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*Richard de Bury*

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## **The love of books: The Philobiblon of Richard de Bury; (The king's classics)**

**Richard de Bury : The love of books: The Philobiblon of Richard de Bury; (The king's classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The love of books: The Philobiblon of Richard de Bury; (The king's classics):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Medieval Defense of BibliophiliaBy Joel E. MitchellBishop Richard De Bury's mid-14th century defense of his bibliophilia expresses the overwhelming enthusiasm for books and knowledge shared by book-lovers of all eras. I found some of his Medieval Roman Catholicism to be off-putting (e.g. viewing women as nothing but evil seductresses, practically worshiping Aristotle as the source of all wisdom prior to the New Testament, placing Mary on almost the same level as God, etc.), but overall it was an enjoyable read. His flowery Medieval style occasionally came off as a bit extravagant/melodramatic, but I found it amusing rather than irritating. One of my favorite quotes that sums up the entire book: "Certes, just as we have learnt on the authority of Seneca, leisure without letters is death and the sepulture of the living, so contrariwise we conclude that occupation with letters or books is the life of man."

[A]ll who are smitten with the love of books think cheaply of the world and wealth; as Jerome says to Vigilantius: The same man cannot love both gold and books... The hideousness of vice is greatly reprobated in books, so that he who loves to commune with books is lead to detest all manner of vice. The demon, who derives his name from knowledge,

is most effectually defeated by the knowledge of books, and through books his multitudinous deceits and the endless labyrinths of his guile are laid bare to those who read... -from "Chapter XV: Of the Advantages of the Love of Books" British writer and bishop RICHARD AUNGERVILLE (1287-1345), AKA Richard de Bury, was a royal tutor and a player in court intrigue, and is today perhaps the most famous book lover of the medieval world. Owner of an immense personal library, the bishop penned this valentine to the wisdom of books and the joy of collecting them, most likely completing it just before his death. (This, considered the definition English edition, was translated by Oxford scholar Ernest C. Thomas and first published in 1888.) Delightfully expansive in its bibliomania, the Philobiblon waxes rhapsodic about: . The Degree of Affection That Is Properly Due to Books . The Numerous Opportunities We Have Had of Collecting a Store of Books . Why We Have Preferred Books of Liberal Learning to Books of Law . Why We Have Not Wholly Neglected the Fables of the Poets . Who Ought to Be Special Lovers of Books . The Advantages of the Love of Books . Showing Due Propriety in the Custody of Books . The Manner of Lending All Our Books to Students . and much more. OF INTEREST TO: readers of medieval literature, book lovers