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4. TAKING OVER FROM A BROKE TAX F~~OR~~MER IN AL-MAHALLA
(July - August, 1147)

TS 13 J 3, f. 6v.

The document does not specify the tax forming its subject but there is little doubt that it was the tax on the manufacture and dyeing of silk fabrics and their sale. In his list of Fatimid impositions, (temporarily) abrogated by Saladin, Maqrizi, I, p. 105, l. 5, notes that rusum al-sabgh wal-harir "the dues for dyeing and silk" in Fustat amounted to 334 dinars - almost exactly the sum we find here noted for al-Mahalla (335 dinars). From a query submitted to Moses Maimonides, it is evident that the Jewish silk workers of al-Mahalla were at least as strong as those of Fustat, see Med. Soc., I, pp. 88, 116.

← This deposition was made before us, we, the undersigned witnesses. Thus it was:

There appeared before us the elder Abi¹ 'l-Ridā,
h.g.h. M.R. Jacob, the honored elder, the noble and generous²
son of h.g.h. M.R. Joseph, the elder, ^(may he rest in) E(den)
M. E. and said to us:

"I had intended to take over the tax forming of great al-Mahalla, which is in the hand of the elder Abi 'l-Faraj,
M. Yeshūa, son of R. Abraham, ^(may he rest in) E(den)
M. B. and of his son Abi 'l-Khayr.

(his) h(onor), g(reatness, and) h(oliness), (our) m(aster and) teach