PART I

SUPPLEMENTARY CATALOGUE OF ARABIC PAPYRI IN
THE JOHN RYLANDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
OF MANCHESTER

C IV 10 (Old No. 254)

Description: two separate fragments mounted together and labelled a and b. a – soiled brown, recto 12 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink, faded in places. b – badly damaged brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: a – 25 h × 10.6 cm w, alif 0.6–0.8 cm. b – 22.7 h × 11.6 cm w, alif 0.7–1.1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: a – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bāʾ of the basmalah rises above the teeth of the following sin; the normally vertical stroke of the tāʾ inclines to the right; undotted. b – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; there is one example of an extended connecting stroke between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: a – a document containing only the basmalah followed by a list of names. b – a document containing a list of personal names followed by Coptic numerals.


D II 2 (Old No. 154)

Description: three separate fragments mounted together and labelled a, b and c. a – dark brown, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, completely faded except for the basmalah, verso blank, black ink. b – badly damaged brown fragment, recto 9 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink. c – dark brown fragment, recto 1 line along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: a – 10 h × 9 cm w, alif 1 cm. b – 17.5 h × 8.4 cm w, alif 1–1.5 cm. c – 14.6 w × 6.7 cm h.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: a – the initial bāʾ of the basmalah rises above the teeth of the following ʿsin; some joined words, undotted. b – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; there is one example of the final attached hāʾ in the shape of a triangle and one example of a final attached hāʾ the top of which is level with the top of the preceding lām; some joined words: undotted. c – recto – there are examples of the extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted; verso – the bāʾ of the basmalah rises above the teeth of the following ʿsin; some joined words; undotted.

Subject matter: a – only the basmalah remains from what is probably a private or semi-official letter. b – a private letter mentioning a guard (ḥāris) and offspring (ʾīyāl). c – recto – only the illegible name of the writer remains; verso – only the basmalah remains of what is probably a private or semi-official letter.

D II 3 (Old No. 138)

Description: three separate fragments mounted together and labelled a, b and c. a – soiled brown fragment, recto 9 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 12 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in place. b – brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places. c – brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded and smudged in places.

Measurements: a – 24.5 w × 24.2 cm h, alif 1–1.3 cm (recto), 1–1.7 cm (verso). b – 13.4 h × 6.6 cm w, alif 0.7 cm (recto), 1.4 cm (verso). c – 9.2 h × 5.2 cm w, alif 1 cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: a – recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the initial kāf extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and an upward shaft; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial kāf extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and an upward shaft; some dots. b – recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base
line; the initial ٣ of the basmalah rises above the teeth of the following ٢; the normally vertical stroke of the ٣ inclines to the right; undotted; verso – the base of the initial ٧ extends to the right; undotted. c – recto – the independent ٧ rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial ٧ extends to the right; undotted; verso – only a few letters remain.

Subject matter: a – recto – a document mentioning kharaj and the cultivation of ٥ irdabb s of wheat (٢٣٢١ arâdiba qaμîn ٢٢٢١ fi Qafidîn (?)); verso – a private letter with instructions to buy something (taṣhtarî bi-ḥâ ... ) and with a mention of taking clothes from someone (ta-khudh min-hu al-thiyyâb ) and finally instructing the recipient to sell some honey in order to pay the writer’s debt (... wa-unzûr an tabî‘a al-ṣal ... wa-tastaqḍî fi-hi wa-tadfa‘u ilâ Ibn Fudayl sittata al-danānîr ba‘d an yaktuba ilây-ka Abû al-‘Abbâs ). b – recto – a private letter in which only the basmalah and the opening wishes remain; verso – faded. c – recto – a private letter with good wishes; verso – only a few letters remain.


Place name: Qafidîn(?).

D III 2 (Old No. 174)

Description: two separate soiled and badly damaged fragments mounted together and labelled a and b. a – brown fragment, recto 16 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 11 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places. b – light brown fragment, recto 5 lines of Arabic and 9 lines of Coptic across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: a – 18.3 h x 14.5 cm w, alif 0.5–1 cm (recto), 0.6–1.2 (verso). b – 24.7 h x 11.7 cm w, alif 1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: a – recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the ٣ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ٧ extends to the right; the initial ١f extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the ٣-م-الif joins together forming the shape of the letter ٣; the tail of the final ٣ returns to the right; undotted; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the ٣ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ٧ extends to the right; the initial ١f extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the ٣-م-الif joins together forming
the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right; undotted. b – recto – the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: a – recto – a private letter mentioning a previous letter (qad kuntu katabtu ilay-ka kitāb ), an offer of a sum of money (qad ḍaytu bi-hā al-‘asharah danānīr ) and a sale (qad bā’-hā ); verso – a private letter containing the name of the writer and the name of the recipient, probably followed by the reply to the text on the recto with the basmalah and opening good wishes and an instruction to despatch something very quickly with the bearer (‘ajjil bi-him ma’a ḥāmil kitābī ). b – recto – a private letter.


E III 2 (Old No. 237)

Description: Soiled brown fragment, recto 7 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 19.3 w × 10.4 cm h, alif 0.6–1 cm (recto), 0.7–1.2 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the initial kāf extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and an upward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right; some dots; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the ẓā’ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the initial kāf extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and an upward shaft at the top; there are extensions of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: a private letter concerning medical treatment in which the writer requests a home visit since he is unable to travel (‘ilāj, ʿāfiyāh, fa-yukallifu-m al-rukūb ilay-ka ); verso – a private letter, probably the reply to the text on the recto.

Personal name: recto – ʿImārah.

E III 6 (Old No. 306)

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, blank ink, clay seal attached, personal name illegible.
PART I – THE SUPPLEMENTARY CATALOGUE
Measurements: 12.3 h x 11.4 cm w, alif 0.8–1.2 cm (recto), 0.5–0.9 cm (verso).

Date: 254 (= AD 868).

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the sin is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial 'ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final ya' returns to the right; undotted; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final ya' returns to the right; some joined words; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a private letter with mention of the purchase of a door (... ishtarā al-bāb ) and a request of a favour (innī ā'lamu anna dhālika sahlun 'alā yaday-ka ... ... wa-in kāna al-amr laysa sahl 'alay-ka ...); verso – a document containing the date, followed by Coptic, then followed by the mention of cultivation and personal names.

Personal names: verso – Muhammad bn Ismā'īl, ā' Abdallāh, Sūrus.

E III 8 (Old No. 307)

Description: Light brown fragment, with a section still sealed closed. recto 6(?) lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 7(?) lines across the vertical fibres. black ink faded in places.
E III 9 (Old No. 122)

Description: Soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 11 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 14.2 h × 13 cm w, alif 0.4–0.7 cm (recto & verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the initial bā' of the basmalah rises above the teeth of the following sin; the normally vertical stroke of the tā' inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the lām-alif joins together to form the shape of the letter v; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the tā' inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; there is an extension of the connecting stroke between letters; some dots.

Subject matter: recto & verso – a document recording the takings and expenditure of a shop.

Personal names: recto – Abū Muḥammad; verso – Abū Ṣāliḥ.
**F IV 18 (Old No. 319)**

**Description:** soiled dark brown fragment, recto 8 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 17 h × 7.4 cm w, *alif* 0.3–0.6 cm.

**Date:** 316 (= AD 928).

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *bā* of the *basmalah* rises above the teeth of the following *sin*; the final attached *ḥāʾ* is in the shape of a large inverted comma; some joined words; undotted.
Subject matter: a document with mention of a legal quittance (bara’ah) and kharaj.

Personal name: Theodore.

ARABIC ADD. Nos 1 – 2

Description: two slightly soiled brown fragments making up one document on each side, recto 10 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres at right angles to the recto text, black ink.

Measurements: both fragments placed together 15.2 h x 4.2 cm w, alif 0.7 cm (recto); alif 1.5 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the tail of the final ya’ returns to the right, the only early feature in the text; undotted; verso – the tail of the final va’ returns to the right; also there is one example of an extended connecting stroke between letters.

Subject matter: recto – document mentioning land and money and the building of a house (faddān, dīnār, sakan, ʾimrān, qirāt); verso – document concerning land tax (kharaj).

Personal name: recto – Abū Saʿīd.

ARABIC ADD. No. 3

Description: light brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 10.3 h x 3.7 cm w, alif 1.5 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – one example of an extended connecting stroke between letters; undotted; verso – only one or two letters of each line remaining, undotted.

Subject matter: document with an instruction to despatch something or someone (fa-wajjih ...).

ARABIC ADD. No. 4

Description: light brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 11.7 h x 10 cm w, alif 0.7–1.2 cm.

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bāʾ of the basmalah rises well above the teeth of the following sin; the medial shin is written as a straight horizontal stroke with three dots in a line above; the final kāf extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the tail of
the final yā' returns to the right; extension of a connecting stroke between letters; some dots.

**Subject matter:** semi-official letter with the statement that the writer has done his utmost to carry out an instruction given by the recipient (qad 'amiltu ghāyatī bi-amri-ka ... wa-qiyāmī la-ka).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 5**

**Description:** light brown fragment soiled in places, recto 3 lines (comprising three incomplete words) across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 9.9 w × 5.4 cm h, alif 1.1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; undotted.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 6**

**Description:** brown, slightly soiled fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 5.9 w × 5 cm h, alif 1.4 cm.

**Date:** 2nd/8th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the kāf is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and an upward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yā' returns considerably to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – official letter concerning a dismissal (ʿazl) of someone from a position; verso – official letter.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 7**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 1 line across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 10.3 w × 5.8 cm h, alif 1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā' of the basmalah rises above the teeth of the following ʿīn; the initial kāf has a rightward shaft at the top; extension of the connecting stroke in the basmalah; undotted; verso – the ʿīn/shīn is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with only the basmalah and good wishes; verso – a document containing either a personal name or a date.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 8**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines (completely faded) along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places.
Measurements: 6 h x 4.3 cm w, alif 1–1.4 cm (recto).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; some dots.
Subject matter: recto – a letter with mention of crops (*ghallah*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 9**

Description: light brown fragment, recto 1 line across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 6.1 w x 3.4 cm h, alif 0.9 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: there are no apparent early features; undotted.
Subject matter: document with mention of a curse (*qawwada-hu al-Rahmān*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 10**

Description: brown fragment, recto 9 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 13.3 h x 11.3 cm w, alif 1.4 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line and bends to the left; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the kāf extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a shaft bending to the right at the top of the upper stroke; undotted.
Subject matter: a private letter?
Personal name: Abū Bakr.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 11**

Description: light brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 7.4 h x 4.4 cm w, alif 0.7–1 cm.
Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif extends below the base line; the initial bāʾ of the basmalah rises above the teeth of the following sin and is preceded by 2 dots; verso – the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right crossing the preceding alif: undotted.
Subject matter: recto – a private letter with only part of the basmalah
and common good wishes; verso – the name of either the writer or the recipient.  
**Personal name:** verso – Abū Ḥanīfah.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 12**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink.  
**Measurements:** 17.3 w × 6.6 cm h, *alif* 0.9–1.1 cm.  
**Date:** 3rd/9th century.  
**Palaeography:** recto – there are no early palaeographic features apparent; verso – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the normally vertical stroke of the *tāʾ* inclines to the right; the tail of the final *lām* curves round level with the top of the vertical stroke; undotted.  
**Subject matter:** recto – a document; verso – an official letter with the expression of an opinion (*raʾy* ) and including mention of the military rank of *qāʾid*.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 13**

**Description:** dark brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink.  
**Measurements:** 13.5 w × 2 cm h, *alif* 0.6–0.7 cm (recto), 0.6 cm (verso).  
**Date:** 3rd/9th century.  
**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; joined letters; undotted; verso – the initial *baʾ* rises above the teeth of the *sin* in the *basmalah*; joined letters; undotted.  
**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with wishes; verso – only the *basmalah*.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 14**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.  
**Measurements:** 13.5 h × 12 cm w, *alif* 0.6–1 cm.  
**Date:** 2nd/8th century.  
**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial *ayn* extends to the right; connecting strokes between letters are extended; the vertical stroke of the final *ḥāʾ* extends upwards level with the preceding *lāms* in the word *Allāh*; one dot.  
**Subject matter:** a document containing a list of names with a Coptic number on the right side.

ARABIC ADD. No. 15

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink for the most part faded.
Measurements: 16.4 w × 8.5 cm h, alif 1.2 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the *kāf* is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and an upward shaft at the top; some dots.

**Subject matter:** an official letter with an order (*amr*).

**Personal name:** Jahm.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 16

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink slightly faded in places.

**Measurements:** 14 h × 9.5 cm w, *alif* 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; one *dāl* has a rightward stroke at the top of the letter; there is an open medial ‘*ayn*’; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a private letter, mentioning the despatch (*ba‘th*) of someone or something with a certain person and including news of the birth of a child to the writer (*wulida li*).

**Personal name:** al-Shaghghāl.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 17

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 1 line completely faded along the horizontal fibres, verso 1 line across the vertical fibres, black ink faded on recto and smudged on verso.

**Measurements:** 15 w × 9.5 cm h, *alif* 0.7 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** verso – the initial *bā* of the *basmalah* rises above all other letters and is preceded by two dots; joined letters; some dots.

**Subject matter:** verso – only the *basmalah*.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 18

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 11.2 w × 6.4 cm h, *alif* 0.7–1 cm (recto), 1–1.8 cm (verso).

**Date:** 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *shīn* is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial ‘*ayn*’ extends to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters; some dots; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the
tail of the final ٠ ٢ returns to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters: joined words; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – document including a religious statement or judicial decision (*bi-dhā hakamt*); verso – private letter with wishes.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 19**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 11 h x 9 cm w, *alif* 0.6–0.8 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

**Date:** verso – Shawwal 262 (= June AD 875).

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *sin* is written as a straight horizontal line; the base of the initial *cāyn* extends to the right; some dots; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the tail of the final ٠ ٢ returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – document mentioning dwelling (*askunu*) and a room (*ghurfah*); verso – document containing list of dates with months (*Sha‘bān, [Dhū al-Qa‘dah]*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 20**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 11.9 w x 6 cm h, *alif* 1.1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *cāyn* extends to the right; the initial *kāf* extends slightly horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a shaft inclining to the right at the top; undotted.

**Subject matter:** private letter asking for instructions (*awāmir*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 21**

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, running at right angles to the recto text, black ink faded and smudged in places (recto), completely faded (verso).

**Measurements:** 8.5 w x 7 cm h.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** there are no early palaeographic features apparent; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document with what is probably a list of prices (*thaman*), or an order of some goods, and numerals (e.g. *saffah*).
ARABIC ADD. No. 22

Description: soiled light brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink. Written entirely in Coptic.

Measurements: 10.4 w × 10 cm h.

ARABIC ADD. No. 23

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 13 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 5 lines across the vertical fibres, running at right angles to the recto text, black ink.

Measurements: 16 h × 8.4 cm w, alif 1.6 cm (verso).

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the taʾṣāʾī alif inclines slightly to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – document with an instruction to despatch (ibṭath ...) someone or something and mention of money (dīnār); verso – a document mentioning money (dīnār).

ARABIC ADD. No. 24

Description: soiled light brown fragment, recto 7 lines (comprising only one or two letters each) along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 10.5 h × 2 cm w.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the initial bāʾ rises above the teeth of the following sin in the basmalah; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the connecting strokes between letters are elongated; some dots; verso – the same hand as the recto.

Subject matter: a document.

ARABIC ADD. No. 25

Description: light brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 9 w × 5.5 cm h, alif 1 cm (recto), 1.4 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – Maghribi script, with a single dot above the qāf; the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the medial kāf is slightly elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; most dots supplied; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final yāʾ returns considerably to the right joining the attached alif of the preceding word; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – a document containing religious phrases; verso – private letter with the instruction to carry or bring (ihmil ...).

ARABIC ADD. No. 26

Description: light brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 4.7 w × 2.4 cm h, alif 0.7 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif has a hook bend-
ing to the left at the base; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; extension of a connecting stroke between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: a private letter with mention of blame (ʿitāb) or absence (ghiyāb).

Personal name: Abū ʿUmayr.

ARABIC ADD. No. 27

Description: brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines (line 3 a long horizontal line only, possibly joined to a letter) across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 16 w × 5 cm h, alif 0.6 cm (recto), 0.5 cm (verso).

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif bends to the right at the base; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the sād has parallel strokes forming the top and bottom of the letter; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the medial kāf is slightly elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; undotted; verso – the same hand.

Subject matter: literary text.

ARABIC ADD. No. 28

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres with 7 lines running at right angles above, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 10.7 w × 6.6 cm h, alif 0.5–0.7 cm (4 lines), 0.5–0.9 cm (7 lines).

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial 'ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final ya' returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: documents concerning the collection and non-collection of kharāj (tastawfūjamī’ mā akhraja al-qalam ... wa-lā ta‘ridū li- ... alladāibaqiya ’alā ... min al-kharāj).

Personal names: Isḥāq, ʿAbdallāh.

ARABIC ADD. No. 29

Description: brown fragment, now two, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, slightly faded black ink.

Measurements: 9.3 w × 6 cm h, alif 1–1.5 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the two strokes of the lām-alif cross and remain open; one dot?

Subject matter: a private letter with an instruction not to hand over something to a third party (wa-lā tadāf‘ ilay-hi shay‘ān).

ARABIC ADD. No. 30

Description: brown fragment, recto 1 line along the horizontal fibres, verso 1 line across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 10.4 w × 1.7 cm h, alif 0.3–0.7 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto - a diagonal stroke on the letter shin which is written as a straight horizontal line.

Subject matter: recto - a private letter; verso - the name of the writer and the recipient.

Personal names: verso - al-Wafid, ... bn ʿAbbās.

ARABIC ADD. No. 31

Description: soiled brown fragment, now two, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, faded black ink.

Measurements: 13.2 w × 9 cm h, alif 0.5 (recto).

Date: 218 (= AD 833).

Palaeography: recto - there are examples of extended connecting strokes between letters; undotted; verso - extension of connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: recto - probably a private letter; verso - a document containing a date.

Personal name: Abū Sa‘īd.
ARABIC ADD. No. 32

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 10.3 w x 7 cm h, alif 1–1.2 cm.

Date: 2nd/8th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial kāf is elongated horizontally, the upper stroke is parallel with the base line and there is a rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right underlining the preceding word; some dots.

Subject matter: a private letter with wishes.

ARABIC ADD. No. 33

Description: slightly soiled, badly damaged, brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 8.8 w x 3.5 cm h, alif 0.7 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: there is one example of a long connecting stroke between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: probably a private letter.

ARABIC ADD. No. 34

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines (badly faded) along the horizontal fibres, black ink, faded, brownish on the verso.

Measurements: 6 w x 4.5 cm h, alif 0.6 (recto), 1.1 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the alif rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial ʾayn extends to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a private letter, mentioning urgency of action (ʿajjil ) and that the writer will pass the night in the house of the recipient (al-mabit ʿinda-ka al-laylah ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 35

Description: light brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, only one in the Arabic script, the remainder in Coptic, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, one word in Coptic, black ink.

Measurements: 12 h x 4.5 cm w, alif 0.4–0.7 cm (recto).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – in the one line of Arabic script, the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the remainder is Coptic.  

Subject matter: recto – document containing a list.

