

## 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 *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* 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.

**Personal names:** a – ʿUmar bn Jaʿfar, Nayyār al-..., Salmūn al-M ..., Baqā, Ibrāhīm al-Rāʿ[ī], Buqtur al-Najjār, Īnās al-Zayyāt, Qawlah(?) bn ʿA[bbā]s. b – Aḥmad bn ʿAbbās, ʿUmar bn ʿUrwah, Ḥafṣ bn Nūḥ, Rabāḥ bn Musāwir, Muḥammad bn ʿU[w]aynah.

#### 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 *sīn* ; 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 *lāms*; 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 *sīn* ; 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 (*hāris* ) and offspring (*ʿiyāl* ). 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises above the teeth of the following *sin*; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* inclines to the right; undotted; verso – the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; undotted. c – recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; undotted; verso – only a few letters remain.

**Subject matter:** a – recto – a document mentioning *kharāj* and the cultivation of 5 *irdabb* s of wheat (*fi khamsati arādiba qamḥin ḥarathtu-hā fi Qalidūn* (?); verso – a private letter with instructions to buy something (*tashtarī bi-hā ...*) and with a mention of taking clothes from someone (*taʾkhudh min-hu al-thiyāb*) and finally instructing the recipient to sell some honey in order to pay the writer's debt (... *wa-unzur an tabīʿa al-ʿasal ... wa-tastaqḍi fi-hi wa-tadfaʿu ilā Ibn Fuḍayl sittata al-danānīr baʿd an yaktuba ilay-ka Abū al-ʿAbbās*). 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.

**Personal names:** a – verso – Ibn Fuḍayl, Abū al-ʿAbbās.

**Place name:** Qalidūn(?).

### 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 × 14.5 cm w, *alif* 0.5–1 cm (recto), 0.6–1.2 (verso). b – 24.7 h × 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 *ṭāʾ* inclines to the right; 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 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 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 *ṭāʾ* inclines to the right; 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 a rightward shaft at the top; the *lām-alif* 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 a'taytu bi-hā al-ʿasharah danānīr* ) and a sale (*qad bā'ū-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 (*ʿajjil bi-him maʿa ḥāmil kitābī* ). b – recto – a private letter.

**Personal names:** a – recto – Jaʿfar; verso – Jaʿfar bn ʿAbdallāh, Abū al-Faḍl.

### 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.

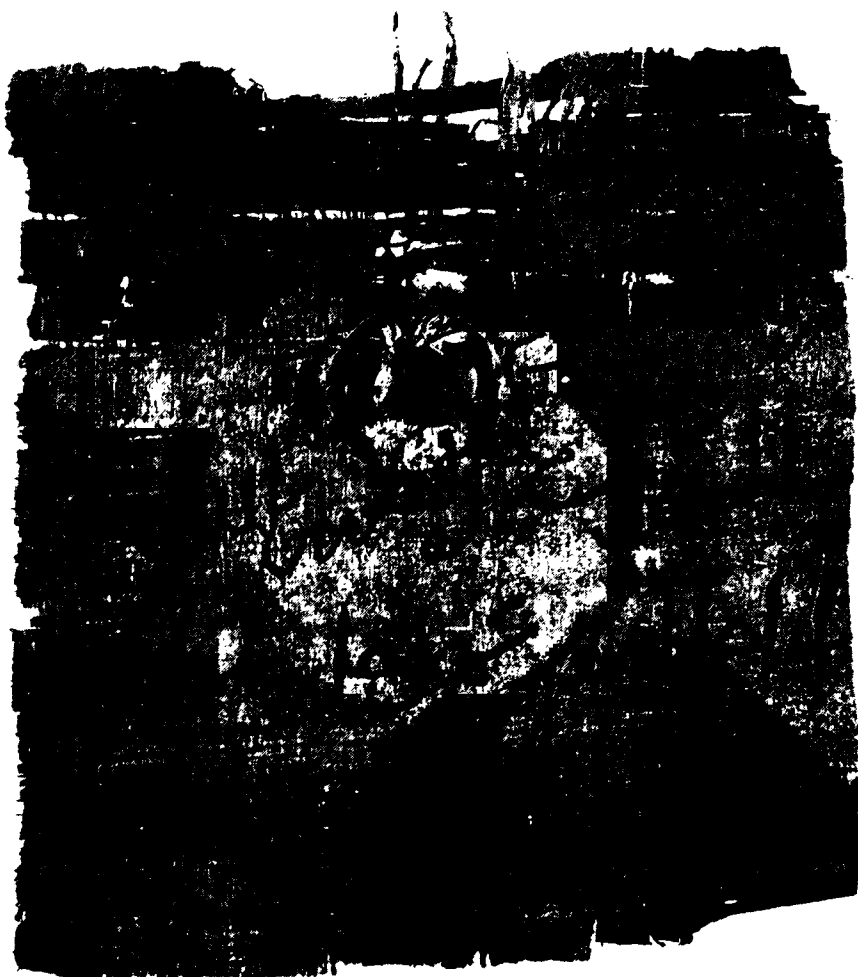
**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the initial *kāf* extends horizontally with the upper stroke parallel to the base line and 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 *zā'* inclines to the right; 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 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 (*ʿilāj, ʿāfiyah, fa-yukallifu-nī 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.



(recto)



(verso)



**Measurements:** 12.3 h × 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 *sīn* is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; 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 tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 ʿlamu anna dhālika sahlun ʿalā yaday-ka ... wa-in kāna al-amr laysa sahl ʿalay-ka ...*); verso – a document containing the date, followed by Coptic, then followed by the mention of cultivation and personal names.

**Personal names:** verso – Muḥammad bn Ismāʿīl, ʿAbdallāh, 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.

**Measurements:** 13.5 w × 6.8 cm h, *alif* 0.4 (recto), 1–1.2 (verso).

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

**Palaeography:** recto – the tail of the final *yā'* returns to the right; there is an extension of the connecting strokes between letters; 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 line with three dots side by side above; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – a private letter with a request from the writer to the woman recipient to hand over something to two people (*fa-sallimī-himā*); verso – a private letter.

### 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 *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭā'* 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 *ṭā'* 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.



(recto)



(verso)

## 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 *sīn* ; the final attached *hā'* is in the shape of a large inverted comma; some joined words; undotted.



**Subject matter:** a document with mention of a legal quittance (*barāʿah*) and *kharāj*.

**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 × 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 *yāʿ* returns to the right, the only early feature in the text; undotted; verso – the tail of the final *yāʿ* 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*, *ʿimrān*, *qīrāt*); verso – document concerning land tax (*kharāj*).

**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 × 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 × 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 *bāʿ* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the medial *shīn* 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 *yāʾ* 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 ʿamiltu ghāyafī 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 *yāʾ* 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises above the teeth of the following *sīn* ; the initial *kāf* has a rightward shaft at the top; extension of the connecting stroke in the *basmalah* ; undotted; verso – the *sīn/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 × 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 *‘ayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yā’* 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 × 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 × 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 *‘ayn* 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 × 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 *bā’* of the *basmalah* rises above the teeth of the following *sīn* and is preceded by 2 dots; verso – the tail of the final *yā’* 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 *bāʾ* rises above the teeth of the *sīn* in the *basmalah*; joined letters; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with wishes; verso – only the *basmalah*.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 14

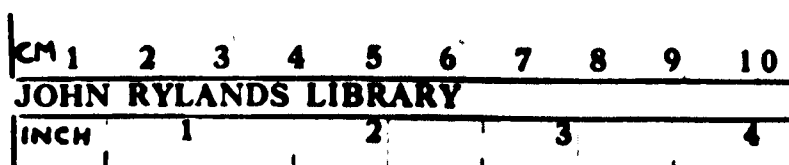
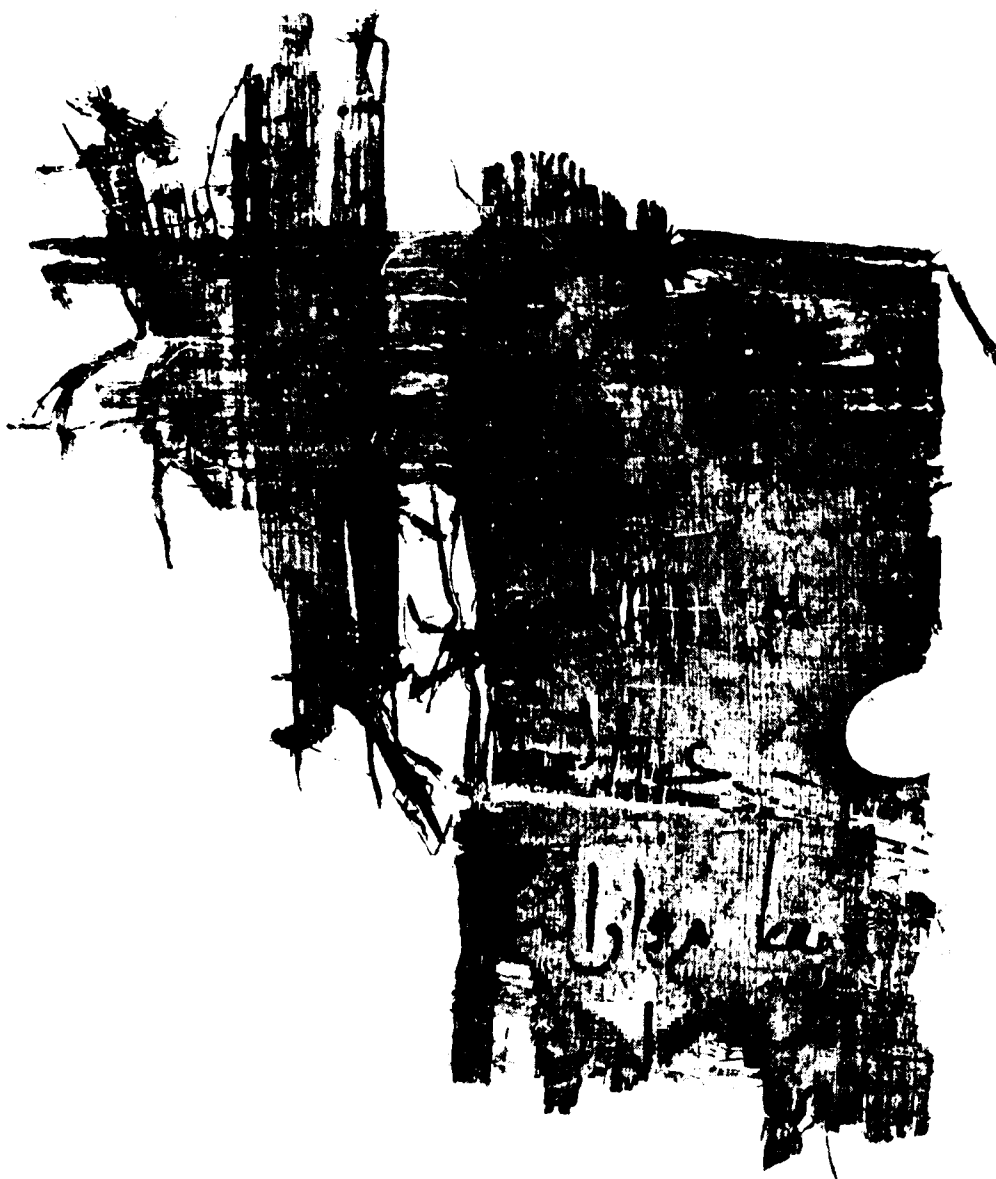
**Description:** brown fragment, recto 7 lines across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

**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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; connecting strokes between letters are extended; the vertical stroke of the final *hāʾ* 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.



