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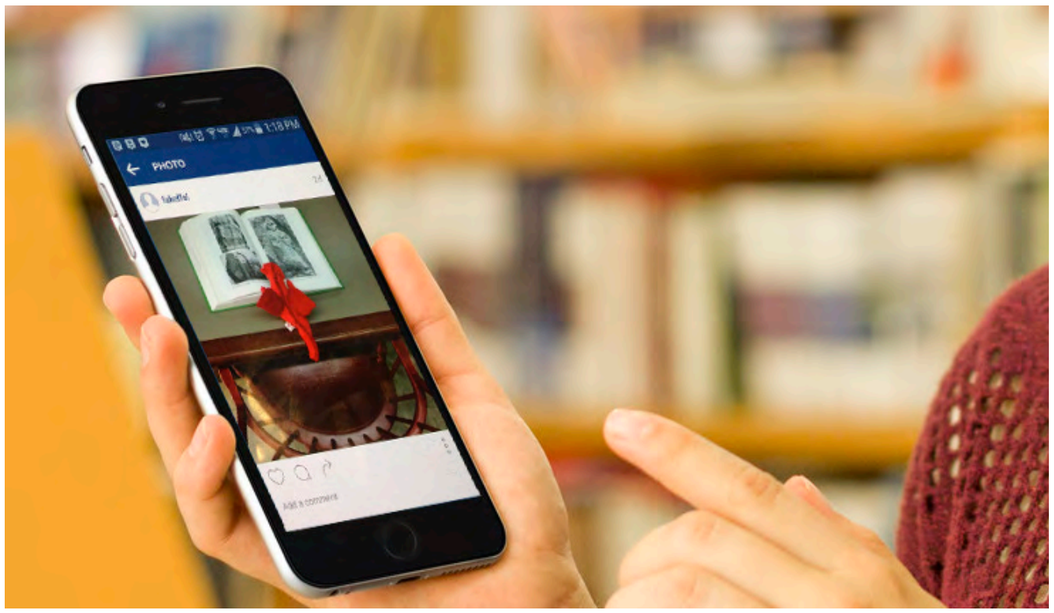
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FEW LOVE TO HEAR THE SINS THEY LOVE TO ACT
MEN AT SOME TIME ARE MASTERS OF THEIR FATE
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THE FISHER FINE ARTS LIBRARY
