

Where Is Epicurus In The "School of Athens"?

Post by "Cassius" of August 6, 2020 at 5:29 PM

OK I have to apologize to everyone because I have only now had the time to follow Don's original links to see what Joshua was commenting on..... Now I see where Joshua was coming from.

At least to organize my own thoughts, if not the thread as a whole, it seems we are talking about a series of things:

1. Did Raphael have access to good information as to what Epicurus really looked like?
 1. The context of that question is that clearly at some point in history various book publishers featured renderings of Epicurus which were apparently "reconstructed" as if they did not have access to good information about Epicurus' likeness.
 2. On the other hand, it appears to be the case that there were busts of Epicurus at the Vatican which survived from antiquity. If the memory was also preserved that these busts were of Epicurus (which needs to be determined) then at least some Europeans retained a correct knowledge of his likeness even while books were being published elsewhere with incorrect portrayals.
 3. Is it possible that Epicurus' true face was not known anywhere with confidence until the small bust inscribed with his name was found at Herculaneum?
2. Did Raphael convey to others who each of the figures in his fresco were intended to represent?
3. If Raphael did not convey his own views to others, is there a record of a historical tradition as to who each figure was?
4. We're presumably talking about the Wikipedia attribution. What authority does the Wikipedia page cite?
5. Is it possible that Raphael knew what Epicurus really looked like, but nevertheless portrayed him as the pudgy wreathed stenographer?
6. If the pudgy wreathed stenographer was not intended to be Epicurus, is there another likely candidate for that figure?
7. What case can be made that the figure which most resembles the actual Epicurus, the bearded figure in Orange to the left of Plato, was intended by Raphael to represent Epicurus?
8. What implications can be drawn from the placement of the figures and the context in which they are placed?