

To Whom Was Epicurus' Last Letter Addressed?

Post by “Eikadistes” of December 30, 2024 at 5:57 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

First thoughts...

Cicero is earlier than Diogenes, so he would take precedence?

I believe so. His textual resources were superior. Additionally, he was a pupil of a Scholarch, and friends with numerous Epicurean philosophers, and, unlike Diogenes, he includes Epicurus' greeting in the letter. I am inclined to agree with Cicero that this was addressed to to Hermarkhos.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Would it make sense that Hermarchus was present and would not need a letter, while Idomeneus may have lived somewhere else?

I question *who* was *where* and *when*. Do we know that Idomeneus stayed in Lampsakos? If so, it *does* seem more likely to me that he would have been writing to someone non-present.

[Quote from Don](#)

Hermarchus was Epicurus' successor, so addressing it to him makes sense?

This would seem to be the most prudent, especially because Hermarkhos' managerial control over Garden funds would have affected the children of Metrodoros, whereas Ideomeneus was just a financier, and Epicurus' was intimately closer with Hermarkhos than Idomeneus.

I'm flirting with the idea that it was to Hermarkhos, but I'd like more advocates for the devil.