**Personal names:** al-Ḥasan bn Fāliḥ/Falāḥ bn ʿAbdallāh bn ʿUyaynah, Maymūn al-Khabbāz, Umayyah bn ʿA[bd] ... /ʿAḥī, ʿAbd al-Ghaffār, Marwān, [Sā]lim bn ʿA[bd] al-R[aḥmān].

#### 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 lī* ).

**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 *yāʾ* 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 ḥakamt* ); 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 × 9 cm w, *alif* 0.6– 0.8 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

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

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *sīn* is written as a straight horizontal line; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; 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; some dots.

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

### ARABIC ADD. No. 20

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

**Measurements:** 11.9 w × 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 *ʿayn* 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 × 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. *sabʿah* ).

**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 *ṭāʾ/ẓāʾ* 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 (*ibʿath ...*) someone or something and mention of money (*ḏinār*); verso – a document mentioning money (*ḏinār*).

**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 *sīn* 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.

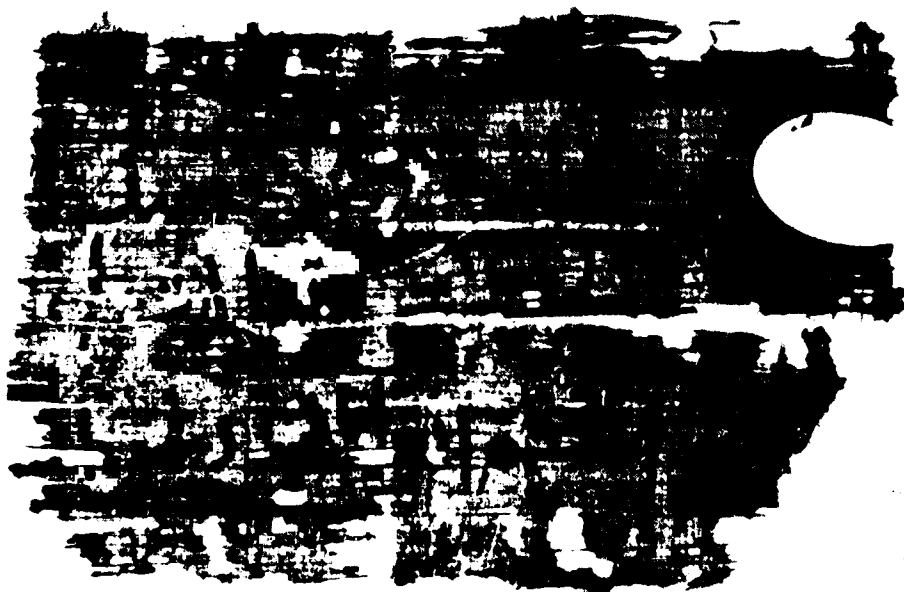
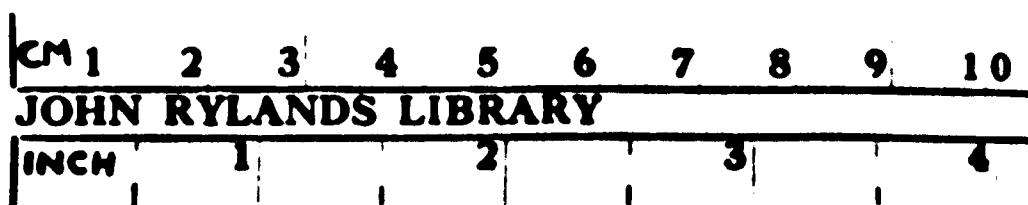
**Subject matter:** a document.

**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.



(recto)

**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 (*iḥmil* ...).

#### 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 (*‘itāb* ) or absence (*ghiyāb* ).

**Personal name:** Abū ‘Umayr.

## ARABIC ADD. No. 27



(recto)

**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 *ṣād* has parallel strokes forming the top and bottom of the letter; the base of the initial *‘ayn* 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** documents concerning the collection and non-collection of *kharāj* (*tastawfū jamīʿ mā akhraja al-qalam ... wa-lā taʿriḍū li- ... alladhī baqiya ʿalā ... min al-kharāj*).

**Personal names:** Ishāq, 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 tadfaʿ ilay-hi shayʿan*).

### 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 *shīn* 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-Walīd, ... 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 Saʿīd.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 32**

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

**Measurements:** 10.3 w × 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 *yāʾ* 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 × 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 × 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 *ʿayn* 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-mabīt 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 × 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 Yazīd.

### 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:** 2.. (200–299 = AD 815–911).

**Palaeography:** 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:** 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 *sīn* ; 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 (*ṣidq* ); verso – concerning the sharing and cultivation of a piece of land (... *an tazraʿa-hā wa-yazraʿa-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 *ṣād* 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 (*ṣilah* ); verso – an official letter seeking news (*rafʿ qīṣaṣi-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 *ṭāʾ* inclines to the right; the independent *hāʾ* has a shaft at the top inclining to the left; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 sharfī 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 *yāʾ* 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 *ṭāʾ* 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; some dots.

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

### 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 *zā’* 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 (*iḥmil*) immediately (*lā tu’akhhir-hu tarfat ‘ayn*!) a particular servant (*khādim*) in a boat (*qārib*); verso – a private letter mentioning the referral of some matter to the recipient (... *alladhī rafa‘tu-hu ilay-ka*) and advising caution (*kun ‘alā ḥadhar*).

#### 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 *hā’* 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 *ʿayn* extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 *yāʾ* 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.

**Personal names:** recto – *ʿAlī bn S l . ḥ*; verso – *Abū Khālid*.

## 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 *tāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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-iʿlam 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 *hāʾ* has a rightward stroke at the top; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – document mentioning what is due to someone (*al-bāqī la-hu arbaʿah*); 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; the medial *yāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; 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 *ʿayn* 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 ʿalā iqrār* ...) concerning a building (*dār manzil*); verso – document concerning the cost of transportation (*rukūb ... niṣf dīnār*).

**Personal names:** recto – ... bn al-Zaytūnī, Mūsā bn ʿĪsa; verso – ʿĀbid/ʿĀʾid/ʿĀʾidh/Ghābid bn al-Barqī.

## 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 *bāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the

following *sīn* 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 × 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 *yāʾ* 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 jumiʿa* ) 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 × 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 *lām-alif* joins to form the shape of the letter v; undotted; verso – the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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, Aḥmad 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 × 6.4 cm w, *alif* 1 cm (recto), 0.6 cm (verso).

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

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

**Subject matter:** recto – a private/semi-official letter, concerning the despatch of a worker (*ʿāmil*) and asking the recipient not to neglect someone/something (*lā tadaʿ al-naẓar*); verso – a private letter either concerning the sale of some goods which are not marketable (*rāʾijah*) or which are not profitable (*rābiḥah*); the writer asks the recipient/owner of the goods to take a quick decision (*qarāru-ka ʿajjil bi-hi*).

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

### 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 × 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; undotted.

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

### 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 × 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 *ʿayn* 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 *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document concerning a punishment (*ʿuqūbah*).

**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 × 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 (*muḥtāj* ) and asking the recipient to write to a third party (*fa-uktub ilay-hi fī 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 × 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 *yāʾ* returns considerably to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document either mentioning a military crossing and the rank of *qāʾid* (*li-ʿubūr al-qāʾid* ) or giving his name, Yaʿqūb al-Qāʾid.

**Personal names:** Abū Yūsuf, Yaʿqūb.

## 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 × 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 *yāʾ* returns to the right; there is a *fāʾ* with a dot beneath as in the Maghribi script and three dots on the *shīn* ; the initial *yāʾ* has two dots beneath; the signs of both the *fathah* and the *ḍammah* 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.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter with personal names and mention of the writer's mother.

**Personal names:** recto – Ḥudayth bn Ḥasan, Qudayrah, 'Abd al-Raḥmān, 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 *yā'* 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 (*ḥawā'ij*), wheat (*qamḥ*) and an item (*ḥājah*) and its price (*bi-thulthay dīnār*); verso – private letter with wishes.

**Personal name:** Abū 'Uthmān.

### 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 × 13.5 cm, *alif* 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the initial *bāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn* 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 (*īrād*) something.

## ARABIC ADD. No. 66

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

**Measurements:** 5 w × 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 tabʿa* [*tha*]) of something or someone.

## 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 × 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 *sīn/shīn* is written as a straight horizontal stroke; the *ṣād* 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 *fāʾ* 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 *tāʾ* 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 h × 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 *ʿayn* extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted; verso – one word remains; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 h × 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 (*ʿaqd*); verso – official document addressed to a governor (*ʿāmil*) 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 w × 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 (*ʿasal*) and informing the recipient that two persons have not paid someone (*lam yuʿṭiyāni-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 *sīn/shīn* is written as a straight horizontal stroke; undotted.

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

**Personal name:** Muḥammad bn Waqdām.

### 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 *ʿayn* 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* s (*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 taʾmuru naʿī-hi* ).

### 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 *yāʾ* 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 *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

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

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

### 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 *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; undotted; verso – in some cases the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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-ḥāli-ka* ); verso – a letter containing an appeal for help (*al-naṣr, al-naṣr* !).

**Personal name:** verso – ʿUmar.

### 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 *sīn*; 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 – Muḥammad bn ʿAlī.

### 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 huwa fī-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-Ḥārith.

### 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 *yāʾ* returns to the right; one dot.

**Subject matter:** a document detailing property boundaries (*nataʿarrafu 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 × 7 cm w, *alif* 0.5–1 cm (recto), 1.2 cm (verso).

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

**Palaeography:** recto – the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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 (*raʿiyyah*) 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 × 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises above the other letters; the *sīn* 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 (*iḥmil*) and handling over (*tusallimu-hu*) of wheat (*qamḥ*).

