

7/23/58 a better photo in Vienna File

Letter ^{from} of the Jewish Community of Gaza
to that of ~~Old Cairo~~ ^{Fustat} regarding the Estate of
a man who had died in ^{the} Fayyum ^{district}, Egypt
(ca. 1020)

PER H 94 + ed Asaf, Texts, pp. 31-37.

The letter is signed by 15 persons, not all of
whom were citizens of Gaza, as is expressly
stated. Among the signatories was ~~the~~ ^a most
prominent ^{Jewish} notable from ~~the~~ ^{the} community of
Fustat. ³ The head of the Gaza community,
who, as was customary, signed last, was Ephraim
somewhat distanced from the others, was Ephraim
calls himself "descendant of the cub of the Lion
of Judah," i.e. he was a ~~member~~ ^{descendant} of the ~~house~~ ^{house} of
the former Patriarch ~~that~~ ^{who} claimed to belong
to the house of King David. Known from
his ring on his only son who died ca.
1020. ³

Written around 1020, when, because of
the quick succession of ailing elderly from
the central authority was weakened.

Ephraim knew of course Jewish law very
well, but (a) discrepancy of Hal. law.
Acc. to Isl. law, the sisters could

have ~~examined~~ interested each one $\frac{1}{4}$ in the But have
 $\frac{1}{2}$. If the one nephew would have applied
 the ^{authorities} would have served $\frac{5}{12}$ as absent
 property. Therefore Ephraim wanted to have
 some settlement.

Acc. to J. law when a father has ~~married~~
 married his daughter with an appropriate
 dowry, they have no claim on his estate
 let alone that of a brother. Is P. law
 different.

(b) Most likely the very facts were not known ^{in Egypt}
 exactly. Therefore expounded her in
 detail.

Still the strong advocations indicate
 that in Palest strike to J. law than in
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