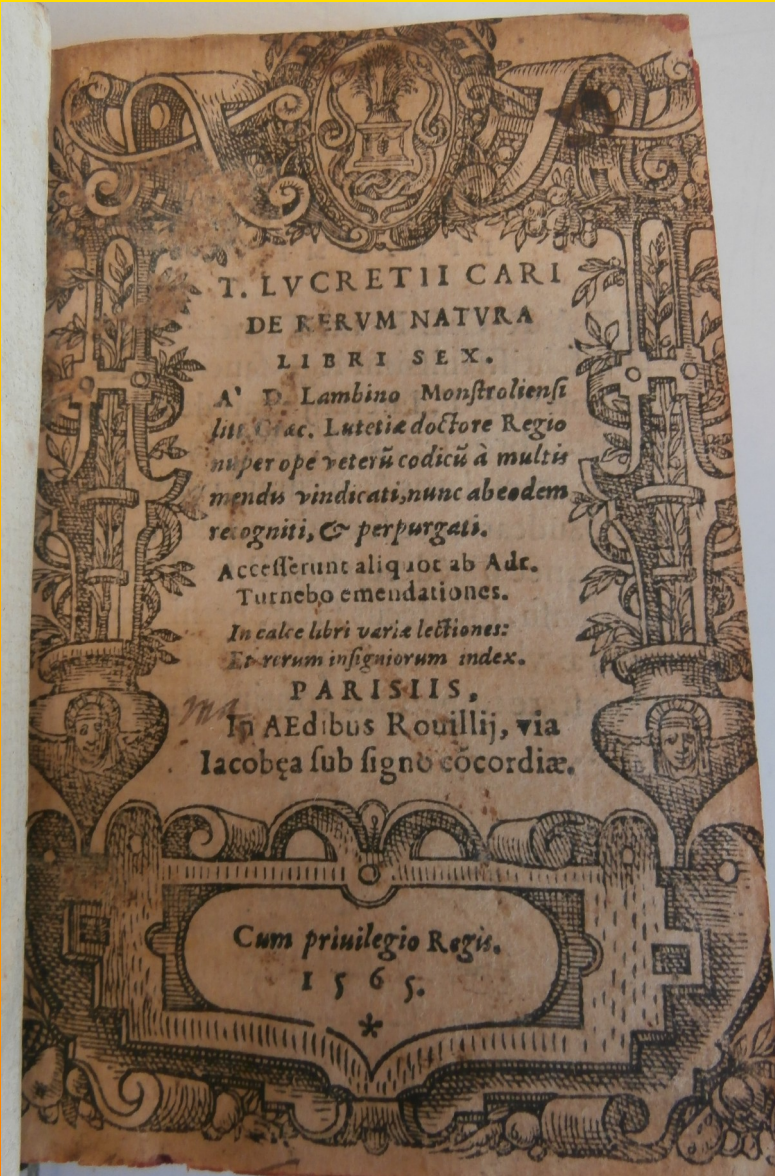


# Lucretius' Reception between France and Italy, from the Middle Ages to XVIIth century

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## GENERAL PRESENTATION:

My PhD project aims to reconstruct the complex history of the transmission/reception of a Latin poem by Lucretius, called *De rerum natura*. Due to its “heretical” ideas concerning the immortality of the soul, the atoms, the multiple worlds, this poem, though praised for its elegant and sublime Latin, was less and less read and copied during Middle Ages. The oldest manuscripts still existing date back to the IXth century, during which a certain interest in reading Lucretius spread in the court of Charlemagne. Then, we will have to wait until 1417, when the Italian humanist Poggio Bracciolini found a complete manuscript of Lucretius. From this moment on, Lucretius came back in Florence and spread all over Italy (thanks to more than 50 humanist manuscripts) and finally in Europe, thanks to printed editions. In my thesis, I will study the impact that Lucretius' poem had on both philosophical, theological and literary cultivated environment of the XVth and XVIth centuries.



