

Pictures of "The Vatican Sayings" As Discovered in The Vatican

Post by "Cassius" of December 16, 2021 at 7:55 AM

Thanks to [Don](#) for this link and information!

[DigiVatLib](#)

codex Vaticanus Graecus 1950 (1950 is the reference number, not a date incidentally)

The Vatican Sayings begin at the bottom of folio 401v with the big red T for Το μακαριον και αφθαρτον ... (PD1)

See further information in Bailey's "Epicurus the Extant Remains." Bailey discusses the Vatican Sayings starting on pp. 106 & 375. He gives all the sources or at least where they're also started in latter section. The following is the main section of page 375 - <https://archive.org/details/Epicur.../mode/1up?view=>

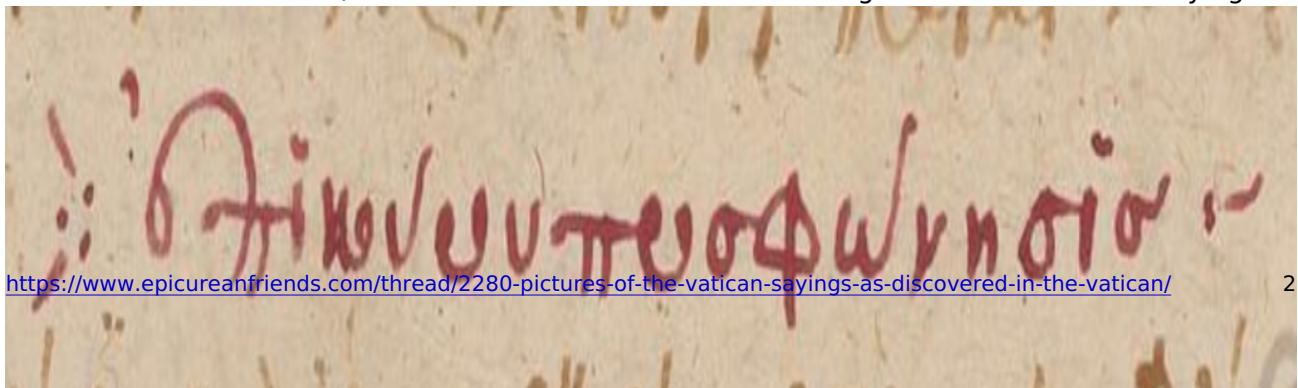
THE fragments here given are derived from two sources. The first is a collection of eighty aphorisms discovered in 1888 by C. Wotke in a Vatican MS. (Cod. Vat. gr. 1950) and published by him in *Wiener Studien*, 1888, pp. 191 ff., with a critical apparatus containing emendations by Usener and Hartel, and supplemented by observations by Usener himself and by Gomperz. The MS, which is of the fourteenth century, is a miscellany containing works of Xenophon, the *Thoughts* of Marcus Aurelius, Epictetus' *Manual*, and other works. The present collection is headed Ἐπικούρου Προσφώνησις (? Προσφωνήσεις, as suggested by Weil). Some of the sayings, denoted in the text by square brackets, came not from Epicurus but from his disciples, in several instances from Metrodorus. About twenty of them were already known, several being quotations from the *Κύρια Δόξαι*. The rest were probably selected from various works of Epicurus, not a few of them seeming to be quotations from private letters. Usener conjectured that the collection was derived from a florilegium made from the letters of Epicurus and his disciples which was used by Seneca, the sentences from the *Κύρια Δόξαι* being added by the compiler, but Bignone is probably right in thinking that there is not sufficient ground for any such definite statement.

The collection deals almost wholly with the moral theory of Epicurus and adds on many points to our knowledge of the system. The sentences containing new matter have been marked, as they were in Wotke's publication, by an asterisk. The text is fairly sound and in most places can easily be corrected, but there remain certain doubtful passages.

The fragments which follow are almost all derived from the great collection of *Epicurea* made by Usener, who gathered from writers both Greek and Latin all quotations from Epicurus' words and references to his doctrines. Here will only be found passages in Greek, which there is good reason to believe are actual quotations of the philosopher's words, though possibly in some cases (notably the extracts from Porphyrius, *ad Marcellam*) slightly paraphrased. I have not included fragments in Latin (mainly quotations in Cicero and

Post by "Don" of July 7, 2023 at 11:28 PM

This is the header/title of the section containing the "Vatican Sayings"...



and reads:

Επικουρου προσφωνησις (Epikourou prosphonesis)

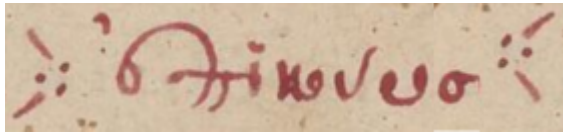
The first word is, of course, "of Epicurus"

The second word means something like "address, dedication, etc."

So it could be even something like "the mode of speaking of Epicurus" or, since his name comes first, "Epicurus's mode of speaking."

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, π , προσφύρω , προσφών-ησις](#)

I must say I like that fancy initial Epsilon+pi ligature in Epicurus's name 😊 With a little fancy photomanipulation we can get just Epicurus's name with some flourishes from that title:



Επικουρος (Epicurus)

Post by “Don” of July 9, 2023 at 2:03 PM

I just wanted to add here how unimaginably fortunate we are for the libraries and archives that have scanned their books and ancient and medieval manuscripts. Online repositories allow us to do research with an ease that would have been inconceivable to Usener, Wotke, Bailey, et al. What would have involved international travel, getting permission from administrators of institutions, and other difficulties not that long ago, now involves me just casually bringing up 14th century manuscripts, magnifying, copying, and comparing, with merely a few keystrokes.

By Zeus! The Internet gets a (deservedly) bad rap sometimes, but for things like this, it is absolutely wonderful and amazing.

Edit

And I should add that the Internet provides us with the opportunity to have this virtual Garden, too!

Post by “Joshua” of July 9, 2023 at 3:38 PM

Thank you [Don](#) for all of your work in bringing the information here!

Post by “Don” of July 9, 2023 at 3:51 PM

[Quote from Joshua](#)

Thank you [Don](#) for all of your work in bringing the information here!

It's literally been my pleasure 😊

Post by “Bryan” of July 11, 2023 at 6:06 PM

I really love this Don. Your mirrored flourish really makes me think we are of somewhat similar minds. Thank you!