IN THE CITY, ALIBRARY Chirodeep Chaudhuri . Jerry Pinto

The library is an ancient human institution, an extension in brick and mortar of the brain, an expansion across time and space of the human cerebrum.

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The library is a vain attempt to capture what we know when what we know is always in flux and our ways of knowing have been challenged repeatedly and variously.

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The library is an elitist institution, based on the premise that the only knowledge worth having is the abstract knowledge that will allow for capture. It is not interested in non-abstractable knowledge.

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The library is a dream space, a fevered dream space, a Borgesian dream of infinity. Any library with more than 40,000 books will defeat the longest human life, even if you read a book a day. This library has more than 40,000 books.

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The library is a space for imagination, for daydream, for invention, for research, for investigation.

The library is more than the sum of its parts.

If you need to look for what it means to be human, look no further than the nearest library. If you need to look for what it means to be inhuman, look no further than the man who burns a book.

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Choose your definition.

Even as you choose, know this. That edifice which looks so imposing, those rows of books which look so welcoming, they are as susceptible to the passage of time as you are. Time ravages books just as much as silverfish, mildew, and blades wielded in secret and in silence.

The book has many enemies.

So have libraries.

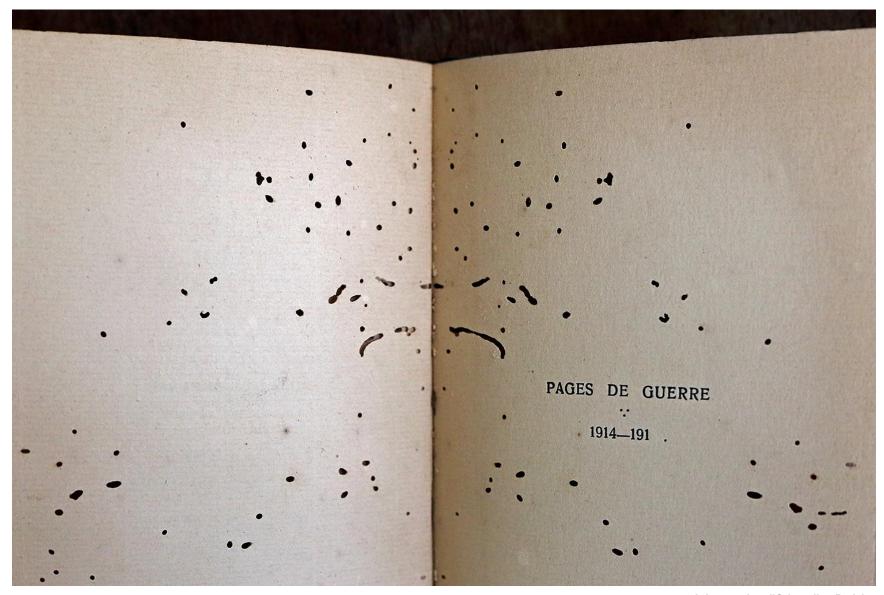
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But the worst enemy of all is the sound of receding footsteps, as people walk away from libraries. Tell me, when did you last go to the library?

