

Papyrus no: A (6) 1 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 12 cm. x 13.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 4 lines at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Features of script from early papyrus period. Independent 'alif sometimes bends to the right at the bottom. The stroke of *dāl* bends back to the right at the top. Note also that *sīn* is written with teeth and surmounted by three dots arranged on a horizontal plane. Other sporadic diacritics, including two dots where Classical Arabic would have *tā'*: الحرت (i.e. *al-Hārit*), reflecting the dialectal shift of *t* > *t*.

Content

List of personal names, apparently for accounting purposes. There are traces of Greek numerals in the final line.

Papyrus no: A (6) 2 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 12.5 cm. x 14 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 6 lines (one very faint) at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Features of script of the early papyrus period. The stroke of *dāl/dāl* bends round to the right at the top. The horizontal stroke of initial *ʿayn* is extended to the right. Initial and independent *kāf* are hair-pin shaped. Loops of letters are open.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text missing from all sides.

**Papyrus no:* A (15) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 14.5 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 12 lines at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Features of script of the early papyrus period. The horizontal stroke of initial 'ayn is extended to the right. Initial and independent *kāf* are hair-pin shaped. Note, however, that *dāl/dāl* does not bend round to the right at the top.

Content

Letter. Beginning and end are missing. Text is laid out in paragraphs. The extant portion begins *اما بعد*, the initial blessings having been lost. The first paragraph heaps fulsome praise on the addressee, who is said to have been endowed by God with sound opinion (*حسن الراى*). In the second paragraph the writer states that he has sent many letters to the addressee but has so far not received any reply.

Papyrus no: A (30) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 8.5 cm. x 26 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines. 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

Small script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *وابقاك بسلامتك حفظك الله* This is followed by the date on which the letter was written: *لسبيع خلون من رجب* 'on the 7th of Rajab'. The writer states that he has received the addressee's letter. The body of the letter concerns trading matters. It closes with: *والسلم عليك ورحمت الله*.

VERSO

Content

Address of the letter on the recto: *من عيسى بن اسميل* ... *لابى محمد* Beginning of a letter.

Papyrus no: A (31) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 11 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in brown ink, 16 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.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Mentions leather bags (خرايط).

VERSO

Script

Small script written with a fine pen. The tail of final *yā'* is extended to the right.

Content

Account, probably relating to land-tax, with amounts expressed in Greek numerals. Various provinces (كورة) are referred to.

Papyrus no: A (32) 1 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 13.5 cm. x 23 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 8 lines parallel to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. Concerns the dispatch of various commodities. Closes with the blessing: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك وتاييدك وسعادتك.

Papyrus no: A (32) 2 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 10 cm. x 27 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 3 lines at right angles to the fibres and 4 lines written over these at right angles to them, i.e. parallel to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* has no teeth and is surmounted by an oblique stroke. The Upper stroke of initial *kāf* is detached from the lower stroke. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right. Unconventional ligatures. Wide spaces between the lines

Content

Text at right angles to the fibres: Fragment of a letter. The wide spacing between the lines suggests it is written to a dignitary. Opening blessings are extant: اكرمك
الله وابقاك وحفظك. The script written across this, parallel to the fibres, contains pen-
exercises.

***Papyrus no:** A (33) 1 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 10.5 cm. x 30 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, faint in places, 4 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl* and *rā'* approximate to a straight line.

Content

Letter. Concerns the receipt of wheat measured in *irdabs*.

Papyrus no: A (33) 2 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 7.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Opening is missing. The writer instructs the addressee to make a payment to Naṣr the cook (نصر الطباخ).

Papyrus no: A (34) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 9 lines at right angles to the fibres, + one line in right margin.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. The writer wishes the addressee safe voyage if he is planning to travel: فان كنت ياخى عازم على الخروج فاخرج على بركة الله وعونه. He closes by mentioning the price of wheat: والقمح بخمسة وعشرين دينار 'wheat is twenty-five dinārs'.

