

# The Bust of Zeno of Sidon

**Post by “Cassius” of December 24, 2021 at 6:28 AM**

According to page 96 of Sedley's "Lucretius and the Transformation of Greek Wisdom," a bust identified as Zeno of Sidon was found in Herculaneum near the scrolls.

I have apparently been slack during my studies and I cannot identify any of the pictures I have saved as being that of the bust of Zeno of Sidon, and his [wikipedia page](#) does not have a photo either. This is a situation that ought to be remedied both here at EpicureanFriends (where we ought to feature photos of all known Epicureans) and Wikipedia.

Anyone know of a good source for this? My first googling does not seem to turn up the answer.

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**Post by “Don” of December 24, 2021 at 7:33 AM**

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Sedley's "Epicurus and the Transformation of Greek Wisdom," a

Not to be pedantic, but it's Lucretius and the Transformation of Greek Wisdom. 😊 In case anyone is looking for the book.

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**Post by “Cassius” of December 24, 2021 at 7:56 AM**

Corrected thank you! Too early in the morning!

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**Post by “Bryan” of June 4, 2024 at 8:37 PM**

Yes I read about this bust again in Sedley's book and came here to ask this same question.

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## Post by “Joshua” of June 4, 2024 at 11:52 PM

[https://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/villa\\_papiri/downloads/villa\\_papyri\\_objects.pdf](https://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/villa_papiri/downloads/villa_papyri_objects.pdf)

This PDF from the Getty Museum (page 14) suggests that a bust of Zeno of Citium might have been mistaken for a bust of Zeno of Sidon.

Edit; [This](#) text mentions a bust of Zeno of Sidon (control+f search 'sidon').

And [this](#) page from Wikimedia Commons quotes Bernard Frischer of *The Sculpted Word* as writing that "this Zeno does not look at all like an Epicurean."

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## Post by “Joshua” of June 5, 2024 at 12:24 AM

So I naturally assumed that there was a bust known with certainty to be that of Zeno of Citium, but the fact is that apart from the inscription Ζήνων there is no *positive* identification on any of them to suggest which of the philosophers who held that name were sculpted. It could be Zeno of Citium, Zeno of Sidon, or Zeno of Elea (student of Parmenides and author of Zeno's Paradox).

Piso died in Italy ~30 years after Zeno of Sidon died in Athens. There are 122 years between Piso and Vesuvius--who lived there in the meantime? Why did they preserve Philodemus' library? Were they Epicurean? If so, why is there a bust of the founder of Stoicism in the Villa? Perhaps Piso or his successors thought it was Zeno of Sidon.

I'll need to review Frischer's book. This kind of blows my mind--Philodemus studied under Zeno of Sidon, a bust of someone named Zeno is in the Villa that houses his library, and yet the whole world over knows it as a bust of Zeno of Citium...because it doesn't look Epicurean enough! If Bernard Frischer's is the last word on this subject, I don't think this investigation is over yet.

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## Post by “Joshua” of June 6, 2024 at 12:14 AM

I have started a thread summarizing my current understanding of this issue [here](#), and I will try to keep the top post there as accurate and up to date as I can.