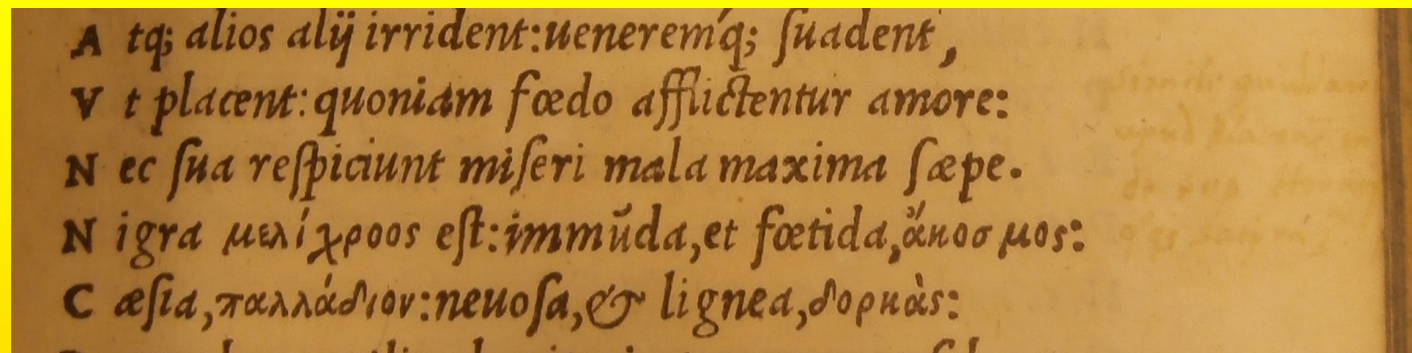
Cons. L. Aug. Intermedij ex Poicibus  
 J. Angelici Perwhi Vint.  
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Sam. Torrey.

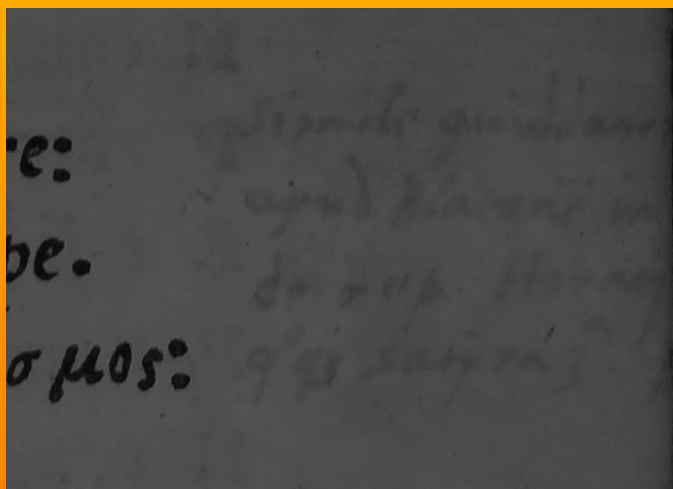
Hic Liber est liberarius H.  
Pauli Augustini Papae Franciscus  
Sacerdos

*Ex libris*, when identified, can give us the identity of interesting readers, such as priests, bishops, politicians and doctors.

*Marginalia* (manuscript notes on margins of the text) include short words to sum up a passage, personal considerations, links to other Latin authors, links to passages of a commentated edition of Lucretius. They help us to understand how Lucretius was read.



I have already done this work in Northern Italy public and religious libraries (Piemonte, Liguria, Lombardia, Veneto). At the moment, I am going on doing this work in Northern France libraries. In September I will pass a month in Rome to study the very rich editions of the Vatican Library and others. As the study of all printed editions in Italy and France was impossible for a PhD project, I made a choice of representative regions and cities for each country. At the end of my thesis, I will compare the most significant results from Italian and French editions.



An interesting example : the reader studied Lucretius with two different editions under his eyes (Manuzio 1515 and Lambin 1563).

Marginal manuscript note: "Simile quiddam apud Platone[m] in de rep[ublica], Horatij q[uo]q[ue] Saturar[um]".

Lambin's commentary: "Cum his autem Lucretianis confer illa Horatiana, in quibus optat Horatius, vt amicorum nostrorum vitia ita dissimulemus, atque eleuemus, vt & amantes amicarum suarum corporum vitis propemodum delectantur: & parentes liorum vitia leuiribus nominibus extenuant, satyra 5. lib. I & præterea locum illum Platonis lib. 5. de rep.". (p. 360).