

III, 40a *List of Customs Paid in 'Aydhāb by Abraham Ben Yijū*

{Aydhāb, probably 1152}

TS 12.458

Notes on customs dues and transport fees on five Oriental products carried by Ben Yijū (from Aden) to 'Aydhāb (again spelled 'Adhāb)—written on the upper portion of the page, the continuation of which is in III, 40b.

{Neither Ben Yijū's name nor any other name appears on the manuscript, and Goitein identified him as the writer from his handwriting.

Translation

(1) *In Your Name, O Merciful.*

(2) Customs for *qāṭir*,¹ three and a sixth and a half of a *qirāt*,² half for it; galangal,³ one and a third and a quarter; (3) frankincense,⁴ five and a half; aloe vera,⁵ seven and two thirds and a *qirāt*, half for it, its third we (4) still owe; five (pieces of) China, a dinar. Transport fees for our portion of the aloe vera and customs for it on the way //[[five (?) and a half and a quarter]] four and a sixth//; transport fees for the frankincense (5) and the *qāṭir* //[[...and a fourth]] a third and a fourth//; customs on the frankincense in 'Aydhāb ('Adhāb'),⁶ a third; the *qāṭir*, 23 *manns*⁷...}

¹ {Dozy, *Supplément*, 2:365b, a pharmaceutical term: the liquid, which drips drop by drop from a still. Hava, *Dictionary*, 614: dripping, gum; *al-qāṭir al-makiyyu*, dragon's blood. Gil, *Ishmael*, 3:904, line 17: shavings of aloes wood (for incense).

² A *qirāt* is one twenty-fourth of a dinar.

³ See II, 65, margin, line 11.

⁴ Arabic *lubān*, imported from Somalia and South Arabia. See Dietrich, "*Lubān*"; Lev & Amar, *Medicinal Substances*, 134.

⁵ Arabic *ṣabir*. See Maimonides-Meyerhof, no. 318; Dols, *ibid.*, 153; Lev & Amar, *Medicinal Substances*, 74.

⁶ For the spelling, see III, 39, n. 1.

⁷ Or: 23 'from' (*min*).}

III, 40b *Instructions for Manumission of a Slave Girl Written by Abraham Ben Yijū*

{Egypt, after 1152}

TS 12.458

Detailed instructions in Ben Yijū's hand how to make out a bill giving freedom to a slave girl. Cf. III, 17. Written on the lower portion of the page, below III, 40a. Probably written for the benefit of a fellow traveler. (Further evidence that Ben Yijū was a man of learning who dealt with practical matters of Jewish law.)

{Since the formula describes the location 'on the Nile,' Ben Yijū presumably wrote this after his arrival in Egypt.}