

**Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee**

**Institute Archives**

**Mahatma Gandhi Central Library**

**Rare Books on display of Archives Gallery**

<b>S.no</b>	<b>Book Name</b>	<b>Citation</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.	The Architecture of A.Palladio -1742 Inigo Jones	<b>Jones, I. (1742). <i>The architecture of A. Palladio</i>. London: Printed for A. Ward, S. Birt, D. Browne, C. Davis, T. Osborne, &amp; A. Millar.</b>	Containing a short treatise of the five orders, and the most necessary observations concerning all sorts of building: construction of private and public houses, highways, bridges, market-places, xystes, and temples, with their plans, sections, and uprights.
2.	Nouvelle method D'encaissement- 1757 M.Tardif		This book contains forty plates based on different architectural structures.
3.	Prospetto dell' alma citta de Roma- 1765 Giuse Vasi		This is the prospectus of the city of Rome. It consists of various engravings of the panoramic images of the city's wall, gates, squares, streets, churches and chapels, palaces, apartment blocks, courtyards, fountains and garden laid out with trees and other plantings.
4.	AV ROY		Jacques Perret was a French architect in the service of the Catholic King Henry IV of France. He was a Huguenot, from the Savoie. This book consists of a sequence of 22 plates, engraved by Thomas de Leu, and a textual commentary. What makes Perret's work noteworthy is the compulsive ornamentation of the city walls with biblical quotes, particularly from the psalms.

5.	The architectural antiquities of Rome measured and delineated- 1821 G.L. Taylor and Edward Cresy	<b>Taylor, G. L., &amp; Cresy, E. (1821).</b> <i>The architectural antiquities of Rome measured and delineated.</i> London: G. L. Taylor, E. Cresy, Longman and Co., Rodwell and Martin, & J. Taylor.	Includes 129 engraved plates numbered I-CXXX; plates of Roman Architecture containing details of arches, temples, columns, forums, amphitheatre. Also art history, plans, elevations, sections and views in Great Britain during the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century.
6.	Annals and antiquities of Rajasthan Central and Western Rajpoot States of India- 1832 James. Todd	<b>Tod, J. (1832).</b> <i>Annals and antiquities of Rajasthan: Central and Western Rajpoot States of India.</i> London: Smith, Elder, and Co., & Calkin and Budd.	Geography of Rajasthan of Rajputana and their life with 23 engraved plates
7.	The Mughal Architecture of Fatehpur Sikri-1896 Edmund W Smith	<b>Smith, E. W. (1896).</b> <i>The Mughal architecture of Fatehpur Sikri.</i> Allahabad: Superintendent, Government Press, North-Western Provinces and Oudh	A report of the Archaeological Survey of India on the Mughal Architecture of Fatehpur Sikri- a symbol of composite culture in India. Mughal architecture is an Indo-Islamic architecture that developed in India under the patronage of the Mughal Empire.
8.	William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies- 1623 (First Folio)		One of the most influential books ever published in the English. Of the 750 First Folios printed, only 233 exist today.  A copy of the book was sold for c. 5,153,000 U.S. \$ in London on 13.07.2006 ( <a href="http://www.rarebookhub.com">www.rarebookhub.com</a> ) Radio-Carbon dating implies that the trees used for making the papers of the book, kept in this gallery, are 394-807 years old (Courtesy: J. S. Ray, PRL).

9.	The Anatomy of the Brain – 1802 Charles Bell	<b>Bell, C.</b> (1802). <i>The anatomy of the brain</i> . London: C. Whittingham for T. N. Longman and O. Rees, and T. Cadell, Jun. & W. Davies.	The book is a series of engravings of original drawings, showing the anatomy of the brain and nervous system. These drawings with a remarkable artistic skill and finish were taken from dissections made by Bell for the lecture or demonstrations he gave on the nervous system.
10.	The Monuments of Nineveh (1849) - 100 Plates Austen Henry Layardy	<b>Layard, A. H.</b> (1849). <i>The monuments of Nineveh: From drawings made on the spot</i> (100 plates). London: John Murray.	Exceptionally rare book. Only 37 U.S. libraries are known to own a copy. Sculptures and bas-reliefs of the remains of Nineveh (Mosul in Iraq). A used copy is known to have retailed for US \$16,000.00.
11.	Fauna Antiqua Sivalensis, being the fossil zoology of the Sewalik Hills, in the north of India- 1846 H. Falconer and P. T. Cautley	<b>Falconer, H., &amp; Cautley, P. T.</b> (1846). <i>Fauna antiqua Sivalensis: Being the fossil zoology of the Sewalik Hills, in the north of India</i> . London: Smith, Elder and Co.	This work is in 9 parts, each contains 12 plates showing 1,123 specimens. "We shall commence with Elephant Group, in which is most signally displayed the numerical richness of forms which characterise the Fauna Fossils of India" (a quote from the book) Cautley's collection of fossils, presented to the British Museum, filled 214 chests, averaging in weight 200 kg.
12.	Smithsonian contributions to knowledge-1890	<b>Smithsonian Institution.</b> (1890). <i>Smithsonian contributions to knowledge</i> . Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution.	The book contains researches upon the venoms of poisonous serpents and genesis of the Ariidae or ariid catfish, a family of catfish that mainly live in marine waters with many freshwater and brackish water species.

