To a true collector the acquisition of an old book is its rebirth. This is the childlike element which our collector rubs with the element of old age. For children can accomplish the renewal of existence in a hundred unfailing ways. Among children, collecting is only one process of renewal; other processes are the painting of objects, the cutting out of figures, the application of labels – the whole range of childlike modes of acquisition – from touching things to giving them names. To renew the old world – that is the collector's largest desire – when he is driven to acquire new things; and that is why a collector of older books is closer to the wellsprings of collecting than the acquirer of luxury editions."

– Walter Benjamin

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.

— W. Freedman

"The walls of books around him, dense with the past, formed a kind of insulation against the present world and its disasters."

– Ross Macdonald

"Of all the ways of acquiring books, writing them oneself is regarded as the most praiseworthy method."

– Walter Benjamin

"One of the finest memories of a collector is the moment when he rescued a book to which he might never have given a thought, much less a wistful look, because he found it lonely and abandoned on the marketplace and bought it to give it its freedom – the way the prince bought a beautiful slave girl in "The Arabian Nights." To a book collector, you see, the true freedom of all books is somewhere on his shelves."

– Walter Benjamin

"Where is human nature so weak as in the bookstore?"

– Henry Ward Beecher