

Early Epicurean Community - Listing of Known Epicureans Throughout History

Post by “Eikadistes” of August 14, 2021 at 12:11 PM

*“[Epicurus'] philosophy rode this tide. It had reached **Alexandria** even before his arrival in **Athens**. By the second century it was flourishing in **Antioch** and **Tarsus**, had invaded Judaea, and was known in Babylon. Word of it had reached Rome while Epicurus was still living, and in the last century B.C. it swept over Italy.” (De Witt, Epicurus and His Philosophy 29)*

*“Both **Thessalonica** and **Corinth** must have been strongholds of Epicureanism.” (De Witt, Epicurus and His Philosophy 338)*

*“After the third century BCE there were Epicurean centres in Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt: adherents, identified from their cities, came from **Tyre**, **Sidon**, **Tarsus**, and **Alexandria**. Epicureanism also expanded west. [...] The existence of communities in the Naples region is attested by both Horace and Vergil. [...] Epicureanism can be attested in a board variety of locations: **Herculanem**, **Sorrento**, **Rhodes**, **Cos**, **Pergamon**, **Oenoanda** (the Lycus valley), **Apameia** (Syria), **Rhodiapolis**, and **Amastris** (Bithynia). Locations like **Athens** and **Oxyrhynchus** provide evidence for the preservation fo Epicurean writing, as well as **Herculaneum**. [...] Asia Minor (notably **Ephesus**, **Alexandria**, and Syria are all suggested as prime candidates for its location.” (King, Epicureanism and the Gospel of John: A Study of Their Compatibility 11-13)*

*“It will be worth our while to observe how admirably Epicureanism was equipped for the penetration fo Asia. As mentioned already, the branch school at **Lampsacus** was strategically situated for dissemination of the creed along the coast of the Black Sea. On the west coast of Asia there was another school at **Mytilene** [...] Still further to the south was the original school at **Colophon**, close to **Ephesus**. [...] The gateway to Asia, however, had been open to the cred of Epicurus for three centuries before Paul's time and **Tarsus** was a center of Epicureanism. [...] Epicureanism was the court philosophy of **Antioch** during the reigns of at least two kings of Syria, **Antiochus Epiphanes** and **Demetrius Soter**.” (King, Epicureanism and the Gospel of John: A Study of Their Compatibility 62)*

*“In it he attests the widespread Epicurean communities of **Athens**, and **Chalcis** and **Thebes** in Boeotia.” (The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism 20)*

*“We meet Epicureans not just in **Athens**, where they were amongst Paul's audiences, but we also come across Epicurean communities in the West, in **Herculaneum** or **Sorrento**, in the East, on **Rhodes** and **Cos**, in **Pergamon**, Lycian **Oinoanda**, Syrian **Apameia**, in remote southern Lycian **Rhodiapolis** or in **Amastris** in Bithynia on the Black Sea. (The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism 48)*