

Attested Women Writers of the Graeco-Roman World

This is a list of Greek and Roman women writers (i.e. composers of Greek or Latin verse or prose) from the seventh century BC to the fifth century AD who are attested in ancient sources with brief notes on what is known about them and their work. Authors who are included in this anthology are in bold; for the other authors a source which attests to their work is given. I have not included authors of private correspondence in this list, except where the correspondence was discussed as a literary piece or published in antiquity. The list includes some legendary women and some whose designation as ‘author’ is doubtful or only conjectural.

Acanthis	Greek lyric poetry; place of origin unknown, before c. AD 50. No work extant; referred to by Titus Calpurnius Siculus (<i>Eclogues</i> 6.76).
Aelia Eudocia	(See Eudocia Augusta).
Aesara	Greek philosophy; Lucania, third century BC. Extant work: some Pythagorean (pseudonymous?) literature ascribed to her (Stob. 1.49.27).
Aetheria	(See Egeria).
Agallis	Greek prose (literary criticism); Corcyra, third century BC. No work extant; wrote on Homer (Athen. 1.14d, <i>Suda</i> s.v. Anagallis).
Agrippina	Latin prose (history); Rome, AD 15–59. No work extant, but her family history used as a source by Tacitus (Tacitus, <i>Annals</i> 4.53; Plin. 7.46).
Alcinoë	Greek erotic poetry; Thronion, third century BC. No work extant (<i>IG</i> XII.5.812).
Anagora	Greek lyric poet?; Miletus, sixth century BC. No work attributed to her, but she is listed as a pupil of Sappho (<i>Suda</i> s.v. Sappho).
Andromeda	Greek lyric poetry; Lesbos seventh–sixth centuries BC. No work extant, but named as a rival to Sappho (Maximus of Tyre, <i>Orations</i> 18.9).
Antiochis	Greek prose (medicines); Tlos, Lycia, first century AD. One of Fabulla’s medicines attributed to her (Galen 13.250, 341); an honorary inscription by and to her is extant.
Anyte	Greek lyric poetry (epigrams); Tegea, c. 300 BC. Extant work: 21 of 24 extant epigrams attributed to her.
Arignote	Greek philosophy; Croton?, c. 500 BC. Extant work: some later Pythagorean (pseudonymous?) literature ascribed to her; wrote a history of Dionysius (Clement of Alexandria, <i>Stromata</i> 4.7).
Aristodama	Greek epic poetry; Smyrna, c. 220 BC. No work extant (<i>IG</i> IX.2.62).
Aristomache	Greek poetry; Erythrae, third century BC. No work extant.
Aspasia	Greek lyric poetry and prose (epigrams and rhetoric); Miletus and Athens, fifth century BC. No work extant, but some pseudonymous literature attributed to her (<i>Anth. Plan.</i> 4.17, 5.6; Plato, <i>Menexenus</i>).
Aspasia II	Greek prose (medicine); second century AD. No work extant. She wrote on gynaecology and obstetrics.
Astyanassa	Greek erotic prose; figure of legend—the maid of Helen and Menelaus. Name

	used for pseudonymous erotic literature. No work extant (<i>Suda</i> s.v.).
Athenaïs	(See Eudocia Augusta).
Boeo	Greek lyric poetry (epigrams); Delphi, third century BC? Extant work: two fragments of a Delphic hymn.
Caecilia Trebulla	Greek iambic poetry (epigrams); Roman, fl. c. 130 AD. Extant work: three poems inscribed as graffiti on the Colossus of Memnon at Thebes, Egypt.
Charixena	Greek lyric poetry; Athens?, c. fifth century BC. No work extant (<i>Suda</i> s.v., <i>Etymologicum Magnum</i> 36.7.21).
Claudia Trophime	Greek lyric poetry (epigrams); Ephesus, AD 92/93. Extant work: two inscriptions at Ephesus (<i>Inscr. Eph.</i> 1062 G).
