

THROUGH THE EYES OF A MAIA: READING THE MATERIAL CULTURE OF GRECO-ROMAN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Riley Auer, University of Maryland, Baltimore
County

Tuesday, May 16th, 2017

PAHB 441

In ancient Rome, women's reproductive medicine was provided by female medical professionals called "maiai" or "obstetrices." While some did write treatises, those texts are mostly lost, surviving only in the citations of their male counterparts. So how can we reconstruct their professional world? Material culture - medical instruments, artistic representations of reproductive organs, amulets for reproductive medicine, and funerary art - can fill in the blanks for us and bring the lost world of the maia back into focus.

