

The Legendary Predecessor of Epicurus

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I recall how Emily Austin in her interview with us stated that she came to do her book "Living For Pleasure" as part of a series in which *no one else wanted to do a book* on Epicurus and her co-writers found it strange that she would wish to focus on Epicurus herself.

I understand that it is not generally part of the job description of professional academics to "promote" one philosophy over another, but enthusiasm for a topic is not hard to pick up. There are certainly some numbers of academics who write articles about Epicurus, but apart from Emily Austin's book not very many with an overtly positive spin about the entire philosophy. That's one reason why Norman DeWitt's book stands apart, and why I find it useful to check the bibliography of each recent book on Epicurus to see whether he is cited. Whether you agree with every point made by DeWitt or not, it's hard to write a book on Epicurus without taking notice of the arguments made in "Epicurus and His Philosophy" -- and yet that seems to happen all the time.