

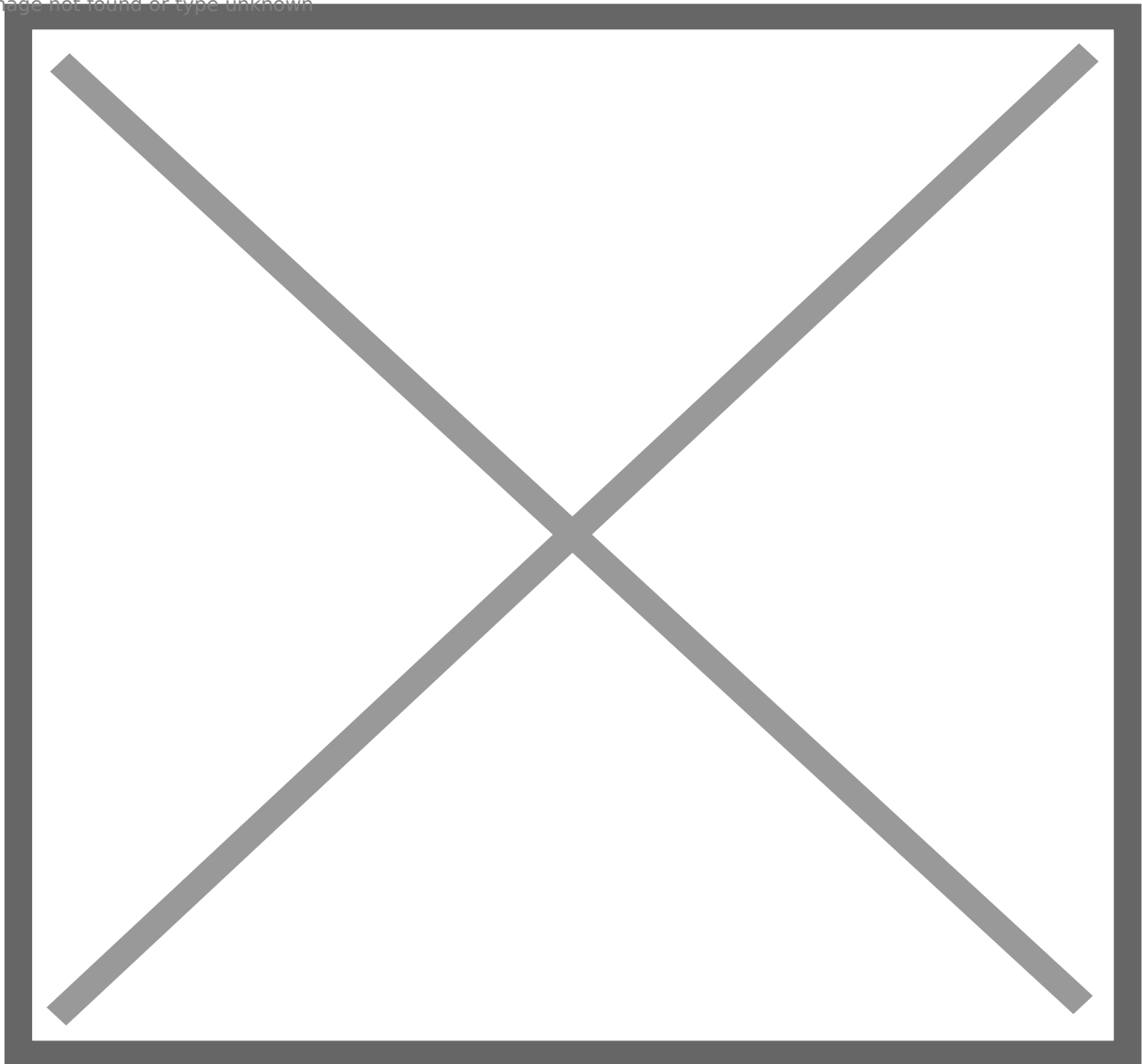
Epicurean kèpos in Autun - France.

Post by “Marco” of January 12, 2022 at 5:33 AM

FYI, for readers from Europe. In Autun, France, in 1990 a kèpos was found with two Epicurean mosaics, with the Sententia Vatican 14 and Kuria Doxa 5.

If corona allows, I try to visit it in the spring. Here is an English text about the location.

Image not found or type unknown



[The Mosaic of the Greek Philosophers in Autun - Mosaic Blues](#)

The mosaic of the Greek Philosophers decorated the floor of a wealthy Gallo Roman villa of Augustodunum, capital of the Edui Gallic tribe.
mosaic-blues.com

Post by “Cassius” of January 12, 2022 at 6:55 AM

This is a fascinating topic. I have read about this mosaic but maybe not seen the page you linked. It is a very good one.

