

Šterbenc Erker, D. (2011) “Gender and Roman funeral ritual”, in J. Huskinson and V. M. Hope, M. (eds.), *Memory and Mourning in Ancient Rome*. Oxford, Oakville, 40-60.

This article examines funeral practices in ancient Rome and their symbolic meanings with a special focus on the division of ritual control between men and women. Some practices in Roman funerary ritual were considered men's, others women's work. Ancient authors and modern scholars state that lamentation and mourning, two ways of keeping alive the memory of the deceased, were women's tasks, but this paper draws attention to transgressions of gender roles in a funerary context. Men mourned persons of higher social standing than their own in a way similar to women mourning their dead relatives. The author also argues that the ascription of femininity to the traditional rites of mourning reveals a normative construction of the gendered nature of funeral tasks bound to an upper-class morality.