Dome Quotations

**West elevation — left panel**

**No two people read the same book ∼ Edmund Wilson (1895-1972)**

Attributed to a quotation by John Russell in the *Sunday Times,* 25 July 1971. The real quote is, “No two persons ever read the same book.”

Variation:

In a sense, one can never read the book that the author originally wrote, and one can never read the same book twice.

*The Triple Thinkers: Twelve Essays on Literary Subjects,* Preface, 1976, p. ix.

**The true University of these days is a collection of books ∼ Thomas Carlyle (1795-1871)**

*Sartor Resartus* / *On Heroes and Hero Worship*, 1908.

Found in The works of Thomas Carlyle.

Link to this item: [http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER289869](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER289869)

**Wide and independent reading — self-education — is what matters ∼ Patrick White (1912-1990)**

Australian novelist, 1973 Nobel Prize for Literature.

“The Reading Sickness, 1980”, *Patrick White Speaks*, 1989.

Link to this item: [http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER205026](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER205026)

**West elevation — right panel**

**Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey ∼ Anna Quindlen (1953-)**

*How Reading Changed My Life*, 1998.

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**Let's save old books and study them with care ∼ Phùng Khác Khoan (1528-1630)**

16th century Vietnamese military strategist and poet

Phùng Khắc Khoan, ‘Advice to scholars’, in *An anthology of Vietnamese poems: from the eleventh through the twentieth centuries*, edited and translated by Huỳnh Sanh Thông, 1996.

Link to this item:[http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER582753](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER582753)

Complete quote:

Through your own efforts learn, and Heaven helps./ Let’s save old books and study them with care./ To read proves quite an act in these foul times:/ even wise heads have found it hard to teach./ By knowledge freed, the mind flows like a stream;/ with few desires, the body fears not threat./ Purge man of greed, and Heaven’s truth will shine:/ must scholars think of stipends and naught else?

**Read in order to live ∼ Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880)**

Letter, 1857.

Complete quote:

“Do not read, as children do, to amuse yourself, or like the ambitious, for the purpose of instruction. No, read in order to live.”

The letters of Gustave Flaubert / selected, edited, and translated by Francis Steegmuller.

Link to this item: [http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER659064](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER659064)

**North-West elevation**

**No place can be chosen more likely to arouse and exalt such feelings** **than this apartment, reared in honor of literature ∼ Redmond Barry (1813-1880)**

Preface to The catalogue of the Public Library of Victoria, [1880](https://archive.org/search.php?query=date:1880), p. x111

Link to this item: [http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER280607](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER280607)

**Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy ∼ Germaine Greer (1939-)**

“Still in Melbourne January 1987”, *Daddy, we hardly knew you*, 1989.

Link to this item: [http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER195815](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER195815)

**Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations ∼ Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)**

*Walden*, 1854 (Chapter 3: "Reading")

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**The chief glory of every people arises from its authors ∼ Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)**

“Preface” to *A dictionary of the English language*, 1755.

**A public library is the most democratic thing in the world ∼ Doris Lessing (1919-2013)**

“Libraries are treasures houses of stories, poems, essays, from every country in the world and from all times, and literature shades off into history and magic and mystery and religion, into sociology and anthropology – into nearly every subject you can think of, and it is there for everyone. There for the trouble of finding someone who loves books ready to make suggestions. **A public library is the most democratic thing in the world**. What can be found there has undone dictators and tyrants: demagogues can persecute writers and tell them what to write as much as they like, but they cannot vanish what has been written in the past, though they try often enough...People who love literature have at least part of their minds immune from indoctrination. If you read, you can learn to think for yourself.”

Antonia Fraser, (ed.), [*The Pleasure of Reading: 43 Writers on the Discovery of Reading and the Books That Inspired Them*](http://www.amazon.com/The-Pleasure-Reading-Discovery-Inspired/dp/163286228X), 2015, p.33.

