Odes to Public Libraries

Author: Zapopan Martín Muela Meza
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. June 20, 1995

Dedicated to Carolina Muela Rodriguez

I

The blind person would like to see
the one who sees would like to read
and you who are not blind
and are able to read
come to the public library,
from its books a lot more
you will learn
even if you see a little
or cannot read.

II

My parents learnt
from their teachers
their teachers learnt
from other teachers.
And where have all the teachers learnt from?
From schools and libraries.
When kid she/he drank from its waters
When younger she/he drank from its waters
When grownup she/he drank from its waters
When older she/he is still drinking from its waters
Finally she/he died, but the waters kept uprising from the eternal spring source of knowledge:
the library
let us drink from its waters!
satisfy our thirst!

In Ancient Era
it lived in its houses.
In Modern Era
still lived in its houses.
In the Nuclear Era
still keeps on living in its houses.
Today like in History
knowledge lives in the libraries
let us go after it.
Out of clay, papyrus or wax
in boards, rolls or tables,
out of palimpsestus
in duplex, triplex or multiplex codices
out of manuscripts or printed paper
hard or softbounded
out of celluloid
in microformats or diskettes
out of silica and laser
in CD-ROM or online
in any time
in any form or material
but the book keeps on being the king.

At home we learn to walk and to speak
at school we learn to read and write
but in the library we learn
to fly to outer space
to travel through time
to know about our planet,
people and nature around us
from here and far away.
I opened the doors from the past,
also I opened the ones from the present
and I am also able to open the doors from all
the rivers and seas, hills and mountains
jungles and forests from all over the Earth;
also I am able to open the ones
from all the planets, satellites and galaxies
I could open them yesterday,
I can do it today,
and I can do it tomorrow
since I am immortal
I am the key of knowledge
I am your library
come and take me
and open all the doors
your imagination wants.

(c) Copyright. Moral authorship rights. June 20, 1995. Zapopan Martín Muela Meza. Monterrey, Nuevo León, México. It is allowed verbatim copy, distribution, storage and reprinting by all the atto-infinitesimal or exa-intercosmic media only if it is not with commercial purposes, that the author is cited properly, and that a copy of the issue where is published it is sent to him scanned on PDF to the email: zapopanmuela(nospam)gmail.com, and that this note stays the same.

Poem written originally in Spanish --on the 20 of June 1995-- to participate in radio and television spots of Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico to attract children and their parents to visit and read in the public libraries of the Nuevo León State Public Libraries Network at the invitation of its coordinator of that time, Mr. Bernardo Flores Flores (ex head of the School of Philosophy and Letters of the University Autonomous University of Nuevo León).
History of publications of *Odas a las Bibliotecas Públicas* = *Odes to Public Libraries*

complete in English at:


complete in English at:


partially in Spanish at:


Last update of reprints up to: 2006091301.