

Hemelrijk, E.A. (2005) "Octavian and the introduction of public statues for women in Rome", *Athenaeum* 93.1, 309-17.

Starting from Octavian's famous grant of portrait statues to Octavia and Livia in 35 BC this article examines whether earlier honorific statues for women in Rome, known from the literary sources, may be regarded as models. It is argued that these earlier statues - if they existed at all - were probably statues of goddesses or perhaps even young men, re-used by Augustus to serve as (fictitious) 'precedents' for his innovatory grant of public statues to his wife and sister. Octavian's grant had far-reaching consequences: it opened the way for the erection of public statues in Rome and the Latin West for women of the Roman elite who, up to that time, received this honour only in the Greek East.