

Versions of the Text of Lucretius - 1743 Daniel Browne Edition - Unknown Translator

Post by “Joshua” of October 6, 2022 at 12:28 AM

I've gotten curious about this anonymous translator again. Let me summarize (randomly) what I think I know.

- The edition was published in 1743
- by Daniel Brown II, Publisher, print/bookseller, stationer, in London 'near Temple Bar', 1704-1762. Son of Daniel Browne.
- There may have been a Daniel Browne III in the same business;
 - "BROWNE, Daniel, bookseller, Catherine Street 1779L. Bankrupt May 1779. Poss. the Daniel Browne listed by Plomer."
- The copy of the 1743 edition on archive.org was donated with the personal library of John Adams to the Boston Public Library (he also owned the Creech translation, and a copy with his signature survives. He despised Lucretius, as he reports in a letter to his son)
- The engraver was not Renee Guernier, but probably Louis du Guernier II. He was *not* the translator (and how John Mason Good managed to screw that up is beyond me; he quotes the translator himself saying "Our language" etc.--it would be strange for a Frenchman to describe English as "Our language")
 - Draughtsman, etcher, engraver, book illustrator, possibly a goldsmith; born Paris son or nephew of Louis du Guernier, miniaturist of of same name, (1614-1659); studied under Louis de Chatillon; moved to London in 1708 and worked as 'a good designer, etcher and engraver, especially (of) small historical subjects for books or plays'
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Du_Guernier

That letter by John Adams;

Quote

Dear Sir

I have been confined, with a cold for three weeks and the family have been generally affected in the same way: We have not heard from yours for some time. I long to see you all: but the Weather and the roads will keep us, at a distance I fear for some days if not weeks. I have read Seven Volumes of De la Harpe in course, and the last Seven I have run through and searched but cannot find what I chiefly wanted, His Philosophy of the 18 Century from the Beginning to the End—that revival of the ineffable Nonsense of

Epicurus as related by Lucretius not as explained by himself in his Letter in Diogenes Laertius. I am in love with La Harpe. I knew not there was such a man left.—If I had read this work at 20 years of Age, it would have had, I know not what effect.—If it had not made me a Poet or Philosopher it certainly would not have permitted me, to be a public Man. I never read any Writer in my Life, with whom I so universally agreed in Poetry, Oratory History, Philosophy, Morality and Religion. I find him too perfectly persuaded as I have been for forty years, that Greece & Italy are our Masters in all Things and that Greek & Italian are the most important Languages to study—My Love to L. & G. your / affectionate and respectful Father