

Early Epicurean Community - Listing of Known Epicureans Throughout History

Post by “Eikadistes” of May 14, 2021 at 5:09 AM

EPICUREAN PHILOSOPHERS

*[T]here are plenty of witnesses of the unsurpassable kindness of [Epicurus] to everybody; both his own country which honored him with brazen statues, and his friends who were so numerous that they could not be contained in whole cities; and all his acquaintances who were bound to him by nothing but the charms of his doctrine [...] Also, **the perpetual succession of his school, which, when every other school decayed, continued without any falling off, and produced a countless number of philosophers, succeeding one another without any interruption.** (Diogenes Laërtius, *The Lives and Opinions of Eminent Philosophers*, Book X)*

387 BCE: *Plato founds his **Academy**.*

384 BCE: *Aristotle is born in the Central Macedonian city of Stagira.*

348 BCE: *Plato dies at the age of 80 due to natural causes.*

341 BCE: **Epicurus** is born on the Island of Samos.

338 BCE: *Aristotle begins three years of teaching 13-year-old Alexander III of Macedon.*

334 BCE: *Aristotle founds his **Lyceum** at the age of 50.*

327 BCE: A 14-year-old **Epicurus** is tutored by a Platonic philosopher named Pamphilus

326 BCE: *Alexander III of Macedon invades India; 34-year old Pyrrho follows. As a result ...*

325 BCE: *Pyrrho adopts the 200-year-old agnostic Indian school of **Ajñāna** and develops **Skepticism***

323 BCE: An 18-year-old **Epicurus** serves two years of required Athenian conscription

322 BCE: **Aristotle dies at the age of 62 due to natural causes.**

321 BCE: A 20-year-old **Epicurus** moves with family to Colophon and studies under the Peripatetic Praxiphanes; he later studies under Nausiphanes of Teos, a Democritean pupil of Pyrrho

316 BCE: A 25-year-old **Epicurus** observes **Halley's Comet** with Nausiphanes

311 BCE: A 30-year-old **Epicurus** begins teaching in Mytilene on the island of Lesbos

310 BCE: A 31-year-old **Epicurus** relocates Northward to Lampsacus on the mainland

309 BCE: A 32-year-old **Epicurus** directly witnesses a **Total Solar Eclipse**

306 BCE: A 35-year-old **Epicurus** moves to Athens and establishes **the Garden**

HEGEMON – ΗΓΕΜΩΝ – /hɛ:ge.'mɔ:n/ – **“Leader”** of the Epicurean Community

Hegemon: **EPICURUS* of SAMOS** (c. 23-24th January 341 BCE – 270/69 BCE) founder of Epicureanism

KATHEGEMONES – ΚΑΘΗΓΕΜΩΝΗΣ – /ka.tʰɛ:ge.'mɔ:ni:z/ – **“Guides”** with the Hegemon

Kathegemon: **POLYAENUS* of LAMPSACUS** (c. 345 – 286 BCE)

Kathegemon: **METRODORUS* of LAMPSACUS** (c. 331/0 – 278/7 BCE)

Kathegemon: **HERMARCHUS* of MYTILENE** (c. 325 – 250 BCE)

*The founder and his closest three allies are called **HOI ANDRES – ΟΙ ΑΝΔΡΕΣ** – "The Men"

DIADOCHOI – ΔΙΑΔΟΧΟΙ – /di:'a.dɔ:kʰɔj/ – **“Succession”** of Epicurean Scholarchs

Scholarch (1st): **HERMARCHUS*** (c. 325 – 250 BCE) Scholarch **from 270 to 250 BCE**

Scholarch (2nd): **POLYSTRATUS** (c. 300 – 219/8 BCE) **from 250 to 219/8 BCE**

NOTE: Scholarchs after **Polystratus** will **NOT** have personally known **Epicurus**.

Scholarch (3rd): **DIONYSIUS of LAMPTRAI** (c. 280 – 205 BCE) **from 219/8 to 205 BCE**

Scholarch (4th): **BASILIDES of TYRUS** (c. 245 – 175 BCE) **from 205 to 175 BCE**

Scholarch (5th): **PROTARCHUS of BARGHILIA** (c. 225 – 150 BCE) **from 175 to 150 BCE**

Scholarch (6th): **APOLLODORUS of ATHENS** (c. 200 – 125 BCE) **from 147 to 125 BCE**

Scholarch (7th): **ZENO of SIDON** (c. 166 – 75 BCE) **Scholarch from 125 to 75 BCE**

Scholarch (8th): **PHAEDRUS** (c. 138 – 70/69 BCE) **Scholarch from 75 to 70/69 BCE**

Scholarch (9th): **PATRO** (c. 100 – 25 BCE) **Scholarch from 70/69 to 51 BCE**

In A.D. 121 the then incumbent, Popilius Theotimus, appealed to Plotina, widow of the emperor Trajan and a devoted adherent, to intercede with Hadrian for relief from a requirement that the head should be a Roman citizen, which had resulted in unfortunate choices. The petition was granted and acknowledged with all the gratitude that was proper to the sect. (De Witt, Epicurus

and His Philosophy 332)

Scholarch (16ish): **POPILLIUS THEOTIMUS** (early 2nd-century CE)

Scholarch (17ish): **HELIODORUS** (2nd-century CE) Hadrian writes him.

