

Happy Twentieth of September!

Post by “Don” of September 20, 2023 at 12:18 PM

Happy Twentieth!

(Okay, so technically, this should have been posted on the 19th, but y'all get the idea 😊 . We could alter Philodemus's first line to accommodate today's celebration:

σήμερον εἰς λιτήν σε καλιάδα, φίλτατε Πείσων,

Today I invite you to my little hut, dearest Piso,...

It even keeps the correct long/short rhythm!)

To-morrow, dearest Piso, your friend, beloved by the Muses, who keeps our annual feast of the twentieth * invites you to come after the ninth hour to his simple cottage. If you miss udders and draughts of Chian wine, you will see at least sincere friends and you will hear things far sweeter than the land of the Phaeacians. But if you ever cast your eyes on me, Piso, we shall celebrate the twentieth richly instead of simply.

αὔριον εἰς λιτήν σε καλιάδα, φίλτατε Πείσων,

ἔξ ἑνάτης ἔλκει μουσοφιλῆς ἕταρος,

εἰκάδα δειπνίζων ἑνιαύσιον: εἰ δ' ἀπολείψεις

οὔθατα καὶ Βρομίου χιογενῆ πρόποσιν,

ἄλλ' ἑτάρους ὄψει παναληθέας, ἄλλ' ἑπακούση

Φαιήκων γαίης πουλὸ μελιχρότερα:

ἦν δέ ποτε στρέψης καὶ ἐς ἡμέας ὄμματα, Πείσων,

ἄξομεν ἐκ λιτῆς εἰκάδα πιστέρην.

The Greek Anthology. with an English Translation by. W. R. Paton. London. William Heinemann Ltd. 1926