ARABIC ADD. No. 36

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 1 line along the horizontal fibres, verso 1 line across the vertical fibres, black ink, faded in places.  

Measurements: 11.8 w × 3.7 cm h, *alif* 1 cm (verso).  

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.  

Palaeography: there are no recognizable early palaeographic features; undotted.  

Subject matter: recto – a private letter with wishes; verso – the name of the writer.  

Personal name: Abū Yazid.

ARABIC ADD. No. 37

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.  

Measurements: 14 h × 10 cm w, *alif* 1 cm.  

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.  

Palaeography: the only early feature is one example of extended connecting strokes between two letters; some dots.  

Subject matter: a private letter with wishes.

ARABIC ADD. No. 38

Description: light brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres with some Coptic words, verso blank, black ink.  

Measurements: 9 w × 3 cm h, *alif* 0.4 cm.  

Date: 2nd/1st/7th–8th century. (200–299 = AD 815–911).  

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends slightly to the right; undotted.  

Subject matter: a document.

ARABIC ADD. No. 39

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.  

Measurements: 8 w × 7 cm h, *alif* 0.7–1.2 cm.  

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.  

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends...
below the base line; the stroke of the medial bāʾ rises above the teeth of the following sin ; the upper stroke of the initial and medial kāf runs parallel to the base line and has an upward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted; verso – the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right crossing the preceding alif ; undotted.

Subject matter: semi-official letter explaining that the writer has been prevented from reaching the recipient (ḥabasa-nī ʿan-kum ) and that the recipient should thus act on his behalf in the matter of a third party (ikfī-nī amra-hum ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 40

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink, slightly faded on the verso.

Measurements: 7 w × 6 cm h, alif 1–1.3 cm (recto), 1.5 cm (verso).

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn and ghayn extends to the right; some dots; verso – the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – document concerning the purchase of something instead of something else, with the mention of an excuse (ʿudhr ) and truth (sidq ); verso – concerning the sharing and cultivation of a piece of land (... an tazraʾa-hā wa-yazraʾa-hā ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 41

Description: light brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink, faded in places.

Measurements: 5.8 w × 4.2 cm h, alif 0.7 cm (recto only).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the sād has an oval shape; the top of the initial lām bends to the left; undotted; verso – the fāʾ has a pointed head which rises on a vertical stroke from the base line; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right turning upwards; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – private/semi-official letter with the mention of relationship (silah ); verso – an official letter seeking news (raf qisasi-him ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 42

Description: brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 17 h × 9 cm w, alif 1–1.4 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; there is one example of the vertical stroke of the attached alif extending below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the tā' inclines to the right; the independent hā' has a shaft at the top inclining to the left; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; some dots.

Subject matter: semi-official letter drawing attention to a previous agreement between the writer and a third party (kāna sharfi wa-iyyā-hu).

ARABIC ADD. No. 43

Description: badly damaged brown fragment with sheet join, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 3 lines at right angles across the vertical fibres, line 1 Coptic, black ink.

Measurements: 12 w × 7 cm h, alif 1.4 cm.

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the initial kāf is slightly elongated horizontally with its upper stroke parallel to the base line and an upward stroke at the top; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; extension of a connecting stroke between letters; one dot; verso – single letters only of no particular palaeographic interest; undotted.

Subject matter: private letter with wishes.

ARABIC ADD. No. 44

Description: soiled brown fragment, badly damaged, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines made up of small ink marks only along the horizontal fibres, black ink worn away in places.

Measurements: 18.8 w × 7 cm h, alif 0.7–1.2 cm.

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the tā' extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; some dots.

Subject matter: a private letter concerning the price (thaman) of sheep and goats (aghnām), mentioning also qirāt.

ARABIC ADD. No. 45

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 8.4 h × 6.8 cm w, alif 1 cm.
Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; some joined words; undotted; verso – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *shīn* is written as a straight horizontal stroke with three dots in a line above; the normally vertical stroke of the *ẓā* inclines to the right; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; some joined words; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – semi-official letter giving the order to carry (*ihmil*) immediately (**lā tu‘akhkhir-hu tarfat ‘ayn** !) a particular servant (**khādīm**) in a boat (**qārib**); verso – a private letter mentioning the referral of some matter to the recipient (**... alladhī rafā‘tu-hu ilay-ka**) and advising caution (**kun ‘alā hadhar**).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 46**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 9.5 w × 6 cm h, *alif* 0.6 cm.

**Date:** 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final *qāf* falls vertically before bending to the left; the initial *ḥā* is made up simply of an upwards loop; some dots.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning wheat (**qamḥ**) with its weight and price (**dirham, dāniq**) and **ḥālik** (dark-coloured wheat?) with the price of one dinar for the weight of twenty-two dirhams.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 47**

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 15 w × 9 cm h, *alif* 2 cm.

**Date:** 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the strikingly large initial *kāf* is considerably elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and has a rightward shaft; the tail of the final *vā* returns considerably to the right; some faded dots.

**Subject matter:** an account (**ḥisāb**) document.
ARABIC ADD. No. 48

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres. verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 8 h × 7.5 cm w. alif 0.6–0.9 cm (recto).
Date: 2nd/8th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the independent dāl has a rightward bend at the top; the base of the initial ‘āyn extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final yā‘ returns to the right; undotted; verso – square Kufic-like script; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yā‘ returns considerably to the right; the connecting stroke between some letters is elongated; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – a private letter with wishes; verso – the name of the recipient.

ARABIC ADD. No. 49

Description: badly damaged brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 14 w × 5 cm h, alif 1.4 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the fragment is too badly damaged and faded to yield palaeographic information; some dots.
Subject matter: a private letter with wishes mentioning the appointment of someone as deputy (anābū).
Personal name: Firās.

ARABIC ADD. No. 50

Description: darkish brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 11.3 h × 5.2 cm w, alif 0.9–1.4 cm (recto), 0.6–1 cm (verso).
Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the script slants to the right; the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial tā‘ rises well above the teeth of the following sīn ; the base of the initial ‘āyn extends to the right; undotted; verso – yields no palaeographic information; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – either a list of prices or a record of accounts; verso – a private letter informing the recipient of a certain matter (fa-i‘lām dhālika ).
ARABIC ADD. No. 51

Description: light brown fragment, recto 5 lines (line 4 smudged to delete) along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 7 h × 6.7 cm w, alif 0.5–0.8 (recto), 1 cm (verso).

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif bends to the left at the bottom; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final ya3 returns to the right; undotted; verso – a very neat professional hand; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the final attached hā2 has a rightward stroke at the top; the tail of the final ya3 returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – document mentioning what is due to someone (al-bāqî la-hu arba‘ah ); verso – a private letter?

ARABIC ADD. No. 52

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places on the recto.

Measurements: 12.5 w × 6.5 cm h, alif 1 cm (recto), 1.1 cm (verso).

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the medial ya3 rises well above the teeth of the following sin ; undotted; verso – the independent alif bends to the left at the bottom; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the initial kāf is slightly elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and also with a rightward shaft at the top; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – a witnessed legal acknowledgement (shahida ‘alâ iqârât ...) concerning a building (dâr manzil ); verso – document concerning the cost of transportation (rukûb ... nisf dinâr ).


ARABIC ADD. No. 53

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 7 w × 5.3 cm h, alif 0.6 cm (recto).

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the initial bā3 rises well above the teeth of the
following sin and there is the extension of the connecting stroke between letters: joined words: undotted; verso — only the upper part of the letters is visible.

**Subject matter:** recto — a private letter with wishes confirming that the writer has previously written a letter (katabtu); verso — a document?

**ARABIC ADD. No. 54**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 7 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 5.7 h x 5 cm w, alif 0.6–0.8 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto — the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn and ghayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā returns to the right; some dots; verso — the independent alif bends to the left at the bottom; the base of the initial ʿayn extends considerably to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto — a letter mentioning a crop (ghallah) and a sum of money which has been collected for the recipient (mālu-ka fa-qad jumīʿa) and ending with good wishes to the recipient and his family; verso — private letter with a common opening good wishes.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 55**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 6.5 w x 5.2 cm h, alif 0.6–1 cm (recto), 0.5 cm (verso).

**Date:** 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto — the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the ʾām-alif joins to form the shape of the letter v; undotted; verso — the tail of the final yā returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto — a private letter mentioning the despatch of something to someone; verso — a document concerning the collection of the kharāj.

**Personal names:** Nāzilah, Ahmād bn ... .

**ARABIC ADD. No. 56**

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 7.5 h x 6.4 cm w, alif 1 cm (recto), 0.6 cm (verso).
**PART I – THE SUPPLEMENTARY CATALOGUE**

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:**
- **recto:** the *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the tail of the final *yā* extends to the right; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; undotted.
- **verso:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *cayn* extends to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:**
- **recto:** a private/semi-official letter, concerning the despatch of a worker (*‘amil*) and asking the recipient not to neglect someone/something (*là tada‘ al-nazar*); verso – a private letter either concerning the sale of some goods which are not marketable (*rā‘ijah*) or which are not profitable (*rābi‘ah*); the writer asks the recipient/owner of the goods to take a quick decision (*qarārū-ka ‘ajjil bi-hi*).

**Personal name:** recto – Abū al-Khayr.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 57**

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, now two, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 10.6 h x 6.8 cm w, *alif* 1 cm (recto), 0.8 (verso).

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – no early palaeographic features apparent; some dots; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – a letter mentioning fate (*dahr*) and melancholy (*‘ubūs*); verso – private letter mentioning someone in an unhappy situation (*al-bukā‘ wa-al-dumū‘ taghlubu-hu*).

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 58**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 10 lines across the vertical fibres, plus 2 lines along the horizontal fibres at right angles, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 12 h x 7 cm w, *alif* 0.5–1 cm (horizontal), 1.2 cm (vertical).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; the initial *kāf* is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and an upward or rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document concerning a punishment (*‘uqūbah*).

**Personal names:** Zakariyyā, Abū al-Khaṭṭāb.
ARABIC ADD. No 59

Description: brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 11.3 w x 6.2 cm h, alif 0.6–1.2 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; some dots.
Subject matter: a letter mentioning someone in need (muhtāj) and asking the recipient to write to a third party (fa-uktub ilay-hi fi dhālika), possibly to enter him on some list (... wa-an yudkhila-ka ... ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 60

Description: light brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 8 w x 5 cm h, alif 0.6 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yā returns considerably to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: a document either mentioning a military crossing and the rank of qā'id (li-'ubūr al-qā'id) or giving his name, Ya'qūb al-Qā'id.
Personal names: Abū Yūsuf, Ya'qūb.

ARABIC ADD. No. 61

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 8 lines on the right side, plus 5 lines on the left, in two columns along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines on the right side, plus 9 lines on the left, in two columns across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 11 w x 7 cm h, alif 0.6 cm.
Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the upper stroke of the kāf runs parallel to the base line and has an upward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yā returns to the right; there is a fā with a dot beneath as in the Maghribi script and three dots on the shīn; the initial yā has two dots beneath; the signs of both the fatha and the dammāh are provided; verso – the independent alif bends to the right at the base; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends slightly to the right; the upper stroke of the kāf runs parallel to the base line with a rightward shaft at the top; some dots.
PART I – THE SUPPLEMENTARY CATALOGUE

Subject matter: recto – private letter with personal names and mention of the writer's mother.
Personal names: recto – Hudayth bn Hasan, Qudayrah, ʿAbd al-Rahmān, Rashīd.

ARABIC ADD. No. 62

Description: light brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines across the vertical fibres, brown ink (recto), black ink (verso).
Measurements: 16 w × 8.3 cm h, alif 1–1.3 (recto), 0.6–1 cm (verso).
Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the initial kāf is slightly elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yāʾ returns on occasions to the right and upwards; some dots; verso – the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; some words are joined together; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – private/semi-official letter which mentions debt (dayn ), goods (ḥawāʿij ), wheat (qamḥ ) and an item (ḥājah ) and its price (bi-thulṭay dinār ); verso – private letter with wishes.
Personal name: Abū ʿUthmān.

ARABIC ADD. No. 63

Description: badly damaged light brown fragment, few letters remaining, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, line 3 smudged to delete, line 5 Coptic, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 9 h × 7 cm w, alif 1 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: no palaeographic information can be gleaned from what remains of the fragment; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter with a reference to dates (tamr ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 64

Description: dark brown, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, only one or two words in the Arabic script, Coptic, verso blank, join present, black ink.
Measurements: 12 w × 8 cm h.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: there are no palaeographic features of significance.
Subject matter: an official document mentioning expenditure/salary (nafaqah ).
ARABIC ADD. No. 65

**Description:** badly damaged light brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 13.5 x 13.5 cm, *alif* 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the initial *bāʿ* rises well above the teeth of the following *ṣīn* and is preceded by the common dot; the *shīn* is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; some joined words; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a private letter expressing thanks (*fa-ashkuru-ka*) for supplying (*irād*) something.

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ARABIC ADD. No. 66

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 5 w x 3 cm h, *alif* 0.8 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the general impression of the style gives the indication of the above approximate date, although no clear early palaeographic features can be discerned; some joined words; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a private letter with wishes, asking for the despatch (*... an tab'a [tha]*) of something or someone.

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ARABIC ADD. No. 67

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines of Coptic along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 12.5 h x 12 cm w, *alif* 1 cm.

**Date:** 227 (= AD 841).

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *ṣīn/shīn* is written as a straight horizontal stroke; the *sād* is slightly elongated horizontally, the upper stroke parallel to the base line and the left hand side and the tooth incline slightly to the right; the *fāʿ* is elevated above the following letters and has a pointed head; one dot; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʿ* inclines to the right; some joined words; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – a private letter with wishes; verso – date of document and the name of the writer.

**Personal name:** verso – Minyā bn Shanūdah.
**ARABIC ADD. No. 68**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** $12.5 \times 4.6$ cm w, *alif* 1–1.3 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial 'ayn extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; undotted; verso – one word remains; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – a private letter concerning rent (*ujrah*).

**Personal name:** al-Shammās.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 69**

**Description:** light brown, flimsy fragment, recto 9 lines along the horizontal fibres and 1 line at right angles across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** $14 \times 6$ cm w, *alif* 1.7 (recto), 1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *lām-*alif joins together forming the shape of the letter *v*; one connecting stroke between letters is extended; some dots; verso – the *alif* rises slightly above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *lām-*alif joins together forming the shape of the letter *v*; extension of connecting strokes between letters; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – a land (*ard*) contract (*‘aqd*); verso – official document addressed to a governor (*‘āmil*) confirming that something (*amr*) is certain (*yaqīn*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 70**

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 7 lines across the vertical fibres, plus 2 lines at right angles along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** $10 \times 9.5$ cm h, *alif* 1.4 cm (recto), 1–1.5 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial 'ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right crossing the preceding *alif*; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial
kāf is slightly elongated with the upper stroke running parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto - letter with good wishes mentioning honey (‘asal) and informing the recipient that two persons have not paid someone (lām yūṭiyāni-hi [sic]) the price (thaman) of something; verso - a document concerning kharāj.

ARABIC ADD. No. 71

Description: brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines (single letters only) across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 8 h × 6.5 cm w, alif 0.5–1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto - the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the alif and lām generally incline to the right; the sin/shīn is written as a straight horizontal stroke; undotted.

Subject matter: recto - a private letter with good wishes.

Personal name: Muhammad bn Waqdam.

ARABIC ADD. No. 72

Description: damaged brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 8 × 8 cm, alif 1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the dhāl has a rightward hook at the top; the base of the initial c ayn extends to the right; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; some dots.

Subject matter: a private letter, the writer mentioning that he has left behind either two mares (farasayn) or two qirsh (qirshayn) and putting his trust in, or depending on, someone who is 'more of a man than they are' (man huwa arjalu min-hum)!

ARABIC ADD. No. 73

Description: brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink, smudged to delete on verso.

Measurements: 7 w × 4 cm h, alif 0.6 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto - the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base...
line; there is one example of a slightly extended connecting stroke between two letters; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – an official letter with good wishes in which the writer acknowledges that he will heed the order he has been given (*mā ta'muru na'i-hi*).

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 74**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 7 h × 6.5 cm w, *alif* 0.6–1 cm (recto), 0.8 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the tail of the final *ya* returns to the right; there is one example of an extended connecting stroke between letters; some dots; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the tail of the final *ya* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – a private letter asking for the despatch (*ba' th*) of someone or something; verso – the name of the writer.

**Personal names:** recto – Hasan, Mazyad; verso – Abū al-Qāsi[m].

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 75**

**Description:** damaged light brown fragment, recto 9 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 8 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 15 × 15 cm, *alif* 0.9–1.4 cm (recto), 0.6–1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the *tā* inclines to the right; the base of the initial *ayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *ya* returns to the right; undotted; verso – in some cases the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the *ayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *ya* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – a private letter with good wishes and with a request that the recipient should reply giving news (*uktub ilay-ya bi-khabari-ka wa-hāli-ka*); verso – a letter containing an appeal for help (*al-naṣr, al-naṣr* !).

**Personal name:** verso – ʿUmar.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 76**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink, fading.

**Measurements:** 13.5 w × 10.5 cm h. *alif* 0.6–1 cm (recto).
Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bāʾ rises well above the teeth of the following sin; the dhāl has an upward shaft at the top; there is one example of the extension of the connecting strokes between letters; some joined words; some dots; verso – the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yāʾ sweeps markedly to the left; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – private letter with good wishes and the instruction to the recipient to act on his own initiative (la-ka hādhā wa-ilay-ka); verso – either the writer’s or the recipient’s name.

Personal name: verso – Muhammad bn ʿAli.

ARABIC ADD. No. 77

Description: dark brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 12.8 h × 7 cm w, alif 0.8–1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right on two occasions; undotted.

Subject matter: a private letter in which the writer is writing on behalf of someone else, reminding the recipient that he knows in what situation the third party is (taʿlamu mā huwāfi-hi).

Personal name: Mūsā.

ARABIC ADD. No. 78

Description: brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 6 w × 4 cm h, alif 1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; undotted.

Subject matter: a letter with mention of an enquiry by one person to another (wa-qad kataba ... ... yasʿalu-hu).

Personal name: al-Hārith.

ARABIC ADD. No. 79

Description: brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres (lines 1, 3, 4 and 6 faded), verso blank, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 10 h × 7 cm w, alif 0.7 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the tail of the final *ya* returns to the right; one dot.

**Subject matter:** a document detailing property boundaries (*nata’arrafu ḥadda-nā*).

### ARABIC ADD. No. 80

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, now two, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink, faded badly on verso.

**Measurement:** 12 h x 7 cm w, *alif* 0.5–1 cm (recto), 1.2 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the base of the initial *‘ayn* extends to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters on one occasion; some joined letters; undotted; verso – there are no clear early features; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – an official letter with mention of subjects (*rdīyyah*) or a wish (*raghbah*) and the writer asks if there is anything he can do for the recipient ([*in kāna*] *la-ka min ḥājah*, ...); verso – a document.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 81

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 8 lines along the horizontal fibres, plus 2 lines at right angles across the vertical fibres, verso 5 lines (almost completely illegible) across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 11 h x 8 cm w, *alif* 0.5–0.8 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *ba* of the *basmalah* rises above the other letters; the *sin* is written as a straight horizontal stroke; the initial *kāf* is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward hook at the top; undotted; one extended connecting stroke can be seen; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – an official letter mentioning advance payment or lending (*salaf*) and possibly *kharāj*; verso – a document which mentions the transport (*ihmil*) and handling over (*tusallima-hu*) of wheat (*qamh*).

