

Happy Twentieth!

Post by “Kalosyni” of January 20, 2024 at 8:34 AM

Feast of the Twentieth



Happy 20th!

Tomorrow, dearest Piso, your friend, beloved by the Muses, who keeps our annual Feast of the Twentieth invites you to come after the ninth hour to his simple cottage. If you miss udders and draughts of Chian wine, you will see at least sincere friends and you will hear things far sweeter than the land of the Phaeacians. But if you ever cast your eyes on me, Piso, we shall celebrate the Twentieth richly instead of simply. - Philodemus

Post by “Don” of January 20, 2024 at 9:43 AM

I always like to go back to Philodemus's epigram inviting Piso to the 20th celebration in Herculaneum on this day:

αὔριον εἰς λιτὴν σε καλιάδα, φίλτατε Πείσων,
ἔξ ἑνάτης ἔλκει μουσοφιλῆς ἕταρος,
εἰκάδα δειπνίζων ἑνιαύσιον: εἰ δ' ἀπολείψεις
οὔθατα καὶ Βρομίου χιογενῆ πρόποσιν,
ἀλλ' ἑτάρους ὄψει παναληθείας, ἀλλ' ἑπακούσῃ
Φαιήκων γαίης πουλὸ μελιχρότερα:
ἦν δέ ποτε στρέψης καὶ ἐς ἡμέας ὄμματα, Πείσων,
ἄξομεν ἐκ λιτῆς εἰκάδα πιστότερην.

And, yes, it is udders οὔθατα and wine from the island of Chios Βρομίου χιογενῆ:

"During the Hellenistic period, the island also had become the largest exporter of Greek wine, which was noted for being of relatively high quality (see "Chian wine"). Chian amphoras, with a characteristic sphinx emblem and bunches of grapes, have been found in nearly every country with whom the ancient Greeks traded. These countries included Gaul, Upper Egypt, and Southern Russia" (Wikipedia)

You can find ancient recipes online for udders if y'all would like to try those.

Post by “Don” of January 20, 2024 at 4:59 PM

I'm not sure I'll be able to attend in person tonight, so I wanted to wish everyone a very Joyous Twentieth and a Happy Birthday to Epicurus!!