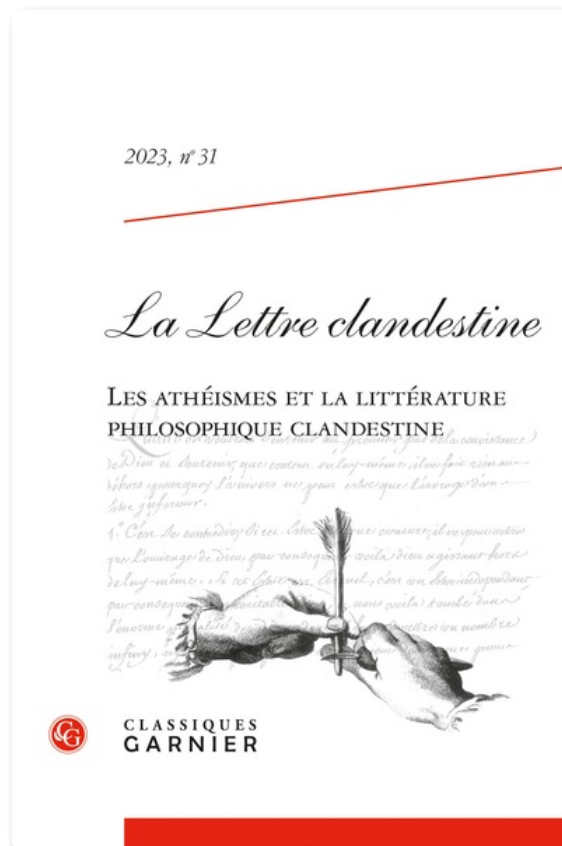




Christian Francken and the fear of atheism

From rational religion to the myth of imposture

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Author: Biagioni (Mario)

Abstract: In the sixteenth century, religious rationalism laid the foundations of modern atheism. For example, a correspondence can be seen between *Disputatio de incertitudine religionis Christianae* (written around 1589) by the Socinian Christian Francken and certain themes in the anonymous work *De tribus impostoribus*, printed in Vienna in 1753. Both share common sources (Sextus Empiricus and Pomponazzi), affirm that religions are human inventions, and demonstrate the weakness of their foundations.

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