**Personal name:** recto – Abū al-Ḥasan ‘Alī bn Muḥammad.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 82

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 6.5 h x 5.3 cm w, *alif* 0.6 cm (recto), 0.8 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; undotted; verso – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the upper stroke of the initial *hāʾ* is much exaggerated and rises above the whole of the following *mīm* and *tāʾ marbūṭah*; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – a private letter with good wishes and a request to the recipient to send news; verso – private letter requesting the presence of the recipient (*ahdir nafsa-ka*) and mentioning his finishing something (*farāghī min ḥāṣdhā*).

**Personal names:** recto – Ḥārūn bn Muḥammad; verso – Muḥammad.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 83**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines (written slightly at an angle) along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 7.8 w × 4 cm h.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the medial *ḥāʾ* comprises a stroke diagonally across the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning the provision of weapons ([*tu*]-*sallīhu-hu*?)

**Personal name:** Muḥammad.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 84**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres (line 1 badly faded, line 4 smudged), verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 8 w × 6 cm h, *alif* 1.2 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the initial *bāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the following *sin*; the normally vertical stroke of the *tāʾ* inclines to the right; extension of connecting stroke between letters; undotted; verso – there is only the personal name with no significant palaeographic features; one dot.

**Subject matter:** recto – a private letter with only the *basmalah* and common opening wishes remaining; verso – personal name.

**Personal name:** verso – Abū Aḥmad.
ARABIC ADD. No. 85

Description: brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 8.8 h x 6.3 cm w, alif 1 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial 'ayn extends slightly to the right; there is one example of an extended connecting stroke between letters; some joined words; undotted.
Subject matter: a private letter with good wishes.

ARABIC ADD. No. 86

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 8.3 w x 6.5 cm h, alif 1.3 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – the làm-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yā returns to the right as far as the preceding word; with the majority of the dots included; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; some dots.
Subject matter: recto – a private letter affirming full agreement between the writer and the recipient (lā farqa bayna-nā fi shay); verso – a note indicating the date of the writer's letter (urrikha kitābi ...) and what the reply of a third part was (wa-kāna jawābu-hu ...).

ARABIC ADD. No. 87

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 10 w x 8 cm h, alif 1–1.4 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the hand is that of a professional scribe; the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; considerably extended connecting strokes between letters; undotted.
Subject matter: a semi-official letter.

ARABIC ADD. No. 88

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 9 lines (lines 1 – 6 badly faded) along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 11.7 h × 4 cm w, alif 1.2 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the baseline; the base of the initial 'ayn extends to the right; the lam-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final ya returns to the right; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the baseline; the tail of the final ya returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – probably a private letter concerning a sum of money (darahim); verso – document mentioning wages (ujur).

Personal name: Ibn Juzyā.

ARABIC ADD. No. 89

Description: brown fragment, recto 6(?) lines along the horizontal fibres smudged in places, verso 4 lines at right angles along the horizontal fibres, black ink, verso smudged.
Measurements: 11 h × 6 cm w.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the base of the initial 'ayn extends to the right; with some dots; verso – extended connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – letter requesting news ([ib'ath ] bi-hāli-ka wa-khabari-ka); verso – repetition of the same personal name four times.

Personal name: recto – Muhammad bn Nūh; verso – Ismā'īl.

ARABIC ADD. No. 90

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 12 w × 5.5 cm h, alif 0.7–1 cm (recto), 1.2 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final ya returns to the right; some dots; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – document concerning the construction of a building or part of a building for which fourteen dirhams have already been paid as an instalment (arba'ah 'ashara dirhaman duft at/daf’tufr kirā īrmār ... ), with mention of a penalty of one dirham a day (li-kulli wawm yali dirham ), presumably in case of delay; verso – document mentioning work (shughl ).
**ARABIC ADD. No. 91**

**Description:** slightly soiled light brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 17.5 w × 8 cm h, alif 0.8 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – only the writer’s name and part of the basmalah remain and there are no early palaeographic features; verso – the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right; extended connecting stroke between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with the writer’s name; verso – reply to the letter on the recto giving the recipient’s name only.

**Personal names:** recto – Muhammad bn ʿUthmān; verso – Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad bn ʿUthmān.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 92**

**Description:** badly damaged light brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3(?) lines (totally smudged) across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** approx. 13.4 w × 8.6 cm h, alif 0.8 cm (recto).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private note (ruṣfaḥ ) with good wishes and mentioning the improvement of affairs (istlāḥ baʿḍ umūr ...), followed by a declaration of the intention to do something (ʿazamtu ).

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 93**

**Description:** light brown fragment, darker at the top edge, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 5 lines of Coptic along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 12 w × 8 cm h, alif 1.1–1.8 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; one dot.

**Subject matter:** recto – private/semi-official letter with a mention of
what the recipients need (mā valzamu-kum), the cost to be debited to the writer (yuktubu ‘alay-nā).

**Personal name:** Abū al-ʿAbbās.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 94**

**Description:** soiled light brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2(?) lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** approximately 17 h × 11 cm w, alif 1.2 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yāʾ returns considerably to the right; undotted; verso – the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private/semi-official letter with good wishes, confirming receipt of a letter; verso – a document containing only the nisbah of the writer or the recipient.

**Personal name:** verso – al-Khawfī/al-Ḥawī.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 95**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 7 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 10.6 h × 4.6 cm w, alif 0.5–0.8 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the sin/shin is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial ʿayn and ghayn extend to the right; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; undotted.

**Subject matter:** document listing personal names with the opinion (raʾy) of each.

**Personal names:** Qays al-Rāʾī/Dāʾī, Qays bn Marqūrah bn Sh w .. Dhuwayb bn Namā, Jaʿfar bn Masʿūd.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 96**

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink fading in places.

**Measurements:** 8.5 h × 7.6 cm w, alif 1 cm (recto), 0.7–1.3 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends
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below the base line; the šūn is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends slightly to the right; undotted; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – private letter concerning the despatch of something (ibrāth bi-hā’); verso – letter asking the recipient to send one of his men to a third party and mentioning that those present have given or paid (al-hādirin ʾaṭaw [sic]).

ARABIC ADD. No. 97

Description: light brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2(?) lines (badly faded and smudged) along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 17 h × 11.4 cm w, alif 2 cm (recto).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the lām-alif is exaggerated in size and joins together forming the shape of the letter v; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – a letter concerning some conflict, mentioning loss or bravery (khasārah/jasārah ), in which the writer warns that he is not afraid to attack (ilay-ka qadimnā wa-lā nakhāfu ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 98

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink (verso slightly faded).

Measurements: 5 w × 3.4 cm h, alif 0.9 cm (recto), 1.5 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; undotted; verso – the first tooth of the ṣīn rises above the other two; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – only the basmalah and a personal name remain of a private letter; verso – private letter with common opening good wishes.

Personal name: recto – [Sufy]ān bn Saʿdūn bn ...

ARABIC ADD. No. 99

Description: light brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 11 w × 8.6 cm h, alif 0.6–1 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; some dots.

Subject matter: private letter concerning writer’s leaving (insaraftu) and mention of two items of clothing at the price of one dinar (hullatāni bi-al-dinar).

Personal name: Abū ʿAlī.

ARABIC ADD. No. 100

Description: brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres. black ink.

Measurements: 9 w × 5.3 cm h, alif 0.6–1 cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the medial ʿayn is open; the medial kāf extends slightly horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and an upward hook; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; there is an extended connecting stroke between letters; some dots; verso – the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – document mentioning the testamentary disposition (wasiyyah) of ʿAlī b. Abī Talib, also mentioning other early caliphs; verso – document mentioning an early caliph by name.


ARABIC ADD. No. 101

Description: light brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 9 h × 8.3 cm w, alif 0.8 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the ʿayn extends slightly to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: document concerning the kharāj, with Coptic numerals.

Personal name: ... bn Jaʿfar.

ARABIC ADD. No. 102

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 9 lines (with two crudely executed circles in the right hand margin opposite line 5 and 7) across the vertical fibres, verso 5 lines (Coptic) along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 7.6 h × 3 cm w, alif 0.7 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the initial yā rises well above the normal height of such letters; some dots; verso – line 1 is a single word and yields no palaeographic features of any significance; the remainder is Coptic.
Subject matter: recto – document mentioning cultivation of land (yazrāʾ, ard); verso – document mentioning kharāj.
Personal names: Danīl, Muḥriz, Yūsuf.

ARABIC ADD. No. 103

Description: light brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink, verso slightly faded.
Measurements: 13.5 h × 8 cm w, alif 1 cm (recto), 0.7–1 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; undotted; verso – the independent and attached alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā of the basmalah rises well above the teeth of the following sin; the normally vertical stroke of the tā inclines to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – private/semi-official letter with good wishes and an instruction to write (fa-uktub); verso – letter containing part of the basmalah and good wishes.

ARABIC ADD. No. 104

Description: damaged and soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, palimpsest(?), verso blank, black ink fading in places.
Measurements: 10.5 w × 4.5 cm h, alif 1.1–1.3 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn/ghayn extends to the right: the initial kāf is slightly extended horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter, the writer mentioning that he is leaving for al-Fustāt (... wa-anā khārij ilā al-Fust [āt]) and urging the recipient to keep some matter secret (... al-amr... uktimu-ka).
Place name: al-Fustāt[āt].
ARABIC ADD. No. 105

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres with some Coptic, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** $10 \text{ h} \times 9 \text{ cm w}, \text{ alif } 0.5 \text{ cm}$.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; there is considerable extension of the connecting strokes between letters in two instances; some dots.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning allowances (sing. *fi‘anah*) of wheat (*qamh*) and numerals.

ARABIC ADD. No. 106

**Description:** damaged light brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** $12 \text{ w} \times 4.5 \text{ cm h}, \text{ alif } 0.7 \text{ cm (recto), } 1 \text{ cm (verso)}$.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; undotted; verso – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *ayn* extends to the right; the normally vertical stroke of the *tāʾ* inclines to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – document which includes the word *‘amil* and *akhinah* (*sic*) at least one personal name and possibly a place name; verso – private letter with good wishes.

**Personal name:** Minyā bn Shanūdāḥ(?).

**Place name:** Kafr ... .

ARABIC ADD. No. 107

**Description:** damaged light brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres (line 2 completely faded), verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** $18 \text{ w} \times 4.5 \text{ cm h}, \text{ alif } 1.4–1.8 \text{ cm}$.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** all *alif* s rise well above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line on one occasion; one dot.

**Subject matter:** document in which the writer expresses his pain (*maghmūm*) at what he has discovered (*bi-mā waqatū ‘alay-hi min ... amri-him*).
ARABIC ADD. No. 108

Description: light brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres (lines 1 & 2 Coptic), verso 2 lines drawn at right angles across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.  
Measurements: 12 h × 5.7 cm w, alif 1.5–2.3 cm.  
Date: 3rd/9th century.  
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters and bends to the left at the bottom; the base of the initial ‘ayn/gayn extends to the right; joined words; undotted.  
Subject matter: private letter with good wishes.

ARABIC ADD. No. 109

Description: damaged light brown fragment, recto 7(?) lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink faded in places.  
Measurements: 12 h × 9 cm w, alif 1–1.3 cm.  
Date: Shawwāl 280 (= November AD 893).  
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the shin is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the normally vertical stroke of the tāʾ inclines to the right; the initial kāf is slightly extended horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a long rightward shaft; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right.  
Subject matter: official letter with good wishes and the date.  
Personal name: Ibn al-Ḥasan.

ARABIC ADD. No. 110

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.  
Measurements: 9 w × 5 cm h.  
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.  
Palaeography: there are no early palaeographic features of any significance; undotted.  
Subject matter: private letter, only part of a wish remaining.

ARABIC ADD. No. 111

Description: brown fragment, recto 15 lines cross the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.  
Measurements: 20.5 h × 5.3 cm w, alif 1.3–1.5 cm.  
Date: Shawwāl; 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the shin is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right, in one case crossing a preceding alif; some dots.

Subject matter: private letter with good wishes, mention of illness (‘alīl) and an exhortation to write (fa-uktub ilay-ya ...).

ARABIC ADD. No. 112

Description: brown fragment, dark at bottom edge, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 14.3 w x 7.5 cm h, alif 1.1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the lam-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: semi-official letter with good wishes, confirming to the recipient that no one will share in his gains (lā šarīka la-ka ma'āmā asabta).

Personal name: Mūsā bn Abī Mūsā al-Mu'adhdhin.
ARABIC ADD. No. 113

Description: slightly soiled light brown fragment, thin and worn, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, plus 1 line at right angles along the horizontal fibres in the right hand margin, verso blank, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 12.5 w × 6.7 cm h, alif 0.7–1.2 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yā returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: private letter with wishes addressed to a group of people, mentioning a departure for al-Madinah, the chief town of al-Ashmūnayn (shakhaṣa ilā al-Madinah) and stressing that the letter is addressed to them all.

Personal name: Jurayj.

ARABIC ADD. No. 114

Description: brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 5.8 h × 4.1 cm w, alif 0.8–1.3 cm (recto).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – there is insufficient left of the document to draw any palaeographic conclusions; undotted; verso – the basmalah and part of the following good wishes are joined; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – private/semi-official letter with good wishes; verso – only part of the basmalah and the opening wishes remain.

ARABIC ADD. No. 115

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2(?) lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 7.5 h × 7.3 cm w, alif 0.4–0.5 cm (recto), 1.2 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final yā returns to the right; undotted; verso – completely illegible.

Subject matter: recto – private letter in the first person, mentioning a return (ʿāʾid al-vawma ilā manzil ...) and a farewell (wadāʾ).
Description: light brown, damaged fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fragment, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 15.3 h × 10.5 cm w, alif 1.2 cm.

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the bā rises well above the teeth of the following sin; the normally vertical stroke of the zā inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the medial kāf is considerably extended horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and an upward bend at the top; the tail of the final yā returns considerably to the right underlining the whole word and crossing the last letter of the preceding word; there is frequent extension of connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: semi-official letter with good wishes, urging the recipient to look carefully at this letter (unẓur al-kitāb, and also mentioning a specific house (ḥādhihi al-dār allafi ...) and asking for the despatch (fa-ibṭath ...) of something or someone.
ARABIC ADD. No. 117

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 10 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 14 h × 7.5 cm w, *alif* 0.8–1 cm.

**Date:** Ramadān 307 (= March AD 920).

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *ṣīn/ṣūn* is written as a straight horizontal line; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** document, mentioning the writer's cultivating land (*zārāʾtu*) on behalf of/with others, an amount of money (*nisf dinār*) to be paid when the *kharāj* falls due and a weight (*mithqāl*).

**Personal names:** Muhammad, ‘Alī.

ARABIC ADD. No. 118

**Description:** light brown, damaged fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, plus 2 lines at right angles in the right hand margin across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, plus 3 lines upside down, black ink. To be read with No. 119 below.

**Measurements:** 14.4 h × 3.5 cm w, *alif* 0.7 cm (recto), 1.5 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the initial *bay* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *ṣīn* and inclines to the left; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends slightly to the right; some dots; verso – the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the vertical letters incline slightly to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – a document, but apart from the *basmalah* there is little of the text legible; verso – a document.

ARABIC ADD. No. 119

**Description:** damaged, light brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 5 lines at right angles across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places on the recto, almost completely on the verso. To be read with No. 118 above.

**Measurements:** 12.5 w × 4.3 cm h, *alif* 1 cm (recto), 1.4 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; some dots; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with good wishes.

**Personal name:** ... bn al-Ḥasan.
ARABIC ADD. No. 120

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 9 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in parts.  
**Measurements:** 13 h x 12 cm w, *alif* 0.7 cm.  
**Date:** 3rd/9th century.  
**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; the *lām-alif* joins together forming the shape of the letter *v*; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; undotted; verso – the initial *bā* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; some connecting strokes between letters are extensive: the letters of several words are continuously joined; undotted.  
**Subject matter:** recto – private letter, expressing the wish that the recipient is in good health (wa-*anā* *aṣrū* *an-nā*-[sic] *fi* ‘*āfiyāh*) and offering certain explanations; verso – only the *basmalah* (plus line 2, the expression *basmalat al-risālah*).

ARABIC ADD. No. 121

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink, faded on the verso.  
**Measurements:** 9.8 h x 8.9 cm w, *alif* 0.3–0.7 cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).  
**Date:** 3rd/9th century.  
**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *bā* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *zā* inclines to the right; the letters of several words are joined continuously; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; some dots.  
**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with good wishes and the mention of a document (*kitāb*); verso – document containing a personal name and the man’s sister (*ukht*).  
**Personal name:** ‘Abdallāh.

ARABIC ADD. No. 122

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank. black ink.  
**Measurements:** 14.4 w x 4.5 cm h, *alif* 0.8–1 cm.  
**Date:** 3rd/9th century.  
**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the
base line; the initial bā’ and medial yā’ rise well above the teeth of the following sin; the initial and medial sin have a diagonal stroke above the letter on two occasions; some joined words; undotted.

Subject matter: a document including mention of a wheat (qamḥ) allocation, with a list of recipients.

Personal names: Ğāṣa bn Kayl, Salamah bn Dāwūd, Yūṣuf bn Šakhr, Ibrāḥīm, Rafah.

ARABIC ADD. No. 123

Description: brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink fading, particularly on the verso.

Measurements: 8.5 w x 7.6 cm h, alif 1 (recto), 0.8 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the final yā’ firstly rises vertically and drops to the left of the vertical stroke; some dots; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – document with personal names and identifications (... min sukkan ..., ..., mawla ...); verso – personal names.


ARABIC ADD. No. 124

Description: brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 9.5 w x 6 cm h, alif 1.5 (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; there is an example of an extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – private letter mentioning bidding farewell (li-yuwaddi f a-ka); verso – land document with the mention of the area ([ithnay ]ni wa-thalāthina faddānan).

ARABIC ADD. No. 125

Description: two soiled brown fragments, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 9 w x 3.3 cm h, taking the two fragments together, alif 1 cm.
**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial 'ayn extends slightly to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** official letter mentioning a group of people announcing the entry of someone (idhān-hum dakhūl ...).

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 126**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 5.3 w × 4.1 cm h, *alif* 1 cm (recto).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the initial *baʾ* of the basmalah rises well above the teeth of the following *sin*; there is one example of the extension of a connecting stroke between letters; undotted; verso – there are no palaeographic features of significance remaining; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – a document; only part of the basmalah remains; verso – private letter; only a part of the common opening good wishes remains.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 127**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, now two, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 12.8 w × 4.6 cm h, *alif* 0.8 (recto), 1.1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the final *tāʾ* is considerably extended; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; there is an extension of the connecting strokes between letters; one dot; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – semi-official letter in which the writer protests that the recipient has the wrong impression of him (*laysa al-amr ʿalā mā wasfta*) and that he should think better of him (*fa-tuhsinu ?anna-ka ... *); he is finally probably urging him not to listen to evil drunks (*al-ʿarābīd al-fujjar*)! Verso – semi-official letter in which the writer reminds the recipient of an instruction he has given to provide for him (*... allāṭī amarta lī bi-hā*).

