

**E.L. Will Review of  
Women's Life in Greece and Rome**  
Edited by Mary R. Lefhowitz and Maureen B. Fant

xvi , 294 pages. The Johns Hopkins University Press  
Baltimore, MD 1982 \$30.00 cloth, \$8.95 paper

We tend to see the past in terms of the present, and our popular mythology about women in antiquity reflects our own personal experiences. But instead of holding the mirror of the present to the past, it is instructive to reverse the process and look into the past for what it can tell us about ourselves today.

This fine book is a useful starting point, and it will appeal to readers of both sexes and a wide variety of backgrounds. A revision and enlargement of *Women in Greece and Rome*, published in 1977 by the same authors, it is a source book, in clear and lively translation, of ancient written comments by and about Greek and Roman women, their family relationships, their social lives, occupations and accomplishments, and the parts they played in religion, medicine and law.

Lefhowitz and Fant burden us with a minimum of editorializing – we are allowed to draw our own conclusions. It will be easier to do so in the future, when the archaeological evidence bearing on women's lives will, one hopes, be more accessible and will allow us to judge the validity of our written sources. Meanwhile, this stimulating book gives us a well-organized and intelligently selected group of readings to ponder.

**Elizabeth Lyding Will**, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.*

\*This is book review was originally published in *Archaeology Magazine*. It is made available on the E.L. Will memorial website with the permission of *Archaeology Magazine*. Full citation for the original review is as follows.

Will, E.L. 1983. Review of *Women's Life in Greece and Rome*, by M.R. Lefkowitz and M.B Fant. *Archaeology* 36:4, 75.