Jerry Pinto



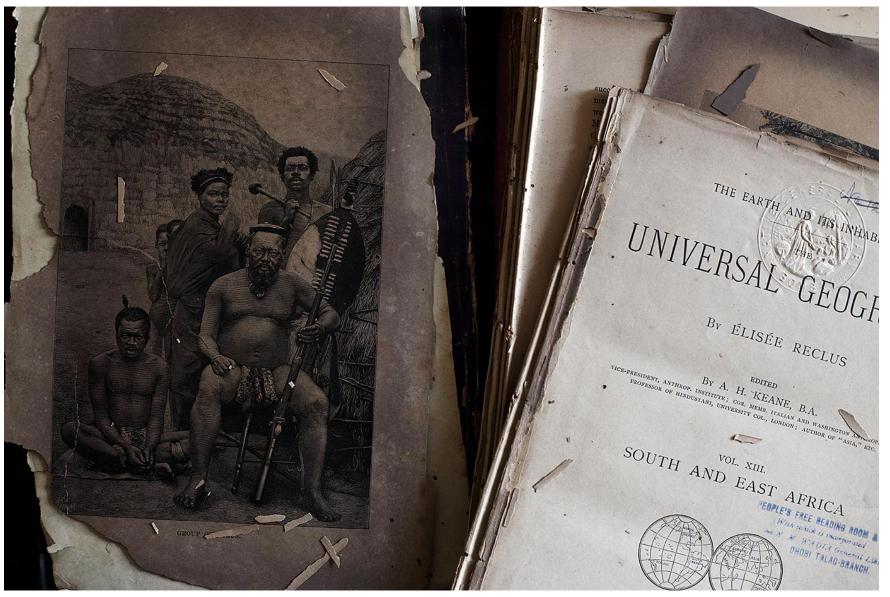
1. The Great Controversy Between Christ & Satan during the Christian Dispensation. By Mrs. E. G. White



2. Impression d'Orient d'un Parisien



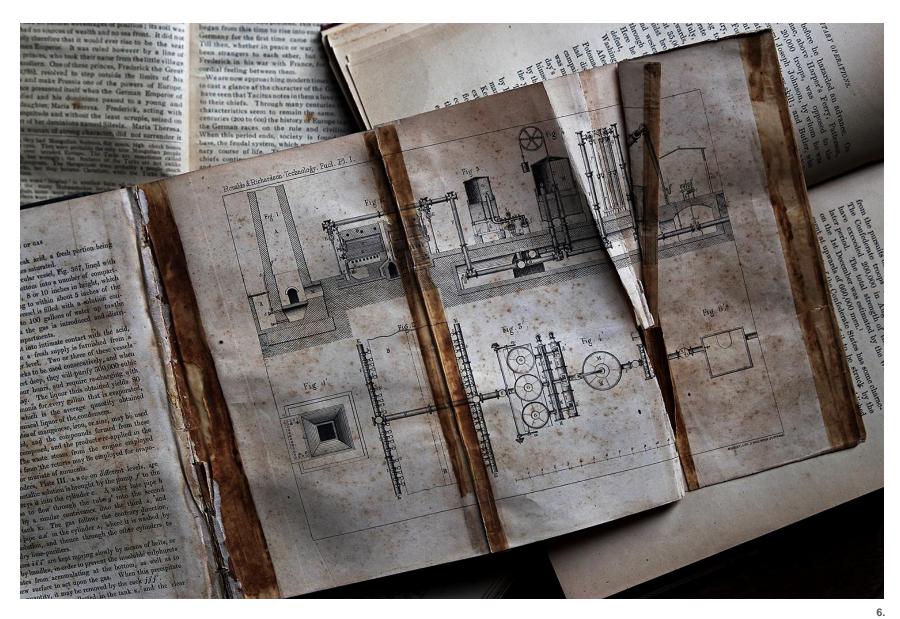
3. Romances of the French Revolution. By Frederic Lees



4. The Universal Geography with Illustrations and Maps (Vol. XIII - South & East Africa). By Elisee Reclus

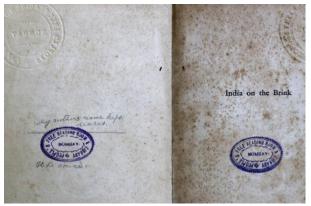


5. Sketches of Rulers of India (Vol. III): The Governors-General and Dupleix. By G. D. Oswell



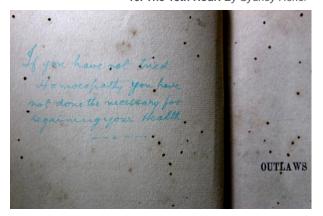


7. The Gallery of Nature – A Pictorial and Descriptive Tour Through Creation, Illustrative of the Wonders of Astronomy,
Physical Geography and Geology. By The Rev, Thomas Milner, M.A