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 128**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink fading in places.

**Measurements:** 14 h × 10 cm w, *alif* 0.9–1.2 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn/ghayn extends to the right; the initial and medial kāf extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter ʿ; some dots.

Subject matter: a document indicating that something/someone is not appropriate (lā yaṣluḥu) and mentioning repeating loads (karrara al-ahmāl).

Personal name: Abū Naḥfis/Nufays.

ARABIC ADD. No. 129

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 18 w × 6.2 cm h, alif 1 cm (recto), 0.7–1.5 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right; some dots; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the initial and medial kāf extend slightly horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – private letter with good wishes concerning the buying of cloth (qumāsh); verso – private letter with affectionate greetings (mahabbatu-ka ‘alā mā ‘ahidt), mention of the despatch (yaṣilu ilay-ka ; fa-arjū an yaṣila ilay-ka) of something/someone to the recipient.

Personal names: Muḥammad al-Rawsanī, Muḥammad bn ⃞ ⃞ ⃞ ⃞ .

ARABIC ADD. No. 130

Description: soiled brown fragment, now two, recto 5 lines (line 5 deliberately deleted) along the horizontal fibres, verso 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 8.7 w × 7 cm h, alif 0.7 (recto), 1.1 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right; some dots; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter ʿ; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – semi-official letter concerning transportation of goods on a small boat (ihmil fi qārib), including mention of acacia leaves (qaraz) or, more likely, lucerne (qurt); verso – private/semi-official letter mentioning secrecy (kutmân) and camels (ibil).

Personal name: recto – Abū ʿUthmān.

ARABIC ADD. No. 131

Description: worn light brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines at right angles across the vertical fibres, black ink fading in places.

Measurements: 10.5 h x 9 cm w, alif 0.8 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial kāf extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; undotted; verso – Greek and Coptic.

Subject matter: recto – document concerning land tax (kharāj) and the allocation of wheat (qamh) and barley (shaṭr) with a list of names and Greek and Coptic numerals denoting sums of money.


ARABIC ADD. No. 132

Description: light brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places on the verso.

Measurements: 16 w x 2.4 cm h, alif 1 cm (recto), 0.7 (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the shin is written as a straight horizontal line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; undotted; verso – the normally vertical stroke of the tāʾ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a witnessed document; verso – a legal declaration (iqrāʾ).


ARABIC ADD. No. 133

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres. verso blank, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 10.5 h x 8.5 cm w, alif 1.5 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial 'ayn extends to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: a document mentioning the despatch (ib'ath bi-hā́) of someone/something.

ARABIC ADD. No. 134

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 1 line across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 6.8 h x 5.8 cm w, alif 1.5 (recto).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – only one word, written by a professional hand, with no early palaeographic features remaining; undotted; verso – the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; there is an elongated connecting stroke between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a document; verso – a document containing the name of the recipient.

Personal name: verso – Ḥa[san]/Ḥu[sayn].

ARABIC ADD. No. 135

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink slightly faded.

Measurements: 11 w x 8.5 cm h, alif 1.5 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: line 1 comprises either the basmalah or a personal signature in the shape of a circle; the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters and extends below the base line; some dots.

Subject matter: private letter in which only the personal name remains.

Personal name: Ibrāḥīm bn [Muḥammad]/[Aḥmad].

ARABIC ADD. No. 136

Description: light brown fragment, recto 7 lines (lines 1 & 2 deliberately deleted, also the first word of line 5) along the horizontal fibres with 1 line in right margin written at right angles across the vertical fibres, verso 7 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 11 h x 7.5 cm w, alif 1 – 1.3 cm (recto), 0.7 – 1.3 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical
letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; some dots; verso - the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – official letter with good wishes and a mention to the recipient of a previous instruction (fa-amma mā amartu bi-hi ... ); verso – official letter in which there is an enquiry following up a previous letter.

Personal names: recto – Muhammad bn Qāsim, Abū Sham‘ūn; verso – Bahyawah al-Ḥarīs.

ARABIC ADD. No. 137

Description: soiled light brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line, badly damaged, along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 12 w × 7.5 cm h, alif 1.3 cm (recto).

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā‘ of the basmalaḥ rises well above the teeth of the following sīn ; the normally vertical stroke of the tā‘ inclines to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; some joined words; undotted: verso – there is nothing apparent of palaeographic significance; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a document containing only part of the basmalaḥ and good wishes; verso – a document containing only the illegible name of the writer or the recipient.

ARABIC ADD. No. 138

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 6.5 w × 3.4 cm h.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: there is nothing apparent of palaeographic significance; undotted.

Subject matter: a document of which the only legible word is sanah.

ARABIC ADD. No. 139

Description: light brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, plus 1 line in the right hand margin along the horizontal fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 13 h × 4 cm w, alif 1.1 cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bāʾ of the basmalah rises well above the teeth of the following sin; the basmalah is preceded by a dot; the initial kāf extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; some dots; verso – the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter with good wishes, the writer announcing his imminent arrival (wa-anā ʿālā athar kitābî).

ARABIC ADD. No. 140

Description: dark brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 5.3 w × 4.4 cm h, alif 1.5 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; undotted.
Subject matter: a document with only one word remaining: recompense (mukāfaʿah).

ARABIC ADD. No. 141

Description: brown, badly damaged fragment, recto 11 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 3 columns, 7 Coptic words, along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded.
Measurements: 12.5 w × 11.5 cm h, alif 0.5 cm.
Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the tail of the final qāf is broken and bends only slightly to the left; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; there is one example of an extension of the connecting stroke between letters; undotted; verso – Coptic words in columns.
Subject matter: a document mentioning land tax (kharāj).

ARABIC ADD. No. 142

Description: brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 9.5 h × 4 cm w, alif 0.5 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
**Palaeography:** the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the lâm-alif, with barbs to the left on both letters, joins together forming the shape of the letter v; frequent extension of connecting strokes between letters; one dot.

**Subject matter:** a document containing a list of personal names.

**Personal name:** Aslam bn S....

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 143**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 1 line across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 5.2 w × 4.2 cm h, alif 0.8 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line and rises well above similar vertical letters; some joined words; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 144**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 4(?) lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 8.6 h × 6 cm w, alif 0.3 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the initial bâ of the basmalah rises well above the teeth of the following ǧīn: the basmalah is preceded by a dot; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends markedly to the right; one extension of a connecting stroke between letters; undotted; verso – only three letters of no palaeographic significance remain; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document containing the basmalah and a list of names, followed by a sign.

**Personal names:** ʿAbdallāh, ʿAbbās.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 145**

**Description:** dark brown fragment, recto 3 lines (with Coptic in line 2) across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded.

**Measurements:** 14.2 w × 2.7 cm h, alif 0.3–0.5 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent final bâ is greatly extended (6.5 cm): the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yâ returns to the right; undotted; verso – the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; undotted.
**Subject matter:** recto – a document mentioning the avoidance (*ijtināb*) of something; verso – a document with personal names.

**Personal names:** recto – ‘Abdallāh; verso – Jumāh bn Aḥmad bn ʿUthmān, Bāriq bn Maqtūl.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 146**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 12 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1(?) line along the horizontal fibres, black ink on the recto, faded brown on the verso.

**Measurements:** 10.9 h × 5.7 cm w, *alif* 1.5 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the ẓāʾ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the *lām*-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the medial *sin* is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; undotted; verso – the base of the initial ʿayn/ghayn extends to the right in the single word remaining.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter from one merchant to another, the writer mentioning that he has wheat (*qamh*), giving the recipient the strict instruction to burn the letter (*ahriq kitābi*) and telling him to inform a third party that he (the recipient) has information that a certain Abū ʿAbdallāh has prevented him (the writer or the recipient) from doing something. The whole letter smacks of a shady deal, hence doubtless the instruction to burn the letter!

**Personal names:** recto – Abū Qurrah, Abū ʿAbdallāh.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 147**

**Description:** badly soiled brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres and 2 lines in the right margin at right angles along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded.

**Measurements:** 9.3 × 9.3 cm, *alif* 1 cm (recto), 0.6–1.1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn/ghayn extends to the right; the *lām*-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; undotted; verso – too soiled to yield palaeographic information; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter in which the writer brands someone as an evil transgressor (*fājir fāsiq*); verso – private letter with good wishes addressed to two persons.
ARABIC ADD. No. 148

Description: brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded.
Measurements: 15.4 w × 7 cm h, alif 1 cm (recto) 0.7 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the shīn is written as a straight horizontal stroke with three dots in a line above; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends slightly to the right; some dots; verso – the ṣīn is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; some dots.
Subject matter: recto – a document with a list of personal names; verso – private/semi-official letter in which the writer asks for instructions and a reply (... Ḥattā yāraṭiya jawābu-ka) concerning the market (sūq)...

ARABIC ADD. No. 149 a and b

Description: two light brown fragments making up one document, recto 6(?) lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 18.5 w × 13 cm h taking both fragments together, alif 1.7–1.9 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the ṣīn is written as a straight line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; undotted; verso – there are no early palaeographic features; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – official letter mentioning personal names probably associated with land tax (kharāj); verso – the name of the writer.

ARABIC ADD. No. 150

Description: damaged and worn, dark brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 across the vertical fibres, black ink faded.
Measurements: 9.5 w × 7.5 cm h, alif 0.7 cm (recto).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached \(\text{alif}\) extends below the base line; the tail of the final \(\text{yā}^2\) returns almost the whole of the width of the fragment (7 cm) to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted; verso – badly damaged, but there is one example of a long extension (6.3 cm) of a connecting stroke between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private/semi-official letter with mention of renting (\(\text{akraytu-hu}/\text{akrayta-hu}\)), a wage (\(\text{ujrah}\)) and departure (\(\text{khurūj}\)), with a Coptic numeral.

**Personal name:** Bn Minyā/... bn Minyā.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 151**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 9 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 25 h \(\times\) 6.8 cm w, \(\text{alif}\) 1.3 (recto), 1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent \(\text{alif}\) rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached \(\text{alif}\) extends below the base line; some elongated final letters; undotted; verso – the tail of the final \(\text{yā}^2\) returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with good wishes mentioning a loss (... \(\text{yawma khasira-hu}\)) and renting (\(\text{ukrī-ka}\)); verso – document containing a list of goods for sale.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 152**

**Description:** damaged brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 5 lines at right angles along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 13 w \(\times\) 8.7 cm h, \(\text{alif}\) 1.2–1.5 cm (recto), 0.7–1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – each line begins with a sign, a vertical stroke followed by a dot, both underlined and a long horizontal line linking the names to the figures; the independent \(\text{alif}\) rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial \(\text{cayn}/\text{ghayn}\) extends to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – a document containing a list of personal names involved in shared planting (... \(\text{gharasa ma'ā} ...\)); verso – account document with Coptic numerals.

ARABIC ADD. No. 153

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink fading in places.

Measurements: 12 h x 10 cm w, alif 1.2 cm (recto), 1.3 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; an extension of a connecting stroke between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – private letter with good wishes mentioning previous correspondence (... ilā an katabta dhālika ); verso – private/semi-official letter mentioning money (danānīr ).


ARABIC ADD. No. 154

Description: light brown fragment stained in places, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink fading in places.

Measurements: 12 w x 9.5 cm h, alif 0.5 cm (recto), 0.8 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the sin is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; there are examples of the extension of connecting strokes between letters; some joined words; some dots; verso – the initial bā’ of the basmalah rises markedly above all other following letters and is preceded by the dot; the sin is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā’ firstly drops, then rises at a right angle, swings down to the left and returns to cross the downward swing to form an oval shape; some joined words; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – private letter with mention of the name of the writer and referring to something ‘cooked’ (matbūkh ); verso – private letter with good wishes, addressed to two persons.

Personal name: recto – Khārijah bn Na‘ām.

ARABIC ADD. No. 155

Description: badly damaged brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line completely faded (to be joined with No. 156 below), black ink.
Measurements: 7.5 h x 6.3 cm w, alif 1.3 cm (recto).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends slightly to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – private/semi-official letter mentioning ʿummāl, meaning 'workers' or 'kharāj – officials'.

ARABIC ADD. No. 156

Description: badly damaged brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank (to be taken with No. 155 above), black ink.
Measurements: 7 h x 5 cm w, alif 0.5–1.1 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: see No. 155 above.
Subject matter: see above No. 155, plus the mention of the weight/price, rubāʿ qirāṭ.

ARABIC ADD. No. 157

Description: brown fragment, recto 11 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink, smudged on first three lines of the recto.
Measurements: 17.3 h x 6.5 cm w, alif 0.7–0.9 cm (recto), 0.9 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; undotted; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters and extends also below the base line crossing the tail of a following final ya3 which returns to the right; extension of connecting stroke between letters; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – legal document mentioning agreements (ʿuhūd ) and making a legal judgment (ḥakama ); verso – personal name.
Personal name: verso – Abū al-ʿAlī.

ARABIC ADD. No. 158

Description: brown fragment, stained, recto 9 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink fading in places.
Measurements: 15 h x 9.6 cm w, alif 0.5 cm.
Date: 254 (= AD 868).
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters;
the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā of the basmalah rises above the teeth of the following sin; the normally vertical stroke of the tā inlines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the initial kāf is slightly elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; undotted.

**Subject matter:** document containing a list of those witnessing declarations (shahida ʿalā ʿiqrār ... ), mentioning renting (akrā) and salt (milh).

**Personal names:** Muhammad bn al-Rāfī, Aḥmad bn Yaʿqūb.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 159

**Description:** slightly soiled and damaged brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines at right angles across the vertical fibres, only a few letters legible on both sides, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 10.8 w x 7.4 cm h, alif 1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** there are no apparent early palaeographic features of any significance; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 160

**Description:** brown fragment, slightly soiled, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 5.5 h x 4.3 cm w, alif 1.2 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** private letter with a request to write.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 161

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 13 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 7 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 16.2 h x 6.2 cm w, alif 0.6 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial kāf is slightly elongated with the upper stroke almost parallel to the base line and an upward shaft at the top; undotted; verso – there are no apparent early palaeographic features; some diagonal strokes above the sin; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – document mentioning a demand of the writer to
search for something (wa-talaba ilay-ya an abtaghiya ... ), and also money (dinar, mithqal ); verso – a document.  
**Personal names:** recto – al-Abbās bn ..., 'Alī bn al-Abbās]; verso – Ibn Yamāmiyyah.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 162**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.  
**Measurements:** 8.7 w × 6.5 cm h, alif 1 cm.  
**Date:** 3rd/9th century.  
**Palaeography:** recto – some joined words; no apparent early palaeographic features; undotted; verso – the initial kāf is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; some dots.  
**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with good wishes; verso – document mentioning three camel bags (arḥul ).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 163**

**Description:** dark brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.  
**Measurements:** 6 h × 4 cm w, alif 0.7–1 cm.  
**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.  
**Palaeography:** there are no apparent early palaeographic features; undotted.  
**Subject matter:** document concerning the despatch of goods (ibʿath, ibʿath-hā ).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 164**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines at right angles across the vertical fibres, black ink.  
**Measurements:** 12.3 w × 11.8 cm h, alif 0.6–1 cm (recto), 2 cm (verso).  
**Date:** 3rd/9th century.  
**Palaeography:** recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted; verso – large, thick script with no early palaeographic features evident; undotted.  
**Subject matter:** recto – private/semi-official letter with good wishes mentioning an instruction (amartu-hum ); verso – document with the order to abandon something (utruk ).
ARABIC ADD. No. 165

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 15 h \( \times \) 8.3 cm w. *alif* 0.9 cm (recto). 1.2–1.5 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the *lām-**alif* joins together to form the shape of the letter v, although with a distinct hook at the top of the left stroke; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with good wishes in which a third party is instructed to write; verso – document which mentions delivery or receipt (*ṭāl*) of goods(?) and includes cups (*akwāb*).

ARABIC ADD. No. 166

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres and 3 lines in the same hand in the right margin at right angles along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink slightly smudged in places.

**Measurements:** 11.2 h \( \times \) 6 cm w, *alif* 0.5–1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *bā‘* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *tā‘* inclines to the right; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** private letter with good wishes.

ARABIC ADD. No. 167

**Description:** slightly soiled and stained brown fragment, recto 8 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 10.3 w \( \times \) 7.6 cm h, *alif* 0.5 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the *lām-**alif* joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final *yā‘* returns to the right; one dot; verso – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *kāf* extends considerably horizontally, the upper stroke
being parallel to the base line with a rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final \( \text{	extbar} \) returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private/semi-official letter with good wishes, mentioning that the recipient is aware of some fact (\( \text{alimta} \ldots \text{an} \ldots \)); verso – private/semi-official letter with good wishes.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 168**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 1 line across the vertical fibres (all letters illegible), black ink.

**Measurements:** 6.7 w \( \times \) 4 cm h, \( \text{alif} \) 0.7 cm (recto).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached \( \text{alif} \) extends below the base line; the \( \text{sin} \) is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial \( \text{ayn} \) extends slightly to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter requesting news (\( \text{wa-sal} \ \text{an} \ khabar} \ldots \)).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 169**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso with only traces of letters, black ink faded, completely on the verso.

**Measurements:** 5.5 w \( \times \) 4 cm h, \( \text{alif} \) 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** both the independent and the attached \( \text{alif} \) extends below the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning the price of wheat (\( \text{thaman} \ \text{al-qamh} \)).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 170**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 4 lines (line 1 deliberately smudged) across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, one upside-down in relation to the other, black ink.

**Measurements:** 12 w \( \times \) 9.3 cm h, \( \text{alif} \) 0.8–1 cm (recto).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent \( \text{alif} \) rises above similar vertical letters; the tail of the final \( \text{	extbar} \) returns to the right; the final \( \text{kaf} \) extends to the left along the base line; one dot.

**Subject matter:** recto – private/semi-official letter with good wishes; verso – the illegible name of the recipient.
ARABIC ADD. No. 171

Description: light brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 14 h x 11 cm w. alif 1–1.3 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the sin is written with a straight horizontal line; extension of connecting strokes between letters; some dots.
Subject matter: private letter with good wishes mentioning some money that has been returned (al-danānir al-mardūdah).

ARABIC ADD. No. 172

Description: brown fragment, recto 5 lines (lines 4 and 5 written in a different hand) along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 8.9 h x 7.7 cm w. alif 1.1–1.5 cm (recto), 1.5 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – the only palaeographic feature of note is in the second text (line 4), namely the initial bâṣ rises above the remainder of the basmālah which has a long horizontal stroke only for the sin; all the letters of the basmālah are joined; some dots; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; some letters joined.
Subject matter: recto – document (lines 1–3) mentioning ‘bitter days’ (ayyām murrah) and the sentence ‘... has written the note’ (rasama al-ruq‘ah); line 4 has the basmālah beginning a new document; verso – private letter mentioning the possession of three items of something (thalāthah laday-ka).

ARABIC ADD. No. 173

Description: brown fragment, recto 9 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 7 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink very faded in places.
Measurements: 13.5 h x 10.7 cm w. alif 0.7 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; some dots; verso – too faded and damaged to show any palaeographic feature of interest; undotted(?)
Subject matter: recto – a document consisting of two columns of personal names.