"Later in the century it is on record that the school became a beneficiary of the bounty of Marcus Aurelius [161-180 CE], who bestowed a stipend of 10,000 drachmas per annum upon the heads of all the recognized schools" (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 332)

KATHEGETES - ΚΑΘΗΓΗΤΕΣ - /ka.tʰɛ:ɡɛ:'tʰi:z/ - "Down from the Guides" or **Teachers**

Kathegete: **ARISTOBULUS of SAMOS** (4th - 3rd-century BCE) **brother of Epicurus**

Kathegete: **CHAERDEMUS of SAMOS** (4th - 3rd-century BCE) brother of **Epicurus**

Kathegete: **NEOCLES of SAMOS** (4th - 3rd-century BCE) another **brother of Epicurus**

GNORIMOI - ΓΝΩΡΙΜΟΙ - /ɡnɔ:ri:'moj/ - "Known Familiars" or **Disciples**

APELLES (4th - 3rd-century BCE) the recipient of one of Epicurus' many epistles

APOLLODORUS of LAMPSACUS (4th - 3rd-century BCE) the brother of **Leonteus**

BATIS of LAMPSACUS (4th - 3rd-century BCE) **Idomeneus'** wife and **Metrodorus'** sister

BOIDION (4th - 3rd-century BCE) "calf-eyes" hetaera who studied at the Garden

CALLISTRATUS (4th - 3rd-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

CARNEISCUS of LAMPSACUS (4th - 3rd-century BCE) dedicated a **book on the death to Philainis**

COLOTES of LAMPSACUS (c. 320 - 268 BCE) a **popular Greek writer known for satire**

CRONIUS of LAMPSACUS (4th - 3rd-century BCE) a **former student of the Pythagorean Eudoxus**

CTESSIPUS (4th - 3rd-century BCE) **attested in a letter fragment written by Epicurus**

DEMELATA (4th - 3rd-century BCE) attested by **Philodemus**

DEMETRIA (4th - 3rd-century BCE) a companion to **Hermarchus**

EROTION (4th - 3rd-century BCE) "lovely" hetaera who studied at the Garden

EUDEMUS (4th - 3rd-century BCE) **mentioned in a letter written by Epicurus**

HEDEIA (3rd-century BCE) "delectable" **companion to Polyaeus**

HIPPOCLIDES of LAMPSACUS (c. 300 – 219/8 BCE) born on the same day as **Polystratus**

IDOMENEUS of LAMPSACUS (c. 310 – 270 BCE) the main financier of the Garden

LEONTEUS of LAMPSACUS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) the **husband of Themista**

LEONTION (4th – 3rd-century BCE) "**lioness**", a respected writer and companion to **Metrodorus**

LYCOPHRON (4th – 3rd-century BCE) a correspondent of **Leonteus of Lampsacus**

MAMMARION (3rd-century BCE) "**tits**", a possible lover to **Leonteus**

MENESTRATUS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) **pupil of Metrodorus**

MENOECEUS of LAMPSACUS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) recipient of **Epicurus' Letter to Menoeceus**

MENTORIDES of LAMPSACUS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) the eldest brother of **Metrodorus**

MYS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) "**mouse**" a male slave granted his freedom who managed publishing

NICANOR (4th – 3rd-century BCE) student of **Epicurus** attested by **Diogenes Laërtius**

NIKIDION (4th – 3rd-century BCE) "**victress**" possible lover to **Idomeneus**

PHILAINIS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) attested by **Philodemus**

PHILISTAS of LAMPSACUS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) inspired **Carneiscus** to write

PYTHOCLES of LAMPSACUS (c. 324 – 3rd-century BCE) recipient of **Epicurus' Letter to Pythocles**

THEMISTA of LAMPSACUS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) wife of **Leonteus**

THEOPHILIA (4th – 3rd-century BCE) attested by 1st-century Roman poet **Martial**

HELLENIC **PHILOI** – ΦΙΛΟΙ – /'phi.loj/ – "**Friends**" or Associates

ANAXARCHUS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) fragmentary attestation

ARCHEPHON (4th – 3rd-century BCE) fragmentary attestation

CHARMIDES (4th – 3rd-century BCE) a friend of **Arcesilaus the Academic Skeptic**

DOSITHEUS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) the father of **Hegesianax**

ERASISTRATUS of CHIOS (c. 304 - 250 BCE) of the **Alexandrian school of medicine**

ZOPYRUS (4th - 3rd-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

ALEXANDRIA the ATOMIST (3rd-century BCE) associated with Alexandria

ANTIDORUS THE EPICUREAN (3rd-century BCE) who wrote a work against Heraclides

APOLLONIDES (3rd-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

APOLLODORUS the EPICUREAN (3rd-century BCE) a pupil of Polyrstratus

ARTEMON of LAODICEA (3rd-century BCE) one of several teachers of Philonides

AUTODORUS the EPICUREAN (3rd-century BCE) criticizes Heraclides in his treatise *On Justice*

CINEAS the EPICUREAN (3rd-century BCE) advised King Pyrrhus of Epirus (Plutarch)

DIODORUS (3rd-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

DIOTIMUS OF SEMACHIDES (3rd-century BCE) a pupil of Polyrstratus

EUGATHES (3rd-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

EUPHRONIUS (3rd-century BCE) ridiculed by Plutarch; possible contemporary of Aelian

HEGESIANAX (3rd-century BCE) son of Dositheus

HERMOCRATES (3rd-century BCE) who proposed natural explanation for prayer

PYRSON (3rd-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

THEOPHEIDES (3rd-century BCE) a friend of Hermarchus from whom he received a letter

ANTIPHANES (3rd - 2nd-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

ANTIOCHUS IV EPIPHANES (c. 3rd-century - 164 BCE) king and student to Philonides

ARISTONYMUS (3rd - 2nd-century BCE) a friend of Dionysius

DIOGENES of SELEUCIA (c. 3rd-century - 146 BCE) was put to death by Antiochus VI Dionysus

