

Rings, Tokens, and Pendants Featuring Epicurus or Epicureans

Post by “Cassius” of July 21, 2019 at 8:46 AM

Rings exist featuring Epicurus and Lucretius (one known to exist).

Post by “Cassius” of June 2, 2020 at 1:37 AM

I thought we had some photos in this thread. Here are some of Epicurus (stamp is for comparison)



Figs. 1221–1222



a, b (British Museum)



Post by “Cassius” of June 2, 2020 at 1:38 AM

Here is the best photo I have of the probable Lucretius Ring (probably the one described by Munro):



Post by “Cassius” of June 2, 2020 at 1:39 AM

[Withoutbox\(1\).jpg](#)

Post by “Godfrey” of June 2, 2020 at 2:00 AM

It's notable that all of the Epicurus images are in ellipses, not circles. Apparently Joshua isn't the first to face the problem of putting a long, bearded head into a circle.

Post by “Joshua” of June 2, 2020 at 6:29 AM

[Large_Bligh's%20Signet%20ring_CROPHEAD%20res.jpg](#)

That is a point of interest, Godfrey. The 18th or early 19th century William Bligh ring is more squat and nearly circular than the rings above from antiquity, and it's also the worst semblance. In part because the beard has been cropped so close.

Post by “Joshua” of June 2, 2020 at 6:34 AM

And here's something before I forget; in my search for extant rings I didn't turn up anything new on Epicurus, but there is supposed to be a ring featuring a portrait of Horace carved in Topaz in the collections of the British Museum. So it would be great if we could track down a photograph of that.

Post by “Cassius” of June 2, 2020 at 6:58 AM

Wow yes that is interesting about Horace. I have never heard of that. I wonder how it is they are confident it is Horace vs. someone else? We definitely ought to try to trace that down.

So far no luck with this search:

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/sea...ce&keyword=ring>

Post by “Joshua” of June 2, 2020 at 7:05 AM

I'll try to find the reference, Cassius; it was in a GoogleBooks scan of an old doorstopper reference tome called--I don't know--"Collections of the British Museum: Volume 47" or whatever. The British Museum is like an iceberg. For every one piece on display for public viewing, 99 are gathering dust in a drawer somewhere.

Post by “Joshua” of June 2, 2020 at 7:16 AM

OK, I found the reference;

"A Popular Handbook to the Greek and Roman Antiquities in the British Museum"

edited by Sir Edward Tyas Cook

NOYghzspng or type unknown

Post by “Cassius” of June 2, 2020 at 8:26 AM

No picture yet but:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=MORAA...0Horace&f=false>

NOB. 89-91.] *Blacas Coll.*
†1555. Horace, bust of, in profile to l.; palm branch in field, and H. The treatment of the drapery suggests that this gem has been based on a medal. Topaz. [King, II., pl. 50, fig. 7; Bernoulli, Röm. Ikonogr., I., Münztaf. v., No. 116; cf. Cades, V., 218.] *Blacas Coll.*

I wonder if this was done per the ring:

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P_1914-0228-2525



Post by “Don” of June 2, 2020 at 9:58 AM

I couldn't see if anyone had mentioned this before, so apologies if I'm repeating known info: I saw the Greek on several Epicurus rings and realized that was not Epicurus' name but NEAPKOY (Nearkou, "Of Nearkos"). Who was Nearkos? Turns out he was probably the engraver:

Quote

NEARKOS (Νέαρκος). - Alleged gem engraver. The name, which appears on three gems (NEAPKOY on a carnelian with a manly head; NEAPKOΣ on an amethyst with a manly bearded head; NEAPKOY on a carnelian, of doubtful authenticity, with a manly head) cannot, according to Brunn, be attributed to 'engraver.

[Source](#) (used Google Translate for English)

Post by “Cassius” of June 2, 2020 at 11:32 AM

I remember reading that on one of the pages too somewhere - that NEAPKOY was the engraver, so that's what I am thinking too. Although I sometimes do have doubts whether the images that

some say are Epicurus are really him. Some of the images can seem so generic that it's hard (for me) to be sure.

