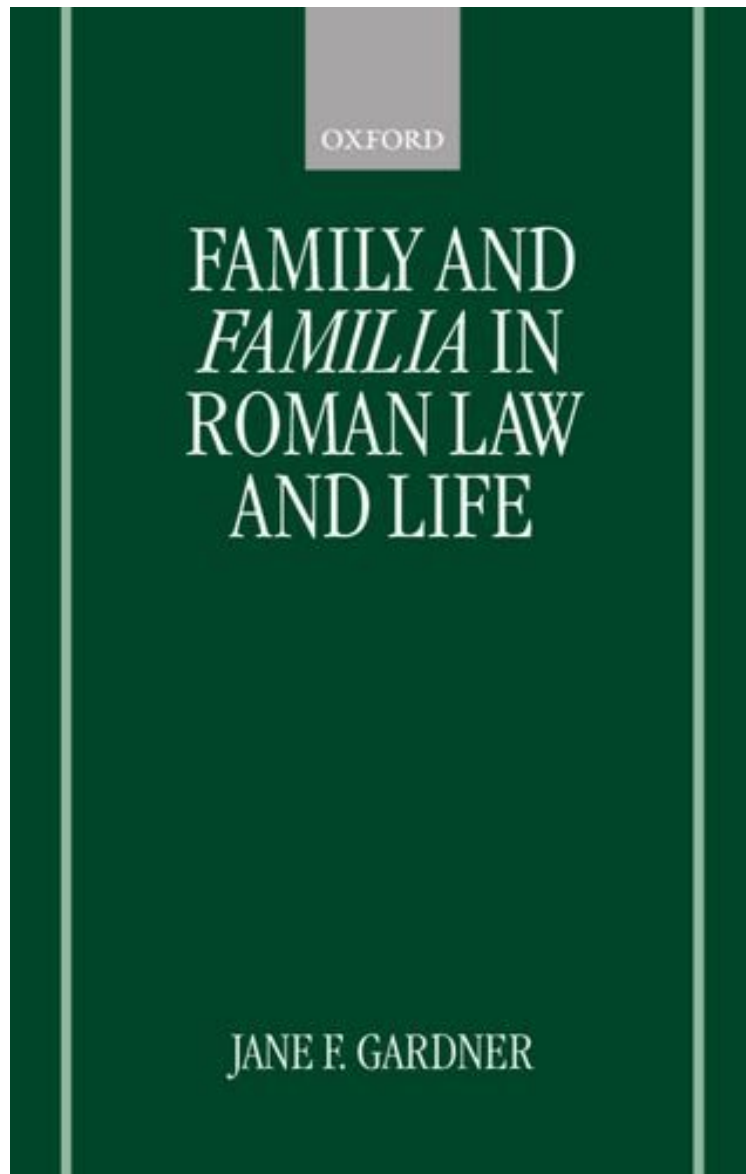


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## Family and Familia in Roman Law and Life

*Jane F. Gardner*

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**Jane F. Gardner : Family and Familia in Roman Law and Life** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Family and Familia in Roman Law and Life:

Ancient Roman families were very diverse, of course, but the basis of Roman civil law was the familia, a strictly defined group consisting of a head, called a paterfamilias, and his descendants in the male line. Recent work on the Roman family mainly ignores the familia, examining instead such matters as emotional relationships within families, the practical effects of control by a paterfamilias, and demographic factors producing families which did not fit the familia pattern. Gardner investigates the complex relationship that existed between family and familia, illustrating in particular how families exploited the legal rules for their own ends--and disrupted the familia--by use of emancipation (release from patria potestas) and adoption. She also traces legal responses to the effects of various demographic factors, which gave increased importance to maternal connections, and to social effects, such as the troubles ex-slaves faced in conforming to the familia pattern.

"For the social historian interested in gaining broad insights into the workings of Roman family law, Gardner's book offers many valuable conclusions....The author's grasp of the complexities of her subject matter is impressive....historians of the Roman family will definitely wish to keep the volume in their home libraries as a reference tool."--Bryn Mawr Classical About the AuthorJane F. Gardner is at University of Reading.