

"The Rise and Fall of Alexandria", Howard Reid and Justin Pollard

Post by "Don" of November 20, 2020 at 7:08 AM

Oh, it actually happened. Here's the section getting the Wikipedia article and the article has multiple references. I've always enjoyed the idea of library agents stomping onboard a ship:

According to the Greek medical writer [Galen](#), under the decree of Ptolemy II, any books found on ships that came into port were taken to the library, where they were copied by official scribes. The original texts were kept in the library, and the copies delivered to the owners. The Library particularly focused on acquiring manuscripts of the Homeric poems, which were the foundation of Greek education and revered above all other poems. The Library therefore acquired many different manuscripts of these poems, tagging each copy with a label to indicate where it had come from.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_Alexandria?wprov=sfla1