

Papyrus no: A900 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 21 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, 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 teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: «ابقاك الله وحفظك واتم نعمه عليك». Mentions some event that causes the shedding of tears: فليس منهم رجل الا باكى.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto. After this follows a second letter:

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

Content

Letter. Beginning is obliterated. Closes with the blessing: حفظك الله وامتع بك, which is followed by the note that the letter was written by the hand of a certain 'Abd al-Karīm (والخط من عبد الكريم).

Papyrus no: A901 (Box 7)

Date: Late 2nd or early 3rd century A.H./8th century A.D.

Physical description: 23 cm. x 20 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on side only. Written in black ink, 22 lines, at right angles to the fibres, very faint in places.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Carefully executed script. Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. The top of *dāl/dāl* occasionally bends back to the right. Initial *kāf* is horizontally elongated.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning and end are missing. Mentions a slave (غلام) and goods given to him by his master (مولاہ).

**Papyrus no:* A902 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 21 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

Well executed script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmla*: عافانا الله واياك من السوء برحمته. The writer requests payment of 55 dīnārs to a certain مطير or his messenger to cover the price of aloes-wood for fragrance (فى ثمن عود للطيب). Closes with the same blessings as it began with, and finally ends with the phrase وكتب بخطه 'and he wrote it with his hand'.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto. Also a note recording the name مطير followed by a Greek numeral.

Papyrus no: A903 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 20 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: « *حفظك الله* » « *واتم النعم عليك* ». The writer asks the addressee his view concerning some matter, using the formula: *فرايك فيما اعلمتك*. Closes with the blessing: « *تمم الله عليك* » « *وهناك* ».

Papyrus no: A904 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 19 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres, + 1 line in right margin.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning is missing. Concerns family matters, addressed to a woman. Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

Papyrus no: A905 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 21.5 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: « حفظك الله » . Reports a dispute in ownership.

Closes with formula that is likely to be the same as it opened with: حفظك الله وعافاك

وامتع بك

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A906 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 26.5 cm. x 24 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, 19 lines, parallel to the fibres.

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/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. Mentions the dimensions of something in cubits (أذرع). The writer conveys his greetings to 'our companions' (اصحابنا).

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. Mentions a *قصة* and a *رقعة*, both of which terms are often used to refer to a petition. Refers to honey (العسل).

Papyrus no: A907 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 27 cm. x 24.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك. The writer reports that a certain Ḥārīt is unable (for some reason) to write himself (أحرث اليوم ... لا يمكن الكتاب).

Papyrus no: A908 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 25.5 cm. x 22.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 19 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in the right margin. 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/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وابقاك. Concerns the trade of honey (عسل). Various quantities are mentioned, measured in the *qisṭ* measure (قسط).

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A909 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24.5 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Well executed script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: « » نفسي تفديك من كل . The main body of the letter opens with the report that the addressee's letter has reached the writer: ورد (قد استلمت الربح). The writer goes on to note that he has received profit (قد استلمت الربح). Mentions al-Fuṣṭāṭ. Closes with the same formula as it began with.

**Papyrus no*: A910 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 20.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. 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. *Sin/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning of the opening formula is missing. The surviving text of the formula contains elements that are characteristic of the early papyrus period, whereas the script is characteristic of the third century A.H., e.g. فانى احمد اليك الله وانا قادم (علىكم بعد كتاب، وذا ان شا الله). Closes with the conveyance of greetings. Ends with 'and it has been written'.

Papyrus no: A911 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 17.5 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, 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 and is surmounted by a horizontal bar.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاءك. Concerns commercial accounts. The writer requests the addressee to obtain a reply from somebody concerning a certain matter with the formula: فان اردت ان ... تاخذ منه الجواب فافعل ان شا الله.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto. The writer seeks the addressee's advice to alleviate a difficult situation: لعل الله يسهل الامر فعرفنا رايك ...

Papyrus no: A912 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 23 cm. Large *lacunae* in the middle and top. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning is missing. Concerns some legal arrangement regarding a sum of money.

Papyrus no: A913 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 19 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

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

Content

Letter. The writer expresses his admiration for the addressee: وانت احق الناس كلهم

Closes with the blessings ابقاك الله وحفظك وجعلنى من كل سو فداك.

