

Tetrapharmakos in Philodemus's On Choices and Rejections

Post by “Don” of February 22, 2022 at 3:16 PM

I'm still working on the translation from the French but felt I could give an update and some additional resources:

First, here is the link to the actual papyrus of [On Choices and Avoidances]:

[DCLP/Trismegistos 62463 = LDAB 3639](#)

I've been able to use this because the French translation in *Les Epicuriens* gives the column numbers, and they line up perfectly.

All that being said, there is a translation of this work which appears to be in English:

[Philodemus]: [On Choices and Avoidances]. Giovanni Indelli, Voula Tsouna-McKirahan. (Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici, La Scuola di Epicuro, Collezione di testi ercolanesi diretta da Marcello Gigante, 15.) Pp. 248. Naples: Bibliopolis, 1995. ISBN: 88-7088-343-4.

There is a limited search available at Google books: <https://books.google.com/books?id=Go1fAAAAMAAJ>

Tsouna also cites [On Choices and Avoidances] extensively in her *The Ethics of Philodemus*.

Hiram Crespo does appear to have access to the Indelli/Tsouna translation or *Les Epicuriens* or both and has much for facility with French and/or Italian than I do. He wrote several commentaries/reviews of the work at his website. I haven't had a chance to read all of his commentary yet but here are the links:

[Reasonings About Philodemus' On Choices and Avoidances \(Part I\) | Society of Friends of Epicurus](#)

[Reasonings About Philodemus' On Choices and Avoidances \(Part II\) | Society of Friends of Epicurus](#)

[Reasonings About Philodemus' On Choices and Avoidances \(Part III\) | Society of Friends of Epicurus](#)

Even so, I'm going to continue my translation exercise, especially since I'm getting to compare the papyrus with the French with the snippets online and in Hiram's commentary even though I realize this is a roundabout way of getting at the text! "Why don't you just get a copy of the Indelli/Tsouna book, duh?" I'll probably do that at some point [through interlibrary loan, but](#)

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2406-tetrapharmakos-in-philodemus-s-on-choices-and-rejections/?postID=16959#post16959>

[there are not a lot of libraries](#) that have it even. Part of my motivation is for the same reason I did [my translation and commentary of the Letter to Menoikeus](#), to make the project more personal and to stretch my linguistic legs. But this is definitely a roundabout way of getting at the text - no question!

Greek papyrus > intermediate translations and copying > French > Google Translate > refining translation into English > compare to Greek papyrus > refine again...repeat.

So, don't expect anything soon... let's say soon-ish.