

Šterbenc Erker, D. (2013) “Matronage in der augusteischen Aitiologie: Handlungsstrategien mythischer Herrscherfrauen”, in C. Kunst (ed), *Matronage. Handlungsstrategien und soziale Netzwerke antiker Herrscherfrauen*, Rahden, 79-87.

In a departure from research that discusses literary texts on female religious rituals as purely historical documents, this paper demonstrates that representations of activities of women such as supplications to their male relatives or advising a ruler are means of staging the normative gender order. Augustan authors and later texts often depict both mythical and historical female sovereigns as supplicants or advisers to their male relatives. This kind of literary presentation limits the influence of these women within their *domus* and has possibly led Classicists to underrate the scope of political influence that powerful women such as Hellenistic queens, Roman senatorial wives and empresses exercised. The paper argues that Augustan authors discuss the emergence of new power and gender constructs under Augustus in their aetiologies about wives of mythical kings of Rome like Hersilia (spouse of Romulus) and Egeria (Numa's wife).