10. The 13th Hour. By Sydney Horler



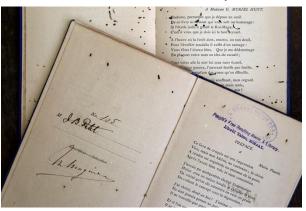
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9. Pitman's Commercial Geography

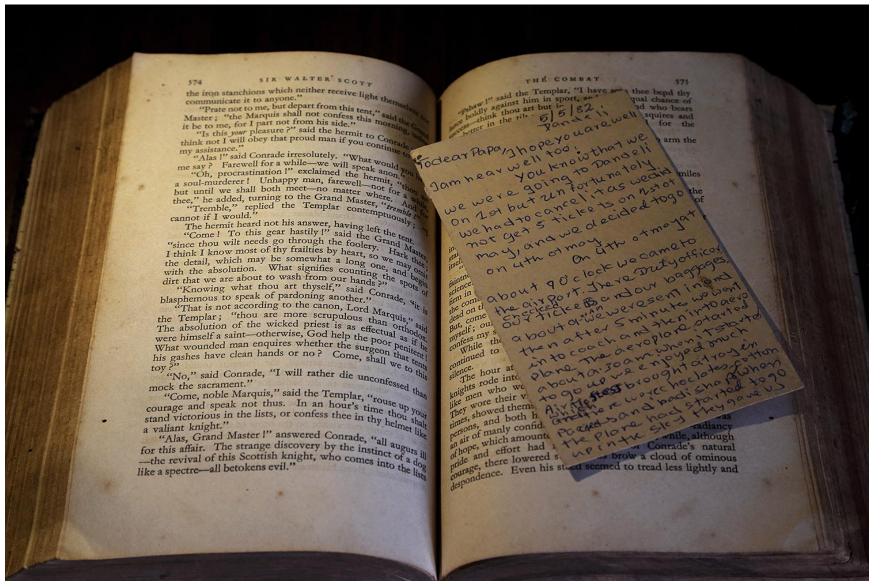


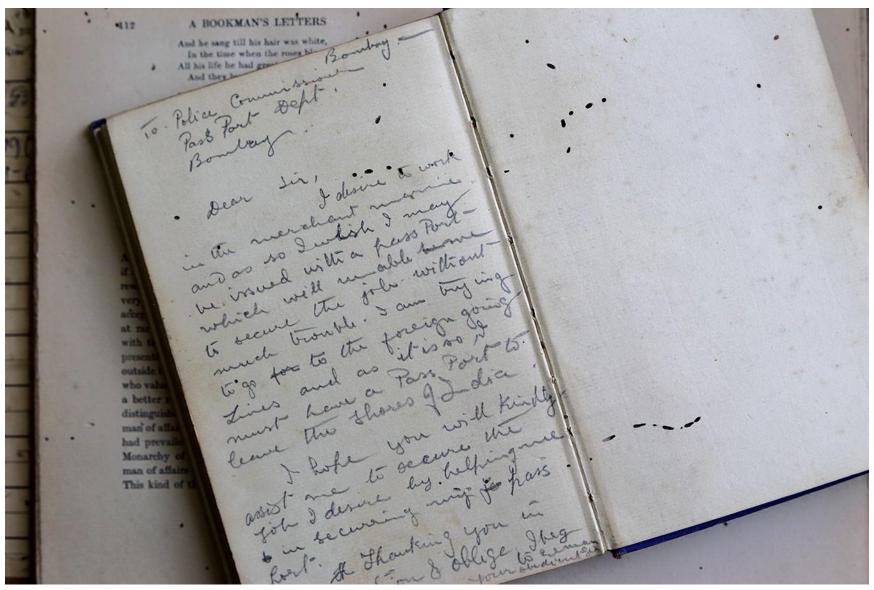
11. The Old Wives Tale. By Arnold Bennett



