

Epicurus' Birthday 2023 - (The Most Comprehensive Picture Yet!)

Post by “Don” of November 26, 2022 at 7:47 AM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Is anyone else concerned that we might end up creating a special "American" Epicurean annual celebration which would be on a very different date than what is currently happening in Athens?

Nope.

From what I can see now, Epicurus made provisions in his Will to celebrate his birthday on the 20th day - "the earlier tenth" - of his birth month, Gamelion, as was "customary." From @Nate's research, it appears Gamelion typically occurs from mid-January through mid-February. Celebrating annually on Feb. 20 seems too late to say it's in Gamelion. It doesn't seem to me there's anything American or Greek or German or any other nationality to the calculations. To me, January 20 would be the closest we could come in modern times to celebrate the spirit of his Will.

I didn't see the modern Epicurean annual symposium in Athens in February was chosen for his birthday, but I may have missed that. And, with all due respect to being located in the land of his birth, the modern Greeks have no lock on any kind of authority within modern efforts to bring Epicurus's philosophy back to a living philosophy. I certainly respect their scholarship and efforts, but even in ancient times the school seems to have been somewhat decentralized also by Roman times.

I will say I haven't seen anywhere else that has picked up on the "earlier tenth" in the Greek text. Even the Society had the tenth in a write up about Epicurus's Birthday:

[On the Occasion of the Birth of the Hegemon | Society of Friends of Epicurus](#)