

Hauser, E. (2023) *How Women Became Poets: A Gender History of Greek Literature*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

This book is the first to address what women poets called themselves in ancient Greek—in other words, the story of how women became poets. The word for “poet” in ancient Greek was almost always male, and yet was never seen (or interpreted in scholarship) as a loaded or gender-enforcing term. *How Women Became Poets* offers a gendered lens to the interpretation of poetic identity in Greek poetry, with a wide-ranging focus that encompasses Greek literature from Homer to Sappho to Theocritus, to create a startling new history of Greek poetry that redefines the canon as a constant struggle to be heard through, and sometimes despite, gender. What emerges is a new literary history that reframes the authors of Greek literature as both enforcing and exploring gender. It shows for the first time how women broke the silence of gender norms around literary production to express their own voices—and how the idea of the poet was born in the battleground of gender.