

**Gold, B. (2006) "How Women (Re)Act in Roman Love Poetry: Inhuman She-Wolves and Unhelpful Mothers in Propertius's *Elegies*", *Helios* 33.2, 165-87.**

This essay explores the figure of the mother as it was constructed and presented by Propertius in the last part of the first century BCE when women seemed to be gaining a stronger foothold both in the Roman family and in Roman political life but did not enjoy a concomitantly positive role in much of the literature of the period. By playing off the actions of his cruel and vindictive mothers against the traditional and received figures who are presented in a different light in previous Greek and Roman texts and context, Propertius critiques the role of women and mothers in his society and betrays the anxiety that was felt about the more central and authoritarian role played by mothers in the first century BCE.