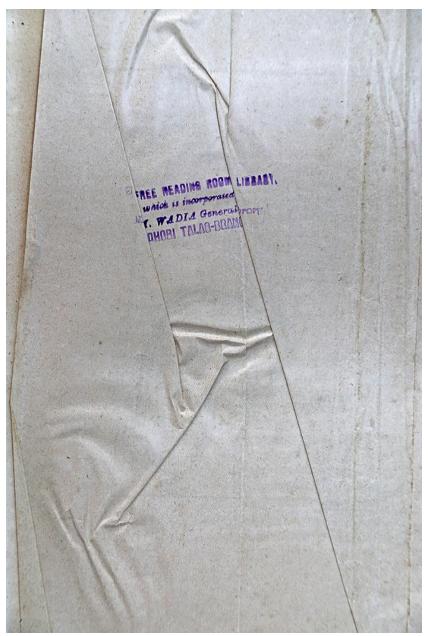
13. Impression d'Orient d'un Parisien

12. The Outlaws of Kathiawar & Other Studies. By C.A. Kincaid, I.C.S





15. The Return of Napoleon. By Henry Houssaye



16. Mandalay



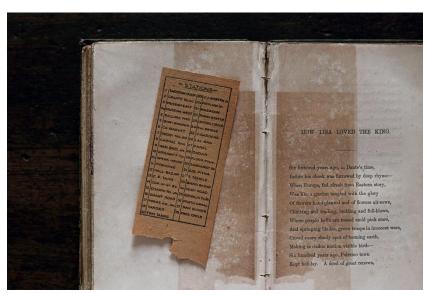
17. The Natural History of Man. By James Cowles Prichard, M.D F.R.S M.R.I.A



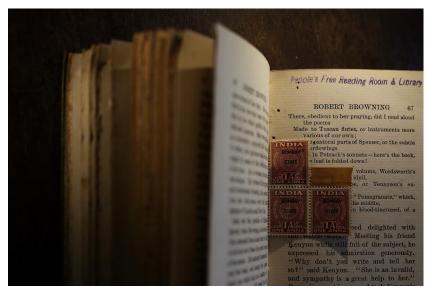
18. The Complete Works of William Shakespeare



19. The Earth and Animated Nature. By Oliver Goldsmith



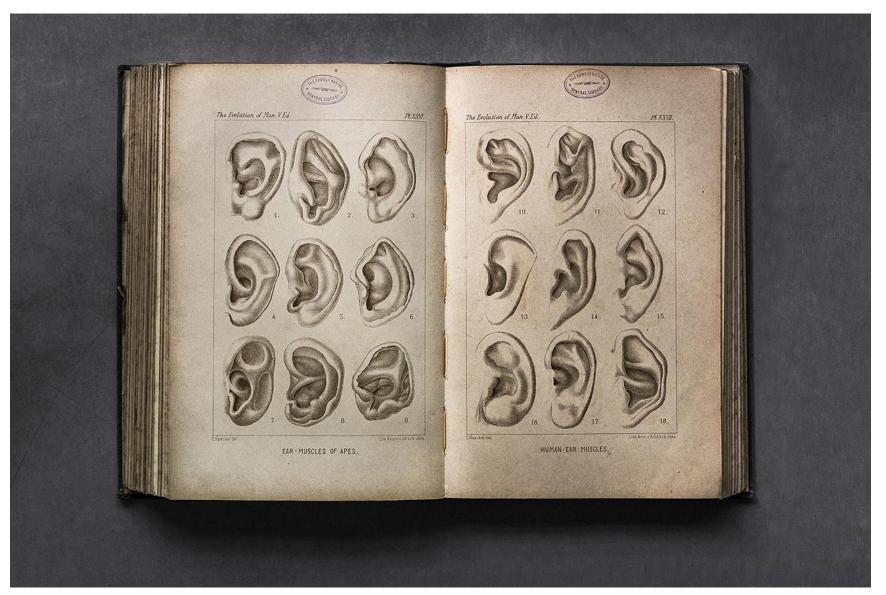
20. The Works of George Eliot: The Legend of Jubal and Other Poems, Old and New



21. The Westminster Biographies: Robert Browning. By Arthur Waugh



22. Aristotle's Works



23. The Evolution of Man: A Popular Science Study. Vol. II. Human Stem-History or Phylogeny. By Ernst Haeckel



24. Kim. Rudyard Kipling