**Personal name:** recto – Abū al-Ḥasan ʿAlī 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 × 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 (*aḥḍir nafsa-ka*) and mentioning his finishing something (*farāghī min hādhā*).

**Personal names:** recto – Hārūn 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 *hāʾ* comprises a stroke diagonally across the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning the provision of weapons ([*tu*]-*salliḥu-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 *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *zāʾ* 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 × 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 *ʿayn* 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 × 6.5 cm h, *alif* 1.3 cm (recto), 1 cm (verso).

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the *lām-alif* joins together forming the shape of the letter *v*; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 shayʾ*); verso – a note indicating the date of the writer's letter (*urrikha kitābī ...*) 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 × 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 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 *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted; 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 – probably a private letter concerning a sum of money (*darāhim*); verso – document mentioning wages (*ujūr*).

**Personal name:** Ibn Juzayʿ.

### 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; with some dots; verso – extended connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

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

**Personal name:** recto – Muḥammad bn Nūḥ; verso – Ismāʿīl.

### 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 *yāʾ* 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 (*arbaʿah ʿashara dirhaman duftʿat /dafaʿtu fi kirā iʿmār ...*), with mention of a penalty of one dirham a day (*li-kulli yawm yaʿlī 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 *bas-malah* 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 *yāʾ* 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 – Muḥammad bn ʿUthmān; verso – Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad bn ʿUthmān.

## 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 (*ruqʿah*) with good wishes and mentioning the improvement of affairs (*iṣlāḥ baʿḍ umūr ...*), followed by a declaration of the intention to do something (*ʿazamtū*).

## 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 (*yuktabu ʿalay-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-Khawḥi/al-Hawḥi.

### 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 *sīn/shīn* 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-Rāʿī/Dāʿī, 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

below the base line; the *shīn* 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 (*ib‘ath 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-ḥādirīn a‘ṭaw* [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 *sin* 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 Sa‘dūn 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 (*inṣaraftu*) and mention of two items of clothing at the price of one dinar (*ḥullatāni bi-al-dīnār*).

**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 (*waṣiyyah*) of ʿAlī b. Abī Ṭālib, also mentioning other early caliphs; verso – document mentioning an early caliph by name.

**Personal names:** recto – ʿAlī bn Abī Ṭālib, ʿUmar, Abū Bakr; verso – Abū Bakr.

### 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 *‘ayn* 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 (*yazra‘u*, *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 *sīn* ; 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 *‘ayn/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* [āṭ] ) and urging the recipient to keep some matter secret (... *al-amr ... uktimu-ka* ).

**Place name:** al-Fust[āṭ].

## ARABIC ADD. No. 105

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

**Measurements:** 10 h × 9 cm w, *alif* 0.5 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. *i'ānah* ) of wheat (*qamḥ* ) 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 w × 4.5 cm h, *alif* 0.7 cm (recto), 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 *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 normally vertical stroke of the *ṭā'* inclines to the right; undotted.

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

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

**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 w × 4.5 cm h, *alif* 1.4–1.8 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 waqaʿtu ʿalay-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 *ʿayn/ghayn* 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 *shīn* 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.

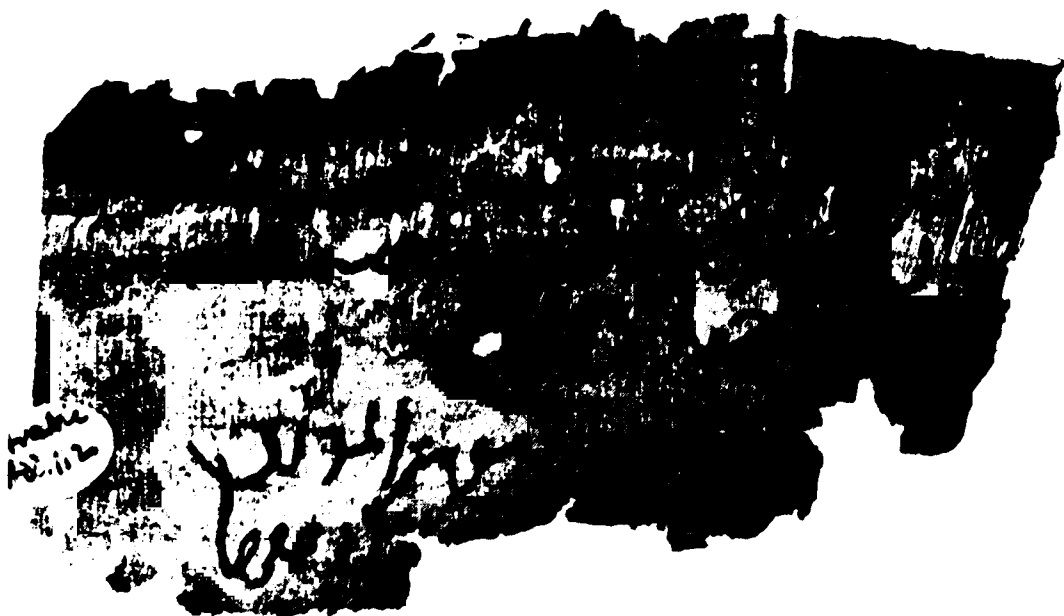
**Measurements:** 20.5 h × 5.3 cm w, *alif* 1.3–1.5 cm.

**Date:** Shawwāl; 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *shīn* 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 × 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 *lām-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 sharīka la-ka mā’a-mā aṣabta*).

**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 *‘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.

**Subject matter:** private letter with wishes addressed to a group of people, mentioning a departure for al-Madīnah, the chief town of al-Ashmūnayn (*shakhaṣa ilā al-Madīnah*) 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.

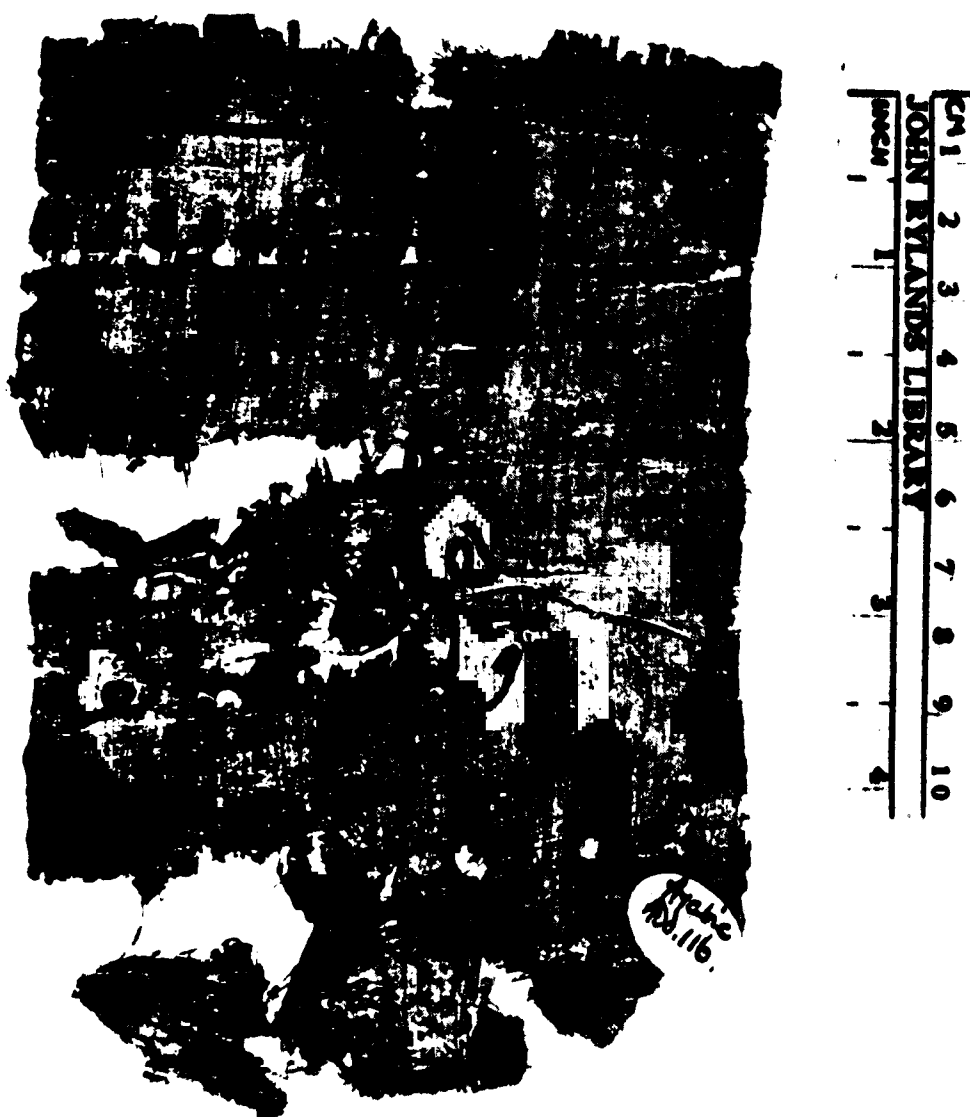
**Measurements:** 7.5 h × 7.3 cm w, *alif* 0.4–0.5 cm (recto), 1.2 cm (verso).

**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 (*‘ā’id al-yawma ilā manzil ...*) and a farewell (*wadā’*).

## ARABIC ADD. No. 116



**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 *bāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *zāʾ* 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 *yāʾ* 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 (*hādhihi al-dār allafī ...*) and asking for the despatch (*fa-ibʿath ...*) 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:** Ramaḍān 307 (= March AD 920).

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

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

**Personal names:** Muḥammad, ʿAlī.

## 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn* and inclines to the left; the base of the initial ʿ*ayn* extends slightly to the right; some dots; verso – the base of the initial ʿ*ayn* 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 × 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 arjū anna-ka [sic] fī ‘āfiyah* ) 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 × 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 × 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 *bāʾ* and medial *yāʾ* rise well above the teeth of the following *sīn* ; the initial and medial *sīn* 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:** ʿĪsā bn Kayl, Salamah bn Dāwūd, Yūsuf bn Ṣakhr, Ibrāhīm, 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 × 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 *yāʾ* 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 sukkān* ..., ..., *mawlā* ...); verso – personal names.

**Personal names:** recto – Ḥasan, Bahūmah al-Ḥawal; verso – Yazīd bn Maṣṣūr, ʿAbdallāh bn Ḥasan.

### 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 × 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-yuwaddiʿa-ka* ); verso – land document with the mention of the area ([*ithnay* ]ni wa-thalāthīna faddānan ).

