

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

Post by "Don" of December 18, 2022 at 7:48 AM

From my perspective, this is big. I just found this in Pliny 's *Natural History*, 35.2:

Quote

Thus it is that we possess the portraits of no living individuals, and leave behind us the pictures of our wealth, not of our persons.

And yet the very same persons adorn the palæstra and the anointing-room⁴ with portraits of athletes, and both hang up in their chamber and carry about them a likeness of Epicurus.⁵ On the twentieth day of each moon they celebrate his birthday⁶ by a sacrifice, and keep his festival. known as the "Icas,"⁷ every month: and these too, people who wish to live without being known!⁸ So it is, most assuredly, our indolence has lost sight of the arts, and since our minds are destitute of any characteristic features, those of our bodies are neglected also.

[Pliny the Elder, The Natural History, BOOK XXXV. AN ACCOUNT OF PAINTINGS AND COLOURS., CHAP. 2. \(2.\)—THE HONOUR ATTACHED TO PORTRAITS.](#)

The footnote - from John Bostock in 1855! - says "6 In reality, his birth-day was not on the twentieth day of any month; but, for some reason which is not known, he fixed upon this day.—B. He was born on the seventh day of the month Gamelion."

LOL!! 😄 Although later parts were published posthumously by Pliny the Younger shortly after Pliny's death during the destruction of Pompeii, Pliny's *Natural History* is from the 1st century CE **when there were still practicing Epicureans right in Herculaneum near where Pliny actually had a villa!!!** Pliny no doubt knew Epicureans first-hand!! For me, I'm going to take the word of Pliny over a 19th century scholar!

In Latin:

Quote

iidem palaestras athletarum imaginibus et ceromata sua exornant, epicuri voltus per cubicula gestant ac circumferunt secum. natali eius sacrificant, feriasque omni mense vicesima luna custodiunt, quas icadas vocant, ii maxime, qui se ne viventes quidem nosci volunt. ita est profecto: artes desidia perdidit, et quoniam animorum imagines non sunt, negleguntur etiam corporum.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2756-epicurus-birthday-2023-the-most-comprehensive-picture-yet/?postID=21293#post21293>