MEET GARY THE GARGOYLE

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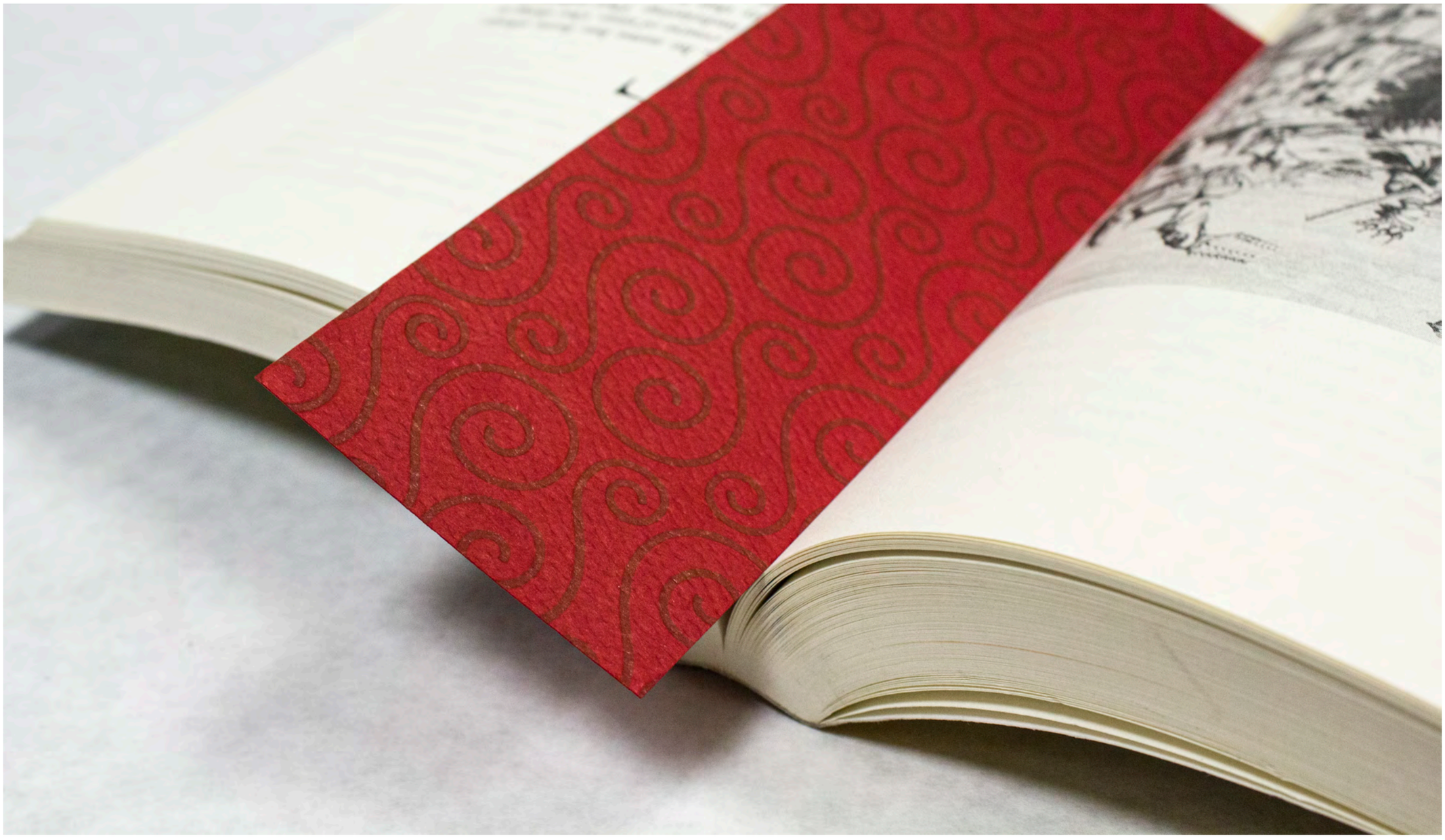

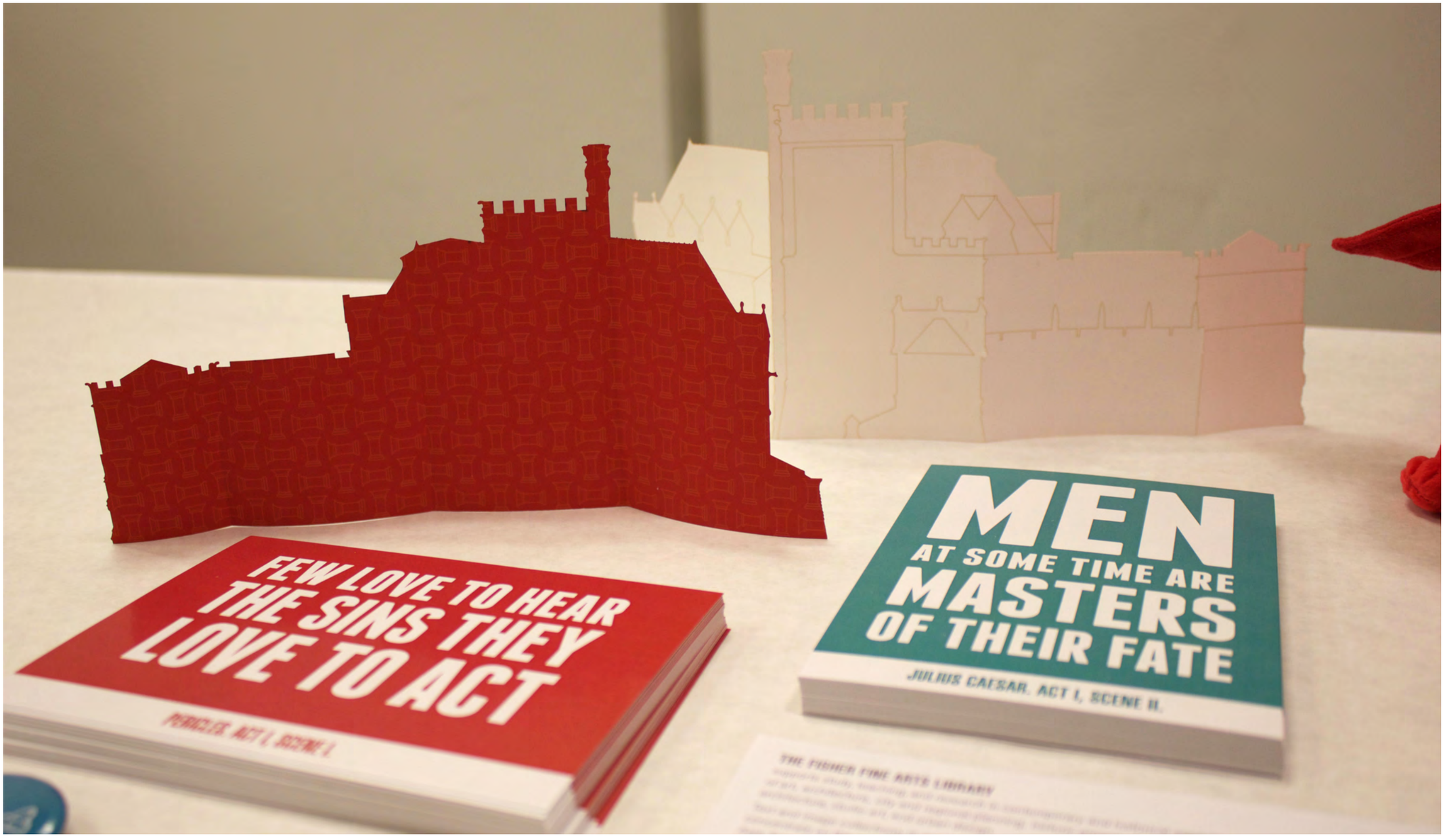
FEW LOVE TO HEAR
THE SINS THEY
LOVE TO ACT
PERICLES ACT I, SCENE I
MEN
AT SOME TIME ARE
MASTERS
OF THEIR FATE
JULIUS CAESAR, ACT I, SCENE II.
