Theme: Payment letters
Date: 2nd - 3rd century H. / 8th – 9th century A.D.
Material: Papyrus
Dimensions: 24 x 14 cm
ID Number: 4279
Inventory Number: 400 (recto)

This official contract was written on papyrus in black ink. The script style indicates a professional hand, written during the early 2nd century H. in Egypt. The letters are elongated, slightly slanting and dotted. The scribe must have used a thin reed pen with a narrow nib. This letter records the payment of taxes on grain crops to “Ahl al Haramayn”, the people of the two Holy Cities. The script style displayed the slanting tendency of vertical letters yet adds to it a curve; this is seen in the Lam, Alif, Kaf, giving the folio an elegant overall appearance.

عبارة عن خطاب رسمي مكتوب على بريدي حبر أسود. ويحيى
أسلوب التشكيل أن الكتاب مهترئ، ثم تسجيل هذه الوثيقة بمصر
في مطلع القرن الثاني هجريًا، وتنقسم الحروف بشكل مستطيل
ومنحرف قليلاً وعلى نفسه نقاط، والمؤكد أن الكتاب استخدم قلم
يوصري رفيع ومن الواضح أن النص كتب بعد متعثر، ويستدل
الخطاب دفع الضرائب الخاصة بمحاصيل الحبوب إلى "أهل
الحرمين". ويستمر نمط الخط في رسوم الحروف الأساسية بشكل
مائل، ولكن مضامينها تفتقر في نهاية حروف الالف والأنف
والكاف، الأمر الذي يمكن الخط النظرًا عامًا رشيقًا.
Theme: Personal letter

Date: 2nd - 3rd century H. / 8th – 9th century A.D.
Material: Papyrus
Dimensions: 18.5 x 21.5 cm
ID Number: 4386
Inventory Number: 530

Numerous personal letters written on papyri were excavated at Fustat, the main city, up to the 10th century A.D. This folio exhibits text on both sides, on verso it is a personal letter and on the recto it seems to be a method of preparing a spell or a recipe. The letter was written in a clean regular style while the formula on the back is written in an uneven script size and style.
This papyrus folio is a business transaction where a house was rented to Hambqa for one and a one sixth of a dinar per a year. The numbers are written in the Greek language, a tradition that is seen in other papyrus folios up to the 11th century A.D. This folio is dated to the year 209 Hijra/9th century A.D.
This personal letter, written on papyrus in black ink, was found at the city of Fustat. The script style shows the earliest rendering of the angular script (Kufic) into cursive. The letters still maintain its angularity yet the roundness of the circular letters are exaggerated. This folio must date to the early 2nd - 3rd century A.D. / 8th - 9th Century A.D.
The divorce certificate was inscribed on paper in black ink in 641 H./1244 A.D. Its formula was known to the scribe, where it starts with the Basmallah, then it indicates the name of the divorcer and the divorcee, the children's names who were the product of the marriage, the type of divorce (3 times) and the date. The scribe must have been an official who records such actions. This cursive script indicates a professional hand and the size of paper (width 17/18 cm) complies with the standard width of official documents.
A marriage certificate written on paper in black ink has become a recorded formula numerous found in this collection. The text records that it is "Aid Nihā," a marriage contract witnessed by several attendees and it specifies the dowry at 80 Dinars and division of Dinars as advance payment. In some cases, divorce certificates are written on the back of the marriage certificates, as above, has no writings on their back side.
Theme: Will document
Date: 12 Safar 577 H./1181 A.D.
Material: paper
Dimensions: 27 x 20 cm
ID Number: 3285
Inventory Number: 4001

This is a will signed and dated to 577 H./12th century A.D. and witnessed by many. The cursive script has developed in a fast, rounded and undotted squat form. This script was commonly used during the Mamluk dynasty for everyday interaction and has not surfaced on monuments or religious texts nor royal Qur’ans.
(P.Heid.inv.Arab.89)
This certificate was inscribed on papyrus in black ink in 430 H. during the Fatimid dynasty. The cursive script was written in haste, conjugating all letters in an undecipherable manner. This script style was popular during this period for unofficial documents and personal records.

(PSR.Heid.inv.Arab. 1316)
Theme: Account list

Date: 2nd - 3rd century H. / 8th - 9th century A.D.
Material: Papyrus
Dimensions: 27 x 14 cm.
ID Number: 4217
Inventory Number: 231

This folio is an account list inscribed on papyrus in 24 lines. The word "expenses" keeps on appearing throughout the text. Account lists include names, numbers and in many cases signatures. They reflect the social-economic situation in the society.
(P.Manch.Arab- old Number.34-AB)
Theme: Account list

Date: 2nd - 3rd century H. / 8th - 9th century A.D.
Material: Textile
Dimensions: 13 x 7.5 cm
ID Number: 4217
Inventory Number: 286

Among the few supports found at the collection are canvases. The canvas base, covered by a thin layer of gypsum like media, allowed the calligrapher to inscribe on it several lines in black ink. The account list reveals several numbers such as 20, 23 and 25. The use of canvas may have been a solution to jot down few lines on the rigid container's surface indicating weights and types of product before shipping and selling them in markets.
This is a letter recording the list of items that arrived for ‘Adan, Yemen. The folio is written in black ink on papyrus, in a professional hand. The text records items and quantities of goods and reveals a long history of trade between Egypt and Yemen.

(PSR.Heid.inv.Arab.82)
This papyrus folio records poetic verses written by Abi Nawas. Between the verses is a large circle and the text is written with a thick reed pen in black ink. The exaggeration of the loops and the slanting of the vertical letters indicate an early date.

This paper folio was found at Al Ashmunayn City. It dates to 307 H./919 A.D. a period where Egypt was attacked by the Fatimid forces of Kairawan. The folio is written in a fast hand.
This papyrus folio is a love letter inscribed in cursive script in six lines. It starts with the Basmallah written in black ink in a variant of the naskh script popular in non-secular texts inscribed in Egypt during the 3rd century Hijra/10th century A.D. The letter records several phrases such as: "I am your first lover; I decapitate and die ..."

Nabia Abbott, Studies in Arabic papyri.chicago .1955