Papyrus no: A914 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 23.5 cm. x 19.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 2 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.a

Content

Letter. The beginning of the opening blessings is obliterated. The extant text begins: *واتم نعمه عليك*. Concerns commercial matters. The writer requests the addressee to send him 'the meat' with the cultivators (*وجه الى بالزراعين اللحم*).

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

**Papyrus no*: A915 (Box 7)

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, 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. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sin* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. Mentions various agricultural items: sugar cane, orchard, sewn fields, wheat, trefoil, pack-animals and cattle (الاقصاب والاجنة والزرع القمح والقراط والدواب والبقر).

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A916 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 25 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres, + 2 lines in the top margin. Verso, written in black ink, 6 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاكم الله وحفظكم واتم النعمة عليكم وزاد في احسانه اليكم. The main body of the letter opens: كتابي اليكم وانا في العافية. Addressed to the sister and wife of the writer (cf. يا اختي ويا مريتي). Conveys greetings to various people.

VERSO

Continuation of the letter on the recto, with the address at the top of the leaf: لابي
الحسن ابقاه الله من ام يحيى

Papyrus no: A 926

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

Physical description: 7 cm. x 14 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 3 lines. 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

Large script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Connecting strokes between letters are extended horizontally.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Includes a part of the initial blessings: [عافانا و[اياك وعفا عنا]

VERSO

Content

Part of the address of the letter on the recto: [لاىى سليم من]

Papyrus no: A 927

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

Physical description: 18.5 cm. x 17 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the recto is written parallel to the fibres and. The script on the verso, written at right angles to the fibres, is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* and *šīn* normally have no teeth. A number of letters have lost graphic distinctness.

Content

Account of land tax presented to an 'amīr. Opens: كتاب ... خراجات الامير اطال الله بقاءه
وسلم تسليما

VERSO

Script

Large script. Lines widely spaced, with gap of 8 cm. Final letters of line are horizontally extended.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Part of the initial blessing formula is extant: [اطال الله] بقاءك ...
... وادام عزك . Judging by the wide spaces between the lines it is addressed to a high dignitary.

HERE

**Papyrus no:* A929 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 16 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, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sin* normally has teeth. The tail of final *yā'* sometime extends horizontally to the right.

Content

Petition to a dignitary. Beginning is missing. The end of the opening formulae read: *ومولای ورثیسی و خلیلی و کبیری بقاک*. Concerns pigeons. The writer expresses his thanks for the munificence of the addressee and makes a request for the payment of something.

VERSO

Pen exercises in writing the *basmala*.

**Papyrus no:* A930 (Box 7)

Date: 1st century A.H./7th century A.D.

Physical description: 27 cm. x 17.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres. There are traces of Greek script on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Script characteristic of the early papyrus period. *Hā'* drops diagonally down below the base line. The stroke of *dāl* bends backwards at the top. Final *kāf* is horizontally extended. Note the omission of 'ayn in the word *بد = بعد* (line 3). Words are split between lines; also the spellings *عظيم = عظيم, فضله = فضله*.

Content

Letter addressed to Ḥārith ibn Yūsuf and Hišām, the Commander of the Faithful by 'Usāma ibn 'Imrān. Opens with the address: *اسامة ابن عمران الى الحرث ابن يوسف و الى هشام امير المؤمنين*. Expresses the wish that all is well: *اسال الله ان يتم علينا وعليك نعمته*.

VERSO

Script

The hand of the same scribe as wrote the letter on the recto.

Content

Letter. Opens with the address after the *basmala*, as is usual in the early papyrus period. 'Ayyūb ibn 'Abī al-Manṣūr writes to various people, who listed in the address. Expresses the hope that all is well with the addressees. Same formulae as are used in the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A932 (Box7)

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

Physical description: Three pieces: (1) 17 cm. x 22 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, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres. (2) (1) 9 cm. x 6 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 3 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres. (3) 17 cm. x 16 cm. Fibres are badly damaged with many of them missing from middle of papyrus sheet. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 4 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

(1)

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif generally extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. Medial 'ayn has a flat head. Sporadic diacritics.

Content

Letter. The beginning of the opening formula is obliterated. The writer says that he is worried to hear that the addressee is ill with a cough and cold and prays that God will grant him health (... انك عليل جعلت فداك من سعال وزكام فغمنى ذلك اراك الله العافية). Mentions an estate (الضيعة).

