

bowls.⁴² two *qaṣ'a*-bowls, also a large (26) *qaṣ'a*-bowl, a new *qaṣ'a*-bowl and two old *qaṣ'a*-bowls. (27) And of the *fātiyas*: four *fātiyas* of clothing. (28) Two earthenware vessels of melted butter.⁴³ Four legs for a bedstead.⁴⁴ Two old (29) *qaṣ'a*-bowls, four new *qaṣ'a*-bowls, three bundles⁴⁵ of pots.⁴⁶ (30) An unfinished door of a cabin.⁴⁷ (31) [top] With the *nākhudā* Abu 'l-Sh[...] a *maḥbal*,⁴⁸ (32) a *mawjah*⁴⁹ and four *qaṣ'a*-bowls. (33) [upside down][...] boards (of teak wood)⁵⁰ [for] the cabin, and three boards for bedsteads,⁵¹ (34) four rods and a stool⁵² board, (35) and a [...] in which are small items. (36) [recto top] Of the copper (*ṣufī*): a table jug, a frying pan, a basin and ewer, (37) three *tālīm*s;⁵³ twenty carpets;⁵⁴ an iron lamp, (38) [recto margin] two strips of leather,⁵⁵ [...] *farāsila* [...], (39) a steel comb (?)⁵⁶ for the coconuts, seven [...], a *mizār*⁵⁷ [...] six [...] with the *nākhudā* Abu 'l-Faraj.⁵⁸

⁴² About these bowls, see 326, n. 33.

⁴³ On the consumption of *samn* (ghee), see 650, n. 10.

⁴⁴ For the bedstead, *sarīr* (also below, line 33), see Goitein, *Med. Soc.*, 4:113 (where it is noted that it went out of fashion during the eleventh century), 114, 379, nn. 36, 37. *Sarīr* can also be a sofa or elevated seat. For its different meanings and a detailed description, see Sadan, *Mobilier*, 32–51 (*arjul*, 'legs,' ib., 75).

⁴⁵ Arabic *barākhīs*, sg. *barkhas*. See Piamenta, *Dictionary*, 25.

⁴⁶ Arabic *buram*, sg. *burma*. See above, line 18; II, 24v, line 17; III, 20, line 6. Wehr, *Dictionary*, 55: 'earthenware pot'; Piamenta, *Dictionary*, 28: 'hanging lamp.'

⁴⁷ Arabic *bilij*. Cf. below, line 33 and 577, n. 28.

⁴⁸ Meaning unknown.

⁴⁹ Arabic *mujuh*. Perhaps the same as *mōja* in III, 12, line 39, where it is also coupled with *qaṣ'a*-bowls (as in the continuation here); see 619, n. 31.

⁵⁰ See 347, n. 69.

⁵¹ Arabic *ṣirwar*, sg. *sarīr*. See Piamenta, *Dictionary*, 219, and above, line 28.

⁵² For the *kursī*, see note to III, 4, line 3.

⁵³ The singular *t'lm*, whose meaning is unknown, appears in III, 3, line 12.

⁵⁴ Arabic *busuṭ*.

⁵⁵ Arabic *ṣiratayn*.

⁵⁶ Arabic *miḥakk/mahakk*. Perhaps translate 'shining brush'; see Dozy, *Supplément*, 1:309a; Blau, *Dictionary*, 138 (*miḥakka*).

⁵⁷ See above, line 7.

⁵⁸ A *mizār* is a 'wrap'; see Diem, *Dictionary*, 3. But according to Piamenta, *Dictionary*, 7, it is a "small sharp stone placed behind facing stones to keep the latter in position and straight," which may fit the context here.

III, 25 *Account written by Abraham Ben Yijū: Compensation to Khalaf b. Isaac and Joseph b. Abraham*

Yemen, 1149 or later {1149–52}

TS 8.19

The account was written by Ben Yijū on III, 14v. For a description of the manuscript, see the introduction to III, 12–14. Lines 1–12 are written in large bold letters, with much space between the lines. The postscript in lines 13–17 is much more compressed and irregular.

The background might be reconstructed as follows: Although III, 14 was sent from Aden to India, there can be no doubt that this account, written on the verso of that letter, was made in Yemen, almost certainly in Zabīd, whose seaport was Ghulayfiqa. A ship carrying a cargo of pepper and cardamom for the two Adenese merchants Khalaf b. Isaac and Joseph b. Abraham, for which Ben Yijū was responsible, as well as a load of iron for the latter, foundered off Ghulayfiqa. The pepper and cardamom were lost, the iron, or at least the part specified here, was salvaged. The Adenese merchants had to be compensated. This was done not with money, but in kind, probably because merchandise delivered promised additional profit.

