But there is one thing my collection does. It holds up to me a constant mirror of my ignorance. When I am faced with what I don't know a kind of despair sets in . . . . But you would love the books. Of course the ca-sual books come flowing in but the designed library is a staunch bastion. I have lost all sense of home, having moved so much. It means to me now--only that place where the books are kept.
- John Steinbeck to Carlton Sheffield (2
March 1964)

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