HELIODORUS OF ANTIOCH (3rd - 2nd-century BCE) a senior official in the court of Seleucus IV

ALCAEUS (2nd-century BCE) Sent and expelled from Rome with Philiscus in 154 BCE

CEPHISOPHON (2nd-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

DAMOPHANES (2nd-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

DEMETRIUS I SOTER (c. 185 - 150 BCE) a ruler of the Seleucid Empire and student of Philonides

EUCRATIDES of RHODES (2nd-century BCE) was known only by his gravestone

HERACLITUS of RHODIAPOLIS (2nd-century BCE) Physician connected with the Athenian school

IOLAUS OF BITHYNIA (2nd-century BCE) a physician associated with Epicureanism

NICASICRATES of RHODES (2nd-century BCE) was called as a "dissident" by Philodemus

PHILISCUS (2nd-century BCE) Sent and expelled from Rome with Alcaeus in 154 BCE

PHILONIDES of LAODICEA (c. 200 - 130 BCE) Founded school in Antioch

THESPIS the EPICUREAN (2nd-century BCE) student of Scholarch Basilides; taught Philodemus

TIMASAGORAS of RHODES (2nd-century BCE) was called as a "dissident" by Philodemus

ATHENAEUS (2nd - 1st-century BCE) a pupil of Polyaeus of Lampsacus

ATHENAGORAS (2nd - 1st-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

ASCLEPIADES of BITHYNIA (124 - 40 BCE) Physician with atomic drug theory

IRENÆUS OF MILETUS (2nd - 1st-century BCE) a pupil of Demetrius Lacon

PHILODEMUS of GADARA (c. 110 - 30 BCE) manuscripts preserved in Herculaneum

ANTIGENES (1st-century BCE) friend of Philodemus

ANTIPATER (1st-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

APOLLOPHANES of PERGAMUM (1st-century BCE) sent to Rome to teach

BACCHUS (1st-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

BROMIUS (1st-century BCE) peer to Philodemus; Zeno of Sidon's pupil

DEMETRIUS LACON (1st-century BCE) Founded Milesian school; taught Philodemus

DIOGENES of TARSUS (1st-century BCE) travels with Plutarch of Tarsus

EGNATIUS (1st-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

LYSIAS of TARSUS (1st-century BCE) Tyrant of Tarsus who butchered the wealthy

ORION the EPICUREAN (1st-century BCE) Epicurean "notable" per Laërtius

PLATO OF SARDIS (1st-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

PLUTIADES of TARSUS (1st-century BCE) travels with Diogenes of Tarsus

PTOLEMEUS the BLACK of ALEXANDRIA (1st-century BCE) "notable" per Laërtius

PTOLEMEUS the WHITE of ALEXANDRIA (1st-century BCE) "notable" per Laërtius

TIMAGORAS (1st-century BCE) attested by Cicero

ARTEMIDORUS OF PARIUM (1st-century BCE/CE) *fragmentary attestation*

ATHENODORUS (1st-century CE) *fragmentary attestation*

ATHENODORUS OF ATHENS (1st-century CE) *fragmentary attestation*

AMYNIAS of SAMOS (1st-century CE) only known due to a stone inscription

BOETHUS OF SIDON (1st-century CE) an acquaintance of Plutarch

DIONYSIUS OF RHODES (1st-century CE) a friend of Diogenes of Oenoanda

MENNEAS (1st-century CE) *fragmentary attestation*

POLLIUS FELIX (1st-century CE) a patron of the poet Statius

THEODORIDAS OF LINDUS (1st-century CE) an acquaintance of Diogenes of Oenoanda

XENOCLES OF DELPHI (1st-century CE) an acquaintance of Plutarch

XENOCRITOS (1st-century CE) known only from a stone inscription

EPICURIUS (1st - 2nd-century CE) a philosopher attested by the Middle Platonist Plutarch

CELSUS [1] the EPICUREAN (2nd-century CE) a friend of Lucian of Samosata

CELSUS [2] the EPICUREAN (2nd-century CE) a Greek opponent to the Christian church

DIOCLES the EPICUREAN (2nd-century CE) a Greek opponent to the Christian church

DIOGENES of OENOANDA (2nd-century CE) posted Epicurean teachings on a 205-ft. wall

DIOGENIANUS (2nd-century CE) who wrote a polemic against Chrysippus

HERACLITUS of RHODIAPOLIS (2nd-century CE) known from a stone inscription

LUCIAN OF SAMOSATA (c. 125 - 180 CE) a Syrian satirist who ridiculed the supernatural

NICERATUS of RHODES (2nd-century CE) a close friend of Diogenes of Oenoanda

PHILIDAS HERACLEONOS of DIDYMA (2nd-century CE) known from a stone inscription

ZENOCRATES THE EPICUREAN (2nd - 3rd-century CE) a hedonist from Alciphron's letters

EXUPERANTIA (3rd - 4th-century CE) the wife of **Heraclamon Leonides**

HERACLAMON LEONIDES (3rd - 4th-century CE) the husband of **Exuperantia**

ROMAN **AMICI** - **AMICI** - /a'mi:ki: / - "Friends" or "Associates"

ANTONIUS (2nd-century BCE) Exchanged views with Galen on medical matters.

