

hired a private courier (*najjāb*) to Alexandria by camel. In his letter, Maḥrūz tells Abū Zikrī to disregard costs and extricate his wares without delay. The warning is repeated in a postscript written after Musallam (see the previous document) informed the writer that the courier would not set out that night.

The Head of the Yeshiva's warning is not related to Abū Zikrī's urgent request to him in II, 58, since that letter was written several years after II, 59. No. II, 59 is dated Sunday, 15 Jumādā. Since Maḥrūz urges Abū Zikrī to return to Fustat to be with his family before the approaching holiday, the date can be fixed with a fair degree of certainty as March 2, 1135, when 15 Jumādā I came four weeks before Passover. (I do not know why Goitein assumed the letter had been written before 1129.) As already noted, Maḥrūz was not accustomed to writing, and others penned for him most of his letters, which have been preserved, except for this one and V, 20. Because of the urgency of this letter, he evidently wrote it himself. His untrained hand, poor style and substandard language, replete with vulgar forms and other orthographic irregularities, prove the wisdom of his normal practice.}

II, 60 *Bill of Sale for Purchase of House by Maḥrūz*

Fustat, 1131/2

TS NS 184, fs. 52, 55 and 56

Maḥrūz acquires (part of) a house in Fustat.

{Maḥrūz purchased the property from Abu 'l-Faraj Yeshū'ā ha-Levi b. Abraham, who was acting on behalf of his mother Lūlu'a. This is the second half of a draft of the bill of sale, written in the court notebook in the hand of the court scribe, Ḥalfon ha-Levi b. Manasseh. The previous page, containing the first half of the deed, has not been identified yet. The three fragments are contiguous. Jacob, Maḥrūz's late father, is referred to as the distinguished *sar*, notable, probably indicating some governmental connection which he had, and *ḥāsīd*, pietist. The previous documents have depicted Maḥrūz's business activities in Fustat, where for a certain period his family lived together with that of his brother-in-law Abū Zikrī Kohen. Maḥrūz presumably purchased the house as a domicile rather than for investment purposes only.}