

Short Letter by Joseph b. Abraham to Ben Yijū.Aden - India, approx. 1135 - 1138.

University Library Cambridge T. - S. 10 J 9, fol. 24.

The upper lost part of the letter was carefully separated by the receiver along a folding. The rest preserved is 22 cm high and 20 cm broad. Brown paper, darkened by stains. On the backside, the sender had written only the address. The address in Arabic letters is preserved. On the part lost, there was certainly written the address in Hebrew characters, for Joseph b. Abraham used to write it either in Hebrew alone, as in Nos. 51 and 54, or in the two scripts, as in Nos. 49 and 227. In addition, an address has to appear, of course, on the top of the backside, so that it can be read, when the letter is folded, for in those times no envelopes were used. Here, however, as said, the top is lost.

On the free space on the backside, Ben Yijū wrote drafts for answers on two legal questions addressed to him. On the margin of the recto, he wrote two lines concerning a third legal problem. See No. 224, printed as 72x^{-c} after 72x^{-b}.

The letter obviously was sent a year after No. 219 (following here, as 55x) and one before No. 53, see the Introduction to No. 51, p. 51/4, and here the note to l. 6, approximately between 1135 and 1138. Despite its shortness, it contains a number of new ~~and~~ interesting details, see the Commentary.

C o n t e n t s

Beginning lost.

A. Acknowledgement of various smaller consignments and one of cardamom. (ll. 1-5)