GAIUS AMAFINIUS (late 2nd-century BCE) among the first Epicureans to write in Latin

RABIRIUS (late 2nd-century BCE) among the first Epicureans to write in Latin

TITUS ALBUICIUS (late 2nd-century BCE) studied in Athens; passed teachings to Rome

AULUS TORQUATUS (2nd - 1st-century BCE) a relative of L. Manlius and possible Epicurean

CATIUS INSUBER (c. 2nd-century - 45 BCE) popular Celtic author from Northern Italy

LUCIUS CORNELIUS SISENNA (2nd - 1st-century BCE) a historian and "inconsistent" Epicurean

LUCIUS MANLIUS TORQUATUS (2nd-century - 46 BCE) a friend of Cicero; **AGAINST** Julius Caesar

NERO THE EPICUREAN (2nd - 1st-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

TITUS POMPONIUS ATTICUS (110 - 32 BCE) Close friend of Cicero; wisely *apolitical*

ANTHIS (1st-century BCE) a freedwoman of Calpurnia Caesaris who named her son "Mr. 20th"

AURELIUS OPILIUS (1st-century BCE) Freedman who retired to Mytilene

DION (1st-century BCE) A philosopher for whom **Cicero** had no regard and little respect

LUCIUS AUFIDIUS BASSUS (1st-century BCE) Used philosophy to deal with a chronic illness

LUCIUS CORNELIUS BALBUS (1st-century BCE) a friend of Cicero

LUCIUS LUCCESIUS (1st-century BCE) a friend of Cicero

LUCIUS PAPIRIUS PAETUS (1st-century BCE) good friends with Cicero

LUCIUS SAUFEIUS (1st-century BCE) Friend of Cicero and Atticus; seemingly apolitical

LUCIUS VARIUS RUFUS (1st-century BCE) Roman poet and associate of Virgil

MARCUS FADIUS GALLUS (1st-century BCE) a friend of Cicero who wrote against Julius Caesar

MARCUS POMPILIUS ANDRONICUS (1st-century BCE) correspondent with Cicero

MARCUS VALERIUS MESSALLA CORVINUS (1st-century BCE) a friend of Horace

MARIUS the EPICUREAN (1st-century BCE) a friend of Cicero and subject of a text

MATIUS the EPICUREAN (1st-century BCE) a friend of Cicero known for defying anti-Cesarists

PLAUTIUS TUCCA (1st-century BCE) Roman poet and associate of Virgil

PUBLIUS CORNELIUS DOLABELLA (1st-century BCE) Senate declared him an “enemy of the State”

PUBLIUS VOLUMNIUS ETRAPELUS (1st-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

SIRO (1st-century BCE) Pupil of **Zeno of Sidon**; taught **Virgil**; founded the school in Naples

STATILIUS the EPICUREAN (1st-century BCE) a friend of Cicero who argued against Civil War

TREBIANUS (1st-century BCE) *fragmentary attestation*

VELLEIUS the EPICUREAN (1st-century BCE) a friend of Cicero who supported **Epicurean theology**

LUCIUS CALPURNIUS PISO CAESONINUS (c. 100 – 43 BCE) friend of Cicero; Caesar's father-in-law

TITUS LUCRETIUS CARUS (99 – 55 BCE) writes *De Rerum Natura*

GAIUS VIBIUS PANSA CAETRONIANUS (c. 90s – 43 BCE) Friend of Cicero; Friend of Julius Caesar

AULUS HIRTIUS (c. 90 – 43 BCE) a friend of Cicero and *former* lobbyist against Caesar

GAIUS CASSIUS LONGINUS (86 – 42 BCE) a friend of Cicero and conspirator against Caesar

CAIUS TREBATIUS TESTA (84 BCE – 4 CE) a **friend of Cicero who supported** Julius Caesar

CALPURNIA CAESARIS (c. 75 BCE – 00s BCE) *Daughter of Piso*

PUBLIUS VIRGILIUS MARO (70 – 19 BCE) student of **Siro** at the Garden of Naples

GAIUS CILNIUS MAECENAS (70 – 8 BCE) political advisor to Octavian/Augustus

QUINTUS HORACE HORATIUS FLACCUS (65 – 8 BCE) Coined *carpe diem* or "seize the day!"

CAIUS STALLIUS HAURANUS (1st-century BCE – 1st-century CE) a **student in Naples**

LUCIUS CALPURNIUS PISO PONTIFEX (48 BCE – 32 CE) **the son of Piso Caesoninus**

PUBLIUS QUINTILIUS VARUS (46 BCE – 9 CE) a **general and fellow-student of Virgil**

ALEXANDER the EPICUREAN (1st-century CE) who was "fond of learning"

DIODORUS the EPICUREAN (1st-century CE) who allegedly committed suicide

GAIUS PETRONIUS ARBITER (c. 27 – 66 CE) *who allegedly committed suicide*

MARCUS GAVIUS APICIUS (1st-century CE) a gourmet during Tiberius' reign

NOMENTANUS (1st-century CE) a **Roman Epicurean during Tiberius' reign**

PUBLIUS MANLIUS VOPISCUS (1st-century CE) a **patron of the poet Statius**

CAIUS ARTORIUS CELER (1st – 2nd-century CE) a **philosopher from North Africa**

EMPRESS POMPEIA PLOTINA CLAUDIA PHOEBE PISO (c. 68 – 121/2 CE) **Trajan's widow**

MAXIMUS THE EPICUREAN (1st – 2nd-century CE) *fragmentary attestation*

AURELIUS BELIUS PHILIPPUS (2nd-century CE) Head of Apamean school

DAMIS THE EPICUREAN (2nd-century CE) **whose historical personage is poorly attested**