ARABIC ADD. No. 174

Description: very badly soiled and damaged brown fragment, recto 9 lines across the vertical fibres, plus 1 line along the horizontal fibres in the right hand margin; verso 6 lines almost completely faded.

Measurements: 11.3 × 7.7 cm, alif 0.7 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the final ẓāʾ is mūʾarrqah; verso – the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final ẓāʾ returns to the right.

ARABIC ADD. Nos 175-77

Description: three brown fragments making one text, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded.

Measurements: taken together 19.2 h × 9 cm w, alif 0.7–1.5 cm (recto), 0.6 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the initial bāʾ of the basmalah rises above the teeth of the following sin; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; some dots; verso – the sin of the basmalah extends considerably in a straight line; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – private letter concerning the transportation (tabʿathu-hu maʿa ... ) and display (ʿaradtu ) of goods; verso – the basmalah and some Coptic.

Personal name: recto – Nūḥ bn Husayn, Rabīʿah.

ARABIC ADD. No. 178

Description: badly damaged brown fragment, recto 3 lines and a list in Coptic along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines with a list in Coptic across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 14.5 w × 9 cm h, alif 0.8–1 cm.

Date: 318/328 (= AD 930/939).

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of
the final \( \text{ya}^2 \) returns to the right; an extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted; verso – the same hand as on the recto.

**Subject matter:** recto – official document giving the annual tax (\( \text{kharaj} \)) list, with an indication that the tax was perhaps paid in kind (\( \text{al-wazn} \))...

**ARABIC ADD. No. 179**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, faded black ink.

**Measurements:** \( 8.2 \times 8.2 \text{ cm} \), \( \text{alif} \ 0.8 \text{ cm} \).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the \( \text{dhal} \) has a horizontal base line and an upward hook at the top; the \( \text{lâm-alif} \) joins together forming the shape of the letter \( \text{v} \); the tail of the final \( \text{ya}^2 \) returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 180**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded on the verso.

**Measurements:** \( 10 \text{ h} \times 12 \text{ cm w} \), \( \text{alif} \ 1.2 \text{ cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso)} \).

**Date:** Shawwâl 280 (= January AD 894).

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached \( \text{alif} \) extends below the base line; the initial \( \text{sin} \) and \( \text{shin} \) are long horizontal lines, the latter with a horizontal stroke above; the usually vertical stroke of the \( \text{tâ}^2 \) inclines to the right; there is one example of the base of the initial \( \text{ayn} \) extending to the right; the medial \( \text{ya}^2 \) rises well above the teeth of the following \( \text{sin} \); the tail of the final \( \text{ya}^2 \) returns to the right; undotted; verso – there are no apparent palaeographic features of significance.

**Subject matter:** recto – a document containing a witnessed (\( \text{shahâdah} \)) legal declaration (\( \text{iqrâr} \)); verso – a personal name and the date.

**Personal names:** recto – \( \text{Tsâ bn} \ ... \), \( \text{'Amir, ...s bn Hâwdhâ} \); \( \text{'Umayr bn Nasr} \).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 181**

**Description:** badly damaged, slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 9 lines (the part of line 1 other than the \( \text{basmalah} \) is upside-down) across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** \( 14.5 \text{ h} \times 14 \text{ cm w} \), \( \text{alif} \ 0.7–1 \text{ cm} \).

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent \( \text{alif} \) rises above similar vertical letters:
in the initial kāf the upper stroke and base line are parallel with a rightward shaft at the top; undotted.

**Subject matter:** private letter mentioning transport (ḥaml) and payment (ijr) and cost (thaman).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 182**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 10.5 h × 5 cm w, alif 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʾain extends to the right; the medial yāʾ rises well above the teeth of the following sin; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning a fief (iqtāʾ) and the period of time involved (sanah).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 183**

**Description:** damaged, soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines (only a few letters remain) across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 12 h × 5 cm w, alif 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; all the vertical strokes of the alif and lām end at the top in a diagonal hook on the left; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a document.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 184**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 10.3 h × 6.2 cm w, alif 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters and has a small hook on the left at the bottom; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the independent wāw has a pointed head and the tail drops and turns left at a right angle; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right crossing the final alif of the preceding word; undotted.

**Subject matter:** document in which the writer urges the two recipients to do their best (lā tuqassirā fi ...) with mention of wheat (qamh) and farmers (muzāriʿin).
ARABIC ADD. No. 185

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines, plus 2 lines written upside-down, along the horizontal fibres. black ink faded.

Measurements: 11.5 h × 11 cm w, alif 0.8 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial and medial sin is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the usually vertical stroke of the tāʾ inclines to the right; the base of the initial cāyn extends to the right; the lam-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yaʾ returns to the right; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the tail of the final yaʾ returns to the right; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – semi-official letter with good wishes on one occasion in the 2nd person plural, mentioning both the name of the writer and of the recipient; verso – a private letter with the recipient’s illegible name and good wishes.


ARABIC ADD. No. 186

Description: badly damaged, soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 14.4 w × 8.3 cm h.

ARABIC ADD. No. 187

Description: damaged soiled brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 6.8 h × 4.6 cm w, alif 0.6 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the only palaeographic feature legible is the independent alif which rises above similar vertical letters; undotted.

Subject matter: a document with only part of the basmalah remaining.

ARABIC ADD. No. 188

Description: light brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink fading in places.

Measurements: 11.2 w × 6 cm h, alif 0.8 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).
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Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bāʾ of the basmalah rises above the other letters; the base of the initial āyn extends to the right; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial āyn extends to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – private letter with good wishes; verso – a document with mention of an achievement with God’s help (mīm-mā ʾaḍānā Allāh).

ARABIC ADD. No. 189

Description: light brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink fading.
Measurements: 11 w × 6.2 cm h.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the final nūn ends in an exaggerated flourish; undotted.
Subject matter: a document with a numbered list of animals (ʾishrīna rās).

ARABIC ADD. No. 190

Description: soiled, badly creased brown fragment, recto 10 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 3(?) lines along the horizontal fibres and 2 at right angles in the right hand margin across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 14.2 h × 9 cm w, alif 0.7 cm (recto), 0.5 (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial āyn extends to the right; undotted; verso – the initial bāʾ of the basmalah rises above the other letters; the base of the initial āyn extends markedly to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – a document recording the name of the writer and a list of witnesses (shahida ...); verso – a document with only part of the basmalah.

ARABIC ADD. No. 191

Description: badly damaged brown fragment, recto 9 lines (3 Arabic, 6 Greek) along the horizontal fibres, verso 6(?) across the vertical fragments, black ink faded in places, the verso completely so.
Measurements: 9 h × 4 cm w, alif 0.3 cm (recto).
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: there remain no legible palaeographic features of any significance.
Subject matter: a document with mention of either an order or an admission (amara/aqarra).

ARABIC ADD. No. 192

Description: light brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines (only parts of letters) at right angles across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 8.2 h × 6.8 cm w, alif 0.5–1.2 cm (recto), 1.2 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters: the initial bā of the basmalah rises well above the teeth of the following sin; the normally vertical stroke of the tā inclines to the right; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā returns to the right; one extension of the connecting stroke between letters: some joined words; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – private letter with good wishes.

ARABIC ADD. No. 193

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink fading in places.
Measurements: 12.7 w × 8.5 cm h, alif 0.9–1.2 cm (recto), 0.7–0.9 cm (verso).
Date: 3th–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the zāʾ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; final nūn and yāʾ are given an exaggerated sweep; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – semi-official letter concerning dispute; verso – semi-official letter containing the recipient's/writer's name and his brothers and the command to bring someone before the sender (awqif-hu amāmū).
Personal name: verso – ...rn bn Alqat.

ARABIC ADD. No. 194

Description: badly worn light brown fragment, recto 12 lines palimpsest across the vertical fibres, verso 8 lines along the horizontal fibres. black ink faded in parts.
Measurements: 17.6 h × 6.5 cm w, *alif* 0.8 cm (recto), 1–1.4 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – there remain in the later text no palaeographic features of significance; in the original text the initial *kāf* is markedly elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; undotted; verso – there are no palaeographic features of note; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – semi-official letter mentioning the writer's shame caused by the lord of Malqā (*fa-hashama sahib Malqā*); verso – a document with mention of the recipient's receiving someone or something (*waṣala-ka*).
Place name: Malqā.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 195**

Description: badly soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 13.5 w × 12 cm h, *alif* 0.7 (recto), 0.5 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *zāʾ* inclines to the right; undotted; verso – there are no palaeographic features of note; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – private letter with good wishes informing the recipient that he has received his letter via a third party; verso – private letter.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 196**

Description: soiled, damaged brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 4(?) lines, almost completely faded, across the vertical fibres, black ink fading in places.
Measurements: 11.5 w × 11 cm h, *alif* 0.7 cm (recto), 0.5 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – private letter with good wishes and mention that a third party is not providing information to the recipient (*lā yaʿlimu-ka ...*).
Personal name: recto – al-Khammāsh bn Nadwah.
ARABIC ADD. No. 197

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 10.5 w x 2.7 cm h, alif 0.8–1 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial sād is slightly elongated horizontally with the normal tooth on the left and the upper stroke almost parallel to the base line; there is one triangular final hā'; undotted.
Subject matter: private/semi-official letter in which the writer provides the information that he has received someone or something from Upper Egypt (... ilay-va min Ṣa'id Miṣr ...). Some information is to be passed on to a third party (a'lim-hu).
Place name: Ṣa'id Miṣr.

ARABIC ADD. No. 198

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines running diagonally across the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 6.7 h x 1.9 cm w, alif 0.8 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line: the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: document mentioning absence (ghiyāb) and work/workers (‘amalummāl).

ARABIC ADD. No. 199

Description: badly soiled and damaged brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 12 extremely faded and illegible lines along the horizontal fibres, recto black ink soiled and faded, verso brown ink (faded black ink?).
Measurements: 12.5 h x 6.3 cm w, alif 0.3 cm (recto), 0.6 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the normally vertical stroke of the tā' inclines to the right; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; an extension of the connecting stroke between letters; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – semi-official letter in which a sum of money is mentioned (dīnārayn wa-qirāt) and an acceptance to pay compensation is acknowledged in writing (wa-qarra la-nā bi-gharāmah fi qirās).
Personal name: recto – Abū Maš'īn.
ARABIC ADD. No. 200

**Description:** damaged reddish brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 11.3 w × 10 cm h, *alif* 0.5–1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *shīn* is written as a straight horizontal stroke; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the medial *kāf* extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the initial *yā* rises above the teeth of the following *shīn*; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** legal document with the names of the witnesses (*wa-kataba shahādata-hu, yashhadu ..., shahida ...*).

**Personal names:** ‘Abdallāh bn Muḥammad bn ..., Bakr.

ARABIC ADD. No. 201

**Description:** badly soiled, damaged and creased brown fragment, verso 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink fading.

**Measurements:** 20 w × 7.5 cm h, *alif* 1.2 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the initial *bā* of the *basmalah* rises above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the *lām-alif* joins together to form the shape of the letter *v*; there is extension of the connecting strokes between the letters; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter mentioning money (*dīnār, mithqāl*); verso – a document with a mention of wheat (*qamh*).

**Personal names:** recto – Ahmad bn Sanām; verso – al-Ḥarīrīnūthah.

ARABIC ADD. No. 202

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines (Arabic with Coptic numerals) along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines (Arabic with Coptic) across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 13.8 w × 5.8 cm h, *alif* 0.4 cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line: the
base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; some dots; the same hand as the recto.

Subject matter: documents concerning land tax (kharāj) and planting (ghars).


ARABIC ADD. No. 203

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 7 h × 5.5 cm w, alif 0.5–1.1 cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of one attached alif extends below the base line; one dot; verso – the medial ya‘ rises above the teeth of the following sin: undotted.

Subject matter: recto – official document mentioning set expenditure/expenses (nafaqah macrufah); verso – a document containing the word istafa and a personal name.


ARABIC AD. No. 204

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 12.8 w × 5.8 cm h, alif 0.7–1 cm.

Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial tā’ rises well above the teeth of the following medial sin; the medial ‘ayn is open without the upper horizontal closing stroke; undotted.

Subject matter: document with numbers of head (rās) of animals.

ARABIC ADD. No. 205

Description: slightly stained light brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 11.5 w × 6.8 cm h, alif 0.9 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the initial qāf has a pointed head; the initial yār rises above the following letters; undotted; verso – no palaeographic features of significance are apparent in the part of the basmalah remaining; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – a document with the name of the recipient; verso – a document containing part of the basmalah.

Personal name: ‘Izzah bint Waqr bn Ya‘qūb.
ARABIC ADD. No. 206

Description: badly soiled and damaged brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 12.7 w x 10.7 cm h, alif 0.7–0.9 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the final bā' extends markedly in a horizontal line (8.3 cm) and returns horizontally below the line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; marked extension of connecting stroke between letters (at least 3.5 cm); undated.
Subject matter: private letter with good wishes, asking the recipient to write back with news (uktub ilay-ya bi-khabari-ka).

ARABIC ADD. No. 207

Description: soiled and badly damaged brown fragment, recto 6(?) lines across the vertical fibres, verso 3(?) lines (single illegible letters only apparent) along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 9.7 h x 6 cm w, alif 0.6–0.7 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – a document mentioning the land tax (kharāj).
Personal names: [Sa]hm bn Wubayr bn Sah[m], al-Shammās.

ARABIC ADD. No. 208

Description: damaged light brown fragment, recto 4 lines (lines 1 and 2 badly worn) along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 17.5 w x 11.3 cm h, alif 0.8–1 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters: some dots.
Subject matter: a private letter mentioning that a third party is due 65 dinars (... anna la-hu khamsah wa-sittūna [sic] dināran) from the recipient and informing the recipient that the third party had intended to call on him (the recipient) (arāda al-khurūj ilay-ka), but that the writer had prevented him and that the writer had promised the third party that he (the writer) would write to him (the recipient) (fa-mana‘tu-hu wa-wa‘adtu-hu an aktuba ilay-ka).
ARABIC ADD. No. 209

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres and 4 lines along the horizontal fibres at right angles, verso 5 lines along the horizontal fibres and 1 in the right hand margin at right angles across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 12.4 w x 7.7 cm h, alif 0.7 cm (recto), 1.1 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters; joined letters; undotted; verso – the tail of the final ẓā returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – an official letter, part of which mentions guards (hurrās) and their master; verso – semi-official letter with mention of an obligatory right (haqq wājib) and a reminder of the matter of a third party (fi amri-hi marratan ukhrā).

Personal name: Muḥammad bn Yazīd.

ARABIC ADD. No. 210

Description: damaged light brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 13 h x 5.7 cm w, alif 0.7–1.2 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: there are no palaeographic features of significance; undotted.

Subject matter: a document containing a part of the baslamah and personal names.

Personal names: Aḥmad, Muḥammad bn ..., Bakkār, ʿAbdallāh.

ARABIC ADD. No. 211

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines (the last word in line 1 is deliberately deleted) along the horizontal fibres and 5 lines above at right angles across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 8.1 w x 5.5 cm h. alif 0.6–1 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the final kāf is followed by a dot; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; undotted.

Subject matter: (semi-)official letter inquiring whether the recipient is the person in question or not (... anta huwa am lā).

Personal name: [I]ṣḥāq bn Yazīd.
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ARABIC ADD. No. 212

Description: brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 7 lines (line 4 smudged) across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 10 w × 7.3 cm h, alif 1 cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the normally vertical stroke of the za2 inclines to the right; the shin is marked by a dot and underneath a diagonal stroke; no other dots; verso – both the independent and attached alif extend below the base line; the base of the initial 'ayn extends to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – private letter in which the writer mentions a third party whom he curses (lā hafiẓa-hu Allāh) and asks the recipient to inform the third part (... an tu'lima-hu 'an ...) of some matter; verso – private letter in which the writer expresses his dependence on the recipient (... 'alā Allāh wa-ʻalay-ka).

Personal name: Rakish.

ARABIC ADD. No. 213

Description: brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines (line 2 Coptic with one Arabic word) along the horizontal fibres, black ink, faded on the verso.

Measurements: 8.4 w × 7.3 cm h, alif 0.7–1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial 'ayn extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final ya2 returns to the right; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the shin is marked with a sign in the shape of a circumflex accent; the base of the initial 'ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final ya2 returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – private letter with good wishes; verso – an account document?

ARABIC ADD. No. 214

Description: brown fragment, palimpsest, earlier text still quite visible, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2(?) lines (smudged with only one or two letters remaining) along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 8.8 w × 8 cm h, alif 0.6 cm (recto), 1.4 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – no palaeographic features of significance can be
detected in the earlier text; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends
below the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – a document with mention of a place name, an
order and personal names.

**Personal names:** Ibn Aktha[m], ...ā bn Kathîr.

**Place name:** al-Fustât.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 215**

**Description:** badly damaged light brown fragment, recto 6(?) lines of
Arabic across the vertical fibres and 6(?) lines of Coptic, upside-down in
relation to the Arabic text, verso 10 lines of Coptic along the horizontal
fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 13 w x 9 cm h, *alif* 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* and the vertical stroke of
the attached *alif* extend below the base line; the *lām-alif* joins together
forming the shape of the letter υ; undotted.

**Subject matter:** the Arabic is a private letter, the Coptic an account
with numerals.

**Personal name:** al-Ḥusayn.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 216**

**Description:** soiled and badly damaged brown fragment, recto 10 lines
across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 16.8 h x 12.5 cm w, *alif* 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters;
the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the
initial *bā* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following
*ṣin*; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a document containing the observation that some­
thing/someone is not sound or well (*wa-mâ yasihhu*).

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 217**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto two columns, 7 lines on the
right, 8 on the left, along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines (line 2
Coptic), black ink.

**Measurements:** 11.6 h x 11.3 cm w, *alif* 0.5–0.8 cm.

**Date:** 2.8 (228–298 = AD 842–910).

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below
the base line; the sin/shin is marked with a diagonal stroke; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters, and the final ṣā‘, thā‘, lām and yā‘ are elongated; some joined letters; undotted; verso – no palaeographic features of significance; undotted.

Subject matter: recto and verso – a dated document listing names for the kharaj.

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 12 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 16.3 w x 13.8 cm h, alif 0.6–1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right; some dots.

Subject matter: private letter including a request for the recipient to purchase sorghum (... dhurah ahbabtu an tashtariya-hā ẗi qibala-ka ) which he cannot obtain for himself (hāwaltu ishtirā-hā ‘inda-nā ) and the writer comments on how generous the recipient has been in the past (... khāṣṣatan li-mā ‘arafa Allāh min fadli-ka ) and asks if he can do something in return (... [in kānat] la-ka hājah ..., ra’aytu-ka ...).
ARABIC ADD. No. 219

Description: light brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 13.8 h × 11.5 cm w, alif 1 cm (recto), 1.3 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – the normally vertical stroke of the tā' inclines to the right; the base of the initial 'ayn extends to the right; undotted; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; some dots.
Subject matter: recto – a document containing a list of personal names; verso – private/semi-official letter, mentioning the despatch of something or someone (wajjahtu ilay-ka ... ).
Personal names: recto – Muhammad bn Rāfi', Idrīs, Naftāf bn Ahmad, ... bn al-Jarrāḥ, Idrīs bn ʿAbdallāh, ʿAbdallāh.

