

Papyrus no: A Q1

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

Physical description: Two pieces. 14.5 cm. x 7 cm, 11 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 10 and 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl* approximates to a straight line. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. The writer states that he has received something. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

Papyrus no: A Q2

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

Physical description: 22.5 cm. x 9 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines + traces of 1 line, slightly faded. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines, slightly faded. 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

Large script. Final *'alif* does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn* has teeth. Consonantal diacritics and vocalization added.

Content

Fragment of literary text. Qur'ān?

VERSO

Script

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

Content

End of a letter. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people. Closes with blessing formula: اطال الله بقاءك وادام عزك وتأييدك وكرامتك واتم نعمه عليك وزاد في احسانه اليك ... فى الدنيا والاخرة وسلم تسليما

Papyrus no: A Q8

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

Physical description: 4.5 cm. x 10 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 3 lines. Verso, written in black ink, very faint, 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

Ṣin has teeth. Initial *kāf* is hair-pin shaped. *Qāf* has a single diacritical dot.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Opening blessing after *basmala*: ... الله قدرك واكرم وجهك ... 'May God ... your strenght and honour your face ...'.

VERSO

Content

Faint traces of a texts. No certain identification is possible.

Papyrus no: A Q14 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 19 cm. Small *lacuna* 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. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Opens with early letter formula consisting of address and the blessing احمد اليك الله الذي لا اله الا هو. The letter is sent by two men, one of which is slave/eunuch (خادم). They state that they have sent the pack-animals (الدواب) and that they are coming to the addressee (وانا قادمين). Closes with the conveyance of greeting to various people.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A Q15 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 20 cm. x 21 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, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Beginning of a letter. Text opens after *basmala*: حفظكم الله وعافاكم ودفع السوء عنكم
برحمته. The main body of the letter opens in a new paragraph: ... اخبركم عافاكم الله 'I
(hereby) inform you, may God grant you health, ...'

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A Q16 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 14.5 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Early papyrus script. Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. The top of the stroke of *dāl/dāl* bends to the right at the top. The lower stroke of initial *'ayn* is horizontally extended to the right. The tail of final *qāf* extends down vertically. Sporadic diacritics. *Fā'* has a dot under the letter. The pair of dots under medial *yā'* is written on a vertical plane.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Beginning missing. Refers to an *'amīr* and also the 'Commander of the Faithful'. Mentions family allowances (عطا العيال) and the arrival of men from Syria.

Papyrus no: A Q17 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 21.5 cm. x 20 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 black ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Some features of early papyrus script. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The upper part of *dāl/dāl* sometimes bends back to the right. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* with the address + the formula فاني احمد (اليك الله) الذي لا اله الا هو. Main body of letter begins: اما بعد عافاك الله ورحمك . The writer states that he has sent twenty dīnārs to the addressee, with which he should hire something (تكار الي) 'hire for me'.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto.

Papyrus no: A Q18 (Box 2)

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, 11 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.

Content

Letter. The addressee is a woman, as shown by a feminine verbal form. Text opens after *basmala*: *حفظك الله وابقاك*. The writer states that he has sent various items to the addressee by the agency of sailors.

VERSO

Address of letter on recto.

Papyrus no: A Q19 (Box 2)

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 19 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 black ink, 5 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Early papyrus script. Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. The upper part of *dāl/dāl* bends back to the right. *Ṣād* is horizontally extended. Medial 'ayn is 'V' shaped. The tail of final *yā'* is extended to the right. Sporadic diadritics. *Fā'* has one dot below the letter and *qāf* one dot over.

Content

Letter addressed to a woman and her family. Opens with the address followed by the formula: فانى احمد اليكم الله الذى لا الله الا هو. The writer requests the addressee to send something.

VERSO

Script

Continuation of letter on recto.

Papyrus no: A Q20 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 11.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 6 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Written in script that is characteristic of the early papyrus periods. *Dāl* is horizontally extended with the upper stroke bending back to the right. Medial *‘ayn* is formed by two oblique strokes rather than by a loop. The base of *ṭā* is horizontally extended.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text is missing on all sides. The first two lines appear to be an opening formula, though they do not conform to those that are commonly found in documents of this period. The opening is then connected to the main text by *أما بعد*. The letter mentions a certain Sa‘īd ibn Rabī‘a. Closes with: *السلم عليكم*
ورحمت

Papyrus no: A Q21 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 10.5 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 usually 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* normally has teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The beginning, end and left side are missing. The writer requests that the addressee does not become involved in an affair (فاسل ان تسحب) 'I ask you to withdraw to your room').

**Papyrus no:* A Q22 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 29.5 cm. x 15 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, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Initial *kāf* is a vertical stroke resembling *lām*. *Sin* normally has teeth. The tail of final *yā'* extends to the right.

Content

Letter. Text opens with a formula that is characteristic of the early papyrus period. The *basmala* is followed by the address: ... من المصعب بن صبح الى جريج ... The body of the text is introduced by اما بعد. Concerns the delay in payment for something. The writer instructs the addressee to look into the injustice done to a certain Ibrāhīm (وانظر ظلم ابراهيم والحكمة). Mentions al-Fustāṭ. Closes with the word وكتب 'and it has been written'.

VERSO

Faint traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: A Q23 (Box 3)

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, 13 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 10 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*, *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*: جعلنى فداك واطال الله بفاك. The writer requests the addressee to send him something by a messenger (رسول). Closes with the same blessings as it opened with.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* in most cases has teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Right side and bottom are missing. Concerns administration of some type, mentioning an account of income (ارتفاع). Also refers to a district (الناحية) and al-Fuṣṭāṭ.

Papyrus no: A Q24 (Box 3)

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

Physical description: 37 cm. x 13 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 20 lines. Verso, written in black ink, 5 lines + 3 in right margin. 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. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Petition in the form of a letter. Text opens after *basmala*: فدتك نفسى ياخى وسيدى
The body of the text opens: انت تعلم ضيق الدار 'You know the distress of the house'.
The writer refers to the necessity to buy gypsum (وليس لى بد من شرا الجص). This is followed by the petition formula: فانظر يا سيدى لى نظر الله لك فى جميع امورك وحمالك.

VERSO

Script

Large 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* is written with teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Refers to the treatment of crops (بعلاج الزرع منذ سنتين).

Papyrus no: A Q26 (Box 6)

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

Physical description: 33 cm. x 32 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, faint in places, 16 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final *'alif* generally extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. Concerns housing (الديار). Mentions the need for agricultural products of various kinds. Closes with the conveyance of greetings. Ends with the *taṣliya*.

Papyrus no: A Q27 (Box 7)

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

Physical description: 39 cm. x 15 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 27 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 10 lines, parallel to the fibres and upside down relative to the script on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

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

Content

Letter. The extant portion of the opening formula is: جعلت فداك. Mentions a maid servant (جارية).

VERSO

End of the letter on the recto. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

Papyrus no: A Q28

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

Physical description: 22.5 cm. x 29 cm. Small *lacuna* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Large spaces (3 cm.) between the lines. Verso, written in reddy-brown ink, 15 lines, very faint.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Ends in the *hamdala*.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend below the connecting stroke. Final *kāf* is 'S' shaped.

Content

Letter. Text opens after *basmala* with *اكرمكم الله وابقاكم واتم نعمته عليكم*. Address appears in the top margin, upside-down relative to the text of the letter.