

The Wreathed Figure In Blue - Epicurus? Democritus? Someone Else?

Post by "Cassius" of May 24, 2021 at 7:54 AM

Don -- I note in [that article you linked](#) this passage below. I haven't yet tried to get a timeline on availability of Diogenes Laertius' biographies but this would indicate "widespread" and extensive knowledge of Epicurean philosophy by 1433 - which I gather is approximately the same time Greenblatt pins to the "rediscovery" of Lucretius. That would seem quite a coincidence in timing, as if perhaps one fed into the other. I'm still thinking that there's little reason to think that DL (and thus the basics of Epicurean philosophy) was ever gone from fairly widespread circulation. If there was a single "encyclopedia" that a reputable monk or monastery would want in its collection, seems to me that DL would be it. (I'm trying to think like a librarian! 😊)

Perhaps, this is Diogenes, along with many others - some whose works are partly found and some that are lost, some old and ancient and some new and modern, and some who simply gave a helping hand along the way - as if they are all, opening up this book for us to read. As if Diogenes is the Maitre D', welcoming us into the dialogue.

[Note: A translation of this book was made by Ambrogio Traversi in Florence in 1433 and was widely circulated.]