

McClure, L. (2003) *Courtesans at Table: Gender and Greek Literary Culture in Athenaeus*, Routledge.

A highly original and sophisticated investigation of the Athenian *hetaira* as a cultural trope and literary construct in the Greek imagination, focusing on a late work often neglected by scholars, Athenaeus' *Deipnosophistae*. It argues that the *hetaira* functioned as discursive figure for Second Sophistic authors which evoked a lost golden age of literary production and unified cultural identity association during a period of cultural dislocation and alienation. A key contribution to the study of sexual labor, women, and gender in the Greek literary tradition.