

Epicurean Communities of the Ancient World

Post by “Eikadistes” of June 6, 2022 at 4:34 PM

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● In 341 BCE, Epicurus was born in an Athenian settlement on **Samos**

● Epicurus began teaching in 311 BCE in **Mytilene** on Lesbos

● The Garden was established in 306 BCE by Epicurus in **Athens**

● School or ancient community with a modern Epicurean presence

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2548-epicurean-communities-of-the-ancient-world/?postID=18278#post18278>

School at **LAMPSACUS** (*modern Northwestern Turkey*) Founded by **Epicurus**

The GARDEN (Ο ΚΗΠΟΣ) of ATHENS (*Central Greece*) Founded by **Epicurus**

Community in **CORINTH** (*Peloponnese peninsula, Greece*)

Community in **CHALCIS** (*Euboea island, Greece*)

Community in **THEBES** (*Boeotia, Central Greece*)

Community in **THESSALONIKI** (*Macedonia region, Greece*)

Community in **KOS** (*Southeastern island of Greece*)

School at **RHODES** (*Southeastern island of Greece*)

School at **AMASTRIS** (*Northern Turkey*) Founded by **Tiberius Claudius Lepidus**

Community in **TARSUS** (*Northwest Turkey*)

Community in **PERGAMON** (*Western Turkey*)

Community in **COLOPHON** (*Western Turkey*)

Community in **EPHESUS** (*Southwestern Turkey*)

School at **MILETUS** (*Southwestern Turkey*) Founded by **Demetrius Laco**

Community in **OINOANDA** (*Southwestern Turkey*) Supported by **Diogenes**

Community in **RHODIAPOLIS** (*Southwestern Turkey*)

School at **ANTIOCH** (*South-central Turkey*) Founded by **Philonides**

School at **APAMEIA** (*Western Syria*) Lead by **Aurelius Belius Philippus**

Community at SIDON (Lebanon)

Community at **TYRE** (*Lebanon*)

Community in **ALEXANDRIA** (*City of Alexander III of Macedon in Egypt*)

Community in **OXYRHYNCHUS** (*Southern Egypt*)

School at **NAPLES** (*Southwestern Italy*) Founded by **Siro**

Community in **HERCULANEUM** (*Southwestern Italy*) Lead by **Philodemus**

Community in **ROME** (*Western Italy*) Inspired by **Albucius**

Community in AUGUSTODUNUM (*Eastern France*) Inspired by **Albucius**

*"[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."* (Ibid. 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 of 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 of 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." (Ibid. 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. (Ibid. 48)*

*"It has recently been discovered that the extensive mosaic floor in the House of the Greek Authors in Autun (ancient **Augustodunum**) includes portraits of Epicurus and Metrodorus (Blanchard-Lemee and Blanchard 1993; Frischer 2006: paragraphs 10-20)." (Gordon, *The Invention and Gendering of Epicurus* 141)*