

MONEY, POWER, AND GENDER:  
EVIDENCE FOR INFLUENTIAL WOMEN REPRESENTED ON INSCRIBED BASES  
AND SCULPTURE ON KOS

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ABSTRACT

In this thesis I have attempted to show evidence for a rise of influential women on Kos during the Hellenistic period in the Greek East. I gathered my evidence from sculptural inscriptions and portraits to count the number of females who either were the honorand or the agent in the dedication. I broke these influential females into three categories to facilitate my study: priestess, private, and royal. I use the islands of Delos and Samothrace as comparanda to test if the presence of influential women spreads throughout the Greek East. I also look at the Dodekanesos for comparison and argue for a regional tradition. My research shows that Kos was an anomaly in the Greek world in the number of influential women for a couple of reasons. I believe that the ubiquity of the cult of Demeter on Kos and the Hellenistic queens, especially Egypt, influenced the women who held their own money.