

Thomas Young of Massachusetts

Post by "Cassius" of June 16, 2022 at 1:49 PM

Threadstarter post

This link comes from [Wikipedia on Thomas Young](#):

https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1159&context=english_theses

For a full examination of Allen's work, one must also accept the task of re-discovering Dr. Thomas Young. In this manner, Reason will stand beside the men who likely co-authored it, discussed its contents, and popularized ancient Epicurean materialism on the American continent. Adolph Koch, an American sociologist whose doctoral dissertation "Republican Religion" (1933) was later reprinted as *Religion of the American Enlightenment* (1968), explains that "Through Young, Allen had a second-hand acquaintance with Charles Blount, the English deist" and author of *Oracles of Reason* (London, 1693), a radical work of Enlightenment philosophy which may have supplied the title of Ethan Allen's work (35).

(However this sounds like the writer's overlay rather than a cite to Epicurus.)

Another: [Reason and Revolution: The Radicalism of Thomas Young](#)

For me, the real litmus test of whether someone was an "Epicurean Influencer" often comes down to: *Did they embrace eternal universe rather than a Deistic clockmaker model?* Unless they embrace eternal universe they are hedging on key doctrine. (I don't apply that test quite the same way to people today, because I know that advanced physics has people turned in so many directions its hard to know what to believe anymore. But until that phenomena happened, seems to me the only legitimate position was Epicurus' own position - and of course I myself continue to think it's the best one even now. 😊)

It would be really interesting to know how far Thomas Young went in endorsing Epicurus rather than just a generic deist/clockmaker/materialism model.

Because of course materialism doesn't confirm whether they embraced "Pleasure" as the ultimate goal rather than virtue or some other form of idealism. Thomas Cooper wrote an essay, for instance, giving a way to reconcile materialism with Christianity.

Also interesting that several of these type people were "doctors," including [Joseph Priestley](#) and [Thomas Cooper](#).