

Hemelrijk, E.A. (2014) “Roman citizenship and the integration of women in the local towns of the Latin West”, in G. de Kleijn, G. and S. Benoist (eds), *Integration in Rome and in the Roman World, Proceedings of the Tenth Workshop of the International Network Impact of Empire (Lille, June 23-25, 2011)*, Brill, Leiden, Boston (Impact of Empire vol. 17), 147-60.

From the early Principate onwards wealthy women in the cities of the Mediterranean regions appeared in novel public roles. As priestesses, benefactresses and patronesses and ‘mothers’ of cities and *collegia* they were integrated in civic life. Though mostly of indigenous descent, their honorific statues portray them as Roman, in a way that is clearly distinct from the portrayal of the typical ‘barbarian’ woman. On the basis of roughly 1,400 inscriptions showing women in civic roles in Italy and the Latin West, this paper examines the different ways in which women were integrated in civic life in connection with (the spread of) Roman citizenship and its consequences for women. It will be argued that, instead of “undermining the position of women” (Cherry (1998) 157), ‘Romanization’ and the spread of Roman citizenship furthered the integration of at least the wealthy among them.