PUDENTIANUS (2nd-century CE) **Galen wrote a lost work to him**

TIBERIUS CLAUDIUS LEPIDUS (2nd-century CE) Founded school in Amastris

EMPEROR LUCIUS SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS (145 – 211) **Emperor from 193 to 211**

ZENOBIUS (2nd – 3rd-century CE) **the target of a book by Alexander of Aphrodisias**

PALLADAS of ALEXANDRIA (4th-century CE) known as the “**last known ancient Epicurean**”

We have seen that at the beginning of the third century AD, some five centuries after the death of its founder, Epicureanism was still alive both in major centres and in remoter parts of the Graeco-Roman world. It is generally held, however, that its demise lay not far off, that by the middle of the fourth century it would have become a virtually forgotten creed, overwhelmed, along with Stoicism, by the spread of Christianity, fully justifying St. Augustine's boast that 'its ashes are so cold that not a single spark can be struck from them'. (Jones, Epicurean Tradition 94)

MEDIEVAL EPICUREANS:

FREDERICK II, HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR (1194 - 1250) who **burns** in Dante's *Inferno*

FARINATA DEGLI UBERTI (1212 - 1264) a Florentine atheist who **burns** in Dante's *Inferno*

CAVALCANTE DE' CAVALCANTI (c. 1230 - 1280) a philosopher who **burns** in Dante's *Inferno*

MANFRED, KING OF SICILY (1232 - 1266) the son of Frederick II and fellow Epicurean

GUIDO CAVALCANTI (c. 1250 - 1300) best friend of Dante and son of **Cavalcante**

MODERN EPICUREANS AND NEO-EPICUREANS:

LORENZO VALLA (1406 - 1457) who wrote *On Pleasure* and sympathized with **Epicurus**

ERASMUS OF ROTTERDAM (1466 - 1536) a Dutch philosopher and Humanist

LUDOVICO ARIOSTO (1474 - 1533) a poet who employed Epicurean themes

GIOVANNI DI LORENZO DE' MEDICI, POPE LEO X (1475 - 1521) a luxury-loving Humanist

FRANCESCO GUICCIARDINI (1483 - 1540) of the Italian Renaissance

MICHEL EYQUEM DE MONTAIGNE (1533 - 1592) of the French Renaissance

ELIO DIODATAI (1576 - 1661) a Genevan jurist and supporter of Galileo

FRANÇOIS DE LA MOTHE LE VAYER (1588 - 1672) a writer and friend of Molière

THÉOPHILE DE VIAU (1590 - 1626) who was banished from France on charges of immorality

PIERRE GASSENDI (1592 - 1655) who tried to reconcile Epicureanism with Christianity

JACQUES VALLÉE, SIEUR DES BARREAUX (1599 - 1673) a French poet and lover of de Viau

FRANÇOIS LUILLIER (1600 – 1651) was known by reputation as a practicing Epicurean

GABRIEL NAUDÉ (1600 – 1653) a French librarian, prolific writer, and friend of **Gassendi**

GUILLES DE LAUNAY (c. 1600- 1675) wrote that **Epicurus** was the ideal natural philosopher

GUI PATIN (1601 – 1672) a French doctor and great friend of **Gabriel Naudé**

EMMANUEL MAIGNAN (1601 – 1676) a French physicist and Christian Epicurean theologian

JEAN FRANÇOIS SARASIN (1611 – 1654) a French writer and Epicurean devotee

MARION DE LORME (1613 – 1650) a famous French courtesan from a known Epicurean circle

CHARLES DE SAINT-ÉVREMOND (1613 – 1703) a follower of **Gassendi**

FRANÇOIS VI, DUC DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULD (1613 – 1680) a French author

ANTOINE MENJOT (c. 1615 – 1696) a French doctor and follower of **Gassendi**

WALTER CHARLETON (1619 – 1707) a main transmitter of Epicureanism to England

SAVINIEN DE CYRANO DE BERGERAC (1619 – 1655) a French novelist and playwright

FRANÇOIS BERNIER (1620 – 1688) a French physician and follower of **Gassendi**

NINON DE L'ENCLOS (1620 – 1705) an author who left her inheritance for 9-year-old **Voltaire**

JEAN DE LA FONTAINE (1621 – 1695) a widely-read French poet and fabulist

MARGARET CAVENDISH, DUCHESS (1623 – 1673) an atomist but *not* a classical Epicurean

MADAME MARIE DE RABUTIN-CHANTAL, MARQUISE DE SÉVIGNÉ (1626 – 1696) an aristocrat

SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE, 1st BARONET (1628 – 1699) an essayist and friend of **Wilmot**

ANTOINETTE DESHOULIÈRES (1634 – 1655) a French, epicurean poet

GUILLAUME AMFRYE DE CHAULIEU (1639 – 1720) a convinced Epicurean poet

APHRA BEHN (1640 – 1689) an English playwright, poet, writer, and libertine translator

GUILLAUME LAMY (1644 – 1683) a French physician who taught **La Mettrie**

CHARLES AUGUSTE DE LA FARE (1644 - 1712) a French poet and friend of Chaulieu

JACQUES PARRAIN DES COUTURES (1645 - 1702) who wrote *La Morale d'Epicure*

JOHN WILMOT, 2nd EARL of ROCHESTER (1647 - 1680) a satirist; friend of Temple

JEAN DE LA CHAPELLE (1651 - 1723) the “father of French epicurean poetry.”