Cleitagora	Greek lyric poetry (drinking songs?); Sparta (or perhaps Thessaly), fifth century BC. No work extant (<i>Suda</i> s.v., Schol. on Ar., <i>Lysistrata</i> 1237 and <i>Wasps</i> 1245).
Cleito	Greek lyric (?) poetry; origins unknown; fourth century BC or earlier. No work extant (Tatian, <i>Oration to the Greeks</i> 33).
Cleobulina	Greek lyric poetry (riddles); Rhodes?, c. sixth century BC? Extant work: 3 riddles. She was also known as Eumetis.
Cleopatra	Greek prose (medicines); Alexandria, first century AD. Incorrectly identified as Queen Cleopatra VII. Extant work: fragments preserved by Galen, Aëtius, Paulus Aegineta.
Cleopatra II	Greek prose (alchemy); Alexandria, first–third centuries AD? Pseudonym (?) for a Greek alchemical writer, cited by Olympiodorus and Zosimus.
Clodia	Latin poetry, plays; first century BC. No extant work. Cicero alludes to her work (Cicero, <i>For Marcus Caelius</i> 64).
Corinna	Greek lyric poetry; Tanagra, third century BC (though ancient sources place her in the fifth century BC). Extant work: about 42 fragments.
Cornelia	Latin prose (rhetoric); Rome, second century BC. Extant work: fragments of two letters (authenticity in doubt).
Cornificia	Latin poetry (epigrams); Rome, first century BC. No work extant (Jerome, <i>Chronicle</i> , Olympic Year 184.4).
Cynthia	Greek lyric poetry; Rome, first century BC. No work extant: Propertius praises her poetry (<i>Elegies</i> 2.3.21–2). Apuleius claims that her real name was Hostia (<i>Apology</i> 10), though she may be fictional.
Damo	(An alternative spelling of Demo).
Damophyla	Greek lyric poetry (love poetry and hymns); Pamphylia, sixth century BC (?). No work extant. Said to have been an associate of Sappho (Philostratus, <i>Life of Apollonius of Tyana</i> 1.30).
Demareta	Greek poetry; date and place of origin unknown (but before c. AD 200). Named by Athenaeus as the author of a poem entitled <i>Trefoil</i> (15.685B).
Demo	Greek lyric poetry (epigram); Greek, date uncertain, but probably early second century AD. Author of one poem extant on Colossus of Memnon at Thebes, Egypt, as graffiti. (Also known as Damo.)
Demo II	Greek prose (literary criticism); date uncertain (fifth century AD?). No work extant; said to have written an allegorical commentary on Homer (J. Cramer [ed.], <i>Anecdota Graeca</i> III, 189.19).
Dionysia	Greek lyric poetry (epigram); place of origin unknown, second century AD. Extant work: one short inscription as graffiti on the Colossus of Memnon at Thebes, Egypt.
Diophila	Greek poetry (astronomy); Alexandria, c. 300 BC. No work extant. Schol. on

	Callimachus frag. 10.
Egeria	Latin prose (travel diary); Galicia (Western Spain), early fifth century AD. Extant work: travel journal and description of Christian liturgy in Jerusalem. She is also known as Aetheria and Silvia Aquitana.
Elephantis	Greek erotic prose and medicines; Greek, from Elephantis?, late first century BC. No work extant, but cited and paraphrased by Pliny (28.81).
Erinna	Greek lyric poetry; Rhodes or Telos, c. 350 BC. Extant work: 7 poems (some fragments).
Eriphanis	Greek lyric poetry (pastoral); probably a fictional character. Said by Clearchus in Book 1 of his <i>Love Stories</i> to have been the author of pastoral poetry (Athen. 14.619c).
Eucheria	Latin satirical poetry; Aquitania, c. AD 600. Extant work: one satirical poem.