Papyrus no: A (37) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 29 cm. x 15 cm. There is a joint of in the papyrus 6 cm. from the top of the sheet. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 12 lines. 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* extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight stroke.

Content

Letter. The extant part of the opening blessings reads: [] واتم الله عليكم وزاد في احسانه اليكما وجعلت من كل سو [فداكما] The addressees are referred to by dual pronouns. The writer instructs the addressees to purchase wheat. Closes with conveyance of greetings to various people.

VERSO

Content

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A (39) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 22 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 15 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

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

Content

Fragment of a letter.

VERSO

Content

Continuation of the letter on the recto. The top half of the sheet is left blank, presumably to allow a portion of the papyrus without text to be wrapped round the letter when it was sealed.

Papyrus no: A (40) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 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

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Loops of letters sometimes lose graphic distinctness.

Content

Letter addressed by a certain Ibrāhīm ibn Faraj to a freedwoman named 'Azza.

Text opens after *basmala*: عافانا الله واياك. Main body of letter opens: وقد فهمت ما

ذكرت لى فى كتفابك من صلاح حالك ...

VERSO

Content

Address of letter on recto: من ابراهيم بن الفرغ الى عزة مولات هادة

Papyrus no: A (41) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 3 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. *Sin* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله وحفظك واكرمك واتم نعمه عليك فى الدنيا والاخرة
برحمته

The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee. Concerns trade. Mentions Tripoli (اطرابلس) — note the prosthetic 'alif) and Fustāṭ. The writer arrived in Homs two days previously (قد وصلت الى حمص مذ يومين).

VERSO

Content

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A (42) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 13 cm. x 23.5 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 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

Small script. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وكرامتك واتم نعمته عليك ... وجعلنى
من الاسوا فداك

VERSO

Script

Written with thick pen.

Content

Address of letter on recto: ... لابرهم جن محمد ...

Papyrus no: A (44) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 29.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 7 lines at right angles to the fibres + 1 line in right margin parallel with the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Sporadic consonantal diacritics. *Sīn* has no teeth and is surmounted by an oblique stroke. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right in places.

Content

Fragment of a letter.

**Papyrus no.*: A (45) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 26 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. The *basmala* at the beginning of the text is written in black ink, the rest of the text is written in reddish-brown ink, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Ṣād* is horizontally extended.

Content

Letter addressed to a woman (indicated by the feminine form of the verbs). The sender, also, is probably a woman. Text opens after *basmala*: جعلت فداك واطال الله بقاءك. واتم نعمته عليك وزاد في احسانه. Main body of text opens on a new line. The writer requests the addressee to send a box to put clothes in since the writer fears that her clothes may be stolen. The writer will purchase a lock: احب ابقاك الله ان توجهين الى باصندوق حتى اجعل فيه ثيابي وافعله علوة فاني اخاف ان يسرق ... ثيابي وانا احب ان توجهين حتى اشترى قفل واقفله Note the *sriptio plena* of the short vowel of the preposition in باصندوق, which corresponds to *bi-ṣundūq* in Classical Arabic.

Papyrus no: A (46) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 13 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines + 1 line in right margin. 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. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Fragment of a letter.

VERSO

Content

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A (51) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 17.5 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, written at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Letter addressed to a woman (shown by feminine verb forms). Beginning is missing. Mentions a 'dealer in wheat' (فماح) and monetary transactions. Closes with conveyance of greetings (اخصى نفسك بالسلم كثير وجميع عيالك وولدك) and finally, on a separate line, with the *tasliya*.

Papyrus no: A (52) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 20 cm. Much of text obliterated by disturbance of fibres. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines + 2 lines in right margin. 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

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke

Content

Letter. The end of the opening blessing is preserved: [] وامتع بك .

VERSO

Content

At the top appears the address of the letter and in the lower half of the sheet the continuation of the letter.

