

Letter by Joseph Kōhēn b. Mešullām, Aden, to Ben Yijū, staying in the
inland of Yemān^e

1150/1

Bodleian Library Oxford, Ms. Hebr. d66 (Catalogue No. 2878), fol. 61

24 x 10 cm

Thin, smooth, light-brown paper. A Yemenite hand, similar in character to No. 62 recto. Some letters, in particular b, d, h, k, r, s, have crownlets (called "tāg" in Hebr.) on their left upper end, cf. above No. 51 and Nos. 23-30, 32-34, all Yemenite hands. These crownlets are sometimes detached and may then wrongly be taken for a y. This writer quite exceptionally sometimes puts a diacritical dot on the letters t, ll. 15 and 23; d, ll. 19 and 21; and even h, l. 19 and margin, l. 2.

The letter was written in Aden, as the details about the arrival of the ships and the activities of Maqmūn, the representative of the merchants in that city, prove, cf. ll. 18-22. It is addressed to inner Yemen, for the writer speaks about B.Y.'s "coming down" to Aden or to another town on the coast. Likewise, No. 72 was sent to B.Y. while he sojourned in the inland of Yemen. From No. 240 (72x-a), we learn that B.Y., while staying in Aden - or having returned to it, considered to leave that town for the Highland of Yemen. As in No. 72, l. 7, B.Y. is styled "Head of the Congregation," it is highly probable that a small group of Tunisian merchants, seeing that owing to the Norman occupation, their return to their homeland was jeop-