليكم تليس فيه عشر وبيات قمح).

Papyrus no: A840 (Box 5)

Two pieces:

Papyrus A:

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

Physical description: 27 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 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*, *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'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Opening blessing is missing. Concerns trade of various items.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto: لابی عمرو اکرمه الله.

Papyrus B

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

Physical description: 9 cm. x 8 cm. Small fragment. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 2 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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.

Content

Fragment from a letter.

Papyrus no: A843 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 23.5 cm. x 24.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres. The first few letters of line have been broken off. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres, two of these are upside down relative to the text on the verso.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وابقاك واتم نعمه عليك. Mentions the sending of various sums of money and their receipt. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Address: لابي بكر حفظك الله محمد جن احمد جن النعمان اكرمه الله من احمد بن عبد الرحمن.

Papyrus no: A844 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 27.5 cm. x 23.5 cm. Light brown papyrus. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres, faint in places. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Scripts

Final *'alif* usually extends below the connecting stroke. The upper stroke of initial *kāf* is often written detached from the top of the letter.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بفاك وادام عزك. Refers to the conveyance of various sums of money. Closes with same formula as it began.

VERSO

Traces of the address.

Papyrus no: A845 (Box 5)

Two separate pieces.

Piece A

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text is missing at the bottom. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* has no teeth. The tail of final *yā'* extends backwards.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text opens after *basma*la: جعلت فداك واطال الله بقالك. Mentions a village (القرية).

VERSO

Traces of the address.

Piece B

Papyrus no: *000

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Faint. Text missing on the right side. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres. Faint.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning of opening formula is missing. Extant text begins: واتم نعمه عليك (مريضه). Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Traces of the address.

Papyrus no: A 847

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 11 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Features of script of early papyrus period. Independent 'alif often bends to the right at the bottom. *Kāf* is hair-pin shaped. The stroke of final *nūn* extends downwards in an almost vertical line. Words are split across lines. There are nevertheless some features of later script: *dāl* does not bend backwards at the top and medial 'ayn is a loop. Note also that final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. Right and left sides are missing. Early epistolary formula. Opens with address after *basmala*, followed by: ... سلم عليك [احمد اليك الله] الذى لا اله الا هو اما بعد .

Papyrus no: A848 (Box 5)

Two pieces

Piece A

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 9 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, faint traces of 6 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. A distinct angle is made in the meeting of the strokes of *jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'*. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابفأك الله. The writer states that he has not seen the addressee today and wishes to know whether he has received a certain sum of money and commodities: لم ارأك الیوم فاحب تعلمنی مال كان من ... هل جاك بشی من الدنانیر او (احد مین الحوايج شی).

VERSO

Faint script. Apparently traces of pen exercises in epistolary formulae.

***Piece B**

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 7.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing at the bottom.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Final *yā'* extends backwards.

Content

Order of payment. Text opens after *basmala*: ادفع الی .. خمسة عشر درهما. Closes with date (most of which is lost) and siglum characteristic of official orders of payment and receipts.

VERSO

Script

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* 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: بقاك وادام عزك وكرامتك «وتا»بيدك وسعادتك واتم نعمه عليك وزاد في احسانه اليك و«جعلني» من كل سو ومكروه فداك

Papyrus no: A849 (Box 5)

Two pieces

Piece A

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 11.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت الله فداك. Mentions a certain 'Abū al-Qāsim.

Piece B

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

Physical description: 27 cm. x 9 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Refers the conveyance of money. Mentions the sending of 'a whole dirham' (درهم تمام).

Papyrus no: A850 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 8 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 209 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in the right margin.

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*: ابقاك الله. Concerns trade. Gives details of commercial accounts, e.g. الباقي لك اعزك الله دينارين وربع.

Papyrus no: A851 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 9.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* normally has no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. Concerns monetary transactions. The writer states that he has received a *dīnār* (وصل الدينار).

Papyrus no: A851 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 9.5 cm. x 5.5cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Small hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn/sīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The extant part contains various blessings on the addressee.