ARABIC ADD. No. 220

Description: light brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines (only one or two letters remaining) across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 6.2 h × 4.9 cm w, alif 1 cm (recto).
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; undotted; verso – two long horizontal strokes; one dot.
Subject matter: recto – private letter with good wishes; verso – a document of which only one word, qamh, wheat, remains.

ARABIC ADD. No. 221

Description: badly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1 line along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 9 w × 8.7 cm h, alif 1.3–1.5 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; some joined words; undotted; verso – the initial qāf has an elevated and pointed head; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – private/semi-official letter including the instruction for the recipient to remain where he is (... 'alā makāni-ka ... ); verso – a document containing the name of the recipient.
Personal name: verso – Abū Qāsim bn ... .
ARABIC ADD. No. 222

Description: 3 brown fragments forming one document, recto 8 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 8 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: all three pieces taken together – 23 h × 4 cm w, *alif* 0.7–1.3 cm (recto), 0.9–1.2 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *lām*-*alif* joins together to form the shape of the letter v; the medial *yā* rises well above the teeth of the following *sin*; some dots; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; there is a dot before each of lines 1–6 and a horizontal stroke sits above the word *ruqu'ah* on the left; one other dot.

Subject matter: recto – private/semi-official letter, mentioning a request the writer has made of a third party (*sa'altu-hu*), ten jugs (*qilal*), hire (*akra*) and a *qirsh*; verso – list of documents with the word *ruqu'ah*, note, occurring at the beginning of each line probably followed by a personal name; there is also mention of the price (*thaman*) of something and expenditure (*mim-mâ kharaja*).

Personal name: recto – Ibn Qays.

ARABIC ADD. No. 223

Description: slightly soiled light brown fragment, recto 7 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 13 w × 9.7 cm h, *alif* 0.6–0.8 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th/10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *bā* of the basmalah rises well above the teeth of the following *sin*; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; some dots; verso – there are no early palaeographic features of significance; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – obsequious private letter with extravagant wishes expressing a need for grapes (*muhtâj min ânâb sayyidi-ka*) and mentioning the loss of something which he hopes will be replaced (*khâsirtu-hu fa-ifâl ...*); verso – private letter containing an extravagant wish for the future (*ju'iltu fidâ-ka wa-illâ fa-anâ awwal*).

Personal name: recto – Qatâdah.
Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 12 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 5(?) lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink smudged in places on the recto.

Measurements: 14.9 w x 14 cm h, *alif* 1.3–1.6 cm (recto), 1.6–2.1 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the *tā* inclines to the right; the *shin* is written as a straight horizontal line; the base of the initial *‘ayn* extends to the right; the initial *kāf* is markedly elongated horizontally, with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; some joined words; some dots; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; extension of the connecting
strokes between letters; there is one example of an elongated final kāf; undotted.

**Subject matter:** religious text with Quranic quotations; verso – private letter requesting news and the wishes of the recipient (... [uktub ] ilay-ya bi-khabari-ka wa-ḥāli-ka wa-mā aḥbabi ).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 225**

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 7 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** 10 h x 6.6 cm w, alif 0.7–1.1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial cayn extends to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** private letter with good wishes mentioning the release of clothes (tu̲liq-hu thiyāba-nā ) or an instruction to show the letter to a third party (tu̲li̲r-u-hu kitāba-nā ).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 226**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink slightly faded.

**Measurements:** 12.5 h x 11 cm w, alif 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial kāf is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line, but without the usual shaft at the top; the final bāʾ and kāf are elongated horizontally; some joined words; undotted.

**Subject matter:** private letter with good wishes and reminding the recipient of a written instruction (katabtu an taquma ...).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 227**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines, plus 1 line upside-down, along the horizontal fibres, black ink, verso badly faded.

**Measurements:** 12.5 w x 10.2 cm h, alif 0.9 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; some dots; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter mentioning the cost of the
delivery of bread or ink (*irād al-khubz/al-ḥibr ʿalay-ka*) is the responsibility of the recipient; verso - a document which mentions the word *dinār*.

ARABIC ADD. No. 228

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** $8.7 \times 8.5$ cm h, *alif* 1.1 cm (recto), 0.5–1.2 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto - the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *cayn* extends to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters; some dots; verso - the base of the initial *cayn* extends to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto - a text concerning a religious matter and mentioning unbelief (*kafara/kufr*); verso - personal names.

**Personal names:** al-Lahāwī, Yūsuf bn Yaʿqūb, ʿImrān, ...m bn ʿUthmān.

ARABIC ADD. No. 229

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 1(?) line, black ink.

**Measurements:** $14 \times 7$ cm h, *alif* 0.7–1.2 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto - the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *lām*-*alif* joins together forming the shape of the letter v; one dot.

**Subject matter:** private letter with the instruction not to write to certain persons (*rālam wa-lā taktub ilay-him*).

ARABIC ADD. No. 230

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines of Pahlavi across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** $15.5 \times 11.7$ cm h.

**Date:** 4th/10th century.

ARABIC ADD. No. 231

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink, sides cut in a precise rectangular shape.

**Measurements:** $32.8 \times 4$ cm h, *alif* 1.9 cm (recto), 0.3–0.6 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent alif has a small hook on the top on the left; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; there is one example of the shin marked with a diagonal stroke; the base of the initial ‘ayn and ghayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā returns to the right; extension of a connecting stroke between letters; some dots; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the initial bā of the basmalah rises above the other letters; the normally vertical stroke of the ṯā inclines to the right; extension of a connecting stroke between letters; some joined words; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – official letter concerning the news reaching the writer (mim-mā balagha-nī ‘an ...) about a certain battle (ḥarb) and a declaration of acceptance of something (... ḥattā qabiltu min-hu); verso – private letter with only the basmalah and the usual wishes.

Personal name: recto – Ja’far bn al-Fadl.

ARABIC ADD. No. 232

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 7.2 h × 5.5 cm w, alif 1 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the initial qāf has an elevated and pointed head; extension of connecting stroke between letters; some dots; verso – extension of connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – document mentioning a theft (saraqa) and naming the thief and his victim; verso – a document with mention of an order (amara).


ARABIC ADD. No. 233

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 6 lines at right angles across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 8.9 h × 6.3 cm w, alif 0.6 (recto), 0.9 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the initial sin is written as a single stroke marked by a large comma-like sign above; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final yā returns to the right; undotted; verso – extension of the connecting strokes between letters in the repeated word sanah; one dot.

Subject matter: recto – a document containing a list with names and a mention of wheat (qamh); Coptic numerals; verso – a document con-
taining a list of names, each followed by the word *sanah* (year) followed by Coptic numerals.

**Personal names:** recto – ʿAmr, Muḥammad, Dhuwayb bn Salmūn; verso – Sulaymān, Ṭahir, Ashhab.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 234**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 6(?) lines across the vertical fibres, verso 7(?) lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink fading in places.

**Measurements:** 9.8 h x 6.1 cm w, alif 0.8–1.2 cm (recto), 0.6 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line and has a hook at the top to the left; the medial dād is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and without a tooth on the left; the normally vertical stroke of the tā inclines slightly to the right; the initial kāf is slightly elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and an upward shaft at the top; undotted; verso – the normally vertical stroke of the tā inclines slightly to the right ending in a hook; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – legal document concerning the appointment of her brother as a woman’s agent (*bi-wakālat akhu-hā* [sic ]); verso – private letter mentioning the cost of earrings and a unit of weight (*dinar al-aqrāt, qintārayn*).

**Personal names:** recto – Ramadan bn S...; verso – ʿUmar, Mufaḍḍal.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 235**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 13 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines of Coptic at right angles across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 15.2 h x 6.3 cm w, alif 0.6–1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the initial bā of the basmalah rises well above the other letters; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the final hā forms a triangle in shape; joined words; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – a letter containing four basmalahs and good wishes to a superior; verso – the end of a Coptic letter.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 236**

**Description:** slightly soiled, brown, cut for the purposes of the Arabic text on the recto, recto 7 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 8 lines of Coptic across the vertical fibres, black ink slightly faded on the recto; broken clay seal. See Part II, Text No. 9 below.

**Date:** 84 (= AD 703).

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the
vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā rises well above the teeth of the following sin/shīn; the medial ʿayn is open at the top; the final hā′ rises to the level of the preceding lām and continues with a long rightward diagonal stroke touching the line above; the tail of the final yā' returns well to the right; some joined letters; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – an IOU for barley (sha'ir, thaman, dinār); verso – incomplete Saidic Coptic letter.

Personal names: Siwāk, Bashshār.

ARABIC ADD. No. 237

Description: slightly soiled brown, cut and reused for complete verso, recto 10 lines of Saidic Coptic across the vertical fibres, with 2 lines of Arabic at right angles superimposed along the horizontal fibres, verso 10 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places. See Part II, 10 below.

Measurements: 14.8 w × 14.4 cm h, alif 0.4–0.9 cm.

Date: 3rd/4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif occasionally rises above similar vertical letters; the initial bā′ of the basmalah rises well above the teeth of the following sin; the base of the ʿayn extends to the right; the initial kāf is written as a curve without a shaft at the top; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; some dots.

Subject matter: recto – incomplete Saidic Coptic letter; verso – private letter confirming the sending of a previous letter (qad kuntu katauntu ilay-ka kitab-an) and explaining that something belonging to Abū Yaʾqūb and Abū Sahl, they hope, will reach the recipient (bi-mā rajaw min-nū wusīlū-hu ilay-ka). The writer asks the recipient to write Abū Yaʾqūb a letter and send it to the writer so that he can pass it on (wa-in kunta taktubu ila Abū [sic] Yaʾqūb ... kitāb [sic] fa-wasīl-hu ilay-ya li-wusīlā-hu ilay-hi ...).

Personal names: recto – Ahmad bn Yaʾqūb (repeated); verso – Abū Yaʾqūb, Abū Sahl.

Place name: al-Fustāt.

ARABIC ADD. No. 238

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres (line 2 deleted), verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 7 w × 6.5 cm h, alif 0.6 cm.

Date: 4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: there are no early palaeographic features of significance; some joined words; some dots.

Subject matter: a document containing only the basmalah and the phrase 'he was saved by fleeing' (najjā-hu farru-hu).

Personal name: Ḥuwayl.
Description: brown fragment, recto 10 lines across the vertical fibres plus 1 line in the right hand margin at right angles along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 13.5 h x 10.5 cm w, alif 0.8 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā' of the basmalah rises above the teeth of the following sin and is preceded by the common dot; the initial kāf is slightly elongated horizontally
with the upper stroke parallel to the base line; some joined words; some dots; verso – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; some dots. 

**Subject matter:** recto – semi-official letter with good wishes mentioning the weight in irdabbs of grain together with the price (thaman) in dinārs and qirāts; verso – a document with a personal name and mention of troops (jund) and one sixth of a dinar (suds dinār).

**Personal names:** recto – Ābd al-ʿAzīz; verso – Abdallāh bn al-ʿAssāl.

**Place name:** al-ʿUwayn.

**ARABIC ADD. Nos 240–44**

**Description:** five numbered, now six, slightly soiled separate brown fragments making up one single document, recto 16 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** approximately 29.5 h × 21 cm w taken together, alif 0.9 cm.
**Date:** Shawwal 287 (= November AD 900).

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the shīn is on occasions a straight line marked with a diagonal stroke above; the normally vertical stroke of the tāʾ in the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the initial kāf is slightly elongated with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and a slightly rightward shaft at the top; the initial yāʾ rises above the teeth of the following shīn; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** legal document concerning property sharing (ḥiṣṣatu-hu min al-dār), the locality of the property and the acquisition (qabada-hā), together with a list of witnesses to legal declarations (yashhadu ... ʿalā iqrāʾ ...).

**Personal names:** Ābrawah bn ʿĪsā, al-Ḥasan bn ʿAlī, ʿĪsāʾil bn Zakariyyā, Ahmad bn Muḥammad, Ibrahīm bn Ḥamdūn, ʿUthmān bn Ḥamdūn, ... bn Ibrāhīm, ... bn Jarīr, Sawāriqah.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 245**

**Description:** light brown folded fragment, extremely flimsy and worn, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank faded brownish ink.

**Measurements:** 27 h x 13 cm w, alif 0.7–1 cm.

**Date:** 207/9 (=AD 822/824).

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line, curling to the left; the first tooth of the initial sin rises above the other two; the initial shīn is written as a straight diagonal line; the normally vertical stroke of the tāʾ ēlāʾ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends slightly to the right; the initial kāf is slightly elongated with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** the end of a legal document with a list of witnesses to legal declarations (shahida ... ʿalā iqrāʾ ...).

**Personal names:** Ḥusayn bn Ḥassān, ʿĪsāʾil bn Zakariyyā, Tūfayl bn ʿĪsā, Mūsā bn Zakariyyā, Matūs al-Bayyāʾ, Mūsā bn Thāmir.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 246**

**Description:** badly damaged brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black faded in parts to brown ink.

**Measurements:** 8.5 w x 4.5 cm h, alif 0.7–1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document mentioning money (dīnār) and handing something/someone over (wa-sallīmū ...).
ARABIC ADD. No. 247

**Description**: brown fragment, recto 4 lines (only part of the words remaining) across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements**: $5.5 \times 3.6$ cm w, *alif* 1.1–1.4 cm.

**Date**: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography**: the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the first tooth of the *sin* rises slightly above the other two; undotted.

**Subject matter**: a legal document mentioning 'twenty shares' (sing. *sahm*).

ARABIC ADD. Nos 248-49

(recto)
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**Description:** two brown fragments making up a single document, recto 12 lines across the vertical fibres, ending with the seal of Solomon, verso blank, black ink.

**Measurements:** approximately 38 h × 19 cm w taken together, alif 0.6–1 cm.

**Date:** 265 (= AD 878).

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the first tooth of the šīn rises above the other two; the normally vertical stroke of the tāʾ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** legal document containing written testimony (shahadah) and a sum of money (thalāthat al-danāmūr).

**Personal names:** [Zakariyya bn Ishaq, Sawariqah, ʿ...] bn al-Najjār.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 250**

**Description:** slightly soiled light brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink, slightly faded.

**Measurements:** 22.5 w × 13.3 cm h, alif 0.7–1 cm (recto), 0.5 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the medial bāʾ rises above the teeth of the preceding sin; the normally vertical stroke of the tāʾ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the initial kāf is slightly elongated with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; some joined words; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – document concerning the leasing of land, with mention of land measurements (faddān), prices per faddān, crops (ghal-lah), payment by instalments (sing. tabl) and various fractions (nisf, thulth, suds); verso – a document with a personal name and mention of the receipt of a dinar (qabada dinār).

**Personal name:** verso – [Si]wār bn Dhuwayb bn Sinān.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 251**

**Description:** badly damaged brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 5 lines (only one word legible) across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 12 w × 8 cm h, alif 0.6 cm (recto), 0.8 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *bâ* of the *basmalah* rises above the teeth of the following *sin*; the normally vertical stroke of the *tà* inclines to the right; the base of the initial *‘ayn* extends to the right; the initial *kāf* is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; some joined words; some dots; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the attached *dāl* has an upward shaft at the top; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with good wishes and a request (*naṭlubu la-nā*); verso – document.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 252**

**Description:** damaged and soiled brown fragment, recto 18 lines of Coptic along the horizontal fibres, verso 12(?) line of Coptic across the vertical fibres, black ink faded, verso badly.

**Measurements:** 16 h × 12.2 cm w.

**Date:** the Ptolemaic period.

**Subject matter:** recto – Demotic account document with a list of names; verso – similar document.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 253**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 8.4 w × 7.2 cm h, *alif* 0.7–0.9 cm.

**Date:** 244 (= AD 858).

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *qāf* is elevated and has a pointed head; extension of the connecting stroke between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a bill (‘Pay it [the money] on Monday’ – *idfa‘-hā yawn al-ithnayn*) or IOU (‘I shall pay it on Monday’ – *adfa‘u-hā yawn al-ithnayn*), mentioning also the currency or weight: *qirāt*.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 254**

**Description:** slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 7.5 w × 7.3 cm h, *alif* 1.1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the medial *sād* is in the shape of a trapezium with no tooth on the left; the
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base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the medial yā’ rises well above similarly shaped letters; undotted.

Subject matter: semi-official letter mentioning that a third party has taken something from two persons/items for his master/colleague (... wa-akhadha min-humā li-ṣāhibi-hi ...).


ARABIC ADD. No. 255

Description: slightly soiled dark brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the horizontal fibres, plus 4 lines upside-down across the horizontal fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 14.9 h x 6.6 cm w, alif 0.7 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right and a preceding alif rests on it; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: a document containing a list of names.


ARABIC ADD. No. 256

Description: dark brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink fading.

Measurements: 10 w x 8.5 cm h, alif 1.1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā’ in one instance rises well above the following letters; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: private letter with a request to continue to write (wa-lā tada‘ al-kitābah ilay-nā ), mentioning that the writer is forwarding a letter of a third party together with his own (wa-ba‘athnā ilay-kum bi-kitābi-hi ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 257

Description: brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 15 w x 12.7 cm h, alif 0.7–1.3 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bāʾ of the basmalah rises above the following letters; the kāf is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: a contract to hire out (iktarāʾ) land with the stipulation that the lessee work it on his behalf (... an yaqūma la-hu fī ardī-hi ...).

Personal name: al-Hasan bn Bashshār.

ARABIC ADD. No. 258

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 6.4 w × 5.3 cm h, alif 1 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: there are no early palaeographic features apparent; the shīn is written as a straight line marked with a diagonal stroke above; one dot.

Subject matter: private letter with a request for a return of all the money owed (wa-lā tu`akhkhir min-hu dirham [sic] wāḥid ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 259

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, lines 1 and 2 deleted, black ink.

Measurements: 13 w × 7.5 cm h, alif 0.8–1.2 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif extends below the base line and on one occasion bends to the right at the bottom; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yāʾ returns considerably to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: a document with only the name of the recipient.

Personal name: Abū al-Ḥusayn.

ARABIC ADD. No. 260

Description: light brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, palimpsest, the original Coptic, black ink.

Measurements: 17 h × 4.5 cm w, alif 1.6–2 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; several dots.

Subject matter: semi-official letter with mention of the arrival of a group of people (qadima ashā [b] ...): the original document is part of an account in Coptic.
ARABIC ADD. No. 261

Description: brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 6.5 w x 5.3 cm h, alif 0.7 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the sin is written as a straight line marked with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial 'ayn extends to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; some joined words; undotted.
Subject matter: a document with a list of personal names with Coptic numerals.

ARABIC ADD. No. 262

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 9 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 13.3 h x 10.6 cm w, alif 0.4–0.7 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th/10th century.
Palaeography: the tail of the final yāṣ returns to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters; undotted.
Subject matter: a document with a list, with Coptic numerals, of the personal names of those who have settled their debts in full (awfā ) and one who has paid only some of it (awsāla ), and the lenders.