VERSO

Content

Two addresses. One is directed to a certain 'Abū Muḥammad and the other to 'Abū Ja'far.

(2)

RECTO

Script

Large hand. The *hasta* of *tā'* slants to the right.

Content

Tiny fragment of a letter.

VERSO

Content

End of the address of the letter on the recto.

(3)

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. The tails of final *rā'* and *nūn* are horizontally extended.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Only broken sections of the opening formula are extant.

Papyrus no: A935

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres, faint in places. Verso, written in black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ادام الله كرامتك ومد في عمرك. The writer asks the addressee to send him a letter with the 'big slave' (الغلام الكبير). Closes with formula identical to the opening one.

VERSO

Content

Address of letter on recto. '... from Muḥammad ibn Sa'id'

Papyrus no: A936

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

Physical description: 19.5 cm. x 25.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in reddy brown ink, 12 lines, parallel to the fibres, faint.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* and *šīn* are written without teeth and surmounted by a horizontal bar. The connecting stroke between letters is extended at the beginning of a paragraph.

Content

End of a petition to a dignitary. Contains the petition formula: فرايك فيما سالت موقفا
ان شا الله

VERSO

Script

Well executed, angular script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial *kāf* is horizontally extended.

Content

End of a letter. Mentions financial transactions.

Papyrus no: A941 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres, faint.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله وادام عزك وكرامتك واتم نعمه عليك وعندك. Refers to monetary transaction. The writer states that he will send to the addressee some money. Closes with conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Address of the letter on recto. Most has been obliterated.

Papyrus no: A942

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 8 lines, parallel to the fibres, faint in places.

Text:

RECTO

Scripts

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial *kāf* is horizontally elongated.

Content

End of a letter. Mentions the journey of somebody to Constantinople (قسطنطينية) and his audience with the king (الملك), i.e. the Byzantine emperor, which involved some kind of financial transaction. Closes with conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Jim*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line.

Content

End of a letter. Writer requests the addressee to reply to his letter and to pay some money to somebody.

Papyrus no: 944

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

Physical description: 16.5 cm. x 13 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 at right angles to the fibres. The script on the verso, written parallel to the fibres, is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* is written without teeth and surmounted by a horizontal stroke. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: مساك الله بعافية وكرامة 'May God grant you an evening of health and honour'. The writer requests the addressee to come to him at the time of the afternoon prayer (احب ... اعزك الله ان تصير الى مع العصر). Closes with the blessing: حفظك الله واطال الله بقاءك.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl* approximates to a straight stroke. Final letters at the end of some lines are horizontally extended to fill out lines.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala*: يا جعلت فداك 'Oh you, whose ransom I wish to be,'.

Papyrus no: A945

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

Physical description: 12.5 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 1 line, 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. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله وابقاك واتم نعمه عليك وزاد في احسانه اليك وعندك . Refers to commercial transactions. Ends with same formula as it begins with. Closes with the *taṣliya*.

VERSO

Fragment of the address of the letter on the recto.

***Papyrus no:** A 946

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, 12 lines. 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. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. Initial blessings are obliterated. Concerns the transport of wheat by ship to al-Gizah. The writer advises not to ship any more goods to al-Gizah due to some disturbances.

VERSO

Content

Address of letter on recto: لا بى محمد و ابى الحسين ابقاهما الله

Papyrus no: A 952

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

Physical description: 17.5 cm. x 21 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 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* extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl* and *dāl* approximate to a straight stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ... اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك. Concerns agricultural matters. Mentions trefoil (فرط) and pack-animals (الدواب). Closes with a request for the addressee to reply with his news. The initial blessings are repeated at the end.

VERSO

Script

Large script with wide spaces between lines. Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* no teeth and is surmounted with a horizontal stroke.

Content

Fragment of an official letter. Between lines 3 and 4 are inserted administrative notes relating to accounting, in which amounts are expressed in Greek numerals.

Papyrus no: A954

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in reddish brown ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres, very faint.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Beginning and end are missing. Mentions a piece of material (الثوب), which the writer is sending to the addressee.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Tails of final letters are extended to the left.

Content

Very faint. It appears to contain the closing formulae of a letter.

Papyrus no: A 980

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 13 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 8 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. *Sīn* and *šīn* normally do not have teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter.