

**Hajdarević, S. (2019) “Sexuality and Sexual Practices in Greek Fictional Epistolography”, *Živa Antika; Antiquité vivante* 69, 1–2, 19–44.**

Greek fictional epistolography as a subgenre represents an ideal corpus for any kind of synoptic and comparative study: all we have left are four late-antique collections of erotic letters (written by Alciphron, Aelian, Philostratus and Aristaenetos) and a Byzantine one (by Theophylact). The conventions of the subgenre prohibited both obscene language and explicit pornography. However, once they chose erotica as the theme of some of their letters, the authors had to include at least some “spicy” descriptions of sexual contacts. The focus of my research is on the overall representation of lovers’ sexuality in the collections; the letters of each one will be approached from different aspects and the results will be consequently compared. The areas of my interest are: male and female means of seduction / display of sexual interest; male and female initiative concerning the foreplay; descriptions of “side-effects” of physical contacts (arousal and erection) and of sexual act itself (sounds, sweat, ejaculation, the (avoidance of) pregnancy, abortion); variations in marital and extra-marital sexual liaisons; asexuality and avoidance of marital duties, adultery, threesome, sex in a public place, voyeurism, masochism, fetishism, objectophilia and same-sex relations. The final goals of the paper are: a) to point to the (potential) differences in the representation of (both male and female) sexuality in general throughout the literary subgenre from Alciphron to Theophylact and b) to point to the author who offered the most detailed and/or the most explicit picture of the lovers’ sexual activities.