

Papyrus no: x8.1

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

Physical description: 24.5 cm. x 25 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 14 lines, at right angles to the fibres, faded in places¹. Verso, written in black ink, 11 lines, parallel to the fibres. The top and bottom of the sheet are missing.

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* normally has no teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. The opening is missing. Concerns various commercial transactions. Mentions a commercial agent (الوكيل).

VERSO

Apparently the continuation of the letter on the recto. Mentions a legal document (الحجة). The writer states that the addressee is responsible for defects in a commodity (والعيب عليك). The closure of the letter is missing.

Papyrus no: x8.2

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

Physical description: 16.5 cm. x 7 cm. 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

'*Alif* has a high vertical extension. Final '*alif* extends below the connecting stroke. *Sād* and final *kāf* are horizontally extended. *Lām* is vertically extended.

Content

Series of blessings and prayers. The top and right and left sides are missing. Contains the phrase ... ان يرزقنا واياك (I pray) that he (God) endows both us and you with ...'. Closes with the *taṣliya*.

VERSO

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.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Mentions the purchase of asses (اشترى لك حمير). Closes with the phrase واكتب (wa-kutiba 'and it has been written').

Papyrus no: x8.3

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 24 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Fibres of papyrus are disturbed in places. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, faint in places, 17 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 15 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. Beginning is missing. Mentions estates (الضباع) and land tax (الخراج).

VERSO

Continuation of letter on recto. Very faint in most places. Mentions various commercial transactions.

Papyrus no: x8.4

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

Physical description: 17 cm. x 19d 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 black ink, 7 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* normally has teeth.

Content

Fragments of witness clauses at the end of a legal document.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif does not extend 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

Fragment of a financial account. Refers to a disbursement. The entry opens with the phrase ... خرج ('such and such was disbursed'). Mentions dates of disbursement.

Papyrus no: x8.5

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

Physical description: 28 cm. x 15.5 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 16 lines. Text missing on right side. Verso, written in black ink, 9 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. *Jīm*, *ḥā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/sīn* has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: جعلنى الله فداك. Mentions various commercial transactions. Closes with the conveyance of greetings to various people.

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* generally does not extend below the connecting stroke. *Sīn/sīn* is written with teeth. *Kāf* is horizontally extended.

Content

Letter. Opens after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك. Refers to various commercial transactions. Quantities measured in *qintārs* are mentioned.

Papyrus no: x8.6

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

Physical description: 22.5 cm. x 20.5 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 black ink, 2 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif generally 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/sīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: سلامتك وسعادتك واتم نعمه عليك. The writer requests the addressee to send horses urgently (عجل بالفراس). Closes with blessings similar to those that opened the letter.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: x8.7

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

Physical description: 24 cm. x 18 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, faint in places, 11 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. The vertical stroke of *dāl/dāl* bends back to the right slightly. *Ṣād* is horizontally extended. Spaces occur between letters within a word.

Content

Fragment of a literary texts. Narrative mentioning the location of certain people in the desert (وهم بالبادية).

Papyrus no: x8.8

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

Physical description: 18 cm. x 17 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in brown ink, 7 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in brown ink, 1 line, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Medial *kāf* is horizontally extended. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Opening formulae of a letter. The *basmla* is written in the middle of the first line. Text opens, after *basmla*: جعلت فداك وطال الله بقاءك. Note the form طال without *'alif*. Mentions some event that happened on a Friday (الجمعة). Left-hand side and bottom are missing.

VERSO

Fragments of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: x8.9

Date: 6th century A.H./12th century A.D.

Physical description: Paper. 18.5 cm. x 16 cm. Writing on both sides. Vertical fold down centre. Recto, written in black ink. Two columns, 5 and 8 lines. Verso, written in black ink. One column, 10 lines.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Flowing cursive script. Several unconventional ligatures. Initial 'alif is often linked to following letter.

Content

Administrative account. List of dues gathered from various places. The first column has the heading ما استخرج من النواحي ... من القطع 'The 'pieces' (of money) that have been collected from the regions'.

VERSO

Continuation of the text on the recto. Mentions the date 545 A.H.

Papyrus no: x8.10

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

Physical description: 14 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 3 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 *ḵā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* normally has no teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Contains the conveyance of greetings and the closing formulae. Closes with the *taṣliya*.

VERSO

Script

Carefully execute script. Final *'alif* extends below the connecting stroke. Sporadic consonantal diacritics.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Opening formulae are missing. Concerns the affairs of a woman, possibly an inheritance.

Papyrus no: x8.11

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

Physical description: 19 cm. x 8 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Script characteristic of the early papyrus period. 'Alif bends to the right at the bottom. The vertical stroke of *dāl* bends back at the top. Medial 'ayn consists of two oblique strokes. Final *kāf* has the same shape as medial *kāf*. The tail of final *yā'* extends back in a horizontal stroke.