Papyrus no: A874 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 38.5 cm. x 24 cm. Large pieces missing in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 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* normally has teeth. The tail of final *yā'* often extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *حفظك الله و عافاك و ابقاك و ابقا نعمه عليك*. The writer states that he is in good health. The main body of the letter is missing. Closes with blessings.

VERSO

Address of letter on the recto: *لابى جعفر آكرمه لله من خلف ... بالفسطاط*.

Papyrus no: A875 (Box 5)

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

Physical description: 40 cm. x 27 cm. Parts are torn away on three edges. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in faint black ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Large hand. Letters are carefully executed. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final yā' sometimes extends backwards.

Content

Letter. The beginning is lost. Refers to purchase of commodities. Mentions trefoil (قرط), which, according to the writer, has not attracted many purchasers. Closes, in a separate paragraph, with blessings, only fragments of which are extant.

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 with teeth. Connecting strokes are extended at the beginning of a paragraph.

Content

Letter. Fragments of the opening blessing are extant, opening with اكرمك الله. The writer begins the body of the letter by acknowledging receipt of a note from the addressee (فهمت رقتك 'I have understood your note').

Papyrus no: A878 (Box 5)

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

Four fragments, including two pieces from the same MS (fragments A and B) and two different pieces (fragments C and D)

Fragments A and B

Physical description:

Fragment A

25 cm. x 17 cm. Small *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, 12 lines, parallel to the fibres, and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Fragment B

25 cm. x 7 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 faint black ink, 6 lines, parallel to the fibres, and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO AND VERSO

Script

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

Content

Various prophetic traditions (*ḥadīth*). Each tradition is presented in a separate paragraph, which closes with a siglum consisting of circle surrounded by dots.

Fragment C

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

Physical description: 23.5 cm. x 7 cm. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Mentions a ship (مركب) and an anklet (الخلخال). Closes with blessings.

VERSO

Script

Larger hand than on recto. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Note, which may have been intended as a response to the letter on the recto. The writer complains that the addressee has not written to him concerning a certain

Muḥammad: لم تكتبوا الى في امر محمد بقليل ولا كثير

Fragment D

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

Physical description: 9 cm. x 6 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 3 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 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.

Content

Small fragment of a letter.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

**Papyrus no:* A894 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 18 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقالك وادام عزك. Concerns agrarian administration. Mentions the survey (المساحة). The writer makes a request using the formulae ... رايك and .. ان رايت .. in which he asks the addressee to arrange payment for tefoil. Closes with the same formulae as it opened with.

VERSO

Post-script to letter on recto and its address: لابي سهل اطال الله بقاه.

Papyrus no: A896 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 23.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, faint in places, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres. + 2 lines in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres + 1 line in right margin.

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* in most cases has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Opens, after the *basmala*: جعلنى الله فداك. The write expresses the hope that the addressee is in good health.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto. This is followed by a second letter:

Script

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

Content

Beginning of a letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اكرمك الله بطاعته وتولاك بحوطته واسعدك. Mentions al-Fuṣṭāṭ and a ship moored on the coast (الساحل). The writer requests generosity to be shown to him by the addressee. Closes with the same blessing as it began with.

Papyrus no: A898 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Above the *basmala*, in the left side of the leaf, there is a note indicating the name of the sender: ... رقة محمد بن. At the top of the sheet there are traces of the end of another letter. The letter that occupies most of the sheet opens, after the *basmala*: جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاءك واكرمك واتم نعمته عليك وعندك. The writer complains that the addressee has not attended to his command: كتبت اليك جعلت فداك الا وقد بلغك امرى وما ابتليت به.

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/šīn* is usually written with teeth.

Content

End of a letter. Contains greetings to various people.

**Papyrus no:* A899 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 19.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وابقائك واتم نعمته عليك وزاد في احسانه اليك وعندك في الدنيا والاخرة. The main body of the letter opens: كتابي اليك اكرمك الله وانا على افضل حال. After further blessings the writer informs the addressee that he has made an entry to his credit in the 'ledgers of the servant boys' (وقد وضعت اليك بكتب) (الغلامين). Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto: لابي على اكرمه الله.