

Cyrano de Bergerac

Post by "Godfrey" of January 22, 2022 at 1:10 AM

Admin Edit - References To Works of Cyrano - 01/12/24

Table Of Works - Cyrano de Bergerac

[Voyage To The Moon](#)

(Comical History of the States and Empires of the Moon (?))

Archive.org edition. English translation (Comments to be added here) The preface to this book starting [here](#) gives a description of his works.

The States and Empires of the Sun

Death of Agrippina

The Various Works of Cyrano de Bergerac

The Minister of State Roasted in Farcial Verse

The Pedant Tricked

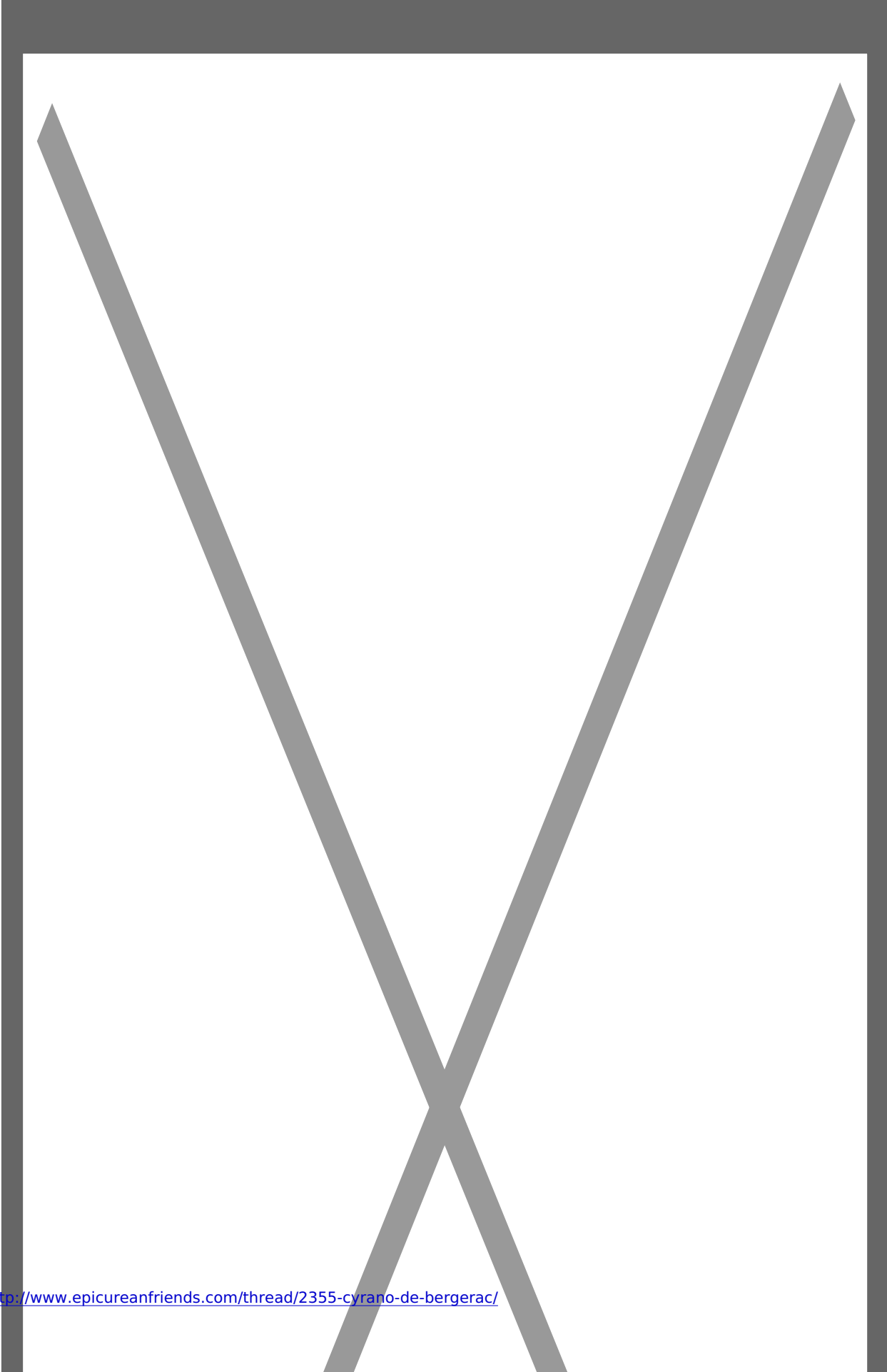
Against Soucidas

Against An Ingrate

The recent film Cyrano de Bergerac has a scene in which Roxanne refuses to wear a red dress. Was this in the original play, and did this inspire the Police song Roxanne? As best as I can tell, the song was inspired by a poster of the play in the vicinity of a group of prostitutes and it would seem that the song then inspired the scene in the movie.

