

Hajdarević, S. (forthcoming) “Gender Construction in Aristaenetus’ ‘Intertextual Dialogues with Comedy”, in A. Petrides and M. Alexandrou (eds), *Constructing Gender in The Comic Mode. Perspectives on Greek and Roman Comic Literature*, Berlin/Boston, De Gruyter.

The fictional epistolary collection entitled *Erotic Letters* is usually attributed to Aristaenetus. It probably originated in the 6th century AD and it contains 50 erotic letters. The letters are a curious patchwork of intertextual borrowings from numerous Greek and even some Latin authors of various genres. Comedy was a particularly influential source: the collection abounds with plots, motifs, stock characters (e.g. courtesans and the youths infatuated by them) and protagonists’ names familiar from Old or New comedy. The goal of this paper is to investigate if Aristaenetus’ gender construction of the letters that were clearly inspired by comic passages derives directly from comedies’ gender construction or from elsewhere.