Eudocia Augusta	Greek epic poetry (Christian); Byzantium and Jerusalem, c. AD 400–460. Extant work: epic (about 900 lines) and a papyrus fragment. Also known as Aelia Eudocia, Eudoxia Augusta and Athenais.
Eudoxia Augusta	Alternative name for Eudocia Augusta (see above).
Eumetis	Alternative name for Cleobulina (see above).
Eunica	Greek lyric poet?; Salamis, sixth century BC. No work attributed to her, but she is listed as a pupil of Sappho (<i>Suda</i> s.v. Sappho).
Eurydice	Greek lyric poetry (epigram); Macedonia, fourth century BC. One verse epigram extant (and two short dedicatory inscriptions).
Eustochium	See Paula (below).
Fabulla	Latin ? prose (medicines); Libya, before AD 210. Extant work: two medicines quoted by Galen.
Faltonia	See Proba (below).
Funisulana Vettulla	Latin prose (graffiti); Thebes, Egypt, AD 82; one inscription on the Colossus of Memnon (A. and E. Bernard, <i>Les Inscriptions Grecque et Latines du Colosse de Memnon</i>).
Glauce	Greek lyric poetry; Chios, c. 300 BC. No work extant (Theocritus, <i>Idyl</i> 4.30).
Gnathaena	Greek prose; Athens, second half of the fourth century BC. A prostitute, said to have written <i>Rules for Dining in Company</i> for her lovers in imitation of philosophers' rules, cited by Callimachus (in Athen. 13.585b).
Gongyla	Greek lyric poet?; Colophon, sixth century BC. No work attributed to her, but she is listed as a pupil of Sappho (<i>Suda</i> s.v. Sappho).
Gorgo	Greek lyric poetry; Lesbos, seventh–sixth centuries BC. No work extant, but named as a rival to Sappho (Maximus of Tyre, <i>Orations</i> 18.9).
Hedyle	Greek elegiac poetry; Athens, second half of the fourth century BC. Extant work: 1 fragment.
Hipparchia	Greek prose (philosophy); Thebes, fourth century BC. No work extant. A Cynic philosopher (<i>Suda</i> s. v. Hipparchia).
Histiaea	Greek prose (grammar, history and topography); Alexandria, c. 200 BC. No work extant (Str. 13.599). Her name was also spelt Hestiaea.
Hortensia	Latin prose (rhetoric); Rome, 42 BC. No work extant, but one speech reported by Appian (<i>Civil Wars</i> 4.32–4).
Hostia	Apuleius tells us this was the real name of Propertius' Cynthia (<i>Apology</i> 10). See Cynthia above.
Hypatia	Greek philosophy, mathematics and astronomy; Alexandria, died AD 415. No work extant, except her revised version of a commentary by Theon (Socrates Scholasticus, <i>Church History</i> 7.15, <i>Suda</i> s.v.).

Iambe	Greek iambic poetry; the mythical daughter of Pan and Echo, inventor of iambic poetry (Apollodorus 1.5.1; <i>Homeric Hymn to Demeter</i> 202; Diodorus Siculus 5.4).
Isis	Greek prose (alchemy); Greek Egyptian, c. first century AD? Pseudonym of alchemist. Extant work: an address to her son Horus (<i>CAG</i> II.28-33).
Julia Balbilla	Greek elegiac poetry (epigrams); Roman, second century AD. Extant work: four poems inscribed c. AD 130 as graffiti on the Colossus of Memnon at Thebes, Egypt.
Julia Domna	Greek prose (letter): native of Syria, the wife of Roman Emperor Septimius Severus; died AD 208. Extant work: a letter to the Ephesians, inscribed and published at Ephesus (<i>Inscr. Eph.</i> 212).
Julia Saturnina	Greek prose (graffiti); Roman, second century AD. Extant work: one short inscription as graffiti on the Colossus of Memnon at Thebes, Egypt.
Laïs	Greek prose (medicines); before AD 79 (cf. Laïs the famous <i>betaera</i> from Hyccara, fl. 416 BC). No work extant, but cited and paraphrased by Pliny (28.81, 82).
