

**Girotti, B. (2019) “Leggere e tradurre il greco e l’ebraico: le donne delle élites e la cultura nella tarda antichità”, in *Dialoghi con Bisanzio. Spazi di discussione, percorsi di ricerca. Atti dell’VIII Congresso dell’Associazione Italiana di Studi Bizantini (Ravenna, 22-25 settembre 2015)*, Fondazione CISAM, Spoleto, 491-508.**

From this overview, relating to female characters, and not only, of high social extraction, it is evident how culture, bilingualism, and knowledge of languages such as Greek or Hebrew, in the IV and fifth century, were a characteristic trait of a select few, not without ambiguity. As regards Christian sources, the expressive form preaching was obviously by far prevalent in Christianity: soon the need to put at the center of the preaching also the interpretation of biblical texts. Christianity it was also spreading in areas of Hellenistic culture, and therefore it was necessary to make the text readable and intelligible sacred to the new followers, and also to defend the new religion from hostility of pagan culture and political power. Jerome in particular, he concentrated his efforts on an intense dialectical activity. But the purpose, true, was apologetic; maybe he could have some significant effect on cultural mediation.