

## New Men, New Mothers, New Daughters: Terentia and Tullia in the Late Roman Republic

Terentia and Tullia, wife and daughter of Marcus Tullius Cicero, have long been overshadowed by the consular, jurist, and philosopher. Recent work devoted to Cicero's family, in particular Susan Treggiari's recent book, *Terentia, Tullia, and Publilia* (2007), has studied the women of Cicero's family, and provided much additional information and insights into their lives and activities. This paper builds on this previous research to examine the relationship between Terentia and Tullia and situate it in the context of their unusual family situation and the complicated political dynamics of the late Republic. Terentia was wealthier than Cicero and a better manager of money than her spouse, and so became the provider for the family and its financial manager to a much greater extent than was usual in Rome (Claassen. 1996). She was a woman of forceful personality (Plutarch. *Cic.* 20.3) and so was much better able to weather Cicero's turbulent consulship, his exile, and his later absences in Cilicia and with Pompey. His absences led to her taking charge of Tullia's affairs to a greater degree than usual: she and Tullia decided independently of Cicero to accept Dolabella's offer of marriage (Tullia's third), even as Cicero was negotiating about another candidate (Fam. 3.12.2, Att. 6.6.1; cf. Dixon. 1986). Terentia's and Tullia's position as the wife and daughter of a consul and wealthy senator meant that they had access to and enjoyed the company of the most elite members of the Roman aristocracy. Terentia performed sacrifices around her husband's election to the consulship, and hosted the Vestal Virgins in her house for the sacrifice to the Good Goddess in 63; she and Tullia both took part as major participants in the many religious rituals and celebrations associated with the consulship (Treggiari, 44-46). It is possible that Terentia's divorce from Cicero in late 47-early 46 was due the desire of both parties to preserve Terentia's property and wealth by separating it from Cicero's amid the political upheaval after Pharsalus so that she would have

something to leave to their children (Claassen; cf. Carp. 1981). Throughout Tullia's too brief life, she and Terentia enjoyed a very close relationship and Terentia took care of and responsibility for her daughter's health, wealth, and happiness to a greater degree than many Roman mothers, as her husband's fortunes waxed and waned during the last years of the Roman Republic.

### Bibliography

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