FRANÇOIS COURTIN (1659 - 1739) abbot of Mont-Saint-Quentin by age nineteen

WILLIAM CONGREVE (1670 - 1729) an English playwright of the Restoration Period

BERNARD MANDEVILLE (1670 - 1733) an Anglo-Dutch philosopher, economist, and satirist

CELESTINO GALIANI (1681 - 1753) an Archbishop who adhered to “Christian Epicureanism”

JULIEN OFFRAY DE LA METTRIE (1709 - 1751) who grounded mental processes in the body

FREDERICK II of PRUSSIA (1712 - 1786) also known as “Frederick The Great”

DENIS DIDEROT (1713 - 1784) a French author, social critic, and religious skeptic

CLAUDE ADRIEN HELVÉTIUS (1715 - 1771) a French utilitarian philosopher

PAUL-HENRI THIRY, BARON D'HOLBACH (1723 - 1789) an atheist during the Enlightenment

THOMAS JEFFERSON (1743 - 1826) the third President of the United States of America

JEREMY BENTHAM (1748 - 1832) an English philosopher and founder of modern Utilitarianism

RICHARD PAYNE KNIGHT (1751 - 1824) an English classical scholar and collector

WILLIAM SHORT (1759 - 1849) an ambassador and friend of **Thomas Jefferson**

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR (1775 - 1864) an English writer, poet, and activist

CHARLES GREVILLE (1794 - 1865) an English diarist and amateur cricket player

FRANCIS WRIGHT (1795 - 1852) a Scottish-American writer, feminist, and abolitionist

WALT WHITMAN (1819 - 1892) and American poet whose Father heard **Wright** lecture

WILLIAM WALLACE (1844 - 1897) a Scottish philosopher inspired by Epicurus

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON (1850 - 1894) an American writer and author of *Treasure Island*

JEAN-MARIE GUYAU (1854 - 1888) a French author and anarchist who died at the age of 33

HENRY DWIGHT SEDGWICK (1861 – 1957) titled his auto-biography *Memoirs of an Epicurean*

CHARLES LEOPOLD MAYER (1881 – 1971) a French biochemist and Liberal who opposed Marx

JUN TSUJI (1884 – 1944) a Japanese dadaist, absurdist, poet, essayist and playwright

H. P. LOVECRAFT (1890 – 1927) whose philosophy of *Cosmicism* was inspired by *Epicureanism*

JOSÉ MUJICA (1935 – PRESENT) a farmer and 40th President of Uruguay from 2010 to 2015.

CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS (1949 – 2011) a writer, polemicist and religious critic

CASSIUS AMICUS (1958 – PRESENT) a writer and proprietor of NewEpicurean.com

MICHEL ONFRAY (1959 – PRESENT) a scholar of hedonism and fierce religious critic

HIRAM CRESPO (1975 – PRESENT) a writer and founder of SocietyOfEpicurus.com

NATHAN H. BARTMAN (1988 – PRESENT) a musician and author of this historical investigation.

FORMER EPICUREANS:

TIMOCRATES of LAMPUSACUS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) brother of **Metrodorus of Lampsacus**

HERODOTUS of LAMPUSACUS (4th – 3rd-century BCE) Friend of **Timocrates**

METRODORUS of STRATONECIUS (2nd-century BCE) converted to Academic Skepticism

CICERO (106 BCE – 43 BCE) Student of **Phaedrus** who pioneered Eclecticism

SAUL of TARSUS (c. 5 – 65 CE) Better known as *St. Paul the Apostle* of the Christian tradition

EPICUREAN COMMUNITIES:

We meet Epicureans not just in **Athens**, where they were amongst Paul's audiences, but we also come across Epicurean communities in the West, in **Herculaneum** or **Sorrento**, in the East, on **Rhodes** and **Cos**, in **Pergamon**, Lycian **Oinoanda**, Syrian **Apameia**, in remote southern Lycian **Rhodiapolis** or in **Amastris** in Bithynia on the Black Sea. (*The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism* 48)

School at **LAMPUSACUS** (modern Northwestern Turkey) Founded by **Epicurus**

The **GARDEN (Ο ΚΗΠΟΣ) of ATHENS** (Central Greece) Founded by **Epicurus**

Community in **CORINTH** (Peloponnese peninsula, Greece)

Community in **CHALCIS** (*Euboea island, Greece*)

Community in **THEBES** (*Boeotia, Central Greece*)

Community in **THESSALONIKI** (*Macedonia region, Greece*)

Community in **KOS** (*Southeastern island of Greece*)

School at **RHODES** (*Southeastern island of Greece*)

School at **AMASTRIS** (*Northern Turkey*) Founded by **Tiberius Claudius Lepidus**

Community in **TARSUS** (*Northwest Turkey*)

Community in **PERGAMON** (*Western Turkey*)

Community in **COLOPHON** (*Western Turkey*)

Community in **EPHESUS** (*Southwestern Turkey*)

School at **MILETUS** (*Southwestern Turkey*) Founded by **Demetrius Laco**

Community in **OINOANDA** (*Southwestern Turkey*) Supported by **Diogenes**

Community in **RHODIAPOLIS** (*Southwestern Turkey*)

School at **ANTIOCH** (*South-central Turkey*) Founded by **Philonides**

School at **APAMEIA** (*Western Syria*) Lead by **Aurelius Belius Philippus**

Community at SIDON (Lebanon)

Community at **TYRE** (*Lebanon*)

Community in **ALEXANDRIA** (*City of Alexander III of Macedon in Egypt*)

Community in **OXYRHYNCHUS** (*Southern Egypt*)

School at **NAPLES** (*Southwestern Italy*) Founded by **Siro**

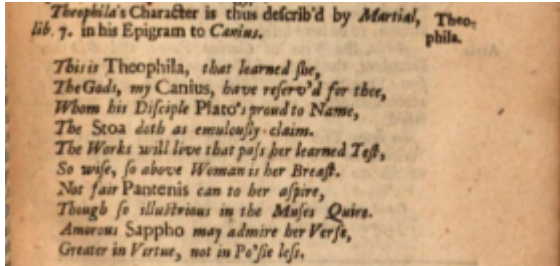
Community in **HERCULANEUM** (*Southwestern Italy*) Lead by **Philodemus**

Community in **ROME** (*Western Italy*) Inspired by **Albucius**

Post by “Eikadistes” of May 14, 2021 at 10:48 AM

I've attached some documents that were helpful in identifying Epicureans.

