

Epicurean Rings / Jewelry / Coins / Mementos

Post by "Cassius" of March 26, 2020 at 4:27 AM

I think that's good critical thinking, Samj. However there are so many variables that it's hard to say how determinative that would be.

One of the lines in the DeWitt book that has stuck with me the most was the opening (second line):

"At the very outset the reader should be prepared to think of him at one and the same time as the most revered and the most reviled of all founders of thought in the Graeco-Roman world."

I think that is still true today and was in Bligh's time too. It is dangerous to associate oneself publicly with the name Epicurus. At best Epicurus is considered an irresponsible partier by most people; at worst - if they know the truth - Epicurus is considered to be strongly anti-religious and to be condemned by any standard moralist or Christian.

Thus for example with Jefferson - were it not for his private letters, we would not have much way of guessing that he was explicitly a fan of Epicurus.

So while the presence of documented connections to Epicurus is the best possible evidence, I don't think we can be surprised that many people are going to keep their personal affection for Epicurus private.