Mignon Fogarty, *Grammar Girl's 101 Words Every High School Graduate Needs to Know*, 1992, p.21.

**North elevation — left side**

**Until I feared to lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love** **breathing ∼ Harper Lee (1926-2016)**

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, 1960.

**Beholding the bright countenance of truth in the quiet and still air of delightful studies ∼ John Milton (1608-1674)**

*The Reason of Church Government*, Introduction, Book ii.

**North elevation — right side**

**Words on the page are never prisoners of the page ∼ Sonya Hartnett (1968-)**

Sonya Hartnett said ‘Words on the page are never prisoners of the page’ when accepting an audio book award, in 1999.

**Harboe Ree, Cathrine**, Spring 2003, ['A ribbon of words: wall quotations in the La Trobe Reading Room'](http://latrobejournal.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-72/t1-g-t8.html), *La Trobe Journal,* no 72, pp 72-79.

**Writers speak for those who are kept in silence ∼ Isabel Allende (1942-)**

“For whom do I write, finally? Certainly for myself. But mainly for others, even if there are only a few. For those who have no voice and for those who are kept in silence.” Isabel Allende, “Writing as an act of hope”, in *Paths of Resistance: The Art and Draft of the Political Novel*, edited by William Zinsser, 1989, pp.39-63.

 “…a writer is a foreteller of the future, has a prophetic gift, has the ability to speak for others who have been kept in silence.” John Rodden, *Conversations with Isabel Allende*, 1999, p.257

 “I wanted to speak up for those that are kept in silence”, [Angel Flores](https://www.google.com.au/search?tbo=p&tbm=bks&q=inauthor:%22Angel+Flores%22), *Spanish American Authors: The Twentieth Century*, 1992, p.28.

**A real book is not one that's read, but one that reads us ∼ W H Auden (1903-1973)**

Poet. Attributed that is was once said and recalled at his death in 1973, Leo Thayer, *Mental Hygiene:* *Communication and the Health of the Mind*, 2014, p. 103.

Reported by Lionel Trilling in "On the Modern Element in Modern Literature", *Partisan Review*, January-February 1961, p. 15 (reprinted in Trilling's *Beyond Culture*, 1965): Trilling wrote: "taking the cue of W. H. Auden's remark that a real book reads us, I have been read by Eliot's poems...".

More commonly reported as "a real book is not one that we read but one that reads us". This paraphrase of Trilling's reported quotation first appeared in a review by Robie Macauley of Trilling's *Beyond Culture* in the New York Times Book Review, 14 November 1965, p. 38: "I must borrow a phrase from Mr. Trilling (who borrows it from W. H. Auden): a real book is not one that we read but one that reads us." The same version, attributed to Auden, appears in Evan Esar, 20,000 Quips & Quotes (1968), p. 87 (with a comma after "we read"). There is no evidence that Auden ever wrote or said this version of the phrase.

(Source website: <https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/W._H._Auden>)

**North-East elevation**

**Blessed are those who are privileged to read what they like ∼ Dorothy Green (1915-1991)**

“The Reader”, *Writer: Reader: Critic* (1991), p.112.

Link to this item: [http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER606094](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER606094)

**Books can warm the heart with friendly words and counsel, entering into a close relationship with us which is articulate and alive ∼ Francesco Petrarch (1304-1374)**

Letter to a friend

Complete quote: “There is moreover something special about books; gold and silver, jewels and purple raiment, marble halls and re-tended fields, pictures and horses in all their trappings, and everything else of that kind can only accord only passing pleasure with nothing to say, whereas **books can warm the heart with friendly words and counsel, entering into a close relationship with us which is articulate and alive**.”

Quoted from Nicholas A. Basbanes, *A gentle madness : bibliophiles, bibliomanes, and the eternal passion for books*, 1995, p. 73.

Link to this item: [http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER105810](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER105810)

**One must be an inventor to read well ∼ Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)**

Essay “The American Scholar”, An Oration delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society, at Cambridge, August 31, 1837.