Post by "Eikadistes" of May 16, 2021 at 9:25 AM



Post by "Cassius" of May 16, 2021 at 3:15 PM

Nate from what is that a screen clip?

Post by "Eikadistes" of May 16, 2021 at 3:27 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Nate from what is that a screen clip?

The most recent one is from a book written by Gilles Ménage identifying ancient female philosophers (I'm using those as placeholders to upload more documents I find as I go back-and-forth, editing). This is a particularly interesting case: the author identifies three female Epicurean philosophers by name: **Lention** (having authored literature and being widely attested), **Themista** (attested by many, many others), and Theophilia who is **ONLY** attested by Ménage (per that screenshot). I've been debating whether or not "Theophilia" is a corruption of "Demetria" or perhaps "Themista" (both names alluding to deities) or whether they are different individuals, altogether. As of now, I have to assume so. I have a number of questions about Theophilia, so that shot is just a reminder to keep investigating those questions. 😊

Post by “Cassius” of May 16, 2021 at 3:43 PM

Great research Nate - thank you!!

Post by “Eikadistes” of May 17, 2021 at 1:42 PM

Unanswered Questions (*an on-going post*):

1. Is "**Theophilia**"—a purported, Epicurean philosopher from Gilles Ménage's *History of Women Philosophers*—a distinct, historical personality? Or is "**Theophilia**" a linguistic corruption of either "**Themista**" or "**Demetria**"?

answer: **YES**. Gilles Ménage verified that the Epicurean philosopher "**Theophilia**" is a distinct historical figure from "**Demetria**" based on a document to which he had access, written by the Roman poet **Marcus Valerius Martialis** (38/41 - 102/4 CE). Additionally, Ménage identifies them as being distinct by listing "**Themist[a]**" immediately before "**Theophilia**". While the proposition that many of the Epicurean courtesans were inventions by detractors holds merit, their attestation in literature by contemporaries is enough to accept their historical existence unless otherwise contradicted. Herein, both "**Theophilia**" and "**Demetria**" have been added to the original post.

2. Is the "**Herodotus**" mentioned in Norman DeWitt's *Epicurus and His Philosophy* - the wayward Epicurean who turned away from Epicurus' teachings with Timocrates - the **same** "**Herodotus**" to whom Epicurus sent his famous letter on physics?

3. What levels of marginalization and persecution did Epicureans face between the 5th and 13th centuries CE? In weeks of research, I have not identified a *single* Epicurean philosopher, follower, or patron between the years 400 and 1200. Were there Epicureans in the Persian and Arabian worlds during the European Dark Ages? Do we have Islamic sources of Epicureanism? Was a globally popular, living moral system truly "**lost**" for 800 years? If so, how?

answer: **Epicureanism was neither "lost", nor was Epicurus "forgotten."** Epicurus' history and his teachings were obscured by ideological opponents and neglected by the masses. (Existing sources of Epicurean philosophy are not preserved in Arabic through Islamic sources; our sources come from European scholars who preserved these texts.) Instead being "*forgotten*", Epicureanism was re-branded and its founder's reputation was distorted. Academic and Peripatetic philosophies were useful to the dominant political authority; Epicurean

philosophy was antithetical. Thus, Epicurus was re-written as an unworthy buffoon and his philosophy was re-branded as being evil. For the *same* reason that the Christian tradition enjoyed near-universal popularity, Epicureanism suffered ubiquitous scorn.



Post by “Eikadistes” of August 12, 2021 at 12:51 PM

Greetings, friends!

I hope everyone is well.

I've expanded this research drastically, and realize that the research I've put together will not fit in a single post (70,000-character maximum), so I'm going to be uploading my PDF once it is complete.

Cheers!

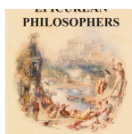
Nate

Post by “Eikadistes” of August 12, 2021 at 5:14 PM

The draft can be found here:

File

[**Epicurean Philosophers by Nathan H. Bartman**](#)



<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1999-early-epicurean-community-listing-of-known-epicureans-thoughtout-history/>

A definitive list of our Epicurean friends throughout history. (For the latest updates: <https://twentiers.com/2024/05/26/timeline/>)

Eikadistes

March 6, 2022 at 6:04 PM

Post by “Don” of August 12, 2021 at 11:11 PM

This is impressive, @Nate !

I'll admit I was initially skeptical of the medieval and modern Epicureans, but, upon further consideration, they/we are part of the continuum.

I find it disappointing that we can't have an "apostolic" succession stretching back to antiquity. However, although the flame of the Epicurean tradition was *almost* snuffed out by the [Triumph](#) of Christianity, an ember smoldered long enough for a fire to be rekindled.

Thank you for this outstanding compilation of the history of the philosophy! Nice work!

