

Papyrus no: X1

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

Physical description: 53 cm. x 17 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, parallel to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 lines in same as as recto + 19 lines faint lines, at right angles to the fibres. 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

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. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content

Letter. After the *basmala*, the text opens: انا اعزك الله عندك وخدامك

VERSO

Script

Large hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/sīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Closure of a letter. Includes the *ḥamdala*.

Papyrus no: X20 (Box D)

Date: 2nd-3rd century A.H./8th-9th century A.D.

Physical description: Fragments of papyrus codex. Consists of 5 leaves. 16.5cm. x 13 cm. Large *lacunae* in the middle of all leaves. Only a small amount of the first leaf is extant. Writing on both sides of each sheet. Black and faint brown ink. Recto of first sheet is written at right angles to the fibres, as is the case with the third and fifth leaves. The recto of the second and fourth leaves, however, is written parallel to the fibres. 11-12 lines on each side.

Text:

Script

Features of early papyrus script. The loops of *ṭā'* and *zā'* are horizontally elongated. The tail of final *nūn* is lower on the left side than on the right. Final *'alif* generally does not extend below the connecting stroke. The remains of one letter on the first leaf is written large with an outline in dots.

Content

Text largely of a liturgical nature consisting of declarations of faith, e.g. اشهدوا ان لا اله الا الله 'Bear witness that there is no god but Allāh'.

Papyrus no: X21a-h (Box D)

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

Physical description: A series of sheets that originally belonged together in a codex. X21a: 16.5 cm. x 8.5 cm. Three sheets of papyrus stuck together. X21b: 13cm. x 7cm. X21c: 12cm. x 8cm., X21d: 13cm. x 11cm. X21e 13cm. x 11cm. X21f: 12xcm. x 7cm. X21g: 2 leaves 12cm. x 11cm. X21h: 4 leaves 14cm. x 11cm.

Text:

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. *Ṣīn/ṣīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Little continuous text is preserved. Sections are divided by circular *sigla*. The use of words from the root *fsr* at various points suggests the leaves contained a Qur'an commentary *tafsīr* of some kind.

Papyrus no: X100

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

Physical description: 36 cm. x 32 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, 23 lines, parallel to the fibres, and 2 in right margin.

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/sīn* is written without teeth. There are no diacritical dots.

Content

Letter. The beginning and end are missing. Mentions sailors (نواتي) and shipyards (صنعتك عمرها الله).

VERSO

Continuation of the text on the recto.

**Papyrus no:* X101

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

Physical description: 48 cm. x 30 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 19 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing on all sides. Fibres are damaged.

Text:

Script

Large hand written with a thick pen. No unconventional ligatures between letters. Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Sin/šīn* normally has teeth. There are numerous diacritical dots.

Content

Letter. The beginning and ending are missing. The writer is petitioning a dignitary (cf. the address *يا مولاي* 'Oh my master!'). There is reference to the hunger of somebody (*جو عهم*), probably the writer's family.

Papyrus no: X102

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

Physical description: 37 cm. x 33 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, 14 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* is written without teeth. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content

Letter. Beginning is missing. The writer discusses commercial matters. He refers to 'this year's loss' (الخسارة في هذه السنة).

VERSO

Script

Larger hand. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/sīn* is written without teeth and is, in most cases, surmounted by a horizontal stroke.

Content

End of a letter. Concerns trade. Mentions camphor (كافور).

Papyrus no: X103

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

Physical description: 55 cm. x 24 cm. Writing on one side only. 26 lines written in black ink, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/sīn* is written with teeth. There are numerous consonantal diacritics.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. The writer discusses commercial matters. Reference is made to Damascus and to cotton (قطن).

**Papyrus no:* X104

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

Physical description: 50 cm. x 23 cm. Writing on one side only. Written in black ink, 18 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Text missing at the top.

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/sīn* is written without teeth. *Šīn* is surmounted by a horizontal bar or by a horizontal row of three dots.

Content

Letter. Opening formula is written in a separate paragraph: جعلنى الله فداك ياخى اطال الله
بقاك وادام عزك. The writer gives the recipient instructions concerning trade. Closes with the same formula as it begins.

Papyrus no: X105

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

Physical description: 52 cm. x 20 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Faint script. Recto, written in black ink, 23 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres. Text loss at the top and bottom.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Features of early script. Independent 'alif bends to the right at the bottom. The stroke of *dāl* bends back at the top. Medial 'ayn is V-shaped. *Kāf* is hairpin-shaped.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Writer gives instructions to the addressee. The word 'ارجوك' 'I request you' is visible..

VERSO

Content

Written in the same hand as recto. Contains a record of payments. Each entry consists of the word دفع followed by a personal name.

Papyrus no: X106

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

Physical description: Two pieces. 33 cm. x 25 cm. and 30 cm. x 27 cm. Piece A: Written in black ink, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Piece B: Written in black ink, 13 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Both pieces are from the same document

Text:

Script

Final 'alif generally 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. *Sīn/sīn* is written without teeth and is surmounted by a bar. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content

Fragments from a letter. The writer states that the wages of the addressee should not be delayed: فليس ينبغي ان يتاخر اجرتك

Papyrus no: X107

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

Physical description: 46 cm. x 30 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, 11 lines, parallel to the fibres. Text loss on right, left and bottom.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Large hand. Distinct letters. Final *'alif* generally does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sin/sīn* is written with teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Text opens, after *basmla*: اطال الله بقاك.

VERSO

Content

Fragment of a letter in the same hand as recto. Text opens, after *basmla*: اطال الله بقاك.

Papyrus no: X108

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

Physical description: 52 cm. x 31 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 24 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 24 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/sīn* is written without teeth. There are numerous unconventional ligatures between letters.

Content

Letter. Opening is missing. Refers to servant girls: مع جماعة من الجوار. Closes اطل الله بقاءك.

VERSO

Script

Large hand, written with thick pen. Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/sīn* is written with teeth.

Content

Letter. The opening formula is obliterated. Concerns landed property of some kind (ملك).