### ARABIC ADD. No. 125

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

**Measurements:** 9 w × 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 (*īdhān-hum dukhūl ...*).

### 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 *bā’* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn* ; 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.

### 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 *tā’* 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 *yā’* 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 ‘alā mā waṣṭa*) and that he should think better of him (*fa-tuḥsinu ḡanna-ka ...*); he is finally probably urging him not to listen to evil drunks (*al-‘arābīd al-fujjār*)! Verso – semi-official letter in which the writer reminds the recipient of an instruction he has given to provide for him (... *allafī amarta lī bi-hā* ).

### 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 v; some dots.

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

**Personal name:** Abū Nafīs/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 *yāʾ* 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 *yāʾ* 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 (*maḥabbatu-ka ʿalā mā ʿahidt*), 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 *yāʾ* 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 v; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – semi-official letter concerning transportation of goods on a small boat (*iḥmil fī qārib*), including mention of acacia leaves (*qaraṣ*) or, more likely, lucerne (*qurṭ*); verso – private/semi-official letter mentioning secrecy (*kutmān*) and camels (*ibil*).

**Personal name:** recto – Abū ‘Uthmān.

### 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 × 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 (*qamḥ*) and barley (*sha‘īr*) with a list of names and Greek and Coptic numerals denoting sums of money.

**Personal name:** recto – Zakariyyā bn Ibrāhīm, Ibrāhīm al-Ṣayyād, Suwayd, [Y]āsir.

### 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 × 2.4 cm h, *alif* 1 cm (recto), 0.7 (verso).

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

**Palaeography:** recto – the *shīn* is written as a straight horizontal line; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; undotted; verso – the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭā’* inclines to the right; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends to the right; undotted.

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

**Personal names:** recto – al-Farazdaq bn Hārūn bn ‘Abd al-‘Azīz; verso – ... bn Ḥasan, ‘Āmir bn al-‘Abbās.

### 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 × 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document mentioning the despatch (*ibʿath bi-hā* ) 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 × 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 *yāʾ* 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 × 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:** Ibrāhīm bn [Mu]ḥamm[ad]/[A]ḥma[d].

### 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 × 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 *ʿayn* 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-ammā mā amartu bi-hi ...*); verso – official letter in which there is an enquiry following up a previous letter.

**Personal names:** recto – Muḥammad bn Qāsim, Abū Shamʿūn; verso – Bahyawah al-Hāris.

### 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* 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 *basmalah* 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 *sīn* ; 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 ʿalā athar kitābī* ).

#### 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; the *lām-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... .

### 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.

### 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn* ; the *basmalah* is preceded by a dot; the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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.

### 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 *bāʾ* is greatly extended (6.5 cm); the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted; verso – the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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 – Jum‘ah bn Aḥmad bn ‘Uthmān, Bāriq bn Maqtūl.

### 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 *zā* inclines to the right; the base of the initial *‘ayn* extends to the right; the *lām-alif* joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the medial *sīn* is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; undotted; verso – the base of the initial *‘ayn/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 (*qamḥ*), giving the recipient the strict instruction to burn the letter (*aḥriq kitābī*) and telling him to inform a third party that he (the recipient) has information that a certain Abū ‘Abdallāh 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 ‘Abdallāh.

### 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 *‘ayn/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 *ʿayn* extends slightly to the right; some dots; verso – the *sīn* 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 yaʿtiya jawābu-ka* ) concerning the market (*sūq* ). .

**Personal names:** recto – ʿAbdallāh bn Yaḥyā, Zuwayd bn Salmūn, Nūḥ bn Ibrāhīm, al-Ṣammah bn ʿAbd al-Ghanī, ..w r bn Sayyār bn Sumayyah.

## 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 *sīn* is written as a straight line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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.

**Personal names:** recto – Muḥammad bn Ḥamad, Mūsā bn Shibl, Bahyawah bn Ḥamad/Ḥamdān, Ḥasan, ʿAbd al-Raḥmān, A[bū] ʿĪsā Aḥmad bn ..., ʿAbdallāh bn Ardafis, Shuʿayb; verso – ʿU[th]mān.

## 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 *alif* extends below the base line; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 (*akraytu-hu/akrayta-hu*), a wage (*ujrah*) and departure (*khurūj*), with a Coptic numeral.

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

### 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 × 6.8 cm w, *alif* 1.3 (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; some elongated final letters; undotted; verso – the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; some dots.

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

### 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 × 8.7 cm h, *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 *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the base of the initial *ʿayn/ghayn* extends to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – a document containing a list of personal names involved in shared planting (... *gharasa maʿa* ...); verso – account document with Coptic numerals.

**Personal names:** recto – Muḥammad bn Maymūn, Ibrāhīm bn ʿAbdallāh, Mūsā bn ʿAbd al-Raḥīm, Sahm bn Maymūn, Muṭṭalib bn Karmān.

## 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 × 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 *ʿayn* 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* ).

**Personal names:** A[bū] ʿAḥ, Ibn ʿAḥ.

## 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 × 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 *sīn* 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises markedly above all other following letters and is preceded by the dot; the *sīn* is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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' (*maṭbūkh* ); verso – private letter with good wishes, addressed to two persons.

**Personal name:** recto – Khārijah bn Naʿām.

## 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 × 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 × 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, *rubʿ 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 × 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 *yāʾ* 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 × 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* inclines 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 iqrār ...*), mentioning renting (*akrā*) and salt (*milḥ*).

**Personal names:** Muḥammad bn al-Rāʿī, 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 × 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 × 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 × 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 *sīn*; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – document mentioning a demand of the writer to

search for something (*wa-ṭalaba ilay-ya an abtaghiya ...*), and also money (*dīnār, mithqāl*); verso – a document.

**Personal names:** recto – al-ʿAbbās bn ..., ʿAlī bn al-ʿA[bbās]; 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 (*utrūk*).

## 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 × 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 (*īṣāl*) 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 × 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *tāʾ* 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 × 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 *yāʾ* 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 *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private/semi-official letter with good wishes, mentioning that the recipient is aware of some fact (‘*alimta ... annā ...*’); 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 × 4 cm h, *alif* 0.7 cm (recto).

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

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *sīn* is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial ‘*ayn* extends slightly to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter requesting news (*wa-sal ‘an khabar ...*).

### 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 × 4 cm h, *alif* 1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** both the independent and the attached *alif* extends below the base line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning the price of wheat (*thaman al-qamḥ*).

### 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 × 9.3 cm h, *alif* 0.8–1 cm (recto).

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

**Palaeography:** recto – the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; the final *kāf* 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 × 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 *sīn* 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-danānīr 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 × 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 *bāʾ* rises above the remainder of the *basmalah* which has a long horizontal stroke only for the *sīn* ; all the letters of the *basmalah* 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-ruḡʿah* ); line 4 has the *basmalah* 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 × 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.

**Personal names:** recto – ‘Alī bn Sa‘īd, Nayyār bn Rāwifāh, Khārijah (cf. No. 154 above) bn ‘Āmir, Sa‘dūn bn ‘Āmir, Zubayd bn Mūsā, Abū Ja‘far bn Aktham, Nayyār bn Falūt, Abū al-Faḍl bn ‘Āmir, Abū ‘Umar bn Ayyūb.

### 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 yā’ is *mu‘arraḡah* ; verso – the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; the tail of the final yā’ 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 *bā’* of the *basmalah* rises above the teeth of the following *sīn* ; the base of the initial ‘ayn extends to the right; some dots; verso – the *sīn* of the *basmalah* extends considerably in a straight line; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter concerning the transportation (*tab‘athu-hu ma‘a ...* ) and display (*‘araḡtu* ) of goods; verso – the *basmalah* and some Coptic.

**Personal name:** recto – Nūḥ bn Ḥusayn, Rabī‘ah.

### 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 *yāʾ* 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 (*kharāj*) list, with an indication that the tax was perhaps paid in kind (*al-waʿn* ...).

### ARABIC ADD. No. 179

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

**Measurements:** 8.2 × 8.2 cm, *alif* 0.8 cm.

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

**Palaeography:** the *dhāl* has a horizontal base line and an upward hook at the top; 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:** 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 h × 12 cm w, *alif* 1.2 cm (recto), 0.7 cm (verso).

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

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the initial *sīn* and *shīn* are long horizontal lines, the latter with a horizontal stroke above; the usually vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* inclines to the right; there is one example of the base of the initial *ʿayn* extending to the right; the medial *yāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted; verso – there are no apparent palaeographic features of significance.

**Subject matter:** recto – a document containing a witnessed (*shahādah*) legal declaration (*iqrār*); verso – a personal name and the date.

**Personal names:** recto – ʿĪsā bn ..., ʿĀmir, ...s bn Ḥawḍah; ʿUmayr bn Naṣr.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 181

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

**Measurements:** 14.5 h × 14 cm w, *alif* 0.7–1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the independent *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 (*ījār* ) 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; the medial *yāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn* ; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning a fief (*iqṭāʿ* ) 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 tuqaṣṣirā fī ...*) with mention of wheat (*qamḥ* ) and farmers (*muzārīʿīn* ).

## 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 *sīn* is written as a straight horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the usually vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* 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 tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 *yāʾ* 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.

**Personal names:** recto – al-Qāsim bn Ḥamad, Ibrāhīm.

## 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).

**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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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 (*mim-mā aʿāna 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 (*ʿishrīna 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; undotted; verso – the initial *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises above the other letters; the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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* .

**Personal names:** recto – ʿAlī bn Muḥammad, Muḥammad bn ʿAbdallāh, Ayyūb.

### 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn* ; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* inclines to the right; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 *ṣāʾ* inclines to the right; the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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 amāmī* ).

**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-ḥashama ṣāhib 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 *bā'* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *zā'* 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.

**Personal names:** recto – Murqus, Ibn Karrār Muḥammad; verso – Saʿīd bn Ṣayyād, Jarīr bn Aḥmad, Buṭrus.

### 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 *yā'* 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 yuʿlimu-ka ...*).

**Personal name:** recto – al-Khammāsh bn Naḍwah.

## ARABIC ADD. No. 197

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

**Measurements:** 10.5 w × 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 *ṣād* 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 *hāʾ* ; 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 Ṣaʿīd Miṣr* ...). Some information is to be passed on to a third party (*ʿalim-hu* ).

**Place name:** Ṣaʿīd 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 × 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning absence (*ghiyāb* ) and work/workers (*ʿamal/ummāl* ).

## 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 × 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 *ṭāʾ* inclines to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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-qirāṭ* ) and an acceptance to pay compensation is acknowledged in writing (*wa-qarra la-nā bi-gharāmah fī qirṭās* ).