Papyrus no: A (53) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 14 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 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

Features of script from the early papyrus period. Independent 'alif sometimes bends round to the right at the bottom. Initial *kāf* is sometimes hairpin-shaped. The tail of final *mīm* is short. Occasionally there are excessively large spaces between letters. Note, however, that the stroke of *dāl* does not bend to the right at the top.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* with the address and blessing: من قرّة جل عبد ... الى الجن يونه سلم عليك وانى احمد اليك الله الذى لا اله الا هو. The main body of the letter is laid out in a new paragraph beginning by ... اما بعد ... The writer states that he has written to somebody in the interests of the addressee: وكان حسنا الى حفظك 'for I favour your protection'. Closes with: والسلم عليك ورحمت الله.

VERSO

Content

Address of letter on recto: لابي يونه.

***Papyrus no:** A (54) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 17 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

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Mentions a certain 'Abū Sa'īd.

VERSO

Content

Vestiges of the address of the letter and pen-exercises.

Papyrus no: A (57) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 28 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Fine pen. Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Some features of script from early papyrus period: The loop of *mīm* is open. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right in a straight, horizontal line.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Closes with conveyance of greetings to various people.

**Papyrus no.*: A (61) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 25.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Large script with wide spaces between the lines. Features of script from the early papyrus period. Independent 'alif bends round to the right at the bottom. The stroke of *dāl* bends back to the right at the top. The horizontal stroke of initial 'ayn is extended to the right. Initial *kāf* is hairpin-shaped. Letters in the same word are sometimes separated by a space. Vertical *hastae* are elongated.

Content

Fragment of an official letter. Top and bottom are missing. Laid out in paragraphs. Refers to land tax (خراجهم) and allowances (جرايتهم): قد اعلمتك فى اسفل 'I have informed you at the bottom of this letter of mine the number of their allowances of every kind and the value that they have established for them.'

Papyrus no: A (77) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 26.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibress.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Letter. Beginning and end are missing. The writer states that he has received a letter from the addressee and is glad to hear that all is well: *وحسن دفاع الله عنك وسرني ذلك*. Mentions buying and selling and a man called Suhayl.

*?Papyrus no: A (79) (Box 2)

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

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

Text:

Script

Small script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

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

Content

Letter. Beginning and right side are missing. Concerns trade. Mentions arrival of various loads (حمل). Refers to the town of Baṣra and a broker (دلال).

**Papyrus no:* A (80) (Box 2)

Date: Sha‘bān 280 A.H./9th century A.D.

Physical description: 26 cm. x 14.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 lines, at parallel to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Scriptio defectiva* of long *ā* in the name *القاسم* (al-Qāsim). *Ṣād* is horizontally compressed in places.

Content

Legal document: Acknowledgement (*'iqrār*) of a debt of 30 dīnārs. Opens: اقر.

Dated in the Coptic month *توته* of the Muslim year 280 A.H. The debtor is 'Abū al-Qāsim al-Ḥusayn ibn ... At the end the scribe indicates his name (Ḥārith ibn 'Abdallāh) and the date in which he wrote the document (280 A.H.), giving the Muslim month (Sha‘bān) rather than the Coptic one.

Papyrus no: A (81) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 17.5 cm. x 22 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 12 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final *yā'* extends backwards in a straight line.

Content

Letter addressed to a group of people. *Basmala* is missing. Opening blessings: ابقاكم الله وحفظكم واتم نعمته عليكم وزاد في احسانه اليكم وعندكم. Writer expresses the desire to see the recipients soon. Closes with conveyance of greetings to various people.

Papyrus no: A (96) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 17.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Loops of letters often lose graphic distinctness.

Content

Document of uncertain identity.

***Papyrus no:** A (113) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 29.5 cm. x 23 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 19 lines at right angles to the fibres + 2 lines in right margin parallel with the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are written with two straight strokes. The tail of final *'ayn* extends downwards without bending to the right. *Fā'* has a diacritical dot written below the letter.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. The writer expresses his desire to purchase of the slave-girl (جارية) or slave/eunuch (خادم) of the addressee. Ends with conveyance of greetings to various people and a request for the addressee to write to him.

