

THE HEDONICON (or The Holy Book of Epicurus)

Post by “Eikadistes” of November 20, 2023 at 12:44 AM

I've thought this for a long time now (*and I know I'm not alone, as this was recently, yet again, serendipitously discussed in another thread*) that we need “**our own 'Bible'**” ... well, had to start somewhere. So I've been building this, and, here's a start:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CNJ1ST4B>

THE HEDONICON (Twentiers' Version)

It includes my personal translation of the KD, free translations (from the old, British boys of the 19th-century) of the *Epistles* and *Sayings*, as well as Munro's version of *De Rerum Natura*, an old translation of Philodemus' *Epigrams.*, along with a brief foreword, pages of notes formatted as annotations, all of Gen's portraits, and some of the other, supplemental material I've been developing, including the timeline, map, and some other graphics that reinforce the theme of being a *Holy Book*, something that aims to mimic an *Illustrated Version* of the *Bible*.

I made it available through Amazon Kindle, and I am having paperback copies made, mostly for myself, and I want to give one to my Mum, but I also have a few friends that are interested, so it's up there for the moment. I am investigating other ways to share it, as most platforms don't support files as large as the Hedonicon (due to the pictures and graphics), and editing brings up additional questions as well.

Why 'Hedonicon'?

The early Christians had an Evangelikon (*book of Gospels*) and Apostolikon (*book of Epistles*) that comprised the early New Testament. I believe that our equivalent would be a Hedonikon (*book of pleasure*) ... or perhaps even Hedonomikon (*book of the law of pleasure* ... but that's a little more aimed at pop culture). I would think it to include works of, *at least*, **Epicurus**, and, hopefully, **Lucretius**, **Philodemus**, and, with luck, the two **Diogenes'**, among others. I imagine that every Epicurean Garden would have their own Version of the Hedonicon (or some fascimile thereof), and that congregations of Epicurean Gardens may publish universal Hedonicons per groups arranged according to recognition of coherent texts.

Why 'Twentiers' Version'?

I liked that moon thing I made. It's a nice logo for something on which I wanted to make a mark. (**Totally**, keep using it, and play with it and do what you like it. *It's just an idea*; and an *icon*, like a *cross* nor a *Jesus fish*, so, it's not an official registered trademark, just an informal identifier.)

Anyway, I mention in the foreword of my 'Twentiers' Version' that I hope to inspire future Hedoniconae in the same way that the early Christian heretic Marcion created the first 'New Testament' that became the standard upon which future versions of the Bible were built, each one, expanding upon the core collection of Marcion's texts (Christian heresy fascinates me, and Philodemus seems to mention an Epicurean analogue against Rhodians).

There is a long [to-do list](#) that includes creating translations for Diogenes of Oinoanda and the bulk of Philodemus, both of which are currently beyond my means, and it would be great to compile a complete, unique, coherent translation (like the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible).

I imagine further polishing the *Twentiers' Version* into a **Second Edition** that would include other contributors who might care to share their translations to the aesthetic presentation of the Twentiers' Version. [Don](#), I welcome future developments if you would be interested in contributing any parts of your translations of the *Epistle To Menoikeus*, *Sayings of the Sage*, or *Vatican Sayings* to a Second Edition of the 'Twentiers' Version', or, for that matter, working with me to produce collaborations. This is all for the sake of making something interesting, and your scholarship has always inspired me. I meant to put together a more local project initially, but with my wife's images and some advancements in formatting as well as some old work that finally came together, some new possibilities emerged, and I started playing around with publishing.

That equally goes for everyone (if my format so inspires you) including those of you who lean toward Latin over Greek. Again, there is a long [to-do list](#), dominated by Philodemus, that I cannot hope to accomplish without assistance from many others.