**Personal name:** recto – Abū Ma[<sup>c</sup>]n.

**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 *ʿayn* 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 *yāʾ* rises above the teeth of the following *shīn*; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

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

**Personal names:** ʿAbdallāh bn Muḥammad bn ..., Bakr.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 201**

**Description:** badly soiled, damaged and creased brown fragment, recto 4 lines along the horizontal fibres, 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 *bāʾ* 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

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

**Personal names:** recto – Aḥmad bn Sanām; verso – al-Ḥārithah.

**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 *ʿayn* 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*).

**Personal names:** verso – Butrus bn Jaza<sup>c</sup>, ‘Abs bn B l h.

### 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 *yā*<sup>ʔ</sup> rises above the teeth of the following *sīn*; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – official document mentioning set expenditure/expenses (*nafaqah ma<sup>c</sup>rūfah*); verso – a document containing the word *iṣṭafā* and a personal name.

**Personal name:** verso – ‘Īsā bn Thabbāt.

### 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*<sup>ʔ</sup> rises well above the teeth of the following medial *sīn*; 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 *yā*<sup>ʔ</sup> 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<sup>c</sup>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 × 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 *ʿayn* 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 × 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 × 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*] *dīnāran* ) 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-manaʿtu-hu wa-waʿadtū-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 × 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 *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – an official letter, part of which mentions guards (*ḥurrās*) and their master; verso – semi-official letter with mention of an obligatory right (*ḥaqq wājib*) and a reminder of the matter of a third party (*fī 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 × 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 × 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]shāq bn Yazīd.

## 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 *zāʾ* inclines to the right; the *shīn* 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – private letter in which the writer mentions a third party whom he curses (*lā ḥafiẓa-hu Allāh*) and asks the recipient to inform the third part (... *an tuʿlima-hu ʿan* ...) of some matter; verso – private letter in which the writer expresses his dependence on the recipient (... *ʿalā Allāh wa-ʿalay-ka* ).

**Personal name:** Rākish.

## 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 normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* inclines 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 vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the *shīn* is marked with a sign in the shape of a circumflex accent; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 Kathīr.

**Place name:** al-Fustāt.

### 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 × 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 v; undotted.

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

**Personal name:** al-Ḥusayn.

### 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 × 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a document containing the observation that something/someone is not sound or well (*wa-mā yaṣiḥḥu*).

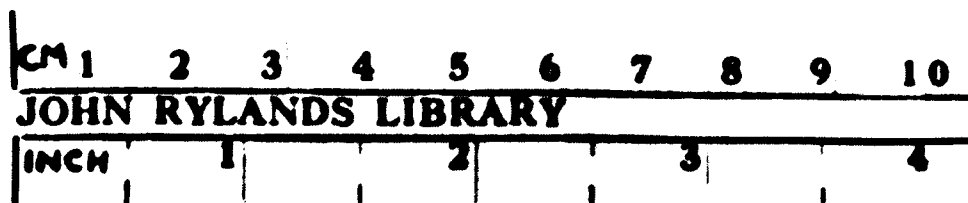
### ARABIC ADD. No. 217

**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 × 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



(recto)

the base line; the *sin/shūn* is marked with a diagonal stroke; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; extension of the connecting strokes between letters, and the final *bāʾ*, *thāʾ*, *lām* and *yāʾ* 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 *kharāj*.

**Personal names:** Yaʿqūb bn Abī Ishāq, Jaʿfar al-Darūfī, Tāhā bn ʿĪsā al-Madanī, Muqbil bn Muḥammad bn Ishāq, Hārith bn al-Layth, Muḥammad bn Abī al-Ashhal (right hand column recto); ʿAlī bn ʿAbd al-Aḥad, ʿAbd al-Ṭayyib, Abū Ṭālib bn Abī al-Ashhal, Saʿd bn Ishāq bn ʿAsāmah, Aḥmad bn ʿUthmān Abū al-ʿAbbās (left hand column recto).

## ARABIC ADD. No. 218



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

**Measurements:** 16.3 w × 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 aḥbaltu an tashtariya-hā lī 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 ḥājah* ..., *raʿaytu-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 *ʿayn* 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 – Muḥammad bn Rāfiʿ, Idrīs, Naftāf bn Aḥmad, .t. 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, *qamḥ*, 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 (... *ʿalā 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 *yāʾ* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; 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; 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 *ruḳʿah* on the left; one other dot.

**Subject matter:** recto – private/semi-official letter, mentioning a request the writer has made of a third party (*saʿaltu-hu*), ten jugs (*qilāl*), hire (*akrā*) and a *qirsh*; verso – list of documents with the word *ruḳʿah*, 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-mā 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises well above the teeth of the following *sīn*; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 (*muḥtāj min aʿnāb sayyidi-ka*) and mentioning the loss of something which he hopes will be replaced (*khasirtu-hu fa-ifʿal* ...); verso – private letter containing an extravagant wish for the future (*juʿiltu fidā-ka wa-illā fa-anā awwal*).

**Personal name:** recto – Qatādah.



(recto)

### ARABIC ADD. No. 224

**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 × 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 *tāʾ* inclines to the right; the *shīn* is written as a straight horizontal line; the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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 aḥbabt* ).

### ARABIC ADD. No. 225

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

**Measurements:** 10 h × 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; some dots.

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

### 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 × 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 (*īrād al-khubz/al-ḥibr ʿalay-ka*) is the responsibility of the recipient; verso – a document which mentions the word *ḍinār*.

### 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 w × 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters; some dots; verso – the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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-Laḥāwī, 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 w × 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 (*iʿlam 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 w × 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 w × 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 *shīn* 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 *tā’* 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-Faḍl.

### 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 (*saraqah*) and naming the thief and his victim; verso – a document with mention of an order (*amara*).

**Personal names:** recto – [Mu]ḥammad, Ḥusayn.

### 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 *sīn* 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 (*qamḥ*); 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 – ‘Amr, Muḥammad, Dhuwayb bn Salmūn; verso – Sulaymān, Tāhir, 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 × 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 *ḍād* 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 *ṭāʾ* 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 *ṭāʾ* 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 akhū-hā* [sic]); verso – private letter mentioning the cost of earrings and a unit of weight (*ḍīnār al-aqrāṭ, qinṭārayn*).

**Personal names:** recto – Ramaḍān bn S...; verso – ‘Umar, 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 × 6.3 cm w, *alif* 0.6–1 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the initial *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises well above the other letters; the *lām-alif* joins together forming the shape of the letter v; the final *hāʾ* 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 *sīn/shīn*; the medial *ʿayn* is open at the top; the final *hā'* rises to the level of the preceding *lāms* 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 (*shaʿīr*, *thaman*, *ḏīnār*); 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 *sīn*; 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 katabtu ilay-ka kitāban*) and explaining that something belonging to Abū Yaʿqūb and Abū Sahl, they hope, will reach the recipient (*bi-mā rajaw min-nī wuṣūlu-hu ilay-ka*). The writer asks the recipient to write Abū Yaʿqūb a letter and send it to the writer so that he can pass it on (*wa-in kunta taktubu ilā Abū [sic] Yaʿqūb ... kitāb [sic] fa-waṣṣil-hu ilay-ya li-uwaṣṣila-hu ilay-hi ...*).

**Personal names:** recto – Aḥmad bn Yaʿqūb (repeated); verso – Abū Yaʿqūb, Abū Sahl.

**Place name:** al-Fuṣṭāt.

### 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.

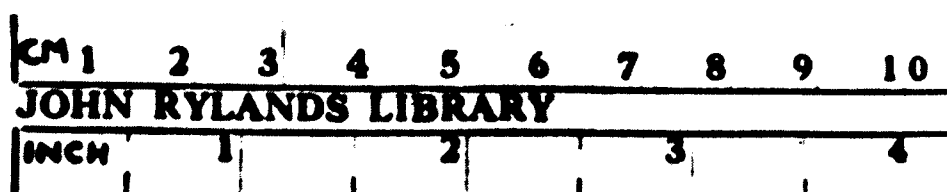
**Date:** –4th/9th–10th century.

**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.

## ARABIC ADD. No. 239



(recto)

**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 × 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises above the teeth of the following *sīn* 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 dīnār*).

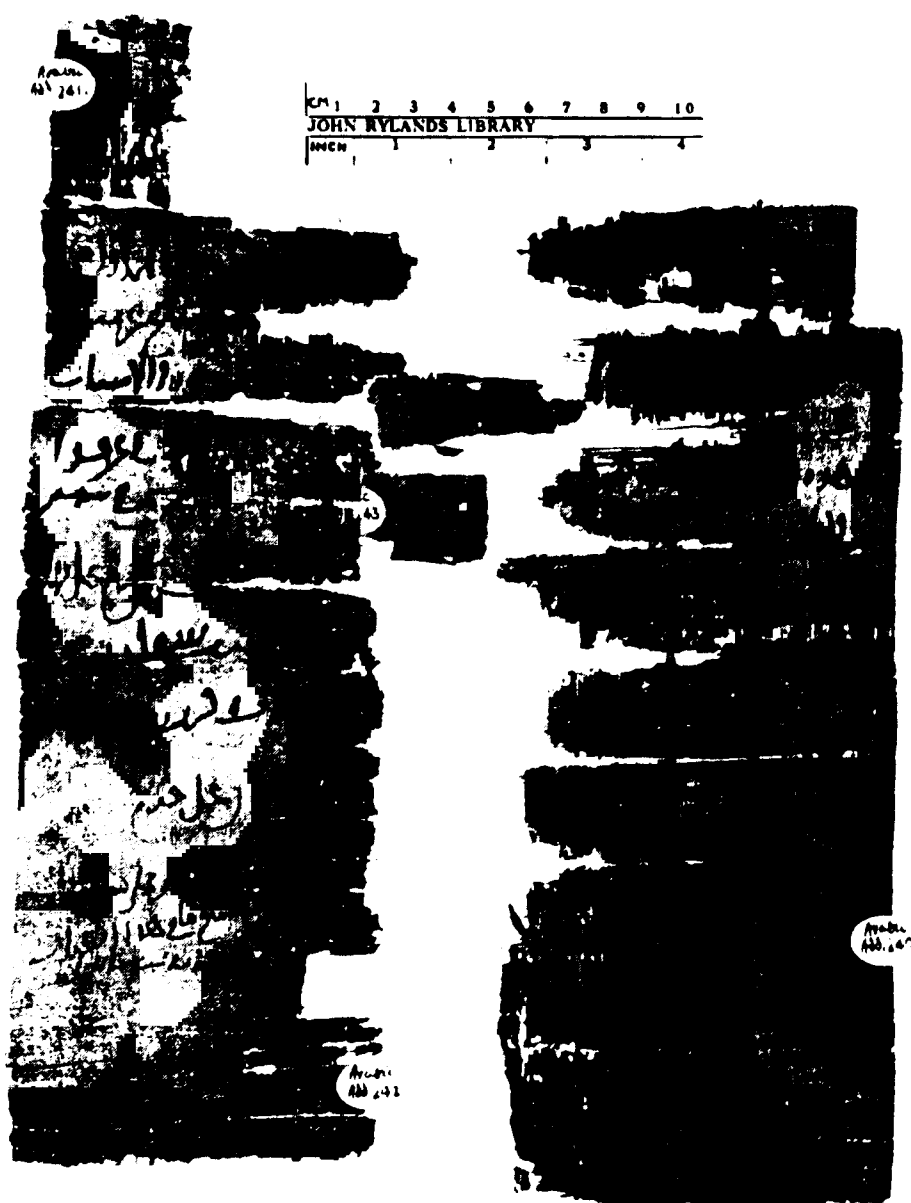
**Personal names:** recto – ‘Abd al-‘Azīz; verso – ‘Abdallāh bn al-‘Assāl.

