

# Pictures of "The Vatican Sayings" As Discovered in The Vatican

Post by "Cassius" of December 16, 2021 at 7:55 AM

Thanks to [Don](#) for this link and information!

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*codex Vaticanus Graecus 1950* (1950 is the reference number, not a date incidentally)

The Vatican Sayings begin at the bottom of folio 401v with the big red T for Το μακαριον και αφθαρτον ... (PD1)

See further information in Bailey's "Epicurus the Extant Remains." Bailey discusses the Vatican Sayings starting on pp. 106 & 375. He gives all the sources or at least where they're also started in latter section. The following is the main section of page 375 - <https://archive.org/details/Epicur.../mode/1up?view=>

THE fragments here given are derived from two sources. The first is a collection of eighty aphorisms discovered in 1888 by C. Wotke in a Vatican MS. (Cod. Vat. gr. 1950) and published by him in *Wiener Studien*, 1888, pp. 191 ff., with a critical apparatus containing emendations by Usener and Hartel, and supplemented by observations by Usener himself and by Gomperz. The MS, which is of the fourteenth century, is a miscellany containing works of Xenophon, the *Thoughts* of Marcus Aurelius, Epictetus' *Manual*, and other works. The present collection is headed Ἐπικούρου Προσφώνησις (? Προσφωνήσεις, as suggested by Weil). Some of the sayings, denoted in the text by square brackets, came not from Epicurus but from his disciples, in several instances from Metrodorus. About twenty of them were already known, several being quotations from the *Κύρια Δόξαι*. The rest were probably selected from various works of Epicurus, not a few of them seeming to be quotations from private letters. Usener conjectured that the collection was derived from a florilegium made from the letters of Epicurus and his disciples which was used by Seneca, the sentences from the *Κύρια Δόξαι* being added by the compiler, but Bignone is probably right in thinking that there is not sufficient ground for any such definite statement.

The collection deals almost wholly with the moral theory of Epicurus and adds on many points to our knowledge of the system. The sentences containing new matter have been marked, as they were in Wotke's publication, by an asterisk. The text is fairly sound and in most places can easily be corrected, but there remain certain doubtful passages.

The fragments which follow are almost all derived from the great collection of *Epicurea* made by Usener, who gathered from writers both Greek and Latin all quotations from Epicurus' words and references to his doctrines. Here will only be found passages in Greek, which there is good reason to believe are actual quotations of the philosopher's words, though possibly in some cases (notably the extracts from Porphyrius, *ad Marcellam*) slightly paraphrased. I have not included fragments in Latin (mainly quotations in Cicero and