Learchis	Greek lyric (?) poetry; origins unknown; fourth century BC or earlier. No work extant (Tatian, <i>Oration to the Greeks</i> 33).
Leontion	Greek prose (philosophy); Athenian fourth–third centuries BC. No work extant; she was an Epicurean (Cicero, <i>Nature of the Gods</i> 1.93, Diog. Laert. 10.4-7, .23, Athen. 13.588b; Plin. Preface 29 may refer to her).
Maia	Greek prose (medicines); origins unknown: name generic, used as a title by midwives; before AD 210. Extant work: one short fragment in Galen.
Maria	Greek prose (alchemy); Jewish, origins unknown, date uncertain: first century AD? Her name is generally thought to be a pseudonym. Extant work: numerous fragments in Olympiodorus and Zosimus.
Megalostrata	Greek lyric poetry; Sparta, late 7th century BC. No work extant, but referred to by Alcman (poem 6).
Melinno	Greek lyric poetry; Lesbos (?) c. 200-150 BC. Extant work: one hymn.
Melissa	Greek philosophy; Samos, c. third century BC. Extant work: some Pythagorean (pseudonymous?) literature ascribed to her.
Metrodora	Greek prose (medicine); second century AD. Extant work: treatise entitled <i>On the female suffering of the mother</i> (R. Pintaudi [ed.], <i>Dai papiri della Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana</i> , III [Firenze: Gonnelli, 1979] 75.3f.4-33).
Mnesiarchis	Greek lyric (?) poetry; Euboea, fourth century BC (or earlier). No work extant (Tatian, <i>Oration to the Greeks</i> 33).
Moero	Greek lyric and epic poetry; Byzantium, c. 300 BC. Extant work: three poems. She was also known as Myro.
Moschine	Greek poetry; Athens, c. 320 BC (mother of Hedyle). No work extant (Athen. 7.297 A-B).
Myia	Greek philosophy; Croton?, c. 500 BC. No genuine work extant (some Pythagorean pseudonymous literature of the third century BC ascribed to her).
Myia II	Greek lyric poetry; Sparta, fifth or third century BC (?). No work extant. Wrote hymns to Apollo and Artemis (<i>Suda</i> s.v.).
Myia III	Greek lyric poetry; Thespia, date unknown. No work extant.
Mynna	Greek lyric poetry; Lesbos? Date unknown. No work extant—said to use the Aeolic dialect (John Grammaticus, <i>On the Aeolic Dialect</i> 1.22).
Myro	An alternative spelling of Moero (see above) (<i>Suda</i> s.v.).
Myrtis	Greek lyric poetry; Anthedon, fifth century BC. Extant work: a prose summary of one of her poems.

Mystis	Greek lyric (?) poetry; date and origins unknown (before AD 165). No work extant (Tatian, <i>Oration to the Greeks</i> 33).
Nicobule	Greek prose (history); perhaps 300 BC, origins unknown. Two fragments of her history of Alexander the Great extant (Athen. 10.434C, 12.537D; cf. <i>Scriptores Historiarum Alexandri Magni</i> 157, J.2B667; FGrH 127).
Nossis	Greek lyric poetry (epigrams); Locri, c. 300 BC. Extant work: 12 epigrams.
Olympias	Greek prose (medicines); Thebes, before AD 79. Extant work: cited and paraphrased by Pliny (<i>Natural History</i> 20–28).
Pamphila	Greek prose (history); Epidaurus, first century AD. Extant work: 10 fragments from original 33 books.
Pantaenis	Greek lyric poetry; Rome, first century AD or perhaps a contemporary of Sappho. No work extant (Martial 7.69).
Parthenis	Greek lyric poetry (epigrams); origins unknown, before 100 BC. No work extant (Meleager, <i>Anth. Pal.</i> 4.1.31–2).