But it turns out that the real Cyrano was a 17th century French libertine and the original play, though not the romance, was loosely based on his life. From Wikipedia:

Image not found or type unknown



Quote

Cyrano was a pupil of the French [polymath Pierre Gassendi](#), a [canon](#) of the [Catholic Church](#) who tried to reconcile [Epicurean atomism](#) with [Christianity](#).

Cyrano de Bergerac's works *L'Autre Monde: ou les États et Empires de la Lune* ("[Comical History of the States and Empires of the Moon](#)", published posthumously, 1657) and *Les États et Empires du Soleil* (*The States and Empires of the Sun*, 1662) are classics of early modern [science fiction](#). In the former, Cyrano travels to the Moon using rockets powered by firecrackers (it may be the earliest description of a space flight by use of a vessel that has rockets attached) and meets the inhabitants. The Moon-men have four legs, firearms that shoot game and cook it, and talking earrings used to educate children.

His mixture of science and romance in the last two works furnished a model for many subsequent writers, among them [Jonathan Swift](#), [Edgar Allan Poe](#) and probably [Voltaire](#). [Corneille](#) and [Molière](#) freely borrowed ideas from *Le Pédant joué*.

I've no idea if he could be considered an Epicurean, but his association with Gassendi is intriguing. As are his stated written works, which seem to be inspired by Lucian.

Post by "Cassius" of January 22, 2022 at 1:19 AM

Wow that IS interesting! Cyrano de Bergerac seems to be a universally-admired figure - although I wasn't even sure he was a real person until I read Godfrey's links. It would be great to link him to Epicurus if we could. I had no idea he was linked to Gassendi. Maybe it's only the figure in the play that is admired, but if he was a student of Gassendi, and considered a "Libertine" then that sounds like there's potential Epicurean connection at work.

I wasn't aware of the recent movie material but of course the old black and white version available free is considered a classic. Even I who am not much of a movie buff have seen this one, and have to admit it is really amazing in quality. Once I got used to the highly intellectual dialog, that is. I bet [Joshua](#) has seen and liked this one.

Let's see if i can find a link to add here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0J0RFoHGfY>

Post by “Cassius” of January 22, 2022 at 1:22 AM

This (like most hard-to-find French issues) is something I would love to hear from [Charles](#) on!

Post by “Godfrey” of January 22, 2022 at 12:24 PM

I read something online about him incorporating some Epicurean ideas in his writing but it was assumed to be only for purposes of political satire.

His book about the moon can be downloaded in English from a link at the bottom of the Wikipedia page. It seems his other writing, if available, is available only in French.

Post by “Eikadistes” of January 22, 2022 at 2:13 PM

“Parisian Epicureans of the early seventeenth century included **Gabriel Naudé**, **Elio Diodatai** and **François de la Mothe le Vayer**, and, on the periphery, the storywriter **Cyrano de Bergerac**, and the playwright Molière.” (*The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism* 268)

“The general view of **Cyrano [de Bergerac]** that he was a disciple of **Gassendi**, may require no correction, but he went far beyond **Gassendi** in the daring of his Epicurean naturalism.” (Kors, *Epicureans and Atheists in France, 1650-1729* 73)

Post by “Cassius” of January 22, 2022 at 2:25 PM

Then I think we may have to complain to Charles that in his writing about the French enlightenment he did not bring this to our attention earlier! 😊

Post by “Cyrano” of January 11, 2024 at 10:37 PM

My contribution to the *Cyrano* discussion may be found elsewhere on this website.

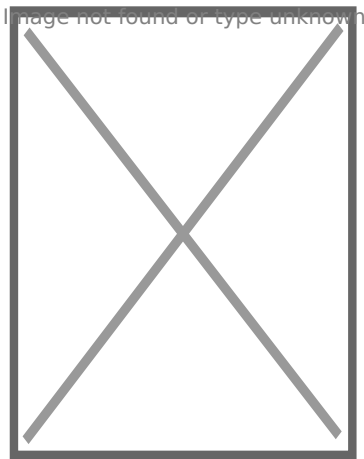
Post by “Cassius” of January 11, 2024 at 10:40 PM

Oh my gosh this conversation was only two years ago but I had completely forgotten about it!
Thanks for linking to it Cyrano!

Post by “Cassius” of January 12, 2024 at 8:43 PM

Ok if we are going to make any progress in reading up on what Cyrano had to say that is related to Epicurus, we need to find sources for his works. I can go back into the first post in this thread and insert a table of links to translations of his works.

Just to start somewhere, I will add this link to A Voyage to the Moon. If others will add to the thread more suggestions then we'll build a table, which i have started here: [Cyrano de Bergerac](#)



[A voyage to the moon : Cyrano de Bergerac, 1619-1655 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

An edition by C.H. Page of A. Lovell's translation, published with title: The comical history of the states and empires of the world of the moon
archive.org

Post by “Don” of January 12, 2024 at 9:16 PM

Do we know if there are similarities between this voyage to the Moon and Lucian's True Story?