

Ancient Greek Numbering System

Post by "Cassius" of January 22, 2025 at 10:05 PM

We speak frequently about translating words from the Greek, but much less frequently about Greek numbering. This subject came up in tonight's Wednesday Zoom meeting and Bryan has graciously forwarded me the information below about how the Greeks recorded numbers. All of us know the Arabic system and most of us know some Roman numerals, but this is to start a thread on the Greek numbering system. I am not at first thought able to name any immediate philosophical implications of how the Greeks counted, but I bet there are some. Thanks again to Bryan for this material:

The Greek system seems simple compared to what the Romans were doing. It is closer to our decimal system, although still more rigid.

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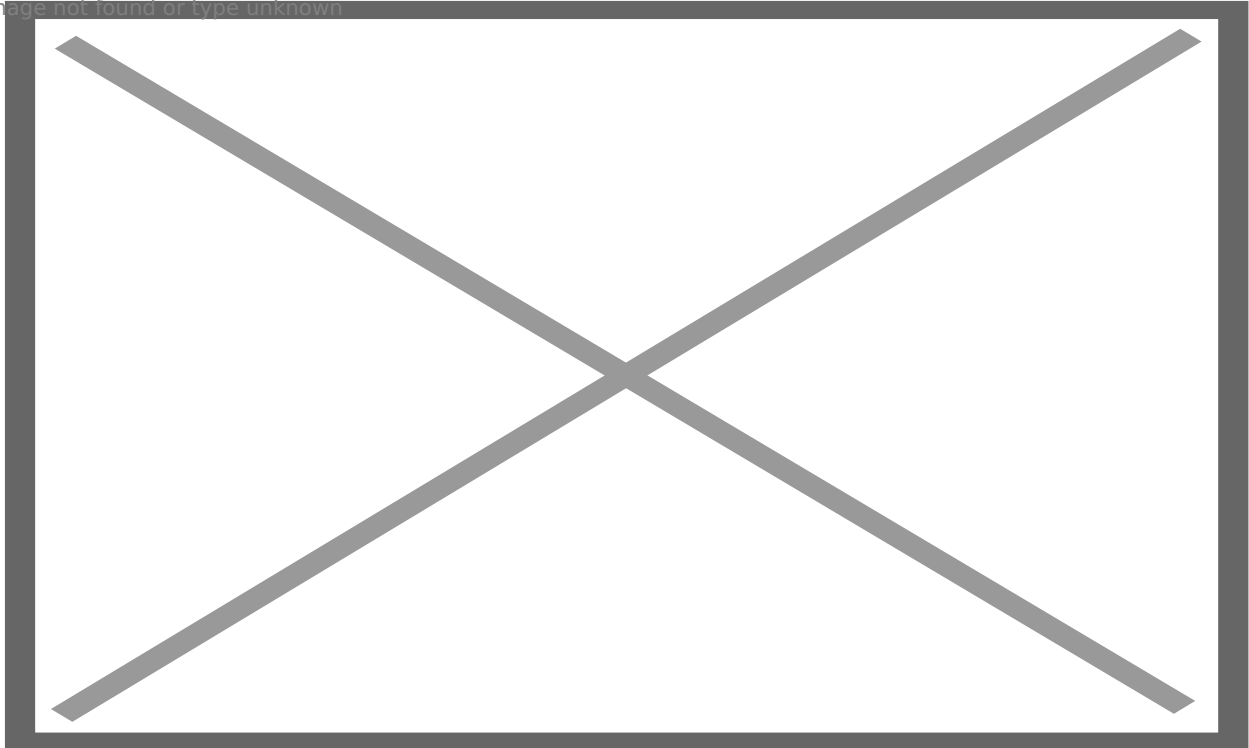
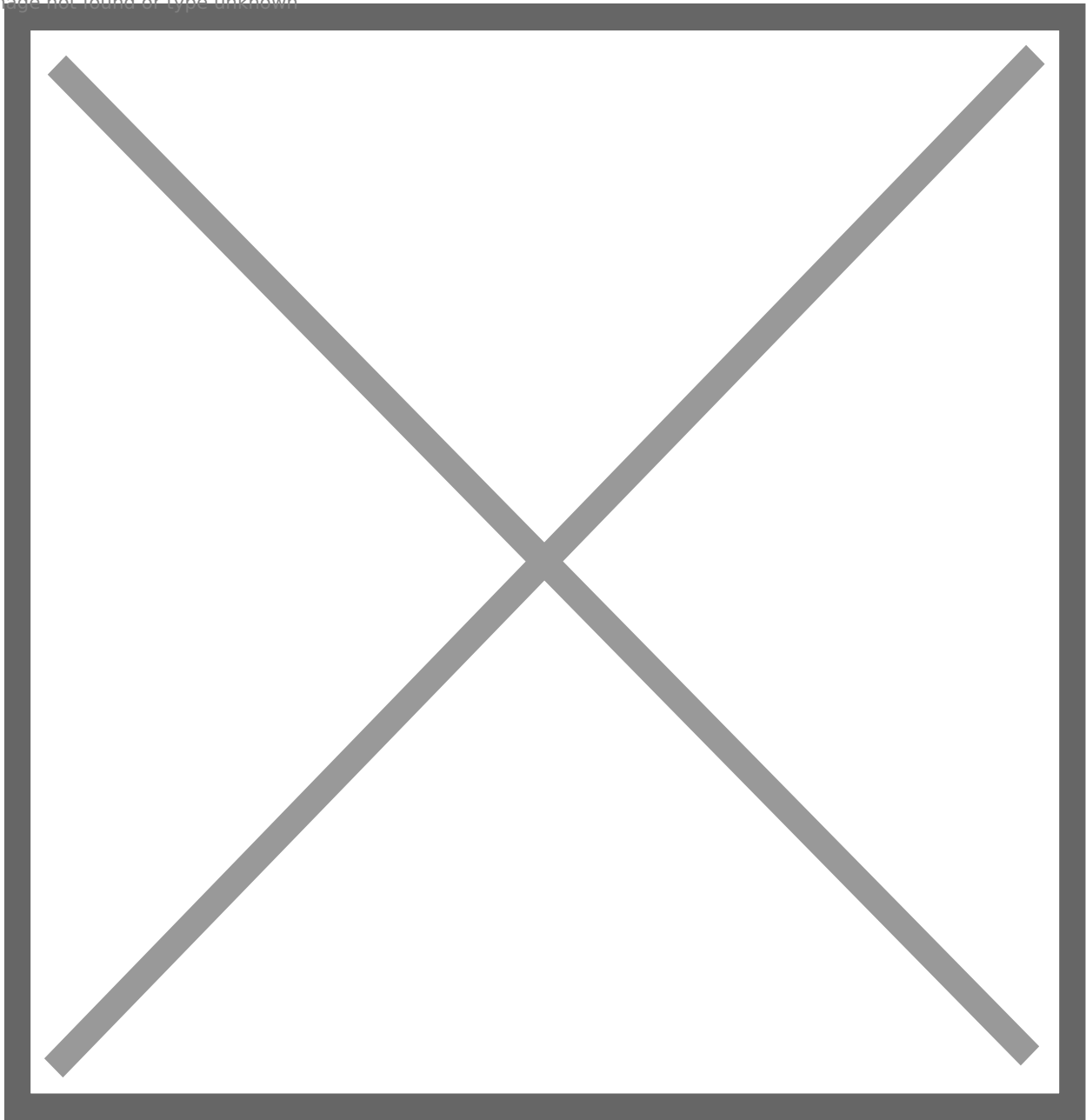