Paula	Latin prose (letter); Rome, late fourth century AD. Extant work: one private letter, written with her daughter Eustochium from Jerusalem to Marcella in Rome, published in the correspondence of Jerome (<i>Letters</i> 46).
Perictione	Greek prose (philosophy); Alexandria(?), fourth–third centuries BC. Extant work: some Pythagorean pseudonymous (?) literature ascribed to her.
Perictione II	Greek prose (philosophy); Alexandria(?), 3rd–2nd centuries BC. Extant work: some Pythagorean pseudonymous (?) literature ascribed to her.
Perilla	Latin poetry; Rome, early first century AD. No work extant. Ovid, probably her stepfather, mentions her work, but it is not known if she published any of it (Ovid, <i>Tristia</i> 3.7).
Perpetua	Latin prose (autobiography); Carthage, AD 181–203. Extant work: one work attributed to her, an account of her arrest and trial in AD 203, leading up to her martyrdom (<i>Acts of the Christian Martyrs</i> 8.2–10).
Phanothea	Greek poetry (hexameters); mythological figure, said to have invented the hexameter (Clement of Alexandria, <i>Miscellanies</i> 1.366; Stob., <i>Anthology</i> 21.26).
Phantasia	Greek epic poetry; Memphis, eighth century BC. Legendary figure, said to have predated Homer, and been his source for the <i>Iliad</i> and <i>Odyssey</i> (Ptolemaeus Chennus in Photius 190.151a–b).
Philaenis	Greek erotic prose; Leucas, fourth century BC. Extant work: one fragment on papyrus (<i>P. Oxy.</i> 2891; for testimonia see Athen. 220F, 335b–d, 457e; Polybius XII 13.1; <i>Anth. Pal.</i> VII 450).
Philinna	Greek poetry (enchantments in hexameters); Thessaly, first century BC or earlier. Extant work: one papyrus fragment.
Phintys	Greek philosophy; Sparta (?) third century BC (?). Extant work: some Pythagorean pseudonymous (?) literature ascribed to her.
Plotina Augusta	Greek and Latin prose (letters); wife of Roman emperor Trajan, she died about AD 121. Extant work: one letter to the Athenian Epicurians, and one petition to Hadrian, both inscribed on marble (<i>IG</i> II ² 1099, <i>ILS</i> 7784).
Praxigoris	Greek lyric (?) poetry; date and origins unknown (before AD 165). Her name should perhaps be Praxagoris. No work extant (Tatian, <i>Oration to the Greeks</i> 33).
Praxilla	Greek lyric poetry (dithyrambs, hymns and scolia); Sicyon, mid-fifth century BC. Extant work: 6 fragments.
Proba	Latin epic poetry (and cento); Rome, AD c. 322–c. 370. Extant work: 1 Christian Virgilian cento. Her full name was Faltonia Betitia Proba.

Ptolemaïs	Greek musical theory; Cyrene and Alexandria, between fourth century BC and first century AD, perhaps c. 250 BC. Extant work: three fragments quoted by Porphyry.
Sabina Augusta	Greek prose inscription; Rome (wife of the Emperor Hadrian), second century AD. Extant work: one inscription on the Colossus of Memnon at Thebes, Egypt, now incomplete.
Salpe	Greek <i>paignia</i> (frivolous works), possibly pornography; Lesbos, date uncertain (third century BC?). No work extant (<i>Athen.</i> 322 A, = Nymphodorus of Syracuse, <i>FGrH</i> 572 F5 cf. Polybius 12.13 = Timaeus, <i>FGrH</i> 566 T2).
Salpe	Greek prose (medicines); before 79 AD. Extant work: cited and paraphrased by Pliny.
Samithra	Greek prose (medicines); origin and date uncertain, before AD 210. Extant work: one fragment quoted by Galen (13.310).
Sappho	Greek lyric poetry; Lesbos, seventh–sixth century BC; fl. c. 620–600 BC. Extant work: 200+ fragments.
