

CONTENTS

Preface	ix
---------------	----

A. PROLEGOMENA

I. Book Four of the <i>De Rerum Natura</i>	3
1. Preliminary remarks.....	3
2. Problems of composition and completeness	5
3. Book Four and the structure of the <i>De Rerum Natura</i>	9
4. The relationship between Books Three and Four	13
5. The themes of Book Four (1-822).....	19
i. Effluences.....	21
ii. Illusion	22
6. The concluding topics of Book Four (823-1287).....	28
i. The continuing themes of effluences and illusion 	29
ii. Inner coherence	39
7. Summaries	44
II. The Finale of Book Four	47
1. The book finales of the <i>De Rerum Natura</i>	47
2. The finale of Book Four: sex and the passion of love.....	60
i. Sex	62
ii. Love	69
iii. Marriage.....	87
3. The hymn to Venus and Book Four	91
4. Summaries	99
III. The Philosophical, Cultural, and Literary Background	101
1. Epicurus	101
i. Sex	108
ii. Love	111
iii. Marriage and children.....	118
2. Roman society	122
3. Literature	127
i. Plato and Theocritus.....	128
ii. Greek epigram.....	132
iii. Drama.....	135

iv. Satire and diatribe	137
v. Catullus and Latin love poetry	139
B. TEXT AND TRANSLATION	
Sigla	146
<i>Lucreti De Rerum Natura Liber IV, 1030-1287</i>	148
C. COMMENTARY	
Abbreviations used in Commentary	167
Commentary	171
Indexes	381