

Montaigne's copy of Lucretius - digitized online!

Post by “Cassius” of November 12, 2023 at 7:29 AM

It would definitely be interesting to see which sections he found worthy of comment. I guess this would be our English source? M. A. Screech, *Montaigne's annotated copy of Lucretius: a transcription and study of the manuscript, notes and pen-marks* (Genève, 1998)

[Amazon link](#)

Does this mean that the notes are not translated into English in the text?

of their importance.

The comments and notes and markings in the margins of the copy are of four kinds.

First, there are a small number of very interesting comments in Latin. They probably date from about the time of the earliest reading of the text, from, that is, the time of the notes on the flyleaves, which they might have preceded. They have been translated here as well as transcribed.

Then there are copious notes in French. They are all in the margins of the copy and nowhere else. (The overwhelming majority are in the outer margins.) Those have been transcribed but not, of course, translated. Abbreviations have been resolved; no attempt is made to reproduce Montaigne's idiosyncratic way of breaking up, or joining up, words in notes destined for himself alone – for these are manifestly personal notes, written with no thought of posterity and for no eyes but his own.

Thirdly, there are pen-strokes against many of the lines of verse. They are very revealing. It was impossible to ignore them. They have all been duly reported, though it took much time and effort to do so.

Finally, there are comments which consist totally, or principally, of page numbers; by them Montaigne notes for his own satisfaction repetitions of words, phrases or themes