Post by “Joshua” of June 2, 2020 at 11:34 AM

Handbook of Archaeology: Egyptian-Greek-Etruscan-Roman:

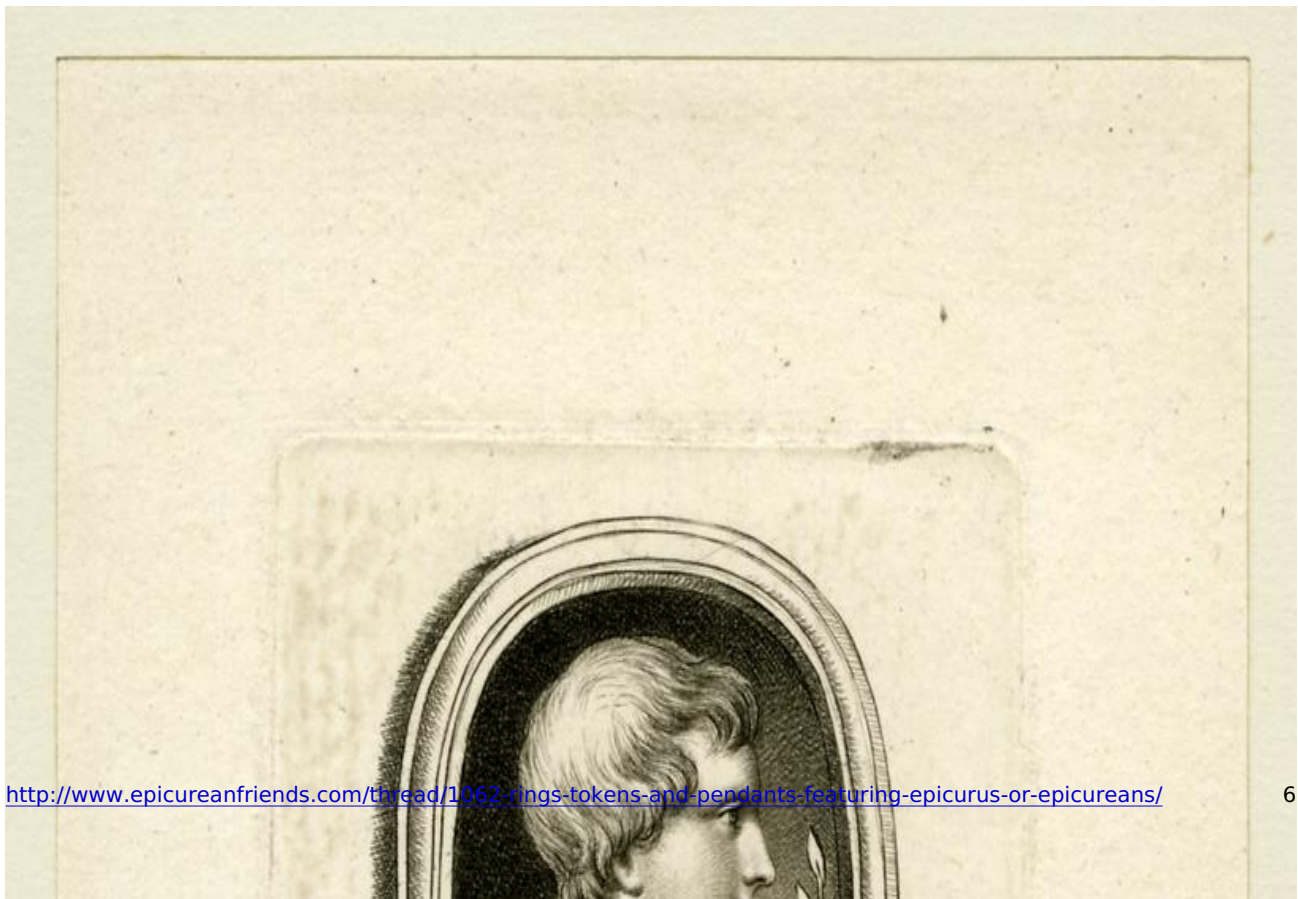
<https://books.google.com/books?id=TLRGA...ngraver&f=false>

Nearkos is listed here amongst other ancient artists. Also attributed to him are images of Sulla and Demetrius, which I suppose is how they date the gems?

Post by “Charles” of June 2, 2020 at 8:26 PM

I found a series of prints used for gem engravings in the British Museum, it dates back to 1766 and features 180 different prints with reference to Greek & Roman Figures as well as some mythological/animal prints, Horace is among them.