Sempronia	Latin poetry; Rome, first century BC. No work extant (Sallust, <i>Conspiracy of Catiline</i> 25).
Silvia Aquitana	(See Egeria).
Sotira	Greek prose (medicines); origins unknown, before AD 79. Extant work: cited and paraphrased by Pliny (28.83).
Sulpicia I	Latin elegiac poetry; Rome, late first century BC. Extant work: 11 (or only 8?) elegies preserved in the corpus of Tibullus.
Sulpicia II	Latin poetry (satire); Rome, late first century AD. Extant work: 2 lines; a 70 line poem in her name is also extant.
Syra	(= the Syrian; name lost from manuscript) Greek poetry (enchantments in hexameters); Syria, first century BC or earlier. Extant work: one papyrus fragment.
Telesilla	Greek lyric poetry; Argos, early fifth century BC. Extant work: 5 short fragments.
Terentia	Latin poetry; Rome/Egypt, second century AD. Extant work: one epitaph to her brother, once inscribed on the pyramid of Cheops.
Thaliarchis	Greek lyric (?) poetry; Argos, fourth century BC (or earlier). No work extant (Tatian, <i>Oration to the Greeks</i> 33).
Theano	Greek philosophy; Croton (?), c. 515 BC. Extant work: some Pythagorean pseudonymous literature (mostly of the third century BC) ascribed to her.
Theano II	Greek lyric poetry; Locri, date unknown, but among the ‘early writers’ (perhaps third century BC). No work extant (<i>Suda</i> s.v., Eustathius, <i>On the Iliad</i> 2.327.10, Clement of Alexandria, <i>Miscellanies</i> 1.80.3).
Theophila	Greek lyric poetry; Rome, first century AD. No work extant (Martial 7.69).
Theosebeia	Greek lyric poetry (epigram); date and place of origin unknown, third–sixth centuries AD possible. Extant work: one epigram.
Theosebeia II	Greek prose (alchemy); third–fourth centuries AD. Extant work: collaborated with her brother Zosimus in composing an alchemical encyclopaedia in 28 books, of which there are substantial fragments. (<i>Suda</i> ; cf. <i>CAG</i> II.148, 153–54, 156, etc).
Timaris	Greek poetry (hymns?); date and origins uncertain: first century AD or earlier; a Hellenistic queen. No work extant, but Pliny refers to her <i>Hymn to Venus</i> (37.178).
Timoxena	Greek prose (epistle); first century AD(?). No work extant (Plut., <i>Moralia</i> 145 A).

- Unnamed I* (Daughter of Thucydides Greek prose (history); Athens, late fifth century BC. Some ancient readers attributed Book 8 of Thucydides' *Histories* to her (Marcellinus, *Life of Thucydides* 43).
- Unnamed II* Greek prose (philosophy); name, origins and date unknown (between fourth century BC and first century AD). Author of a critical commentary on Theophrastus (Plin., preface 29); may be a reference to Leontion.
- Unnamed III* (Wife of Pompeius Saturnius) Latin prose (epistles); second century AD. No work extant. Pliny the Younger discusses her work but does not give her name (*Epistles* 1.16.6).
- Vestal (An unnamed Vestal virgin) Latin verse; Rome, first century BC. One hexameter verse extant (Seneca the Elder, *Controversies* 6.8).
- Vibia Perpetua See Perpetua.
- Xanite Greek prose (medicines); origin and date uncertain, before AD 210. Extant work: one fragment (Galen 13.311).
- Zenobia Greek (?) prose (history); queen of Palmyra, late third century AD. Extant work: her history of Alexandria and the East is not extant (Trebellius Pollio, *Thirty Tyrants* 30.22); two pseudonymous fragments of correspondence purporting to be from her to the Roman emperor Aurelianus (*Augustan History*: Flavius Vopiscus, *Aurelian* 27; *FGrH* 3.664; Anon., *FGrH* 4.197).