

**Girotti, B. (2023) “Flavia Massima Faustina Costanza, prima moglie di Graziano. Riflessi di porpora tra matrimonio e occasio”, in *Riflessi di porpora.. Declinazioni di potere femminile tra Roma, Bisanzio e l’Occidente Medievale*, CISAM, Spoleto, 273 - 89 (*Quaderni della rivista di bizantinistica*).**

Although it is not possible at the current state of studies to add new details to the biography of Gratian's two wives, Flavia Massima Faustina Costanza and Laeta, the few words that the sources dedicate to the two women are interesting indicators of a "reflection" of power. This contribution focuses exclusively on Graziano's first wife, Flavia Massima Faustina Costanza. At a first reading of the testimony provided to us by the *Res Gestae* of Ammianus Marcellinus, Flavia Massima Faustina Costanza was the posthumous daughter of Constantius II, married the emperor Gratian, thus connecting the dynasty of Constantine I to that of Valentinian I and was "exposed " by Procopius to obtain the purple and leverage Julian's memory on the soldiers. This work proposes a new reading through an analysis that tends to scrutinize the historical-political lexicon of Ammianus; starting from the concepts of *iure recordatio* marriages and others that are used in the passages concerning women, we will try to underline the role that she played as an important instrument of hereditary legitimation during Procopius' proclamation, continuing the reflection on the power of the words used for the female protagonists during this uprising.