Evidently, the first four *bahārs* had been salvaged and sent on to Aden, while an additional one, later salvaged, remained in Ghulayfiqa, when Ben Yijū made the account.

As the text is somewhat involved, a table showing the account in full is given first.

Note: one *bahār* (abridged *b.*) = 300 *ratl* (pound abr. *r.*), *mithqāl*, abr. *m.*

Due Khalaf, for pepper	1 <i>b.</i>	14 <i>r.</i> of iron
For cardamom 2 <i>m.</i> worth		120 <i>r.</i>
Khalaf, total	1 <i>b.</i>	134 <i>r.</i>
Due Joseph, for pepper	1 <i>b.</i>	75 <i>r.</i>
For cardamom 4 <i>m.</i> worth		240 <i>r.</i>
Joseph, total	2 <i>b.</i>	15 <i>r.</i>
Total, Khalaf and Joseph	3 <i>b.</i>	149 <i>r.</i> of iron,
worth 17½ <i>m.</i>		
Balance for Ben Yijū	1 <i>b.</i>	151 <i>r.</i>
Total	5 <i>b.</i>	

This was the account, not what actually had been sent to Aden, for only four, not five *bahārs* had been available. Thus, each of the three merchants got one-fifth less the sums calculated above. As stated in the postscript, the fifth due them from the *bahār* of iron remaining in Ghulayfiqa amounted to the following sums:

Khalaf	87 r.
Isaac	123 r.
Ben Yijū	90 r.
Total	300 r. = 1 b.

From lines 6 and 11, it is evident that a *bahār* iron was worth five *mithqāls*. The account is made not in local Maliki dinars, but in Egyptian *mithqāls*, probably because the merchandise was destined for Egypt.

No quantities of the lost goods are given; the value is indicated only for the cardamom, not for the pepper. However, as the price of the iron given in compensation for the lost goods is known, it is simple to find the value of the pepper: for Khalaf, five and a quarter *mithqāls* and for Joseph, six and a quarter *mithqāls*. Most probably, this was not the total value of the goods sent, but only the portion that Ben Yiju, according to the agreement, had to refund.

{Since III, 14 was written almost certainly in 1146, Ben Yijū evidently wrote III, 25 on the verso of that letter, after he had left India for good and arrived in Yemen in 1149.}

Translation

(1) For the value of the pepper, which had been in Ghulayfiqa, (2) for Sheikh Khalaf b. Isaac from the four *bahārs* of Kūfi iron¹ which had been (3) in the new ship of Ibn al-Muqaddam that had perished²—one *bahār* // Kūfi // iron (4) and 14 pounds For the value of the pepper which had been in Ghulayfiqa, for Sheikh Joseph (5) b. Ibrāhīm: one and a quarter *bahārs* // Kūfi iron // (which had been) in Ibn al-Muqaddam's³

¹ {Kūfi iron is also mentioned in III, 9, line 12. For the types of iron in the India trade, see 315, n. 17.}

² The old ship of the same man also foundered; see III, 9, line 13. {For (Ibn) al-Muqaddam and his ships, see page 147.}

³ The construct is expressed by *matā'*; see 662, n. 13.

new ship (6) that had perished. For him also, for four *mithqāls*, the value of the cardamom, 240 (7) pounds. Total: two *bahārs* and 15 pounds. (8) For Sheikh Khalaf, also for two *mithqāls*, the value of the cardamom, 120 pounds of the (9) Kūfi iron. Total for him: one *bahār* and 134 pounds.

(10) This makes the total of that iron for both: three and a half *bahārs* (11) less one pound, valued at 17½ *mithqāls*. For me, exclusively mine:⁴ (12) one and a half *bahārs* and one pound. There remains delayed one *bahār*, to be distributed between all of us.

(13) Sent: 1,200 pounds (of iron). Delayed: 300 pounds (15) due Sheikh Joseph from the delayed // *bahār* of // iron: 123 pounds, (15) and due Sheikh Khalaf 87 pounds; total: 210 pounds, and for me exclusively 90 (16) pounds. Total: 300 pounds.

⁴ Arabic *wa-lī anā li-khāṣṣatī*, with triple emphasis. For *khāṣṣa*, see 285, n. 9.