EQUALLY so, as I try to mention as often as possible elsewhere, I think it would be quite excellent if this inspired others to create their Version(s) of 'a Hedonicon'. So, if, [Cassius](#), if any members might be interested in developing an *EpicureanFriends.com Version* (for example), I am happy to lend whichever parts of my own format and structure and commentary works for someone else, and some of the artistic contributions therein.

I will unfortunately be inordinately busy in the next few weeks, (I'm sure I'm not alone, there), but I wanted to get the snowball rolling, just to share my intentions and see if these anyone would like to contribute to and/or develop these projects. I do not know when I will revisit the polishing and expansion of the *Twentiers' Version* into a Second Edition, and it is not currently a top-priority for me.

Until, then, **Happy Eikas!** 

Post by "Don" of November 20, 2023 at 12:52 AM

[Quote from Nate](#)


Until, then, Happy Eikas! 

Now, THAT'S indeed a gift for the Twentieth!

Post by "Cassius" of November 20, 2023 at 7:01 AM

That looks great Nate! I don't see a button where a printed version can be purchased but I presume that you are working on that?

Post by "Pacatus" of November 20, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Bravo! I got the Kindle version, but I can see that -- like with poetry -- a physical text is desirable. I'll keep checking Amazon. 

Post by "Eikadistes" of November 23, 2023 at 9:29 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

That looks great Nate! I don't see a button where a printed version can be purchased but I presume that you are working on that?

I am, indeed! There was an additional issue with the printing after I received it, so I unpublished the paperback and am working with Amazon to fix the formatting issues. I am hoping to resolve it today, if not by this weekend.

Post by "Eikadistes" of December 15, 2023 at 4:18 PM

[Quote from Nate](#)

[Quote from Cassius](#)

That looks great Nate! I don't see a button where a printed version can be purchased but I presume that you are working on that?

I am, indeed! There was an additional issue with the printing after I received it, so I unpublished the paperback and am working with Amazon to fix the formatting issues. I am hoping to resolve it today, if not by this weekend.

I am pleased to announce that the paperback version of *The Hedonicon* is now available:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/BOCNTN6KH6>

Post by “Bryan” of December 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Just bought it -- should be here in two days, thanks Nate!

Post by “Bryan” of December 19, 2023 at 12:24 PM

There are very many good things about this book. To highlight a few:

Excellent introduction – lots of vocabulary treasures from our school are given in Greek and clearly explained – and you make those bright terms shine even brighter by contrasting them with darkness, as סורוקיפא (“epikorós” meaning “heretic”) is also presented and explained.

Adding art throughout the text is an excellent choice. Other traditions focus so much on words and logic, they forget to use their eyes as a basis of their thinking. Epicureans do not make this mistake. I am slowly producing an edition of Lucretius that has no text and is only pictures.

The double columns on each page are a very appealing formatting choice. The Herculaneum papyri shows how slender the columns were in ancient texts (often only 15 to 20 letters long), so double columns on each page is a format we can embrace with ancient precedent.

The section headings are masterful. Breaking up the original works into labeled sections seems necessary and your work here is excellent. This adds a lot of coherency and accessibility. Coupled with the columns, this book is not a wall of text, but clearly labeled, easily digestible and inviting sections.

Post by “Cassius” of December 22, 2023 at 1:54 PM

I now have my printed copy of Nate's new book and I want to second the praise in the posts above. The images included with the book (Nate's wife art plus the timeline and map) are a great bonus. It's well organized and has a very good introductory essay. This is quality work and it's great to see Nate take the initiative to do this!

Post by “Eikadistes” of December 26, 2023 at 2:30 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I now have my printed copy of Nate's new book and I want to second the praise in the posts above. The images included with the book (Nate's wife art plus the timeline and map) are a great bonus. It's well organized and has a very good introductory essay. This is quality work and it's great to see Nate take the initiative to do this!

Thank you for the praise! I appreciate all of your support. There are certainly places I would like further develop, but I am pleased with the First Edition and I hope others find it to be a useful reference book.

Thanks also, [Bryan](#) for the Amazon review. They always help!