

Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method

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"In the diversity of methods and objects of analysis it offers, *Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method* offers a fresh perspective on this Italian historian who has become such an essential point of reference in many domains of cultural study today". -Dana Polan, *Camera Obscura*.

Carlo Ginzburg considers how we assign historical context to events.

Carlo Ginzburg has taught at the University of Bologna, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa. The recipient of the 2010 International Balzan Prize, he is author of *The Night Battles: Witchcraft and Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* and *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*, also published by Johns Hopkins.

Other Books

The Lucretian Renaissance. With *The Lucretian Renaissance*, Gerard Passannante offers a radical rethinking of a familiar narrative: the rise of materialism in early modern Europe. Passannante begins by taking up the ancient philosophical notion that the world is composed of two fundamental opposites: atoms, as the philosopher Epicurus theorized, intrinsically unchangeable and moving about the void; and the void itself, or nothingness. Passannante considers the fact that this strain of ancient Greek philosophy survived and was transmitted to the Renaissance primarily by means of a poem that had seemingly been lost—a poem insisting that the letters of the alphabet are like the atoms that make up the universe. By tracing this elemental analogy through the fortunes of Lucretius's *On the Nature of Things*, Passannante argues that, long before it took on its familiar shape during the Scientific Revolution, the philosophy of atoms and the void reemerged in the Renaissance as a story about reading and letters—a story that materialized in texts, in their physical recomposition, and in their scattering. From the works of Virgil and Macrobius to those of Petrarch, Poliziano, Lambin, Montaigne, Bacon, Spenser, Gassendi, Henry More, and Newton, *The Lucretian Renaissance* recovers a forgotten history of materialism in humanist thought and scholarly practice and asks us to reconsider one of the most enduring questions of the period: what does it mean for a text, a poem, and philosophy to be "reborn"?

Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method. Translated by John Tedeschi and Anne C. Tedeschi. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989. ---. "Clues: Roots of an Evidential Paradigm." In *Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method*. ...