**Place name:** al-‘Uwayn.

### 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:** Shawwāl 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 *ṭāʾ* 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 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 (*qabaḍa-hā*), together with a list of witnesses to legal declarations (*yashhadu ... ʿalā iqrār ...*).

**Personal names:** Ābrawah bn ʿĪsā, al-Ḥasan bn ʿAlī, Ismāʿīl bn Zakariyyā, Aḥmad bn Muḥammad, [Ibrā]hīm 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 × 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 *sīn* rises above the other two; the initial *shīn* is written as a straight diagonal line; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ/ẓāʾ* 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 iqrār ...*).

**Personal names:** Ḥusayn bn Ḥassān, Ismāʿīl bn Zakariyyā, Ṭufayl bn ʿĪsā, Mūsā bn Zakariyyā, Matūs al-Bayyāʿ, 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 × 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-sallimū ...*).

## ARABIC ADD. No. 247

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 4 lines (only part of the words remaining) across the vertical fibres, verso blank, black ink.

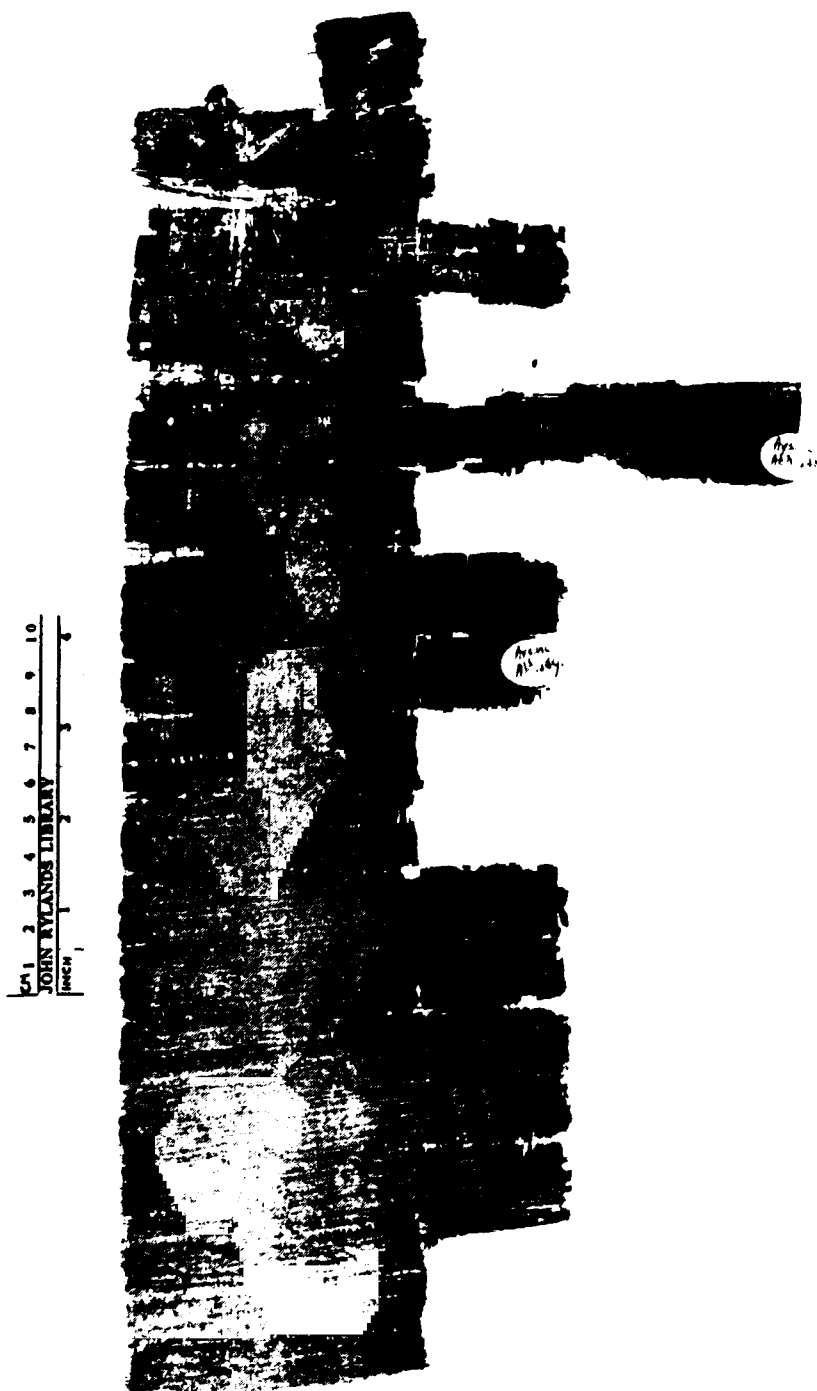
**Measurements:** 5.5 h × 3.6 cm w, *alif* 1.1–1.4 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the first tooth of the *sīn* rises slightly above the other two; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a legal document mentioning 'twenty shares' (sing. *sahm*).

## ARABIC ADD. Nos 248-49



(recto)

**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 *shīn* rises above the other two; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* 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 (*shahādah*) and a sum of money (*thalāthat al-danānīr*).

**Personal names:** [Zaka]riyyā bn Ishāq, Sawāriqah, '[...] [b]n 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 *sīn*; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* 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 (*ghallah*), payment by instalments (sing. *ṭabl*) and various fractions (*niṣf*, *thulth*, *suds*); verso – a document with a personal name and mention of the receipt of a dinar (*qabaḍa dīnār*).

**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 *bā'* of the *basmalah* rises above the teeth of the following *sīn* ; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭā'* inclines to the right; the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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' – *idfaʿ-hā yawm al-ithnayn* ) or IOU ('I shall pay it on Monday' – *adfaʿu-hā yawm 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 *ṣād* is in the shape of a trapezium with no tooth on the left; the

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* ...).

**Personal name:** *‘Abd al-Razzāq bn Shabīb bn Ḥ...*

### 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 × 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.

**Personal names:** Ḥamad bn Kāmil, Mu‘āwiyah al-Rā‘ī, Minyā al-Ḥammāl, ‘Umar bn Sulaymān, Muḥammad bn al-Ghuṣn, Mu[ḥamma]d bn ‘Abd al-‘Azīz, Abū Ja‘fa[r].

### ARABIC ADD. No. 256

**Description:** dark brown fragment, recto 6 lines across the vertical fibres, black ink fading.

**Measurements:** 10 w × 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 × 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 (*iktarā*) land with the stipulation that the lessee work it on his behalf (... *an yaqūma la-hu fī arḍi-hi* ...).

**Personal name:** al-Ḥasan 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 tuʾakhhir 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 aṣḥā [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 × 5.3 cm h, *alif* 0.7 cm.

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

**Palaeography:** the independent *alif* rises above similar vertical letters; the *sīn* is written as a straight line marked with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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.

**Personal names:** [ʿI]mrān, ʿAbd al-Karīm, Marzūq, Ismāʿīl bn ʿAbd al-Malik.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 262**

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

**Measurements:** 13.3 h × 10.6 cm w, *alif* 0.4–0.7 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th/10th century.

**Palaeography:** the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 (*awṣala*), and the lenders.

**Personal names:** al-Marrāʿ, Aḥmad bn ʿAbd al-Wāḥid, Muḥammad bn ʿAbdallāh bn Tājir, Abū Muḥammad al-Jassās, Ismāʿīl, Abū Muʿādh, Naftāl bn Tājir, Baqām Sirrīn.

**ARABIC ADD. No. 263**

**Description:** brown fragment, recto 2 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink slightly smudged in places.

**Measurements:** 14.3 w × 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 × 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 *kāf* is elongated with the upper stroke almost parallel with the base line and an upward shaft at the top; the tail of the final *yā’* returns to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter:** private letter mentioning the receipt of a letter (*atā-nī kitāb ...*).

**Personal names:** ‘Abd al-Jabbār, Muḥammad bn ‘Ulayṭ.

## 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 × 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-yaṣḥabu-hā 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 × 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-Ḥārith 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 × 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 (*tabtāʿu- [hu ]*) in lieu of a complete repayment of a debt (*ṣāliḥ kull al-dayn* ).

**Personal name:** Abū Ishāq.

### 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 (*ḥumūlah* ).

**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 *ʿayn* 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 *vā'* 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; extension of connecting strokes between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document containing names of farmers and their agricultural produce: lucerne (*qurṭ*) and wheat (*qamḥ*).

**Personal names:** .... bn Jarīr, ʿUdayy al-Shammās.

### 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 *ʿayn* 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 *yā'* returns to the right; one dot.

**Subject matter:** a document giving permission for something (*idhn li-... fī ...*) and mentioning preserving (*iḥtifāz*).

**Personal name:** Minyā bn Aṣṭayf.

**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 *yāʾ* 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*, *ʿayn* = 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 (*yaḥmilu ... bi-dīnār*) and requesting the return of the money if no payment is made (*fa-in lam yadfaʿ 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 *yāʾ* 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-dīnār illā arbaʿa [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-aḥad*), 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 (*anʿī abī 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 (*shafā-nī*).

**Place name:** al-Fuṣṭāt.

### ARABIC ADD. No. 281

**Description:** damaged brown fragment, recto 9 lines along the horizontal fibres, black ink.

**Measurements:** 9.7 h × 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/ẓāʾ* 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 × 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 *sīn* 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 × 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 *hāʾ* 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-bāriḥah* ).

**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 *bāʾ* is considerably elongated with no upward bend to the left; the *shīn* is written as a straight horizontal line; the *ṣād* 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; the final *hāʾ* is a triangular shape; undotted.

