

# "Not Neo-Epicurean, But Epicurean"

Post by "Don" of June 18, 2023 at 5:47 PM

## [Quote from Don](#)

However, didn't Philodemus also encourage his readers to get back to the books? I need to delve back into that work of his.

This is what I was looking for...

Quote from Philodemus, PHerc. 1005 Col. 4.2-18 & Col. 14.13-18

ὁ μὲν γὰρ ἐγνωσμένος ἢ καὶ διστορημένος ὑπ' ἡμῶν, ὃς καὶ φησι εἶν[α]ι ὁ γνήσιος ἀναγνώ[σ]της ἐπὶ γραφὰς [ἐγλεκ]τὰς καὶ πλήθη συγγρα[μμ]άτων, κὰν βάλῃ [γ]ε [κα]λῶς, ἀνείληφε πολ[λὰ]ς ἐγλογὰς καὶ τῶν μ[ε]ν ἐπὶ μέρος διανο[η]μάτων ἀπειρότατός ἐστιν. ἃ δὲ προστάττεται ποιεῖν, ἐπὶ κεφάλαι[α] βλέπει, καθάπερ ὄν λ[έ]γουσιν ἐκ βιβλίου κυβ[ερνήτ]ην καὶ διὰ παντ[ός] - - ]

...

ἀλλὰ τὸ σχετιώτατο[ν] ἐκεῖν ἐστὶν [ἐ]πὶ τοῖς πλείοσιν τῶν Ἐπικουρείων ὃ τὴν ἐν τοῖς βιβλί[ο]ις ἀ[νε]νεργησίαν ἀπαραίτητο[ν] ποιεῖ...

He who claims to know us and to be instructed by us, who claims to be a genuine reader of various writings and of complete books, even if he says something correctly, he has only memorized various quotations and does not know the multitude of our thoughts. What he has to do, he looks up in summaries, like people who believe that they [can learn to be] steersman from books and [can cross every ocean].

...

but the most shocking thing of most Epicureans is the unforgivable inactivity in regards to the books...

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Here's some commentary from Hiram on PHerc 1005 (primarily using the translation and commentary in Les Epicuriens):

[On Philodemus' Scroll 1005 | Society of Friends of Epicurus](#)