

Hemelrijk, E.A. (2004) "City patronesses in the Roman Empire", *Historia* 53.2, 209-45.

This article discusses patronesses of cities in the second and third centuries CE against the background of male municipal patronage in the western part of the Roman Empire. The main questions are: Why did cities choose a woman to be a city patron and why would she consent? How did the public honour bestowed on her fit in with the domesticity and the reticent life expected from women according to the ancient literary sources? And, thirdly, did her co-optation as a patroness of the city entail public duties and responsibilities, or was it merely an honorific title given to a woman because of her family, rank or wealth?