

Butterfield's "The Early Textual History of Lucretius"

Post by "Cassius" of February 15, 2020 at 11:38 AM

I still as of this date have not had time to read through this work, but as I do I will try to post ended" the

- ⁴ Hier. *Chron.* s.a. 94/3 BC (Ol. 171.3). I follow most scholars in dismissing the two claims of Jerome not supported elsewhere: (i) that (Marcus Tullius) Cicero emendavit the poem, probably a mistaken inference by Jerome or his source from the fact that the earliest mention of Lucretius occurs in a letter from Cicero to his brother (*Ad Q. Fr.* II.9.3); (ii) that through insanity from a love potion Lucretius committed suicide, which probably derives from Lucretius' failure to condemn suicide at III.79–82 and a confusion with the Lucullus said to have died by a love potion (cf. Plin. *HN* XXV.3), negative elements a Christian polemicist like Jerome would happily have applied to Lucretius.
- ⁵ The '*Vita Borgiana*' is now widely accepted to be devoid of authority. For a survey of the very slim evidence regarding Lucretius' life, from which tenuous inferences are drawn, see L. Canfora (1993).

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