**Subject matter:** an agricultural document mentioning twelve *irdabbs* (*ithnā ʿashar 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 *ʿayn* extends slightly to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a letter addressed to a superior asking for his opinion (*fa-in raʿayta ...*) concerning a village (*qaryah* ) or farm (*ʿizbah* ).

### 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 *ʿayn* 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* ).

**Personal names:** ‘Ubayd, al-Zayyāt Ḥ r ..., Zaka[riyyā], [Abū Mū]sā ‘Ammār.

### 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 *tāʾ* inclines to the right; the base of the initial *‘ayn* extends to the right; extension of connecting stroke between letters; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document mentioning *dīnār* 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 ḍamāni-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 *vāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** a letter mentioning either death (*maniyyah* ) or year (*sanah* ), and the previous year (*al-‘ām al-māḍī* ).

### 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; the initial *kāf* is slightly elongated horizontally with the upper stroke parallel with the base line and rightward shaft at the top; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 × 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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises above all the other letters; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** private/semi-official letter asking for the deletion of a name from a list (*imsaḥ-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 × 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 *yāʾ* returns to the right and upwards; one dot.

**Subject matter:** a letter urging patience, reassuring the recipient (*al-ṣabr ...*, *ʿalā mā tuḥibbu* ) and requesting a favour (... *an tatafaḍḍala 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 × 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 (*miṣbāḥ* ).

**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 (*ḥalla 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 *yāʾ* 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 *ṭāʾ* inclines to the right; the *qāf* is elevated and has a pointed head; some dots.

**Subject matter:** official letter including the opinion (*raʾy*) of an amir. His opinion is that the hand of the governor (*ʿāmil*) 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 *sīn* 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 *vāʾ* returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a letter with good wishes containing mention of certain numerals (*ithnayn*, *thalāthah wa-tisʿi* [ *n* ], *ithnā ʿashar*).

### 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 (*dīnār al-ḥārisayn* ) and asking the opinion of the recipient whose advice the writer will follow (*raʿyu-ka afʿalu-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 *ʿayn* 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 × 5.9 cm w, *alif* 0.6 cm.

**Date:** 3rd–4th/9th–10th century.

**Palaeography:** the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* 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 × 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 *sīn* 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-ḍarbi-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-ḍarbi-hi*), and that the writer is sending a messenger (*rasūl*) to him.

**Personal name:** Muḥammad bn Ishāq.

**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 × 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 × 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 *shīn* is written as a straight horizontal stroke with three dots above in a line; the base of the initial *ʿayn* 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 *shīn* undotted.

**Subject matter:** a document mentioning the word brother (*shaqīq*).

### 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.

### 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 *vāʾ* returns to the right; undotted.

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

### 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 *sīn/shīn* is written as a straight horizontal line; the final *shīn* is elongated markedly in a straight line; some dots.

**Subject matter:** document mentioning names and cloth (*qumāsh*), with Coptic numerals.

**Personal names:** Bashshār, Nūḥ bn Jurayj.

### 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 (*sāmiḥ-hu bi-dirham/sāmaḥtu-hu 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 *shīn* 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 taʿmuru 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 *sīn* 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 *ʿayn* extends to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a document mentioning ten *faddāns* (*ʿasharat fadd-ādin* ) and the document ([*qi* ]*rīās* ).

### 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 *qirāt* .

**Personal and family names:** Āl Ṣakhr al-Ṣāqah (twice), Āl Mar[wān], Āl Muslim, ʿAbdallāh, 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 *ṣin* of the *ḥasmalah* is written as a long straight horizontal line; the normally vertical stroke of the *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; 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 *ḥamdalah*.

### 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 *ʿayn* extends slightly to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 × 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 × 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 *zāʾ* 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 × 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 (*taʾakhkhara 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 *sīn/shīn* is written as a straight horizontal line; the initial *ʿayn* 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 *yāʾ* 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) – *ʿAlī bn Ibrāhīm*.

#### 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 *ʿayn* 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*, *Muḥammad bn Mannāʿ*, *ʿArafah bn ʿUmayr*, *Zurayq bn Aʿas*.

#### 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 *zāʾ* 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-khaṭṭi-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 *shīn* 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 (*fī shughl ayyāmī*), a quantity of three *irdabbs* of wheat (*thalāthat arādib qamḥ*) and the request for his lacking two thirds (... *an tatafaḍḍala 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‘iltu 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 taʾmura ‘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 *ʿayn/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 × 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 *sīn/shīn* is written as a straight line; the tail of the final *vāʾ* 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 × 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 *ʿayn* 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 × 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 *shīn* is written as a straight line with a diagonal stroke above; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a private letter with a request or enquiry (*saʿaltu-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 × 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 *sīn* ; 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 ashyāʾ ghar-rama-nī* ), mention that, if he were to understand the need of the recipient (*law fahimtu 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 × 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 × 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 × 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 *sīn* is written as a straight line; some dots.

**Subject matter:** recto – document listing goods: candles (*shamʿ*), small cane bowls (*aṭbāq khayzarān ṣighār*), bottle (*qārūrah*), palm-leaf mat (*sajjādat ḥaṣīr*) etc.; verso – private letter mentioning receipt of recipient's letter and requesting something from the recipient (*mā saʾaltu-kāmin dhālika ...*).

### 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 *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; undotted; verso – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – legal document with witnesses (*shahida ...*) to a legal declaration (*iqrār*); verso – a document with witnesses (*ashhadu*) and mention of money (*danānīr*).

**Personal names:** recto – Muḥammad bn Jabr bn Faraj, ʿAbdallāh bn Muḥammad, .... bn ʿAmr; verso – ʿĪsā bn ...., .... bn Ḥārithah.

### 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).

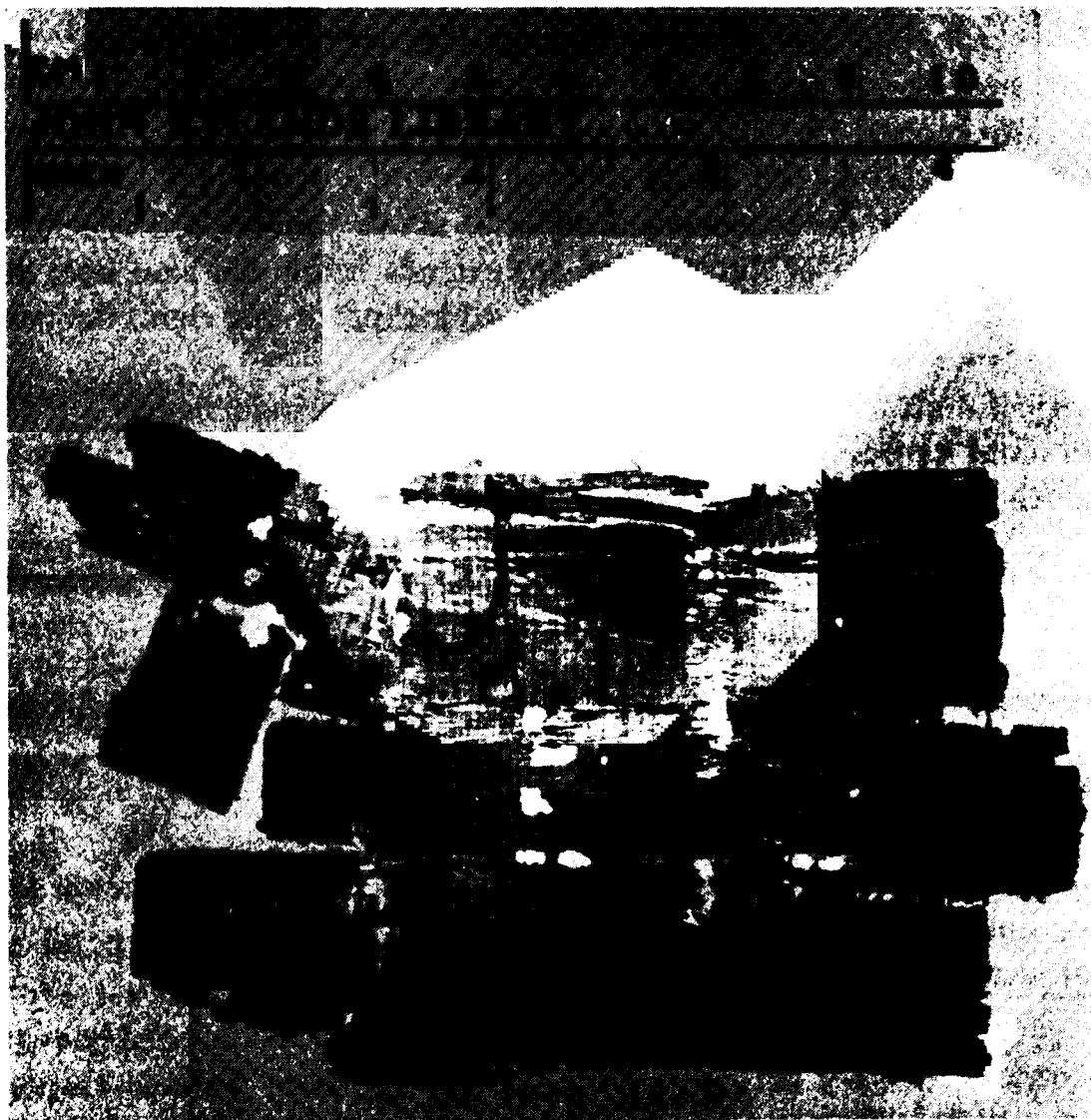
**Date:** 3rd/9th century.

**Palaeography:** recto – the vertical stroke of the attached *alif* extends below the base line; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the final *hāʾ* takes the shape of a triangle; the medial *yāʾ* rises above the teeth of the following *sīn*; undotted; verso – large thick script; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 taghfal ...*); verso – probably a Quranic text with part of the *basmalah*.

**Personal name:** recto – ʿĪsā.

### 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 ʿayn 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 *yāʾ* 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 (*faḍala wa-ḥalla* ), 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 × 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:** Jaʿr bn ...., ... bn Jaʿfar, Khārijah bn ʿAskar, ʿUthmān bn ʿAlī 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 × 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 × 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.

**Personal names:** ..n bn Kulayb, Najāḥ bn Mūsā, Maymūn al-Khabbāz. Yaʿqūb, Muḥammad.

## 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 *ṣād* 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-Ṣama* [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 *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises above all other letters; the normally vertical stroke of the *tāʾ* inclines to the right; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; some joined letters and dots; verso – the initial *bāʾ* of the *basmalah* rises above all other letters; the normally vertical stroke of the *tāʾ* 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-ya fī-hā wa-lam yuʾakhhir dhālika*); 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 – Ḥasan bn Aḥmad.