THE FISHER FINE ARTS LIBRARY

1888-91 FISHER FINE ARTS LIBRARY BUILT
1903-05 GALLERY IN REFERENCE READING ROOM
1914-15 STORY DURRING MEMORIAL STACKS
1922-23 NEW FLOOR WITHIN MAIN READING ROOM
1923-24 TWO STORY HENRY CHARLES LEA LIBRARY AND READING ROOM ADDED
1925 STUDY OF PROVISION FOR MORE SPACE
1931 ONE STORY HORACE HOWARD FURNESS MEMORIAL LIBRARY ADDED TO FRONT OF BOOK STACK; CONVERTED TO ARTHUR ROSS GALLERY IN 1990S
1985-91 1920S READING ROOM FLOOR REMOVED, BOOK STACK STRUCTURE REPLACED
FISHER FINE ARTS LIBRARY
The Fisher Fine Arts Library supports study, teaching and research in contemporary and historical aspects of art, architecture, city and regional planning, historic preservation, landscape architecture, studio art, and urban design. Text and image collections, in analog and digital form, have a global reach and concentrate on the arts of the western experience, Islam, South Asia and East Asia, from prehistory to the present. Our digital and print resources are designed to meet the needs of students and faculty of the departments, schools and programs of the University of Pennsylvania.
The University of Pennsylvania's first library building was designed by Frank Furness (pronounced "furnace"), in consultation with library authorities Melvil Dewey and Justin Winsor. The collaboration produced a technologically advanced and utilitarian facility which, thanks to Furness's flamboyant style, was anything but mundane. The cornerstone was laid in October 1888, and the University of Pennsylvania Library was formally dedicated on February 7, 1891. The window mottoes and other inscriptions in the building were chosen by Horace Howard Furness (Frank's older brother), a Shakespearean scholar and prominent member of Penn's faculty in the late nineteenth century. Though destined to accommodate decades of collection expansion as projected in the 1880s, the building already was becoming crowded by the first decade of the twentieth century. Over the next thirty years, several major alterations and additions were made to accommodate heavier-than-expected use and to house various special collections, including the Horace Howard Furness Memorial Library, and the Henry Charles Lea Library. In 1962, the main and special library collections moved to the newly-constructed Van Pelt Library.
The Fine Arts Library is a great place to study.
FISHER
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
The former University Library, renamed the Furness Building after its architect, was home to the Fine Arts Library and an array of architectural studios, including that of Louis I. Kahn. The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1985. Major restoration work, planned and directed by the firm of Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown, was carried out from 1987 through 1990, with rededication taking place on the centennial of the original ceremony. In 1992 both the building and the library were formally renamed the Anne and Jerome Fisher Fine Arts Library to honor the principal donors to the restoration project.
ARTHUR ROSS GALLERY
On February 3, 1990 the Arthur Ross Gallery opened its doors in the basement of the Colonial Francisco Goya y Lucientes. The collection of Mr. Ross was on permanent and rotating exhibition in the gallery, with prints from the Collection of the Arthur Ross Foundation.
Two years earlier, New York investor, philanthropist, and collector Arthur Ross had the visionary passion to refurbish an art gallery at the University of Pennsylvania. Under President Martin S. Meyerson, the Arthur Ross Gallery now inhabits a 5,000 square foot space in the Fisher Fine Arts Library building, a historic 1890 High Victorian Gothic library designed by Frank Furness.
HOURS OF OPERATION
Mon – Thur: 8:30am – 12am
Friday: 8:30am – 8pm
Saturday: 10am – 8pm
Sunday: 10am – 12am
PERKINS RARE BOOK COLLECTION
The Fisher Fine Arts Perkins Library is a collection of monuments of architectural publishing. It is located on the main level of the Fisher Fine Arts Library and holds approximately three thousand rare books as well as drawings and historic maps. The foundation of the collection a the single great book of Vitruvius Pollio (ca. 90-20 B.C.E.) together with works by the five figures from the Renaissance period Alberti, Scamozzi, Serlio, Vignola, and Palladio. The original collection was established in 1965 by G. Holmes Perkins who served as Dean of Penn's Graduate School of Fine Arts (as it was known then) from 1951 to 1971.
Fisher is known for its windows.