ARABIC ADD. No. 263

Description: brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink slightly smudged in places.
Measurements: 14.3 w x 3.7 cm h, alif 0.5–1 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter with Coptic numerals concerning a payment which the writer will only make with the recipient's instruction.
ARABIC ADD. No. 264

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment. recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink, lines 4 and 5 faded.
Measurements: 15.7 w x 10.5 cm h, alif 1–1.4 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the initial kaf is elongated with the upper stroke almost parallel with the base line and an upward shaft at the top; the tail of the final ya’ returns to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter mentioning the receipt of a letter (atâ-nû kitâb ...).

ARABIC ADD. No. 265

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink, line 3 slightly faded.
Measurements: 9.6 h x 5.4 cm w, alif 0.7 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: there are no early palaeographic features apparent; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter with good wishes, calling the recipient to witness (ushhidu-ka ) and mentioning the accompaniment of someone female (wa-yashabu-hâ hu [wa ]).

ARABIC ADD. No. 266

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines (lines 2 and 3 by a different hand) along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 12 w x 5 cm h, alif 0.7–1.1 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: there are no early palaeographic features apparent; undotted.
Subject matter: a document including the name of an amir.
Personal name: Amir al-Ĥarîth bn Jund bn Ādam.

ARABIC ADD. No. 267

Description: brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.
Measurements: 13.5 h x 7 cm w, alif 0.7–1.5 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** private letter with good wishes and a mention of buying something (*tabtāʾu-* [hu]*) in lieu of a complete repayment of a debt (*ṣāliḥ kull al-dayn*).

**Personal name:** Abū Ishaq.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 268**

**Description:** badly damaged brown fragment, recto 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 12 h × 11 cm w, *alif* 0.8–1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; extension of connecting stroke between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter:** private letter with good wishes and allowing the recipient to take myrrh whenever he needs it (*kulla mā taḥtāju ilā al-murr mudda min-hā*).

**Personal names:** Abū Muḥammad Sahl.

**Place name:** Ashmūn.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 269**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 8.2 h × 4 cm w, *alif* 0.4–0.7 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line in some cases; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document including the name of a scribe (*kātib*) and a load (*humūlah*).

**Personal name:** ...ā bn Baqām.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 270**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 11.5 w × 3.5 cm h, *alif* 0.6–1.1 cm.

**Date:** 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* and the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extend below the base line; the base of the initial ʿ*āyn* extends to the right; the medial *kāf* in one case is slightly elongated.
horizontally with the upper stroke almost parallel with the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final َva3 returns to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter**: a private/semi-official letter with good wishes addressed to two persons.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 271**

**Description**: soiled brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink, line 3 slightly faded.

**Measurements**: 6.8 h × 6.5 cm w, alif 0.7 cm.

**Date**: 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography**: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial َayn extends to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter**: a document containing names of farmers and their agricultural produce: lucerne (*qurt*) and wheat (*qamh*).

**Personal names**: .... bn Jarîr, ‘Udayy al-Shammâs.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 272**

**Description**: brown fragment, recto 11 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements**: 15.5 h × 6.7 cm w, alif 0.7 cm.

**Date**: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography**: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial َayn extends to the right; extension of connecting stroke between letters; undotted; one dot preceding line 11.

**Subject matter**: private letter with good wishes mentioning the completion of something (*qad faraghtu min ...*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 273**

**Description**: brown fragment, recto 3 lines, line 3 covered, across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements**: 6 w × 4 cm h, alif 0.6 cm.

**Date**: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography**: the tail of the final َya3 returns to the right; one dot.

**Subject matter**: a document giving permission for something (*idhn li-...fi ...*) and mentioning preserving (*ihtifâz*).

**Personal name**: Minyâ bn Astayf.
ARABIC ADD. No. 274

Description: brown fragment, recto 2 lines, 1 upside-down, along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 8.7 w × 5.4 cm h, alif 0.6–0.7 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the bāʾ of the joined basmalah rises above the following letters; the tail of the final ẓāʾ returns to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: a document containing only the basmalah and the name of the addressee with perhaps the date of opening (fath ) of the letter (dāl, rāʾ, ʾayn = 274 = AD 887).
Personal name: Abū Naṣr.

ARABIC ADD. No. 275

Description: soiled dark brown fragment, recto 9 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 10.5 h × 8.7 cm w, alif 0.7–0.9 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial kāf is slightly elongated with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter mentioning the purchase of something at the price of one dinar (yahmilu ... bi- dinār ) and requesting the return of the money if no payment is made (fa-in lam yadfaʾ rabbu-hu rudda [sic] al-danānīr ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 276

Description: brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 7.9 w × 5.2 cm h, alif 0.9–1 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif and the vertical stroke of the attached alif extend below the base line: the tail of the final ẓāʾ returns to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter with good wishes and mentioning that what is left of a dinar is only four or the dinar can only buy four items (... min al-dinār illā arbaʾa [h ] ) and that the despatch should be immediate ([ib ]ʿathā fi al-taww ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 277

Description: soiled and damaged brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 8.8 w × 7 cm h, alif 0.9 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif and the vertical stroke of the attached alif extend below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn on one occasion extends to the right; the tail of the final vā’ returns to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter in which the writer mentions Sunday (yawm al-ahad), being allowed in (thumma adkhala-nā) and requesting news of, and sending good wishes to, the recipient and his two brothers (akhaway-ka/ikhwati-ka).

ARABIC ADD. No. 278

Description: brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 7.8 h × 6.2 cm w, alif 0.5 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters and has a pronounced bend towards the left at the bottom; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends well below the base line, bends to the left at the bottom and has the over-all appearance of a final lām; undotted.
Subject matter: a text of Quranic quotations beginning with wa-qāla Allāh.

ARABIC ADD. No. 279

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 1 line across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 8.6 w × 7.7 cm h, alif 3.3 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: large manuscript Kufic; the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters and bends to the right at the bottom; the top of the lām has an acute angled edge; undotted.
Subject matter: a text, probably Quranic, containing only a part of the basmalah.

ARABIC ADD. No. 280

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink. The right side has been erroneously glued on the left upside-down!
Measurements: 10.5 w × 4.7 cm h, alif 0.8 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the
base line; the body of the ṭāʾ is almost square and its normally vertical stroke inclines slightly to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the initial kāf is slightly elongated with its upper stroke parallel with the base line and an upward shaft at the top; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: private letter – the writer announces that his father is ill and on his death bed (aḥrabi bi-al-firāsh), an illness which caused the whole population without exception to flee (wa-jalā al-nās kullu-hum), but the writer himself has now recovered (šafā-rū).

Place name: al-Fustāt.

ARABIC ADD. No. 281

Description: damaged brown fragment, recto 9 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 9.7 h x 7 cm w, alif 0.8–1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the ṭāʾ/zāʾ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: private letter with good wishes and a request to write, if circumstances demand (… wa-illā fa-uktub ilay-ya).

ARABIC ADD. No. 282

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, plus 1 line at right angles in the right hand margin across the vertical fibres, black ink, line 2 slightly faded.

Measurements: 9.8 h x 8.5 cm w, alif 0.5–0.7 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises slightly above similar vertical letters; the bāʾ of the basmalah rises above all other letters, followed by a ʿin written as a straight diagonal line; extension of connecting strokes between letters; all words in the text are joined; undotted.

Subject matter: private letter, the basmalah and common good wishes only.

ARABIC ADD. No. 283

Description: light brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 6.8 h x 6 cm w, alif 1.3 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *hā* is an oval shape hanging from an upper stroke; one dot.  
**Subject matter:** letter with a reminder that information was given about a named person on the previous evening (*al-bārihah*).  
**Personal name:** Ibrāhīm.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 284**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded.  
**Measurements:** 19 w × 6 cm h, *alif* 1–1.3 cm.  
**Date:** 3rd/9th century.  
**Palaeography:** the final *bā* is considerably elongated with no upward bend to the left; the *shin* is written as a straight horizontal line; the *sād* is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke almost parallel with the base line and a marked tooth on the left; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; the final *hā* is a triangular shape; undotted.  
**Subject matter:** an agricultural document mentioning twelve *irdabbs* (*ithnā *`ashar irdabb* [sic]).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 285**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink slightly faded.  
**Measurements:** 10 w × 5.5 cm h, *alif* 1–1.5 cm.  
**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.  
**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends slightly to the right; undotted.  
**Subject matter:** a letter addressed to a superior asking for his opinion (*fa-in ra`ayta ...*) concerning a village (*qaryah*) or farm (*`izbah*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 286**

**Description:** brown fragment, 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.  
**Measurements:** 10.7 h × 7.4 cm w, *alif* 0.8–1.5 cm.  
**Date:** 3th/9th century.  
**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; the initial *kāf* is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line; undotted.
Subject matter: a document containing a list of personal names with a witness (shahida).

ARABIC ADD. No. 287

Description: light brown fragment, 4 lines, plus 13 straight dividing lines, across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 24 h × 6 cm w, alif 0.9–1.3 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the normally vertical stroke of the tā' inclines to the right; the base of the initial cayn extends to the right; extension of connecting stroke between letters; undotted.
Subject matter: a document mentioning dinār and kharāj.

ARABIC ADD. No. 288

Description: light brown fragment, recto 2 lines, palimpsest, 4 lines of Coptic across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 13.5 w × 8.3 cm h, alif 1–1.3 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: there are no early palaeographic features apparent; undotted.
Subject matter: a private/semi-official letter requesting the recipient's guarantee, if two other persons need it (... in ihtājā ilā damāni-ka ) and asking him to facilitate the matter for them (sahhil la-humā al-amr).

ARABIC ADD. No. 289

Description: slightly smudged brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places.
Measurements: 13 w × 2.9 cm h, alif 0.5–0.8 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final vā’ returns to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: a letter mentioning either death (maniyyah ) or year (sanah ), and the previous year (al-ʿām al-mādī).

ARABIC ADD. No. 290

Description: slightly smudged brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.
Measurements: 11 w × 5.5 cm h, alif 0.3–0.6 cm.
Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the initial kaf is slightly elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final ya2 returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: a document with pious expressions.

ARABIC ADD. No. 291

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 15 h x 7 cm w, alif 0.4–0.7 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā2 of the basmalah rises above all the other letters; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final ya2 returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: private/semi-official letter asking for the deletion of a name from a list (imsah-hu min ... man sammaytu la-ka ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 292

Description: dark brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 8 w x 6.8 cm h, alif 0.9–1.1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final ya2 returns to the right and upwards; one dot.

Subject matter: a letter urging patience, reassuring the recipient (al-ṣabr ..., ‘alā mā tuḥibbu ) and requesting a favour (... an tatāfaddala fī ...).

ARABIC ADD. No. 293

Description: badly damaged brown fragment, recto 8 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 7.6 h x 4.7 cm w, alif 0.5–0.7 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; some dots.

Subject matter: a document mentioning a lamp (miṣbāh ).
ARABIC ADD. No. 294

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 3 lines (each made up of only parts of words) across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 8 h × 4 cm w, alif 1.5 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif extends below the base line and the top has an acute angled edge; some dots.
Subject matter: a document probably confirming the time for payment (halla waqt ...).

ARABIC ADD. No. 295

Description: 2 brown fragments from the same document glued together incorrectly producing a recto of 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 8.5 w × 5 cm h, alif 0.6–1 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final yā returns to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: a letter with good wishes.
Personal name: Abū Baqah.

ARABIC ADD. No. 296

Description: brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 7.5 w × 6 cm h, alif 0.8–1 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises slightly above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the tā inclines to the right; the qāf is elevated and has a pointed head; some dots.
Subject matter: official letter including the opinion (ra'y ) of an amir. His opinion is that the hand of the governor (āmil ) should be strengthened and that there are officials who will clarify the situation (shurrāḥ ).
Personal name: Amir Qarqūs.

ARABIC ADD. No. 297

Description: slightly smudged brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 14.3 w × 6.3 cm h, alif 1–1.3 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: there are no early palaeographic features apparent; undotted.

Subject matter: private letter with good wishes and mention of the recipient's letter.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 298**

Description: soiled smudged brown fragment, recto 9 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 12.6 h × 5.7 cm w. *alif* 0.7–1 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *sin* of the *basmalah* is written as a straight line; the initial *kāf* is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final *wāḍ* returns to the right; some dots.

Subject matter: a letter with good wishes containing mention of certain numerals (*ithnayn, thalāthah wa-tis'ī [n ], ithnā 'cashar*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 299**

Description: brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 10.8 w × 7.4 cm h, *alif* 0.8–1.6 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; undotted.

Subject matter: semi-official letter concerning the payment of two guards (*dinār al-hārisayn*) and asking the opinion of the recipient whose advice the writer will follow (*ra'yu-ka afalu-hu*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 300**

Description: light brown fragment, recto 8 (lines 7 and 8 Coptic) lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 10 h × 4.7 cm w, *alif* 0.4–0.8 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the independent *alif* on one occasion rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *‘ayn* extends to the right; undotted; dots in the right hand margin of lines 7 and 8.

Subject matter: a letter with good wishes.
ARABIC ADD. No. 301

Description: brown fragment, recto 6, plus 3 upside-down, lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 10.5 h x 5.9 cm w, alif 0.6 cm.
Date: 3rd-4th/9th-10th century.
Palaeography: the normally vertical stroke of the ǧaʾ inclines to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: a document containing a list of names with acquisitions (adraka) followed by Coptic numerals.
Personal names: Ḥasan al-Mumriḥ, Zuwayd, Danīl, Qatūl, Sammāʿah.

ARABIC ADD. No. 302

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.
Measurements: 11.5 w x 8.8 cm h, alif 1.1–1.4 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the sin is a straight diagonal line marked with a short horizontal stroke above; extension of connecting strokes between letters; some dots.
Subject matter: official letter mentioning a guard (ḥāris) and informing the recipient that he has been accused of beating a named person (... wa-laqad uttuhimta bi-darbi-hi) that the writer had discovered the one who was standing guard over the named person and rained blows on him (iktashaftu al-ḥāris ʿalā ... wa-laqad inhamartu bi-darbi-hi), and that the writer is sending a messenger (rasūl) to him.
Personal name: Muhammad bn Ishaq.

ARABIC ADD. No. 303

Description: light brown fragment, recto 3 lines (containing about 4 words only) across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 7.9 h x 5 cm w, alif 1.1 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: joined words; no early palaeographic feature apparent; undotted.
Subject matter: a document.

ARABIC ADD. No. 304

Description: brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 10.9 w x 2.8 cm h, alif 0.9 cm.
**Date:** 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the shin is written as a straight horizontal stroke with three dots above in a line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the kāf is elongated with its upper stroke parallel with the base line and an upward shaft at the top; letters other than shin undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document mentioning the word brother (shaqīq).

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 305**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 3 lines (line 2 and 3 completely faded) across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 8.1 w × 5.4 cm h, alif 1 cm.

**Date:** 318 (= AD 930).

**Palaeography:** there are no palaeographic features apparent; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document in which only the date is legible.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 306**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 8.1 h × 6.4 cm w, alif 0.7–1.3 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final wād returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** private letter with good wishes.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 307**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 12.5 w × 3.6 cm h, alif 0.6 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the medial sin/shin is written as a straight horizontal line; the final shin is elongated markedly in a straight line; some dots.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning names and cloth (qumāsh), with Coptic numerals.

**Personal names:** Bashshār, Nuḥ bn Jurayj.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 308**

**Description:** damaged light brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.
Measurements: 12.3 w × 4.3 cm h, *alif* 0.8 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: there are no early palaeographic features apparent; undotted.
Subject matter: document mentioning a discount of a dirham (*sāmih-*hu bi-dirham/*sāmahu bi-dirham*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 309**

Description: damaged, slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 5, plus 4 lines of a second text on the left side, line 1 of which is parallel to line 2 of the main text, across the vertical fibres, black ink smudged in places.
Measurements: 15.4 w × 6.9 cm h, *alif* 0.7–0.9 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *shin* is written as a straight horizontal stroke with three dots in a line above; otherwise undotted.
Subject matter: main text – private letter asking for instructions (*...maʿa-mā taʿmurū bi-hi...*); second text – instruction to provide a witness (*wa-tushhidu ʿalay-hi*) (reply to the main text?).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 310**

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 4.5 w × 2.8 cm h, *alif* 0.5–0.6 cm.
Date: 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.
Palaeography: the independent *alif* extends below the base line; the final *dāl* is written in the shape of a right angle, the vertical stroke rising level with other vertical letters; the medial *sin* of the basmalah is written as a straight horizontal line; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter with only the *basmalah* and the name of the recipient.
Personal name: Abū ʿAbdallāh.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 311**

Description: soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines (with only parts of words) across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 4.4 h × 2.3 cm w, *alif* 0.7–0.9 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line: the body of the *tāʾ* is elongated horizontally with the normally
vertical stroke inclining to the right; the base of the initial 'ayn extends
to the right; some dots.
Subject matter: a document mentioning ten faddāns (‘asharat fad-
[ādin ]) and the document ([qi ]rtās ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 312

Description: 2 brown fragments making up one document, recto 8 lines
across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 8.6 × 8.6 cm, alif 0.3–0.6 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: extension of connecting strokes between letters; undotted.
Subject matter: a document containing a list of personal and family
names and mention of the currency qīrāt.
Personal and family names: Āl Ṣakhr al-Ṣaqah (twice), Āl Mar[wān],
Āl Muslim. ‘Abdallāh. Āl Muslim bn Abī Muslim, Muslim.

ARABIC ADD. No. 313

Description: damaged brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical
fibres, black ink. lines 2–5 faded.
Measurements: 11.8 w × 5.5 cm h, alif 0.5 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the
vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the șīn of the
basmalah is written as a long straight horizontal line; the normally vertical
stroke of the _FAR_ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the
right; the tail of the final wā_’ returns to the right; some joined words; undotted.
Subject matter: private letter with good wishes.

ARABIC ADD. No. 314

Description: brown fragment, recto 3 lines (lines 1 and 2 badly
smudged) across the vertical fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 6.5 × 6.5 cm, alif 0.9 cm.
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.
Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; undotted.
Subject matter: a document containing good wishes and the hamdalah.

ARABIC ADD. No. 315

Description: brown fragment, recto 4 lines (one or two words only per
line) along the horizontal fibres, black ink.
Measurements: 7 w × 6.2 cm h. alif 1.1 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the base of the initial 'ayn extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final ya' returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document.

ARABIC ADD. No. 316

**Description:** slightly soiled and damaged brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink slightly faded and badly worn in places.

**Measurements:** 8 w x 5.5 cm h, alif 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd-4th/9th-10th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters and extends below the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document.

ARABIC ADD. No. 317

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink fading in places.

**Measurements:** 8.5 w x 5 cm h, alif 0.5–0.8 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the normally vertical stroke of the za' inclines to the right; the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; some joined words; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a private/semi-official letter giving an instruction to hire a boat (fa-ajjir la-hu safinah in arāda).

ARABIC ADD. No. 318

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink slightly faded in places.

**Measurements:** 7.8 w x 5.5 cm h, alif 1.2–1.6 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends markedly below the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a land document mentioning delay (ta'akhkhara bi-hā), perhaps in payment.