## 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-Muḥarram 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 *sīn* is written as a straight line on occasions with a diagonal stroke above; the normally vertical stroke of the *tāʾ* inclines to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 rubʿ faddān arḍ min al-khalīj al-gharbī* ) (*ḥisāb al-faddān bi-dīnārayn wa-nisf mithqāl* ) (*wa-akraytu-ka rubʿ faddān bi-nisf wa-thumn dīnār li-kharāj sanat thamān wa-ʿishrīn wa-miyatayn* ).

**Personal names:** Ziyād bn al-Khaṭṭāb, Yaʿqūb 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 × 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 *bāʾ* 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 × 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 (*ʿishrīn* ).

### 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 × 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 *bāʾ* 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 *ṭāʾ* inclines slightly to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* 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 *bāʾ* 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 *yāʾ* 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-mahḍar ʿalā* ...).

**Personal names:** recto – Ḥamad bn al-Khaṭṭāb, [Is]ḥāq bn ʿĀmi[r], Ḥabīb bn ʿAbdallāh, Khimārawayh bn Aḥmad; in the upside-down text – Dāwūd, Abū Ayyūb, ʿUmar bn Ayyūb.

## 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 *tāʾ* 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 *maṭbakh* and *dirham*.

**Personal name:** Aḥma[d] bn Muḥa[mma]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 *sīn/shīn* is written as a straight horizontal line in most cases with a diagonal stroke above; some joined letters; undotted; verso – the *sīn/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 *hāʾ* is a slightly wavy stroke along the base line; many joined words; undotted.

**Subject matter:** recto – a receipt for a *kharāj* payment (*daḥḥah*)



(*addā ... al-kharāj ‘an mulki-hi thulth dīnār wa-suds wa-thumn dīnār mithqāl bi-lā ṣarf ilā ... al-jahbadh* ); verso – private letter with good wishes.

**Personal names:** Kayl bn Buṣṭulu[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.

**Date:** 2[2]7–2[9]7 (= AD 841–909).

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

**Personal names:** al-Ḥārith bn al-..., Abū Ya‘qūb, Abū Dāwūd, Abū Muḥammad, Sawdah bn Faltah (seal).

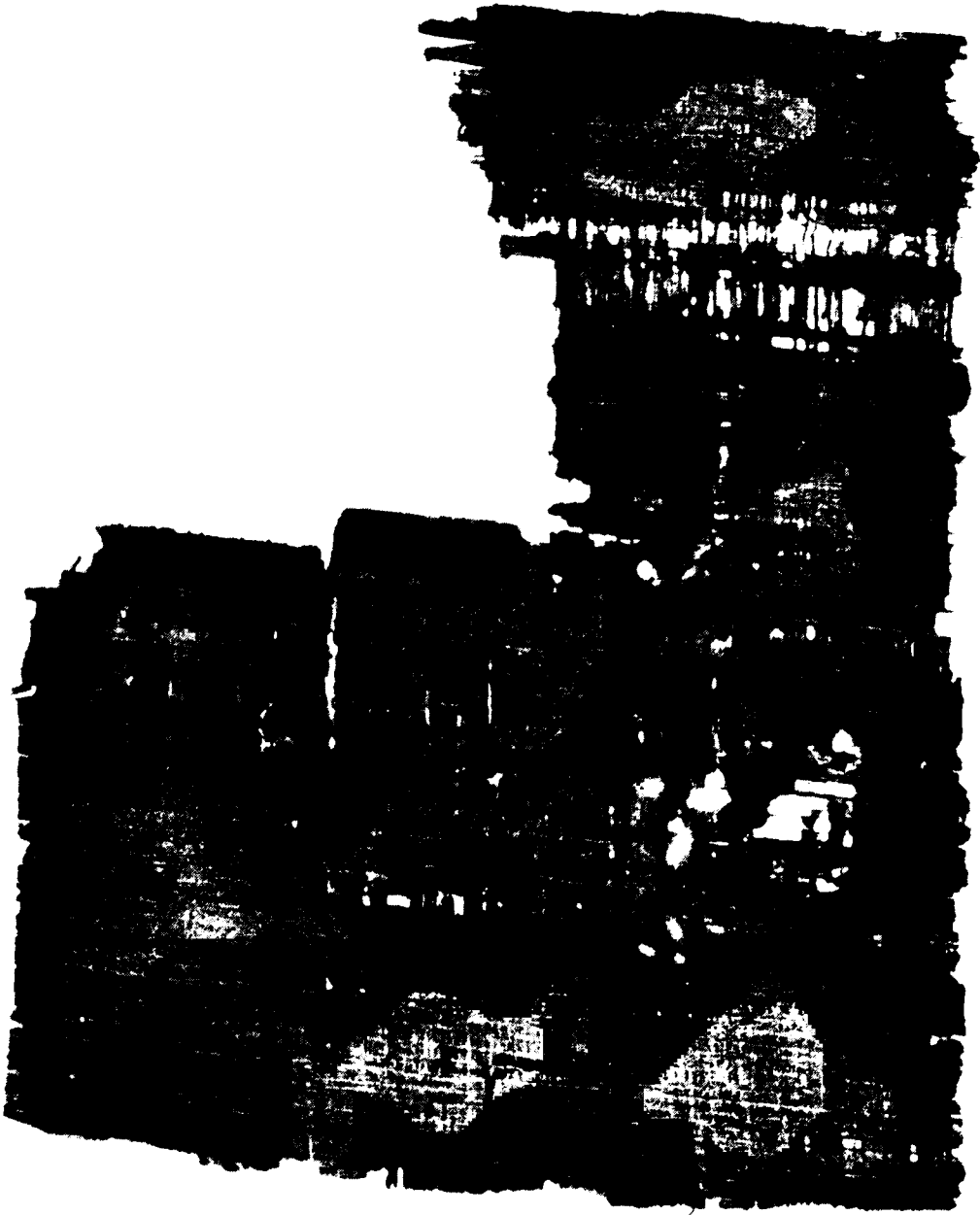
**ARABIC ADD. No. 353**

**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

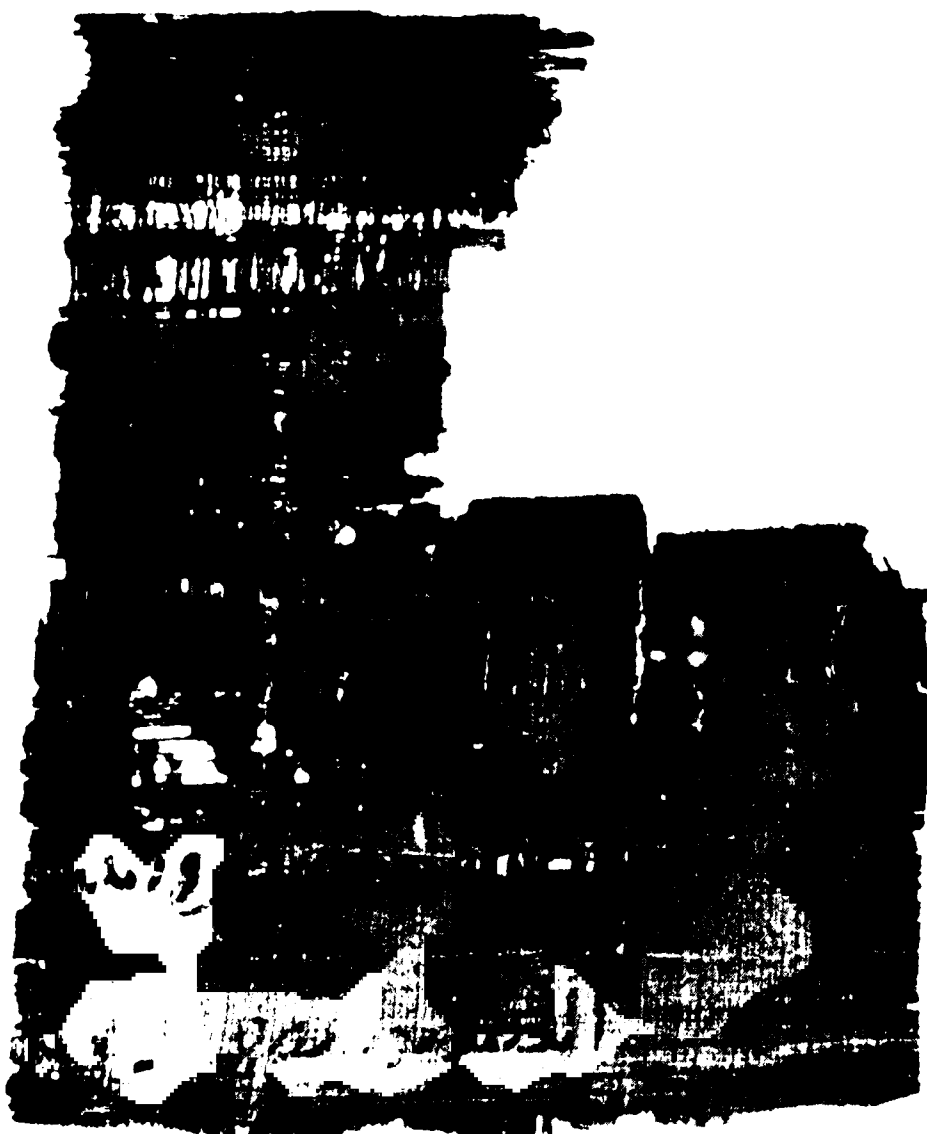


(recto)

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 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 *sīn* 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-zarʿ* ) (*mithqāl* ); verso – semi-official letter with good wishes addressed to two persons.

**Personal name:** recto – al-Ḥārith.



(verso)



## 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 × 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 *sīn* of the *basmalah*; the *sīn/shīn* is written as a straight horizontal line or with teeth; the normally vertical stroke of the *ṭāʾ* 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-naḥnu duʿafāʾ masākīn fa-naḥnu fī hādhā al-dayr*), making several complaints about the supporters of the sultan/local government officials (*ʿwān al-sultān*, later referred to as the *wālī* of the region) of beatings and fines (... *akhadhū-nā bi-ajmaʿi-nā wa-sāqū-nā ilā dār al-amīr fa-ḍaraba-nā ḍarban mubarriḥan wa-gharramū-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 × 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:** [Hā]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 × 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 *sīn/shīn* is written as a curved horizontal line with a diagonal stroke above; the base of the initial *ʿayn* extends to the right; the tail of the final *yāʾ* returns to the right; some dots.

**Subject matter:** a private letter with good wishes with a reminder to give someone a coat ([*lā*] *tuqaṣṣir ʿalā ṣarfī-hi al-jubbah*). There are also numerals mentioned (*ʿasharah, khamṣīn*).