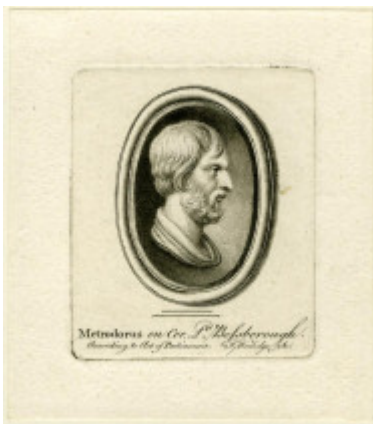
<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/obj...9-0709-891-1071>



<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1062-rings-tokens-and-pendants-featuring-epicurus-or-epicureans/>

Post by “Charles” of June 2, 2020 at 8:34 PM

Interestingly enough, I went through the rest of the collection and found a feature of Epicurus as well as one on Metrodorus, though Hermarchus & Leontion were nowhere to be found.



I don't have any reason to believe that the print of Metrodorus is none other than Metrodorus the Younger. There have been other Metrodorus' throughout history but none have been as significant or recorded as much as the disciple and best friend of Epicurus, no doubt because of Laertius and Cicero.

Post by “Cassius” of June 2, 2020 at 8:57 PM

i wonder if there was any basis for any of those other than artist imagination. The one of Horace looks like a boy - is it likely that any image of him survived the ancient world other than as an adult?

The one of Epicurus is the clearly erroneous "bald" figure that hardly seems like it could be anything other than imagination.

Is the Metrodorus any better?

Apparently artists from this period seemed to think it a cool thing to do to make artwork based on nothing whatsoever and label them as if they were accurate?

That image of Lucian on the Wikipedia page seems to be another example.

Seems to me to be a weird thing to think that such use of imagination was a good idea.

On the same theory Joshua could decide to sketch one of his girlfriends and label it "Leontion"

Hardly seems like a good idea, but maybe I just lack imagination 😊

Post by “Joshua” of June 2, 2020 at 9:28 PM

I agree with Cassius that these portraits leave a lot to be desired, but that's a good find regardless. Thank you Charles!

The portrait of Horace is especially interesting. He is depicted not only as a boy, but as a free-born minor wearing the age-appropriate *Toga Praetexta*. Horace was free-born, which is a point worthy of note since his father endured some years of slavery.

He is also depicted with a bay leaf (or laurel, from bay laurel), which signifies poetry. In fact, Horace did not write poetry in his youth; he turned to it in later years after choosing the wrong side in the Roman Civil War and losing his father's estate in Venusia as part of Augustus' land seizures. Since Rome *did* boast a number of boy-poets--among them Lucan, died age 25, and Catullus, died age 30--it might seem an unusual choice for a portrait of Horace who lived to be nearly 60. Personally, my favorite portrait of Horace depicts him bald and squat, in middle age, with a glass of wine and a winning grin.

200px-Quintus_Horatius_Flaccus.jpg

Post by “Cassius” of June 3, 2020 at 5:30 AM

Yes I have seen and like that one too. Is that from the wikipedia page? I agree that one is really creative and well done, I wish we had information on its background.

Post by “Bryan” of October 3, 2024 at 1:00 PM

These are the "necklace" molds I referenced last night (with a drachma of Demetrius Poliorcetes for scale). It's an amateur effort -- the most recent one is *almost* bubble free! But if anybody wants some, just let me know and I'll be happy to gift a few of them (along with a Demetrius drachma).

Post by “Kalosyni” of October 3, 2024 at 2:47 PM

Those are great [Bryan](#) !

