

Coelho, M.C. M. N. (forthcoming) “The reception of Helen of Troy in Machado de Assis”, in L. Lopes and M.C.M.N. Coelho (eds) *Ancient Images, from Greece to the New World*. Belo Horizonte: Relicário Editores.

In this article, I discuss similarities between two literary works, the novel *Helena*, by Machado de Assis, and the tragedy *Helen*, by Euripides. I argue that just like Euripides presented the version of an innocent Helen, who never had been to Troy – which provoked, since antiquity, criticism and controversial evaluation, regarding content and form, also Machado, in the novel, brought to the 19th century a version singularity of the legendary and complex Greek character, showing the permanence of a Greek myth in the contemporary world, and, mainly, the characterization of women based in ambiguity, a gender oriented approach in which innocence and culpability were faces of the same coin.