**The Public Library is at once the product of democracy and a sign of faith in universal education as a life-long process ∼ Irving Benson (1914-2016)**

Is attributed to Benson in the Australian Dictionary of Biography – <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/benson-sir-clarence-irving-9493>:

‘In the public sphere, he was trustee (1942-46) of the Public Library, museums and National Gallery of Victoria (vice-chairman 1945), chairman (1946-66) of trustees of the Public Library of Victoria and deputy-chairman (from 1966) of its successor, the Library Council of Victoria. He was also president (1938-49) of the Library Association of Victoria and chairman (1947-56) of the Free Library Service Board. Having himself substituted the reading of books for his lack of formal education, he regarded libraries as 'a practical demonstration of democracy's faith in universal education as a life-long process'.’

Quoted in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, “The Public Library: A Living Force for Popular Education”, 1949, p.1. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001474/147487eb.pdf>

**Dreams, books, are each a world; and books, we know, are a substantial world, both pure and good ∼ William Wordsworth (1770-1850)**

*Complete Poetical Works*, Personal Talk, 1888.

**East elevation — left panel**

**Books are the threads from which the fabric of our culture and civilization are woven ∼ Richard W Clement (1951-)**

“Introduction”, *The Book in America with images from the Library of Congress*, Richard W. Clement, 1996, p.3.

Link to this item:[http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER798809](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER798809)

Complete quote: (In reference to Thomas Jefferson’s assertion: “I cannot live without books.) “With this statement, addressed to John Adams, Thomas Jefferson voiced a national cultural truth. Jefferson understood that **books are the threads from which the fabric of our culture and civilization are woven** and that it is this fabric that gives our nation coherence and continuity”.

**One reads in order to ask questions ∼ Franz Kafka (1883-1924)**

From an interview with Kafka. *Conversations with Kafka*, Gustav Janouch, 1953.

**Books, the children of the brain ∼ Jonathon Swift (1667-1745)**

*A Tale of a Tub*, 1704.

Link to this item:[http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER12663](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER12663)

Full quote: “I confess to have been somewhat liberal in the business of titles, having observed the humour of multiplying them, to bear great vogue among certain writers, whom I exceedingly reverence. And indeed in seems not unreasonable, that **books, the children of the brain**, should have the honour to be christened with variety of names, as well as other infants of quality.”

**East elevation — right panel**

**The Dome and its ascending galleries seemed like a giant brain vaulting towards the heavens ∼ Arnold Zable (1947-)**

Dome quotation project:

<http://exhibitions.slv.vic.gov.au/dome100/100-dome-stories/perspectives-dome/passion-knowledge>

**Stories are the way to feel you belong ∼ Boori Monty Pryor (1950-)**

Boori Monty Pryor, an Aboriginal writer, said ‘Stories are the way to feel you belong’ in a session at the 1999 Melbourne Writers’ Festival.

**Harboe Ree, Cathrine**, Spring 2003, ['A ribbon of words: wall quotations in the La Trobe Reading Room'](http://latrobejournal.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-72/t1-g-t8.html), *La Trobe Journal,* no 72, pp 72-79.

**Nobody has the last word ∼ Brenda Walker (1957-)**

Brenda Walker said ‘Nobody has the last word’ when speaking about Edgar Allan Poe at the 1999 Melbourne Writers’ Festival.

Harboe Ree, Cathrine, Spring 2003, ['A ribbon of words: wall quotations in the La Trobe Reading Room'](http://latrobejournal.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-72/t1-g-t8.html), *La Trobe Journal,* no 72, pp 72-79.

**South-East elevation**

**The studious silence of the library … Tranquil brightness ∼ James Joyce** (1882-1941)

From Harboe Ree, Cathrine, Spring 2003, ['A ribbon of words: wall quotations in the La Trobe Reading Room'](http://latrobejournal.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-72/t1-g-t8.html), *La Trobe Journal,* no 72, pp 72-79.