Content

Beginning of a letter. Opens with the address followed by the formula *أحمد اليك الله* الذي لا اله الا هو. The main body of the letter opens with *أما بعد*. The surviving portion of the letter conveys greetings.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: x8.12

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

Physical description: 30 cm. x 17 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, 4 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. *Jīm*, *hā'* and *kā'* are usually written with a single curved stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Only the opening formulae are extant. Text opens after the *basmala* اكرمك الله اعزك.

VERSO

Script

Large hand. Well executed Final 'alif occasionally extends below the connecting stroke.

Content

Fragment of an official letter. There are large spaces between the lines. The writer requests the addressee to take care of somebody. He ask him to protect him and introduce him to his caliph (حفظه التقديمة الى خليفتك).

Papyrus no: x8.13

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

Physical description: 10.5 cm. x 9 cm. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 9 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 1 line.

Text:

Script

Characteristic features of script from the early papyrus period. 'Alif bends to the right at the bottom. Medial 'ayn consists of oblique strokes. Final yā' extends backwards in a straight line.

Content

Fragment of a letter. Opens with the address followed by the formula فاني احمد اليك الله. In the surviving portion of the body of the letter, the writer inquires after the health of the addressee.

VERSO

Traces of the address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: x8.14

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

Physical description: 16 cm. x 13 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on one side only, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres.

Text:

Script

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

Content

Fragment of a letter. Relates to commercial accounts. Refers to disbursements and the extraction of debts.

Papyrus no: x8.15

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 18 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, 8 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final *'alif* generally 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 no teeth and is surmounted by a horizontal bar.

Content

Letter. The opening is missing. The writer prays that the addressee will be safe ((اسئل الله ان يحسن تخليصك في عافية). Closes with the *tašliya*.

VERSO

Script

Final *'alif* generally extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* approximates to a straight line. *Sīn/šīn* is written with teeth.

Content

List of names qualified by the term *المقطوع* (literally: 'the one cut off').

Papyrus no: x8.16

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 14 cm. Small *lacunae* 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 and upside down relative to the text on the recto.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Features of script form the early papyrus period. 'Alif bends to the right at the bottom. The stroke of *dāl* bends to the right at the top. *Mīm* is a large circular loop. There are large spaces between the letters.

Content

Letter. The text opens after the *basmla* with the formula *انا احمد اليك الله*. Only fragments of the other words of the text are extant.

VERSO

Pen exercises in the writing of the *basmla* in the same script as on the recto.

Papyrus no: x8.17

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

Physical description: 22 cm. x 12 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 5 lines, at right angles to the fibres, + one line in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 4 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

Final 'alif extends in most cases below the connecting stroke. Initial *kāf* is horizontally extended. Final *yā'* extends backwards. *Sīn/šīn* normally has teeth.

Content

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: احاط (الله ..) .. واسبغ عليك من نعمايه ودفع عنك مكروه
The beginning of the body of the letter is extant, in which the writer expresses his affection for somebody. The remainder of the text is missing.

VERSO

Address of the letter on the recto.

Papyrus no: x8.18

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

Physical description: 44 cm. x 14 cm. Large piece containing a joint between two sheets of papyrus. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 24 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 16 lines, parallel to the fibres.

Text:

RECTO

Script

There are two layers of writing and most of the words are crossed through. 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.

Content

The original text appears to be an account of some kind. It contains references to *Fuṣṭāṭ* and to a cadastral survey (مَسَاحَة). The upper script does not contain any coherent text but consists only of pen exercises.

Letter. Text opens, after *basmala*: اطال الله بقاءك وجعلت فداك. The writer refers to a servant (غلام).

VERSO

Pen exercises in the same script as on the recto. These include various letter formulae.

Papyrus no: x8.19

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

Physical description: 42 cm. x 26 cm. Small *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. Recto, written in black ink, 18 lines, at right angles to the fibres, + one line in the right margin. Verso, written in black ink, 20 lines, parallel to the fibres, + 4 lines in the 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* normally has no teeth.

Content

Letter. The beginning is missing. Refers to various commercial matters and trade in various commodities, including 'trousers' (سراويل). Closes with the conveyance of greetings.

VERSO

Script

Final 'alif extends below the connecting stroke. *Dāl/dāl* is written with two straight strokes converging to a point.

Content

Pen exercises, including various blessing formulae.

Papyrus no: x8.20

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

Physical description: 56 cm. x 14 cm. Long piece with no joints between papyrus pieces visible. Large *lacunae* in the middle. Writing on both sides. One edge of the sheet is missing. Recto, written in black ink, 25 lines, at right angles to the fibres. Verso, written in black ink, 24 lines, parallel to the fibres, + 2 lines 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/šīn* is written without teeth.

Content

Letter. Beginning and right side are missing. The text is arranged in paragraphs separated by a space. Concerns various commercial matters. The text contains the request formula ان رايـت ان تؤخره 'If you determine to delay it ...' The letter closes with the *tašliya*.

VERSO

Script

Written with thick pen. 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* is written without teeth.

Content

Fragment of a letter concerning commercial matters. Very little continuous text is extant.