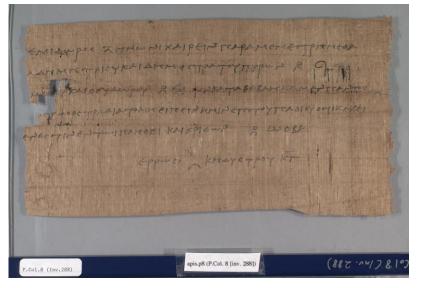
## An Analysis of Transportation Burden Sharing in Roman Egypt as Evidenced through Papyri

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## Background

- Large amounts of transportation occurring over land and water in a highly contractual society
- Animal maintenance is costly, but used for both transportation and farm labor

Contracts were used to reduce an individual's transportation burden

- Explicit cost sharing of animals and animal infrastructure, splitting of farm work and revenues, and usage of 3<sup>rd</sup> party transporters
  - "[...] I have [...] covenanted with you to share with you in the arbour of the camel-shed, [...] and to pay you yearly on account of rent one thousand myriads of silver drachmae, total 1000 myriads of silver [...]" P. Oxy X 1280 (fourth century CE, Oxyrhynchos)

Relationships and trust played into transportation burden and risk

- Often difficult to distinguish between personal and professional relationships because high level of trust and personal connection in relationships
  - "Herennius to Satornilus his dearest, greetings. [...] Concerning the cats, Ourses is taking care of them in accordance with what I also wrote to you on another occasion. And now look again, what do you think about the roses for 200 dr. and 180 dr., inquiring also about the transport costs? If [your] she-donkey has got better, come by night, so that you may go down to get the transport money." O. Ber II 195 (50-75 CE, Berenike)

Leases explicitly assigned responsibility of transportation

- Allowed either the landlord or tenant to pass transportation responsibility to other party
  - "[...] I have rented the five arouras of crown land for only the twelfth year, the rent for the total being thirty-seven and a half artabas, the transport costs being the responsibility of me." SB. XIV 12192 (92 or 108 CE, Tebtynis Arsinoites)
- Transportation burden apparently linked with farm labor burden