“Was first sighted in Diane Asséo Griliches’ book *Library: the drama within* (1996). The cited source was *Ulysses* (1922) - the words used by Asséo Griliches had been extracted in two grabs several hundred words apart. We finally decided to use the same form as Asséo Griliches.”

**To slide into the Domed Reading Room at ten each morning, specially in summer, off the hot street outside, was a sensation as delicious as dropping into the water off the concrete edge of the Fitzroy baths ∼ Helen Garner (1942-)**

**Helen Garner**, '"A smell of old reading...": Helen Garner remembers the Domed Reading Room', [*State Library of Victoria News*](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER1006401), Jul-Oct 2003 p. 5.

**But words are things, and a small drop of ink, falling like dew, upon a thought, produces that which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think ∼ Lord Byron (1788-1824)**

*Don Juan*, Canto III, LXXXVIII, 1824.

Link to this item:[http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER644329](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER644329)

**Come, and take choice of all my library, and so beguile thy sorrow ∼ William Shakespeare (1564-1616)**

*Titus Andronicus*, Act 4, scene 1, lines 34 and 35, a speech of Titus’ to Lavinia after her mutilation.

**South elevation — left panel**

**There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away, nor any coursers like a page of prancing poetry ∼ Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)**

Poem. “There is no Frigate like a Book”. From a letter written in 1873, and was published in Volume I of her *Letters* (1894).

**I, who had always thought of Paradise in form and image as a library ∼ Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986)**

Poem. “Goodbyes”, in *Dreamtigers* first published as *El Hacedor* ("The Maker"), 1960.

From From Harboe Ree, Cathrine, Spring 2003, ['A ribbon of words: wall quotations in the La Trobe Reading Room'](http://latrobejournal.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejournal/issue/latrobe-72/t1-g-t8.html), *La Trobe Journal,* no 72, pp 72-79.

 “The Borges quotation was more problematic, as it is a translation, and in context it is actually a lament about Borges's blindness, which had the effect of removing libraries from his world...The first sighted form was: ‘I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library’. The final form selected is: ‘I, who had always thought of Paradise in form and image as a library’, the variation being caused by different translations.”

**South elevation — right panel**

**The word is the making of the world ∼ Wallace Stevens (1879-1955)**

Description without place, Canto VII, *Collected Poems*, 1945.

**A study lamp, a desk make two old friends … Rejoice — the ancient spirit thrives again. For those who read a word or two there's hope ∼ Nguyễn Trãi (1380-1442)**

Vietnamese poet, Confucian scholar and military strategist.

**South-West elevation**

**The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest men of past centuries ∼ René Descartes (1596-1650)**

*Discourse on the Method*, Part 1, paragraph 5, 1637.

Variant: “The reading of all good books is indeed like a conversation with the noblest men of past centuries who were the authors of them, nay a carefully studied conversation, in which they reveal to us none but the best of their thoughts.’

**You can make initial contact with someone who does not speak your language with signs or smiles, but to communicate you need words. So it is with a nation; to understand it you have to read its books ∼ Geoffrey Dutton (1922-1998)**

Dedication in *The Australian collection: Australia's greatest books*, [selected by] Geoffrey Dutton, 1985.

Link to this item: [http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER95212](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER95212)

**A person cannot contribute to humanity without knowledge … Only a person with a free soul, a person who has no use for fear, can contribute to this world's betterment ∼ Pramoeda Ananta Toer (1925-2006)**

“Science, Religion and Health Care”, Part 111: Lessons for my Children, *The Mute's Soliloquy: A Memoir*, 1995, p. 248.

Link to this item:[http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:Everything:SLV\_VOYAGER821651](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN%3AEverything%3ASLV_VOYAGER821651)

An autobiography based on the letters that he wrote for his daughter from imprisonment in Buru but was not allowed to send.