And gives me some creative ideas of my own (envisioning ovals) 😊

Post by “Kalosyni” of October 4, 2024 at 11:12 AM

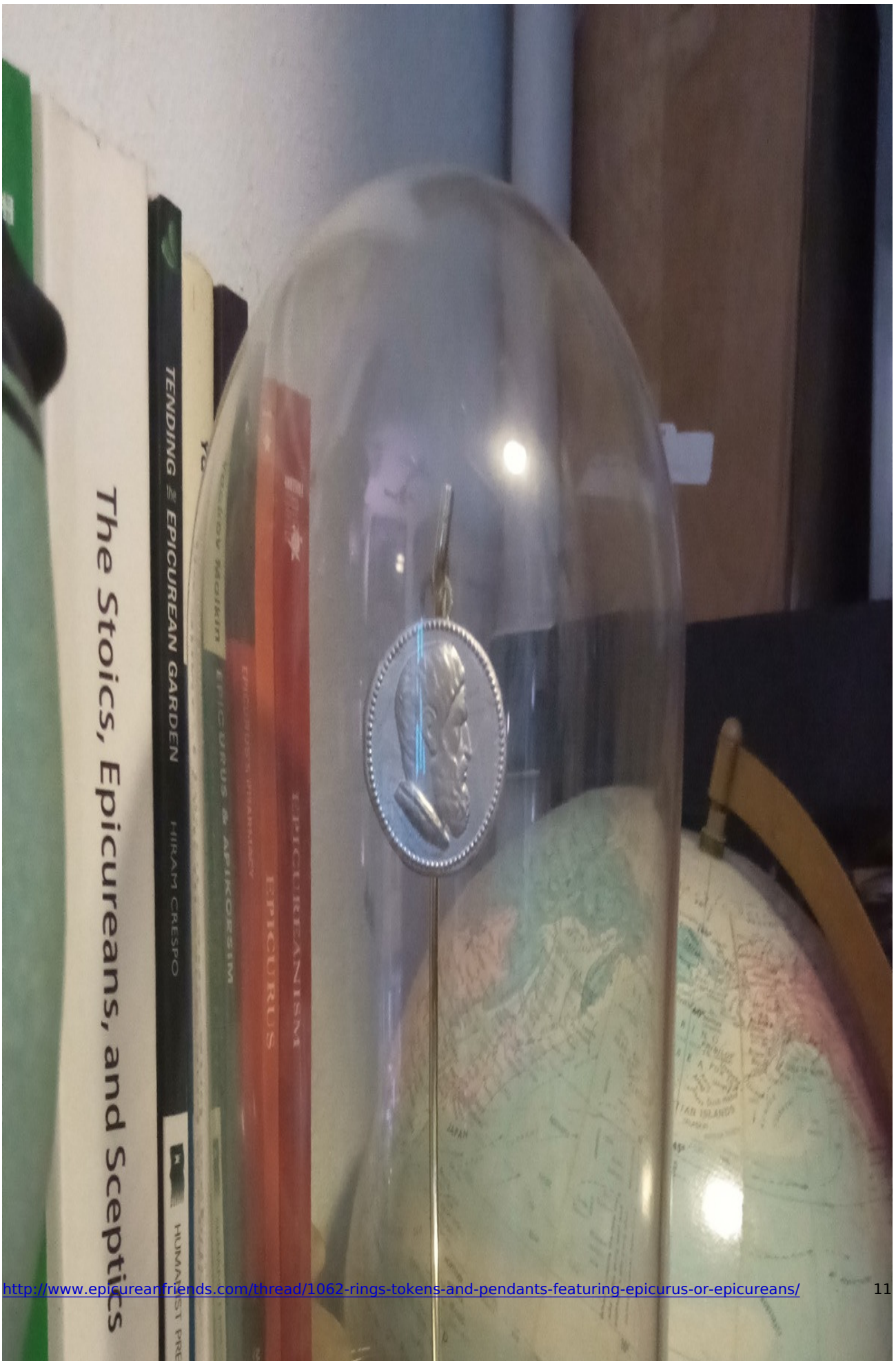
This is sort of what I am envisioning for an oval pendant. The first image below is from a picture I took of the the side profile of a 3-D printed Epicurus bust that I have, and then used Canva to adjust the image. His features look like a young version of Epicurus (and perhaps the nose and mouth aren't quite right). The second image is both Dalle and Canva. (not quite satisfied with this one either). I'll need to see what I can find at a craft store for making resin molds. I would need to print it out with a good quality printer. Still thinking about what would be on the other side of it.



Post by “Eikadistes” of October 4, 2024 at 11:23 AM

Those look great!

I was moved by a similar spirit and painted this plastic, 3-D print coin/pendant:



Post by “Bryan” of October 4, 2024 at 12:15 PM

[Quote from Eikadistes](#)

3-D print coin

These SFOTSE prints are great. But I lost track of the producer. Do you know if they are still being sold?

Post by “Eikadistes” of October 4, 2024 at 4:15 PM

There is currently a DNS issue with CloudFlare (from what I can tell) that is preventing users from accessing their website <http://www.shapeways.com>. It may just be temporary.

Post by “Bryan” of October 19, 2024 at 1:46 AM

Thank you for sharing! Yes, it seems the link is still not working. I thought I dropped the ball, but it seems in fact they did!

So I started playing around with some molds, but I need to try some different materials to improve my results.