

Šterbenc Erker, D. (2013) *Religiöse Rollen römischer Frauen in "griechischen" Ritualen*, Stuttgart.

Darja Šterbenc Erker analyses religious roles of women in so-called Greek rituals as well as norms and ascriptions of femininity and masculinity in "foreign" rituals at Rome. The reception of Greek women's rituals in Rome was creative: they were adapted to the Roman cultural and societal setting. In the first part of the book, methodology (discourse analysis, analysis of literary stereotypes about women and secret rituals) is discussed as well as the juridical status of women at Rome. The second part of the book is consecrated to the cult of the goddess Ceres, mainly to the female festivals *sacrum anniversarium Cereris* and *ieiunium Cereris*, and to the relationship between exegesis and rituals, and the appropriation of Ceres by the imperial family. In the third part, the author provides a more positive evaluation of women's roles in expiations and supplications, and she demonstrates the social dimensions of ascriptions of magic, superstition and religious folly. Another chapter dedicated to the Bacchanalia scandal of 186 BCE analyses stereotypes about this allegedly womanish and "Greek" cult of the god Bacchus and traces the overlapping of Livy's (39.8.3-39) presentation of Bacchic rituals with Augustan concerns. In the chapter about the early imperial cult of the goddess Cybele, "foreign" and effeminate rituals of the Galli are explored. Also, Šterbenc Erker offers a refinement of Cumont's thesis that the worship of Cybele cult at Rome was double cult. The book concludes with a consideration of gender and religion as well as transgressions of religious gender norms.