

Abstract

Cultural and intellectual documentary evidence of Islamic Edfu (1st - 5th A.H/7th - 11th A.D)

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The discovered corpus of Arabic papyri of Edfu contains a group of literary papyri and ostraca related to the holy Qur'an, tradition *ḥadīth*, poetry *šī'r* and finally schooling and training materials. The only well-known and published of them is the famous oldest *ḥadīth* papyrus codex of 'Abd Allah Ibn Wahb (d. 197/813), the most prominent Egyptian *Mālikī* jurist of the 2nd/8th century. Despite of the small number of these papyri in comparison with the remainder of its corpus, they evidently have important significance, especially when they represent lost literary works that have been cited by the biographical dictionaries *kutub at-tarajim* and transmitters' prosopography books *kutub 'ilm ar-rijāl*. These literary documents can tell us just as much about early Islamic edfū as other studied documentary papyri. Studying the literary output of the Islamic society of Edfu we have encountered hitherto mostly in letters, legal deeds and tax papyri will add a new fact to our perception of its intellectual, and ideological backgrounds and of the personalities and concepts that shaped them both.