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Post by “Bryan” of January 24, 2025 at 11:23 PM

What is highlighted above is correct, but, although I knew it was not giving a BC date, I did think the section highlighted below was giving an Attic date *in combination with the eponymos Archon year*, but it was stichometry. Thanks Don!

Ἐπίκουρος' On Nature, Book 14, P.Herc. 1148 (subscriptio)

Ἐπικούρου Περὶ Φύσεως ΙΔ, XXXϞΗΗΗΗ ἐπὶ Κλεάρχου

Ἐπικούρου Περὶ Φύσεως ΙΔ, XXXϞΗΗΗΗ ἐπὶ Κλεάρχου

Ἐπίκουρος' *On Nature*, [book] 14, 3,900 lines during [the archonship of] Clearchus [301/300 BC]

Ἐπίκουρος, Peri Phýseōs, Book 15, P.Herc. 1151 fr. 1A (superscriptio)

Ἐ[π]ικούρου Περὶ Φύσεως ΙΕ XXXΗΗ ἐπὶ [Η]γεμάχου

Ἐπικούρου Περὶ Φύσεως ΙΕ, XXXΗΗ ἐπὶ Ἡγεμάχου

Ἐπίκουρος' *On Nature* Book 15, 3,200 lines during [the archonship] of Hēgémachos [300/299 BC]