Closes: حفظك الله وعافاك وامتع وكتب يوم الاثنين

Papyrus no: A (128) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 27.5 cm. x 14.5 cm. Text missing from the top. Writing on one side only in black ink, 19 lines written at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn* is written either with teeth or as a straight line surmounted by a bar.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. Feminine verbal forms indicates that it was addressed to a woman. The addressee is requested to send something: فان رايت سيدتى انت ان ... فعلت متفضلة ان شا الله
توجهى الى بما طابت به نفسك نسهل عليك ... 'If you resolve, my lady, to send me what you wish and what is convenient for you ... then kindly do so, God willing.'

Papyrus no: A (129 piece 1) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 15 cm. x 23 cm. Top and bottom of text are missing. Writing on one side only, in black ink, 7 lines at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight stroke. There are a number of unconventional ligatures.

Content

Letter. The beginning and end are missing. The addressee is asked to write to the sender to inform him of what he needs so that he (the sender) can hire the necessary goods from somebody (لاکری منہ).

**Papyrus no:* A (129 piece 2) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 13 cm. x 23 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 11 lines + 2 lines in upper margin. 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. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with two strokes. *Sīn* normally has teeth. Sporadic consonantal diacritics. Pairs of dots are arranged on an oblique slant.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله... وحفظك. Concerns trade. Mentions various people from the Maghreb.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A (130) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 21 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 19 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Bottom obliterated by soiling.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Early papyrus script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The top of *dāl/dāl* bends back at the top. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right. Sporadic diacritics.

Content

Letter. Beginning and end missing. Divided into paragraphs. The writer gives instructions to the addressee concerning various people.

Papyrus no: A (132) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 15 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines at right angles to the fibres, 11 lines, by a different hand, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in faint black ink, 11 lines at right angles to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

First hand: Large hand. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Ṣīn* has no teeth and is surmounted by a bar. Second hand: Smaller hand. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Ṣīn* has teeth. The stroke of final *bā'* is flat without bending up at the left end.

Content

First hand: Fragment of a letter. The addressee is requested to send notification of his needs.

Second hand: List of names of people and days of the week, apparently some kind of account.

VERSOe

Script

Dāl/dāl approximates to a straight stroke. *Ṣīn* is written with teeth.

Content

Document confirming receipt of money for hire of a mule. Opens, after *basmala*:

الذی قبضت من حسین درهمین الا ثلث .. فی کرى بغل
'What I have received from Ḥusayn is two dirhams less a third for the hire of a mule.'

Papyrus no: A (147) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 10 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 10 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres and upside down relative to the writing on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Loops of *fā'* have lost graphic distinctness. Many unconventional ligatures.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: يا سيدى مولاي اطال الله بقاءك لم اعرف خبرك ... منذ ايام 'My lord and master, may God prolong your life, I have not heard from you for days.' In the remainder of the letter the writer urges the addressee to reply to his letter and let him know his news. Refers to the letter as a رقعة.

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto. Closes with the *ḥasbala*.

Papyrus no: A 173 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 23 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Large hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. Initial *kāf* is horizontally extended.

Content

End of a letter. Final paragraph contains good wishes for addressee. Closes with وكتبت 'and I have written'.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Account registering sums owed, expressed by circular sigla.

Papyrus no: A (331) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 11 cm. x 24.5 cm. Dark brown papyrus. Small *lacuna* 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, 6 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 stroke.

Content

Letter. Beginning missing. Concerns trade. Mentions various transactions. Closes:

اكرمك الله وابقاك اعزك واتم نعمته عليك وزاد فيها عندك

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The *hasta* of *tā'* slants to the right. *Sīn* is written with teeth.

Content

Beginning missing. End of an account. List of sums in the possession of various people, expressed by 'inda + proper name.

Papyrus no: A (334) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 23.5 cm. x 15 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres and at right angles to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Ṣīn* has teeth and has three diacritical dots.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: ابقاك الله وحفظك. Mentions the drawing up of a contract of hire and the receipt of payment: قد شهد عليه بالكرى واكتبه عليه واستوفى الكرى منه 'he has testified to the fact that he has given in lease and he has had a document written concerning this and has collected the full rent from him'.