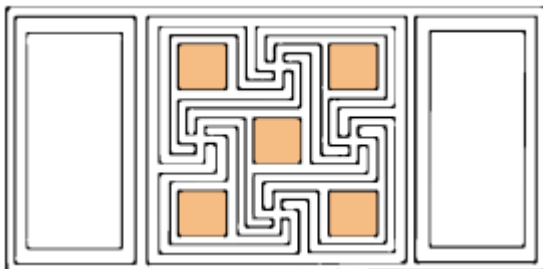
I recall reading about this mostly because Bernard Frischer talks about it (somewhere) as a good lead for what the "standard" seated bust of Epicurus must have looked like especially in terms of the placement of his right arm / hand. The controversy seems to be over whether his arm was in an outstretched 'gesturing' position, or folded up against his chest in what might be considered a more "passive" position.

Of course I favor the "gesturing" position (which would indicate teaching and engagement) and this mosaic is good evidence of that being the actual case.

Marco thank you very much for posting this and if you are able to do additional research and actually get there please post more!

Post by “Cassius” of January 12, 2022 at 7:01 AM

For example I don't think I have ever found a good "overview" of how the philosophers were arranged on the panel - and this doesn't seem to tell us either. I bet there's a lot more that we who are particularly interested in Epicurus could gain from making a study of this work.



Post by “Cassius” of January 12, 2022 at 7:05 AM

This is an interesting comment from that article - i was not aware that Tacitus mentioned Epicurus:

Quote

since [Tacitus](#), in the Dialogue of orators, advises orators to use Plato and Xenophon “*and even to borrow certain edifying maxims from Epicurus and Metrodorus*”.

Post by “Don” of January 12, 2022 at 7:38 AM

FYI for those who read French:

[Épicure dans une anthologie sur mosaïque à Autun - Persée](#)

Post by “Don” of January 12, 2022 at 7:43 AM

So Epicurus did occupy the center square of the mosaic:

[ARIA Autun mus mosaic plan](#)

Ah! But there were originally 8 portraits not 5 it looks like according to this link

Post by “Don” of January 12, 2022 at 8:37 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

This is an interesting comment from that article - i was not aware that Tacitus mentioned Epicurus:

Quote

since [Tacitus](#), in the Dialogue of orators, advises orators to use Plato and Xenophon *"and even to borrow certain edifying maxims from Epicurus and Metrodorus"*.

[Dialogue on Orators - Wikisource, the free online library](#)

see Dialogue XXXI

Post by "Cassius" of January 12, 2022 at 9:01 AM

Thank you Don. [Direct link](#)

HA! GREAT! It includes what pretty directly seems like a slam at the Stoics! Anyone read that differently?

Quote

Such was the conviction of the ancients, and to produce this result they were aware that it was necessary not only to declaim in the schools of rhetoricians, or to exercise the tongue and the voice in fictitious controversies quite remote from reality, but also to imbue the mind with those studies which treat of good and evil, of honour and dishonour, of right and wrong. All this, indeed, is the subject-matter of the orator's speeches. Equity in the law-court, honour in the council-chamber, are our usual topics of discussion. Still, these often pass into each other, and no one can speak on them with fulness, variety, and elegance but he who has studied human nature, the power of virtue, the depravity of vice, and the conception of those things which can be classed neither among virtues nor vices. These are the sources whence flows the greater ease with which he who knows what anger is, rouses or soothes the anger of a judge, the readier power with which he moves to pity who knows what pity is, and what emotions of the soul excite it. An orator practised in such arts and exercises, whether he has to address the angry, the biassed, the envious, the sorrowful, or the trembling, will understand different mental conditions, apply his skill, adapt his style, and have every instrument of his craft in readiness, or in reserve for every occasion. Some there are whose assent is more secured by an incisive and terse style, in which each inference is rapidly drawn. With such, it will be an advantage to have studied logic. Others are more attracted by a diffuse and smoothly flowing speech, appealing to the common sentiments of humanity. To impress such we must borrow from the Peripatetics commonplaces suited and ready prepared for every discussion. The Academy will give

us combativeness, [Plato](#), sublimity, [Xenophon](#), sweetness. Nor will it be unseemly in an orator to adopt even certain exclamations of honest emotion, from [Epicurus](#) and [Metrodorus](#), and to use them as occasion requires. It is not a philosopher after the Stoic school whom we are forming, but one who ought to imbibe thoroughly some studies, and to have a taste of all. Accordingly, knowledge of the civil law was included in the training of the ancient orators, and they also imbued their minds with grammar, music, and geometry. In truth, in very many, I may say in all cases, acquaintance with law is desirable, and in several this last-mentioned knowledge is a necessity. (*Latin*)