

THE REMNANT TRUST, INC.

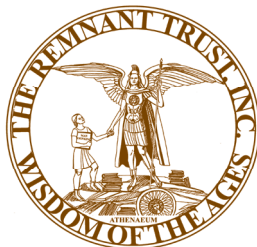
THE UNCHAINING OF IDEAS

The Chained Library begins in England about 1320...books were rare, and so was honesty. A book, it was said, was worth as much as a farm; unlike a farm, it was portable property that could easily be purloined. Valuables in all ages require protection. Books, therefore, were kept under lock and key. In the Middle Ages books were originally kept in cupboards, called almeries (*armaria*), and in chests, or they were chained to desks in a church.

The old-time library was conceived, not as a storeroom for books, but as a noble reading-room. A library was, and was meant to be, a thing of beauty – and of use. When Sir Thomas Bodley, in 1598, was working out his scheme for a University Library at Oxford, he wrote to the Vice-Chancellor asking for the nomination of a committee to consult with him, so that they might “soone resolve vpon the best, as well for shewe and statly forme, as for capacitie and strength and commodities of students.”

In England, for more than four hundred years, design was dominated by the practice of chaining books. A chained book cannot be read unless there is some kind of desk or table on which to rest it *within the length of the chain*; that fact conditioned the structure of the bookcase. Again, since a chained book cannot be moved to the window, the window must be near the book; that determined the plan of the building.

Chaining, then, in ancient libraries is not an interesting irrelevance. The fact that some anthropoid ancestor began to employ his front paws for grasping instead of for walking conditioned the upright posture of man and his use of tools --- and so his whole future development.

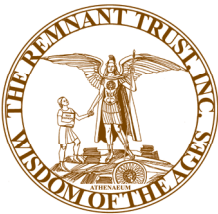


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A TRAVELING LIBRARY

From 1778 to 1798 James Lackington, the bookseller, had a shop at No. 32, Finsbury Place South in the southeast corner of Finsbury Square called “The Temple of the Muses,” in London. Later in the early 1800s, prior to the death of Thomas Jefferson, the bookstore was sold to Jones and Company for distribution of their books and other works. This **Traveling Library**, “A Curious Miniature Edition (the smallest ever printed), combining the advantages of portability with clear and beautiful printing, embellished with fine Portraits of Authors, and Vignette Titles in Silk Binding, with gilt leaves: the whole complete in a case, at a very trifling additional expense, forming a portable Traveling Library.”

The Remnant Trust continues that precedent as the 21st century unfolds. The works, within our Athenaeum, for centuries available only to the privileged few have been locked in vaults and hidden in private collections. The Remnant Trust shares ... as we believe ... **Great Ideas Belong To Everyone.**



There is a principle which is a bar against all knowledge; which is proof against all argument; and which cannot fail to keep an individual in everlasting ignorance. This principle is **contempt prior to examination.**

--Herbert Spencer