

Girotti, B. (2020) *Lenitas feminea*, *Historikà*, X, 173 – 85.

The reading of a passage from Ammianus (14.1.18) in which the example of Cecilia Paolina is recalled with regard to the medallion of Constantine, wife of Gallus, offers some reflections on the expression *lenitas feminea*. The study proceeds from a dual perspective, i.e. the proposed analysis is adapted to a historical commentary that is not specifically lexical but more historiographically oriented. In the specific case of Constantina, *lenitas* is characterised as a political virtue. It is therefore assumed that this particular virtue, in its feminine declination, was applied to Constantina, perhaps indicating that she played a decisive role at court. As far as the analysis of the meaning of *lenitas* and *femineus* is concerned, some comments will be proposed on the basis of comparisons of passages by Christian and pagan authors, contemporary to Ammianus or slightly following him.