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This journal article offers a gender perspective on the Roman male ancestor mask by illuminating how entangled these masks were in elite women’s lives in the Republic and Empire—e.g., in their daily lives, homes, marriages, funerals, and roles as ancestors. It argues that these masks and accompanying inscriptions could function as an inheritance and dowry for an elite woman, and as a deposit of symbolic capital, embodying her social position and status. Ancestor masks were an important mechanism for transferring elite female social position and status between families (through marriage), and an elite woman’s own *commendatio maiorum*.