Post by “Eikadistes” of August 13, 2021 at 9:22 AM

I appreciate that, Don, thank you!

Post by “Cassius” of August 13, 2021 at 10:27 AM

Nate I haven't had time to go through the document in detail but I did notice the list of Epicurean communities. That topic gets raised frequently in terms of whether they constituted "communes" or how in fact they were organized (if at all, other than at least generally in regard to [PD39](#) and [PD40](#)).

My question was that I didn't pay close enough attention to see if you were able to find documentation for the locations on the list. Is there any kind of cross-referencing of those

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1999-early-epicurean-community-listing-of-known-epicureans-thoughout-history/>

locations to text references so that people using the document can track where the list came from?

I know how hard it is to do all the documentation that is desirable to do so if it's not there we can just add that to the future [to-do list](#).

Post by “Eikadistes” of August 14, 2021 at 12:11 PM

*“[Epicurus'] philosophy rode this tide. It had reached **Alexandria** even before his arrival in **Athens**. By the second century it was flourishing in **Antioch** and **Tarsus**, had invaded Judaea, and was known in Babylon. Word of it had reached Rome while Epicurus was still living, and in the last century B.C. it swept over Italy.”* (De Witt, Epicurus and His Philosophy 29)

*“Both **Thessalonica** and **Corinth** must have been strongholds of Epicureanism.”* (De Witt, Epicurus and His Philosophy 338)

*“After the third century BCE there were Epicurean centres in Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt: adherents, identified from their cities, came from **Tyre**, **Sidon**, **Tarsus**, and **Alexandria**. Epicureanism also expanded west. [...] The existence of communities in the Naples region is attested by both Horace and Vergil. [...] Epicureanism can be attested in a board variety of locations: **Herculanem**, **Sorrento**, **Rhodes**, **Cos**, **Pergamon**, **Oenoanda** (the Lycus valley), **Apameia** (Syria), **Rhodiapolis**, and **Amastris** (Bithynia). Locations like **Athens** and **Oxyrhynchus** provide evidence for the preservation fo Epicurean writing, as well as **Herculaneum**. [...] Asia Minor (notably **Ephesus**, **Alexandria**, and Syria are all suggested as prime candidates for its location.”* (King, Epicureanism and the Gospel of John: A Study of Their Compatibility 11-13)

*“It will be worth our while to observe how admirably Epicureanism was equipped for the penetration fo Asia. As mentioned already, the branch school at **Lampsacus** was strategically situated for dissemination of the creed along the coast of the Black Sea. On the west coast of Asia there was another school at **Mytilene** [...] Still further to the south was the original school at **Colophon**, close to **Ephesus**. [...] The gateway to Asia, however, had been open to the cred of Epicurus for three centuries before Paul’s time and **Tarsus** was a center of Epicureanism. [...] Epicureanism was the court philosophy of **Antioch** during the reigns of at least two kings of Syria, **Antiochus Epiphanes** and **Demetrius Soter**.”* (King, Epicureanism and the Gospel of John: A Study of Their Compatibility 62)

*“In it he attests the widespread Epicurean communities of **Athens**, and **Chalcis** and **Thebes** in Boeotia.”* (The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism 20)

"We meet Epicureans not just in **Athens**, where they were amongst Paul's audiences, but we also come across Epicurean communities in the West, in **Herculaneum** or **Sorrento**, in the East, on **Rhodes** and **Cos**, in **Pergamon**, Lycian **Oinoanda**, Syrian **Apameia**, in remote southern Lycian **Rhodiapolis** or in **Amastris** in Bithynia on the Black Sea. (The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism 48)

Post by "Cassius" of August 14, 2021 at 1:29 PM

OK thank you that is exactly the kind of thing I was looking for! There will always be a chain of authorities for whom we have to trace back and scrutinize each link.

Post by "Bryan" of April 7, 2024 at 6:50 PM

[Quote from Twentier](#)

PHILISTAS of LAMPSACUS (4th - 3rd-century BCE) inspired Carneiscus to write

What do we know of Philista/ Philistas? I am just looking through Carneiscus - Philista Book 2 (P.Herc. 1027) but so far I am unsure about the final "s" and gender of Philistas! Also, it seems there is no text remaining from book 1?

Post by "Bryan" of April 8, 2024 at 10:05 PM

In the context of Philista, we have "ἐκ μειρακίου" ("*lad, stripling*") but I think that could go either way. We also have:

P.Herc. 1027 col. 15

...ὄν ὀρωμέν εὐρηκέ-
[ναι περὶ τ]ῶν [κ]υριωτά-
των δι[αλ]όγισμα γνήσ[ι-]
ον παρ' αὐτῆι...

Which is something like: "...[whom] we recognize to have identified an authentic deliberation on key subjects about her..."

Also at the end we have "ΚΑΡΝΕΙΣΚΟΥ ΦΙΛΙΣΤΑ Β." So I think we have a woman "Philista" that Carneiscus is writing about.

Carneiscus address a certain "Zōpyrus" and writes about how good a person Philista was. He also touches on the topic of depression after the death of a friend and critiques Praxiphanes.

Post by “Bryan” of April 27, 2025 at 9:30 AM

[Quote from Eikadistes](#)

EUDEMUS (4th - 3rd-century BCE) mentioned in a letter written by Epicurus

Do we know anything else about this particular Eúdēmos ?

There was a man named Eúdēmos [of Pergamon] who wrote commentaries on Epíkouros' work On Nature. However, he was a teacher of Philōnídēs of Laodíkeia (and therefore was active around 180 BC) – so he could not have been the recipient of letters from Epíkouros.