ARABIC ADD. No. 319

**Description:** badly soiled brown fragment, recto 3 separate texts glued together erroneously: the main text (a) 5 lines across the vertical fibres;
second text (b) beneath (a), 5 lines (line 1 Coptic), line 1 across the vertical fibres, lines 2 and 3 along the horizontal fibres, lines 4 and 5 across the vertical fibres; third text (c) above (a), 6 lines containing Coptic numerals along the horizontal fibres; black ink.

**Measurements**: 14.5 h × 9.9 cm w, alif 0.5–0.7 cm (a), 0.8–1 cm (b).

**Date**: (a) Monday; 210 (= AD 825).

**Palaeography**: (a) – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters and extends below the base line; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the sin/shin is written as a straight horizontal line; the initial cayn extends to the right; extension of the connecting stroke between letters; undotted; (b) – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the tail of the final ya'a returns to the right; undotted; (c) – Coptic numerals.

**Subject matter**: (a) – a document including only the date and a personal name; (b) – a document.

**Personal name**: (a) – ʿAli bn Ibrāhim.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 320**

**Description**: badly damaged brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements**: 14.5 w × 5.6 cm h, alif 0.5–0.9 cm.

**Date**: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography**: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial cayn extends slightly to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter**: a document containing only personal names followed by Coptic numerals.

**Personal names**: ʿUdayy bn al-Faḍl, Muhammad bn Mannā, ʿArafah bn ʿUmayr, Zurayq bn Aʿas.

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**ARABIC ADD. No. 321**

**Description**: light brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements**: 6.2 w × 3.1 cm h, alif 0.4 cm.

**Date**: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography**: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the ya'a inclines to the right; the independent kāf is written as a vertical stroke joining an elongated horizontal stroke which ends in an upward hook; undotted.

**Subject matter**: private letter with good wishes and the name of the scribe (wa-kataba ... bi-khatti-hi).

**Personal name**: Sinān bn Marwān.
ARABIC ADD. No. 322

Description: damaged light brown fragment, recto 5 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 13.5 w × 6 cm h, alif 0.7–0.9 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the shin is written as a long straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; some joined words; undotted.

Subject matter: a private letter with good wishes mentioning work (fi shughl ayyāmī ), a quantity of three irdabbs of wheat (thalāthat aradib qamh ) and the request for his lacking two thirds (... an tatafaddala bi-al-thulthayn al-ākharayn ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 323

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 2 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink slightly faded.

Measurements: 10.4 w × 4.9 cm h, alif 0.7 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: joined words; undotted.

Subject matter: a private letter with only the common opening wishes (ju‘īltu fidā-ka ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 324

Description: brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

Measurements: 7 w × 5 cm h, alif 1 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: there are no early palaeographic features apparent; undotted.

Subject matter: semi-official letter with mention of orders (an ta‘mura ‘alā ... repeated).

ARABIC ADD. No. 325

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 6 lines (with only one complete word legible) across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 8.8 h × 2.4 cm w, alif 0.8 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *‘ayn*/*ghayn* extends slightly to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a private letter with mention of joy (*farah*) or relief (*faraj*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 326**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 3 lines (lines 1 and 3 containing Coptic) along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 7.1 w x 6.4 cm h, *alif* 0.5 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *sin/shin* is written as a straight line; the tail of the final *wa‘* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a legal document including the name of the writer.

**Personal name:** ʿĀmir.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 327**

**Description:** worn, brown fragment, recto 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 11.2 w x 4.1 cm h, *alif* 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *‘ayn* extends to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 328**

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the horizontal fibres, black ink slightly faded.

**Measurements:** 6.5 h x 5.5 cm w, *alif* 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *shin* is written as a straight line with a diagonal stroke above; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a private letter with a request or enquiry (*sa‘altu-ka*).

**ARABIC ADD. Nos 329-30**

**Description:** 2 brown fragments making up one text, recto 9 lines (both fragments) across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 11.6 h x 9.2 cm w (both fragments taken together), *alif* 0.8–1 cm.
Date: 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the medial *tāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the preceding *sin*; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the medial *yāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the preceding *shīn*; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a private letter with good wishes, followed by information from the writer that he is subject to certain penalties (*fī ʾashyyāʾ ghar-rarama-nī*), mention that, if he were to understand the need of the recipient (*law faḥimtu hājata-ka*), he would let him know and further mention that he cannot make facilities (*tashīl*) since there is something preventing him (*mā manaʿa-nī*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 331**

**Description:** soiled brown fragment, recto 7 lines (only two complete words legible) across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 9 h x 5.9 cm w, *alif* 0.9 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the base of the initial *ʿayn/ghayn* extends to the right; the *lām-alif* is written as a cross which, with a horizontal base line, forms a triangle; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns at some length, even to underline the whole word of which it is part; one dot.

**Subject matter:** a document.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 332**

**Description:** light brown, damaged fragment, recto 5 lines (no complete words remaining) across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 14.6 w x 6.4 cm h.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** extension of the connecting strokes between letters; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a document probably dealing with *kharāj* (*istakhraja*).

**ARABIC ADD. No. 333**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 8 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 10.2 h x 8.5 cm w, *alif* 0.7–1.2 cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* on one occasion extends below the base line; the *shīn* is written as a straight line
with a diagonal stroke above; some dots; verso – the sin is written as a straight line; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – document listing goods: candles (*shamr*), small cane bowls (*atbāq khayzarān ṣīghār*), bottle (*qārūrah*), palm-leaf mat (*sajjādat ḥāṣīr*) etc.; verso – private letter mentioning receipt of recipient’s letter and requesting something from the recipient (*mā saʿaltu-ḥa* min ḏālika ...).

**ARABIC ADD. Nos 334–35**

**Description:** two brown fragments making one document, recto 10 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 8 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink faded in places.

**Measurements:** 22 w × 21.6 cm h, alif 0.7–1.8 cm (recto), 0.7–1 cm (verso).

**Date:** recto – Shawwāl 282 (= January AD 896); verso – 312 (= AD 924).

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the tā' inclines to the right; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – legal document with witnesses (*shahīda ...*) to a legal declaration (*iqrār*); verso – a document with witnesses (*ashhadu*) and mention of money (*danāmir*).


**ARABIC ADD. No. 336**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 9 lines across the vertical fibres, plus 2 lines in the right hand margin at right angles along the horizontal fibres, black ink; verso 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, brown ink fading.

**Measurements:** 12.7 w × 9.8 cm h, alif 0.9 cm (recto), 2.8 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the final hā’ takes the shape of a triangle; the medial yā’ rises above the teeth of the following sin ; undotted; verso – large thick script; the tail of the final yā’ returns markedly to the right; one joined word; undotted.
Subject matter: recto – private letter with good wishes and a request, the writer urging the recipient not to neglect him (fa-lā ṭagḥf al ...); verso – probably a Quranic text with part of the basmallah.
Personal name: recto – ʻĪsā.

ARABIC ADD. No. 337

Description: slightly soiled brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.
Measurements: 11.5 w × 6.4 cm h, alif 1.5 cm.
Date: Monday, 26 of the month ... (yawm al-ithnayn li-laylatayn ba-[qiyatā ...]). 3rd/9th century.
Palaeography: the base of the initial ʻayn extends to the right; the initial kāf is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and an upward shaft ending with a hook to the right; the tail of the final yā' returns to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; all final letters tend to end in an exaggerated flourish; undotted.
Subject matter: a document concerning the remainder of a debt and the time it is due (fadala wa-halla), with the beginning of a date, either the deadline for payment or the date of the document.

ARABIC ADD. No. 338

Description: brown fragment, recto 13 lines (line 5 is Coptic; lines 11–13 badly faded) along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 diagonal strokes, black ink faded in places.

Measurements: 17.3 h x 3.6 cm w, alif 0.5 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the medial tā' inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: a document containing a list of personal names.

Personal names: Jarir bn ..., ... bn Ja'far, Khārijah bn ʿAskar, ʿUthmān bn ʿAḥ al-Ḥammāl, ... bn Ayyūb, ... bn Qaṭṭān, Anas bn ....

ARABIC ADD. No. 339

Description: badly damaged and soiled brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 9.7 h x 4.7 cm w, alif 0.9 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; undotted.

Subject matter: a document.

ARABIC ADD. No. 340

Description: light brown fragment, recto 5 lines across the vertical fibres. verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 10 w x 7.8 cm h, alif 0.8–1.2 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: the initial kāf is elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: a document containing a list of personal names followed by Coptic numerals.

ARABIC ADD. No. 341

**Description:** light brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso 2 lines in Coptic across the vertical fibres, brown ink (recto), black ink (verso).

**Measurements:** 12.4 w × 6.4 cm h, alif 2.4 cm.

**Date:** 2nd–3rd/8th–9th century.

**Palaeography:** large, thick Kufic; the sād is considerably elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and a tooth to the left; the medial mīm is triangular in shape resting on the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – probably a Quranic text (al-Šama [d]); verso – Coptic document.

ARABIC ADD. No. 342

**Description:** slightly soiled light brown fragment, recto 9 lines across the vertical fibres, plus 1 line in the right hand margin, as well as individual words within the text, at right angles along the horizontal fibres, verso 3 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink, verso smudged in places.

**Measurements:** 11.5 w × 10 cm h, alif 0.3–0.7 cm (recto), 0.7–0.8 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā‘ of the basmalah rises above all other letters; the normally vertical stroke of the ṭā‘ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; some joined letters and dots; verso – the initial bā‘ of the basmalah rises above all other letters; the normally vertical stroke of the ṭā‘ inclines to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – a private letter with good wishes concerning the sale and delivery of goods, including the sale of wheat (qamḥ) and mention of a letter from a third party which the writer dealt with immediately (kataba ilay-yā fi-hā wa-lam yu3akhkhir dhalika); verso – a document containing the basmalah, the common opening formula and a personal name, possibly the name of the writer or recipient.

**Personal name:** verso – Hasan bn Ahmad.

ARABIC ADD. No. 343

**Description:** light brown, complete, recto 9 lines along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink. See Part II, 5 below.

**Measurements:** 18 h × 16.2 cm w, alif 0.6–0.9 cm.
Date: al-Muharram 228 (= October AD 842).

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the sin is written as a straight line on occasions with a diagonal stroke above; the normally vertical stroke of the ya inclines to the right; the tail of the final ya returns to the right; some dots; some Coptic numerals.

Subject matter: a private letter possibly explaining a previous legal contract concerning specifically the lease and price of a piece of land ( ... an ukriya-ka rub' faddān ard min al-khatij al-gharbi ) (hisāb al-faddān bi-dinarayn wa-nisf mithqāl ) (wa-akraytu-ka rub' faddān bi-nisf wa-thumn dinār li-kharaj sanat thaman wa-īshrīn wa-miyatayn ).

Personal names: Ziyād bn al-Khattāb, Ya'qūb al-Shammās.

ARABIC ADD. No. 344

Description: badly damaged soiled brown fragment, recto 8 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 6(?) lines along the horizontal fibres, smudged and slightly faded black ink (recto), completely faded (verso).

Measurements: 11 x 11 cm, alif 0.7–1.1 cm (recto).

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā of the basmalah rises above all the other letters; the base of the initial ʿayn extends slightly to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a private letter with good wishes and instructions.

ARABIC ADD. No. 345

Description: badly damaged light brown fragment, recto 9 lines (with only a few letters in each line remaining) along the horizontal fibres, verso signs, badly faded black ink (recto), dark and light brown ink (verso).

Measurements: 12 h x 8 cm w, alif 0.7 cm (recto).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; undotted.

Subject matter: a document with the numeral twenty (īshrīn ).

ARABIC ADD. No. 346

Description: light brown fragment, recto 3 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines (only several letters remaining) along the horizontal fibres, black ink, recto smudged.

Measurements: 13 w x 6 cm h, alif 0.6–0.7 cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).
Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent *alif* has a hook to the left at the bottom; the initial *bā* of the *basmalah* rises well above all other letters; the *sīn* is written as a straight horizontal line with a long, thick, diagonal stroke above; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a private letter with only the *basmalah* and the common opening formula.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 347**

Description: soiled and badly damaged brown fragment, recto 4 lines across the vertical fibres, verso 6 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink (recto), dark brown ink (verso).

Measurements: 15 w × 9.3 cm h, *alif* 0.9–1.2 cm (recto).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the *tā* inclines slightly to the right; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; undotted; verso – the *kāf* is considerably elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line; extension of the connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a private letter with good wishes; verso – a religious, possibly Quranic, text.

Personal name: Abū al-Ḥusayn.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 348**

Description: brown fragment, soiled across the centre. recto 4 lines, plus 4 lines upside-down along the horizontal fibres, verso some signs, black ink faded in places (recto), dark brown ink (verso).

Measurements: 17.7 w × 16.5 cm h, *alif* 0.8–1.2 cm.

Date: 3rd/9th century.

Palaeography: recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *bā* of the *basmalah* rises well above the other letters; the *sīn/shīn* is written as a straight line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final *yā* returns to the right; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a document with the *basmalah* and personal names and terms such as *majlis, mawlā* and ʿāmil; the upside-down text is a legal document with mention of a legal case (*al-mahdar ʿalā ...*).

ARABIC ADD. No. 349

Description: damaged brown fragment, recto 8 lines written on two joined pieces, the right side along the horizontal, the left across the vertical fibres, verso 2 lines, black ink faded in places on the recto, dark brown ink on the verso, slightly faded.

Measurements: 12.2 h × 5.8 cm w, alif 0.7 cm (recto).

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the normally vertical stroke of the ṭāʾ inclines to the right; undotted; verso – large, thick Kufic; the dāl/dhāl is considerably elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and a rightward shaft at the top; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a building contract mentioning completion (anjaza) and the terms matbakh and dirham.

Personal name: Ahma[d] bn Muḥ[a]m[m]a[d].

ARABIC ADD. No. 350

Description: brown fragment, recto 3 lines (with no complete words) along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, brown ink.

Measurements: 9.5 w × 7.5 cm h.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: large, thick Kufic; there are no precise, early palaeographic features apparent; undotted.

Subject matter: a religious, probably Quranic, text.

ARABIC ADD. No. 351

Description: slightly soiled, damaged, light brown, recto 9 lines (lines 1 (except one word) and 9 Coptic) across the vertical fibres, verso 5 lines at right angles across the vertical fibres, black ink faded on verso; clay seal. See Part II, 3 below.

Measurements: 18.4 h × 12 cm w, alif 0.6–1.2 cm (recto), 0.7–1 cm (verso).

Date: 292 (= AD 904).

Palaeography: recto – the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line: the sin/shīn is written as a straight horizontal line in most cases with a diagonal stroke above; some joined letters; undotted; verso – the sin/shīn is written as a straight horizontal line with a parallel horizontal stroke above; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; the final ḥāʾ is a slightly wavy stroke along the base line; many joined words; undotted.

Subject matter: recto – a receipt for a kharāj payment (dafʿah)
(addā ... al-kharāj ‘an mulki-hi thulth dinār wa-suds wa-thumn dinār mithqāl bi-lā šarf ilā ... al-jahbadh ); verso – private letter with good wishes.

Personal names: Kayl bn Bustulu[s], Minyā bn Shanūdah (in the text and on the seal).

ARABIC ADD. No. 352

Description: light brown damaged fragment, recto 5 lines (line 5 contains a Coptic numeral) across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink faded in parts; clay seal.

Measurements: 14.3 h × 13.8 cm w, alif 0.6–0.8 cm.


Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the sin is written both as a straight horizontal line and with teeth; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final yā’ returns to the right crossing the preceding alif ; undotted.

Subject matter: official letter from an ‘āmil.

Description: light brown, damaged, recto 7 lines (lines 6 and 7 contain Coptic numerals) along the horizontal fibres, verso 4 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink faded in places; broken clay seal, reading illegible.

Measurements: 11.9 h × 9.6 cm w, alif 0.6 (recto), 0.6–0.7 cm (verso).

Date: Mesore 226 (= July-August 841).

Palaeography: recto – the independent alif rises above similar vertical
letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bā of the basmalah rises well above the teeth of the following sin; the base of the initial ʿayn extends to the right; extended connecting strokes between letters; undotted; verso - the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the base of the initial ʿayn extends slightly to the right with the upper stroke descending to join it; extended connecting stroke between the sin and the mīm of the basmalah; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto - a receipt for the payment of kharāj (addā ... ʿam-mā yalzamu-hu min kharāj al-zar) (mithqāl); verso - semi-official letter with good wishes addressed to two persons.

**Personal name:** recto - al-Ḥārith.
ARABIC ADD. No. 354

Description: light brown, damaged, recto 30 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink. See below Part II, 11 below.

Measurements: 44.6 h x 25.3 cm w, alif 0.7–1.3 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached alif extends below the base line; the initial bāʾ rises well above the teeth of the following sin of the basmalah; the sin/shin is written as a straight horizontal line or with teeth; the normally vertical stroke of the tāʾ inclines to the right; the base of the initial ʿayn extends considerably in some cases to the right with the upper stroke descending to join it; the initial kāf is extended horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and with a rightward hook; on occasions the lām-alif joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the initial hāʾ is consistently written simply as a downward stroke; the wāw frequently takes on the form of the letter rāʾ; the tail of the final yāʾ returns to the right; some excessive elongation of the connecting strokes between letters of words and between words; some dots.

Subject matter: a petition addressed to an amir from a Christian monk on behalf of his poor followers who inhabit a monastery (... ruhbān ... wa-nahnu ḍuʿafāʾ masākīn fa-nahnu fī hādhā al-dayr), making several complaints about the supporters of the sultan/local government officials (ʿwān al-sūltān, later referred to as the wālī of the region) of beatings and fines (... akhadhā-nā bi-ajmaʿi-nā wa-sāqū-nā ilā dār al-amīr fa-darabā-nā darban mubarrīḥan wa-gharrāmū-nā jumlat danānīr) and suggesting religious discrimination (... a-huwa millatu-nā ?). In extravagant language, he ends his letter begging the amir to rectify the injustice the writer and his colleagues have suffered.

Place name: Suyūt

ARABIC ADD. No. 355

Description: soiled light brown damaged fragment, recto 9 lines (lines 3, 4 and 9 containing Coptic, including numerals) along the horizontal fibres, verso blank, black ink.

Measurements: 10 h x 9.7 cm w, alif 0.5–0.8 cm.

Date: 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

Palaeography: the independent alif rises above similar vertical letters; the final letters of the personal names are considerably elongated; undotted.

Subject matter: a document containing a list of personal and family names, probably concerning kharāj payments.

Personal names: [Ḥa]rūn Abū al-ʿAbbās ʿAbdallāh, ... bn Thābit, ... Āl ʿUbayd, Barmak, Ismāʿīl al-Bawwāb, Aṣāghir al-ʿĀzib, al-Mawwāt.
ARABIC ADD. No. 356

**Description:** seven separate badly damaged fragments forming one document, soiled, brown. recto 7(?) lines across the vertical fibres, plus one line at right angles in the right hand margin along the horizontal fibres, verso 12 lines Coptic along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** approximately 12.5 w x 12 cm h, *alif* 0.8–1.2 cm.

**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* and the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extend below the base line; the *sin/shin* is written as a curved horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial *‘ayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *ya3* returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a private letter with good wishes with a reminder to give someone a coat ([*lā* ] *tuqassir* ‘*alā* șarfī-hi al-jubbah ’). There are also numerals mentioned (*‘asharah, khamšin* ).