VERSO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* with long blessing formula: حفظك الله وابقاك اتم نعمه. عليك وكرامه لك في الدنيا والاخرة. The writer notifies the addressee about the arrival of a messenger sent by the addressee.

Papyrus no: A (354) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 12 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala*: اكرمك الله. Concerns trade.

VERSO

Continuation of letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A (366) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 13.5 cm. x 24.5cm. 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, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres and upside-down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Sīn* normally has no teeth and is surmounted by three dots arranged in a horizontal line. Sporadic diacritical dots on other letters. The two diacritics of final *yā'* are written over the letter.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Addressed to a woman. The writer refers to the measuring of something with the 'big *qafīz*' (فيكيل بالقفيز الكبير). He introduces the bearer of the letter, a certain 'Abū al-Qāsim, who is described as 'an honourable man' (رجل من اهل الشرف والفضل) and complains that the addressee has not followed his instruction to look after a person referred to as الخليفة (ان كنت كتبت اليك اسالك) الخليفة (ان تتعاهدى الخليفة فى كل وقت ... فلم تفعلى).

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto. Contains the request formula: فرايك جعلت فداك فيما: 'Let me know) your opinion concerning what I have written to you, God willing'. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

Papyrus no: A (428) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 15 cm. x 25 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 8 lines, written at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink. Text A: 3 lines, parallel to the fibres. Text B: 5 lines at right angles to fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning and end are missing. Surviving text opens with a new paragraph, containing a request expressed by the formula: ان رايت. Concerns trade. Refers to sending of goods (متاع). Mentions profit (والربح لك) 'and the profit is yours'.

VERSO

Script

Text A: Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right. Text B: Sloppily written. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/šīn* in numerals are truncated.

Content

Text A: Address, presumably of letter on recto, though in a different hand: 'To 'Abū Jābir 'Aḥmad ibn Yazīd ibn 'Ubaydallāh, from Muḥammad ibn 'Abdallāh ... in Fustāṭ (بفسطاط مصر).

Text B: Draft of an order of payment. Opens: ادفع. Refers to 'pieces' of coins (قطع).

Papyrus no: A (591) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 26 cm. Small *lacuna* 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, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres. Much of text on recto and verso is obliterated by soiling

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Final *bā'* is flat. Final *yā'* extends backwards.

Content

Letter. *Basmala* missing. Text opens: حفظك الله وعافاك وابقاك وامتع بك. Refers to monetary transactions.

VERSO

Script

Small hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The stroke of final *bā'/tā'* is flat without bending up at the left side. *Sīn* is written with teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter.

Papyrus no: A (594) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 18 lines + 3 lines in top margin at right angles to fibres + 1 line in right margin, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 23 lines + 2 lines in upper margin, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Large hand. Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. Copious diacritics. The two diacritical dots of final *yā'* are written over the letter.

Content

Letter addressed to a woman. The writer requests the recipient to go to her house and stay there for a day or two.

VERSO

Continuation of text on recto.

Papyrus no: A (609) (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 36 cm. x 16 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 22 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 13 widely spaced lines, at right angles to the fibres. The papyrus piece was cut from a larger sheet. The script on the verso is the remainder of the text from the original sheet.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Extant text opens: فديتك 'May I be made your ransom'. The writer states that he has sent the address four dirhams with a man known as Šihāb. He requests the addressee to write to him his news: ولا تدع الكتاب حالك وسلامتك وحاجتك موقفا ان
بشا الله

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. Unconventional ligatures.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Closing formula is extant: اطال الله بفاك.

Papyrus no: A (880) (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 23 cm. x 12 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, blurred and faint, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Refers to various monetary transactions. Mentions Alexandria.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif sometimes extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* does not have teeth. Sporadic consonant diacritics.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala*: *حفظك الله*. Contains the request formula: *رايك موقفا* 'Kindly give me your view on this'.