

In Memoriam T. Lucretii Cari

Post by “Joshua” of October 15, 2023 at 2:35 PM



Photo: English Poet Ben Jonson's Copy of Lucretius with Acid Stain

Today is the anniversary of the traditional date of the death of Lucretius, which, according to the 4th century grammarian Aelius Donatus, occurred on the same day that Virgil assumed the *Toga Virilis* on his 17th birthday.

Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas

Atque metus omnes, et inexorabile fatum

Subjecit pedibus, strepitumque Acherontis avari

Happy is he who is able to know the causes of things,

And who has trampled beneath his feet all fear,

Inexorable fate, and the din of the devouring underworld

-Publius Vergilius Maro

carmina sublimis tunc sunt peritura Lucreti,

exitio terras cum dabit una dies

Then shall perish the verses of sublime Lucretius,

When that day shall consign the world to destruction

-Publius Ovidius Naso

Post by “Joshua” of October 15, 2023 at 2:56 PM

And in case anyone is curious about the other inscription in Jonson's copy, it is also from Ovid;

Quote

explicat ut causas rapidi Lucretius ignis,

casurumque triplex vaticinatur opus,

[...] though Lucretius explains the cause of impetuous fire,

and predicts the triple death of earth, water, air [...]

In addition to Jonson's copy, we also have surviving copies belonging to Niccolo Niccoli, Machiavelli, Michel de Montaigne, Thomas Jefferson, and more.

Post by “Joshua” of October 31, 2023 at 1:23 AM

Two more October dates; today, Oct. 30 is the anniversary of the death of Poggio Bracciolini in 1459. Tomorrow, October 31st, is the anniversary of the opening of the Leiden University Library in 1587. Poggio was the first to bring Lucretius back in to circulation, but the two most important 9th century medieval manuscripts--the Quadratus and the Oblongus--are housed in the Library at Leiden.

- Oct. 15th to 31st
 - 15th; T. Lucretius Carus death
 - 19th; Marsilio Ficino born (started writing a commentary on Lucretius but burned it out of fear)
 - 21st; Hermann Usener death
 - 23rd; Hermann Usener born
 - 24th; Vesuvius Eruption preserves Villa of the Papyri
 - 29th; H. A. J. Munro born
 - 30th; Poggio Bracciolini born
 - 31st; Opening of the Leiden University Library
-

Post by “Don” of October 31, 2023 at 7:27 AM

It looks like the digitized manuscript of the Oblongus is not available remotely:

https://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl/permalink/31UKB_LEU/18s393l/alma990037160190302711

Post by “Don” of October 31, 2023 at 7:33 AM

Same with Quadratus

[De rerum natura / Lucretius - Leiden University](#)

Origin and date: According to Bischoff 2004: "Nordostfrankreich, IX. Jh.".; Binding: Post-medieval...

catalogue.leidenuniv.nl

Post by “Don” of October 31, 2023 at 8:05 AM

Lucrezio: immagini di manoscritti

O = Oblongus, codex Leidensis Vossianus 30, saec. IX in. (UB Leiden, VLF 30)

Q = Quadratus, codex Leidensis Vossianus 94, saec. IX ex. (UB Leiden, VLQ 94)

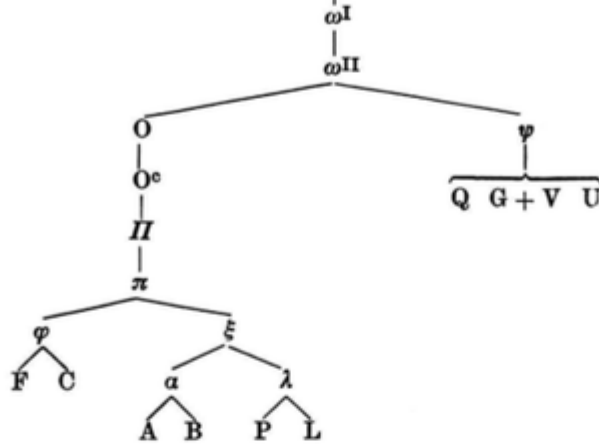
G = schedae Gottorpienses vel Haunienses, saec. IX (Copenhagen, Det Kongelige Bibliotek, GKS 211, 2°)

[GKS 211 2°: Lucretius, De rerum natura](#)

L = Laurentianus 35,30 Niccolanianus (Firenze, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana)

Codici Laurenziani [sigle di Flores: plut. 35,25 (D); 35,26 (E); 35,27 (H); 35,28 (R); 35,29 (S); 35,30 (L); 35,31 (F); 35,32 (T); 53,01]: cerca in Teca Digitale.

I = Monacensis Latinus 816a (codex Victorianus) ante 1475 (BSB Monaco)



Codices deperditi Graecis, qui exstant Latinis litteris significantur

SIGLORUM EXPLICATIO

- Ω = codex protarchetypus capitalibus litteris scriptus (s. IV/V)
 ω^I = codex minusculis litteris ex Ω descriptus (circa annum 800)
 ω^{II} = codex archetypus
O = codex Leidensis Vossianus *Oblongus*
 ψ = parens codicum Q, G + V, U
Q = codex Leidensis Vossianus *Quadratus*
G = schedae Gottorpienses
V = schedae Vindobonenses priores
U = schedae Vindobonenses alterae

O* (Q*) = Oblongi (Quadrati) scriptura nondum correcta
O^c (Q^c) = Oblongi (Quadrati) scriptura correcta
O^s = Oblongi corrector Saxonicus

II = codex a Poggio Florentino anno 1417 in Germania repertus
 π = apographon codicis II quod Poggius faciendum curavit et anno 1418 Florentiam misit

Codices Italici:

- P = Parisinus lat. 10306
L = Florentinus Laurentianus 35, 30
F = Florentinus Laurentianus 35, 31
C = Cantabrigiensis
A = Vaticanus lat. 3276
B = Barberinus lat. 154
b = Basiliensis F. VIII. 14

+ hac nota ad sigla PLFCABb adposita usus sum ut significarem alios quosdam codices Italicos a Wakefieldio¹, Munrone, Hosio², Merrillio³ uel conlatos uel inspectos cum iis qui quoque loco indicantur consentire.

<https://www.e-periodica.ch/cntmng?pid=mhl-001%3A1973%3A30%3A%3A196>

Post by “Cassius” of October 31, 2023 at 9:03 AM

Moderators' Note: After this thread gets a week or two old and begins to get less active, let's delete this moderation comment and move the thread here:

[Lucretius](#)