

Epicurus' Birthday 2023 - (The Most Comprehensive Picture Yet!)

Post by "Don" of November 30, 2022 at 12:32 AM

[Quote from Nate](#)

The following is my attempt to paraphrase the author: "Numerous translators differ about the spelling of the ancient Greek word for 'seventh' as presented in the original text. The difference in translation could be the difference between 'the seventh month of Gamelion' versus 'the month of Gamelion's seventh'. One authority says hebdómēi. Another says hebdómē. Yet another says hebdómēs. As it turns out, I agree with the interpretation that lends credence to the proposition that 'the seventh' is an adjective that describes "the month" and not a noun indicating 'the nth sequential day'".

Yes, that's my general take, too.

[Quote from Nate](#)

Do they expect their readers to speak ancient Greek and can read Usener in Latin without a problem?)



LOL. Yes, I do think they expect that! And, most likely, most of them can/could. I doubt they ever considered us lay researchers being interested in their esoteric work!

Here's [a link to Wilamowitz's work Aristoteles und Athen](#). On [p. 190](#) it says:

geburtstage können nur gelegentlich wie bei Epikur und in seinem kreise geschichtlich sein ; Sokrates und Piaton haben mythische.

Birthdays can only occasionally be historical, as with Epicurus and in his circle; Socrates and Plato have mythical ones.

That implies to me that Epicurus's birthday was only considered important within his circle/school. Socrates' and Plato's took on mythic proportions due to their (undue) stature within Greek philosophy.

[Quote from Nate](#)

How is this known? By whom? If he gave the days of Socrates and Plato, would it not be reasonable to assume that he would do the same for Epicurus, another Hegemon?

Epicurus was "the most reviled and most revered" so any number of authors wouldn't feel his exact birthdate warranted mention. I don't see why we would expect every author - [especially the student of Stoics!](#) - to bother with recording Epicurus's birthdate. Plus, Diogenes Laertius included Epicurus's Will which (to me) gives his birthdate anyway. Not everyone wants to acknowledge the importance of Epicurus!