13.	The history and doctrine of Buddhism, popularly illustrated with notice on the Kappoism or Demon Worship, and of the Bali or Planetary incantations of Ceylon- 1829 Sir Alexander Johnston		A collection of tracts illustrative of the doctrines and literature of Buddhism. This school of Buddhism emphasizes the four noble truths as the framework of Buddhist doctrine and the noble eight-fold Path as the direct route to Nibbana, the final goal of the Teaching
14.	Hindu Tribes and Castes- 1879 M A Sherring	<b>Sherring, M. A.</b> (1879). <i>Hindu tribes and castes</i> . Calcutta: Thacker, Spink, and Co.; London: Trubner & Co.; Bombay: Thacker and Co., Ltd.; Madras: Higginbotham and Co.	The book extensively describes the tribes and castes of the Punjab and its frontier, the Central Provinces and Berar, the Bombay Presidency, and of the Province and frontiers of Scinde. It also talks about the prevalent social conditions in during the same time and thus also describes the status, representation of hindu castes and race in India.
15.	A Grammar of the Tibetan Language- 1834 Alexander Csoma De Koros	<b>Csoma de Kőrös, A.</b> (1834). <i>A grammar of the Tibetan language</i> . Calcutta: Printed at the Baptist Mission Press, Circular Road.	The book is prepared under the auspices of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. It is the original text of the Tibetan language in English. It may serve as keys to unlock the immense volumes on the manners, customs, opinions, knowledge, ignorance, superstition, hopes, and fears of great part of Asia, especially of India, in former ages.
16.	Palestine or The Holy Land; from the Earliest Period to the Present Time 1832 M. Russell	<b>Russell, M.</b> (1832). <i>Palestine or the Holy Land; from the earliest period to the present time</i> . Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd; London: Simpkin & Marshall.	Fabulous book based on the history of the holy land, Palestine with detailed map and illustration prior to the fall of Jerusalem

17.	A treatise on the improvement of canal navigation- 1796 R. Fulton	<b>Fulton, R.</b> (1796). <i>A treatise on the improvement of canal navigation.</i> London: I. and J. Taylor, Architectural Library.	A notable work on canal navigation with the description of machinery for facilitating conveyance through the most mountainous countries. The author explain various experiments in this book, and ultimately determined on the four modes described by the annexed plates
18.	Barometric sections of India- 1853 E. Balfour	<b>Balfour, E.</b> (1853). <i>Barometric sections of India.</i> Published under the auspices of the Madras Literary Society and Auxiliary of the Royal Asiatic Society.	A set of 16 barometric sections across different parts of India such as, Cape Comorein, Bombay, Madras and Bengal.
19.	Modern Domestic Building Construction Illustrated by Plans, Sections, Elevations and Complete Working Details of a Villa Residence- 1876 George Robson	<b>Robson, G.</b> (1876). <i>Modern domestic building construction: Illustrated by plans, sections, elevations, and complete working details of a villa residence.</i> London: B. T. Batsford.	This is a highly reputed and admirable work on domestic architecture design, plans and construction. The purpose of this work is to present, in a clear and simple manner, some of the best methods followed by the architects of the present day in the construction of domestic buildings.
20.	Locomotive Engineering and the Mechanism of Railways (1871) (64 Large Plates) Colburn, Zerah and Clark, Daniel Kinnear		It is a large quarto, 22x15 inches, featuring illustrations of locomotives from different manufacturers (chiefly British) as well as passenger carriages, goods carriages locomotive turntables, and other associated operational mechanics.

21.	Travels of Ali Bey in Morocco, Tripoli, Cyprus, Egypt, Arabia, Syria, and Turkey between the years 1803 and 1807- 1816 Ali Bey	<b>Ali Bey.</b> (1816). <i>Travels of Ali Bey in Morocco, Tripoli, Cyprus, Egypt, Arabia, Syria, and Turkey between the years 1803 and 1807.</i> London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown.	It is the English translation of Voyages that starts from Africa in 1802. The book explains voyages with the 29 chapter which include a detailed description of Christian States as Africa, Morocco, Tripoli, Cyprus, Egypt, Arabia, Syria, and Turkey with their experiences. It contains a detailed description of their inhabitant religion, history, custom, temples, Mosque culture, climate, antiquities, Interior etc. with illustrated plates and maps.
22.	Modern Examples of Road and Railway Bridges; Illustrating the Most Recent Practice of Leading Engineers in Europe and America- 1872: William H. Maw and James Dredge	<b>Maw, W. H., &amp; Dredge, J.</b> (1872). <i>Modern examples of road and railway bridges: Illustrating the most recent practice of leading engineers in Europe and America.</i> London: Offices of Engineering; Berlin: A. Asher & Co.	The bridge designed by M. M. Cadiat and Oudry was one of the finest specimens of its class in existence.
23.	Dedication by especial command to the Princess Victoria- 1842 James Bell	<b>Bell, J.</b> (1842). <i>Dedication by especial command to the Princess Victoria.</i> London: T. C. Hansard for the author, and sold by Robert Baldwin.	A general tabular synopsis of Ancient history (2476 years), Modern history (3842 years), Oriental history (1842 years)
24.	Black's General Atlas- 1840 Sydney Hall	<b>Hall, S.</b> (1840). <i>Black's general atlas.</i> Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black; London: Longman & Co., Simpkin, Marshall & Co., Whittaker & Co., Hamilton, Adams & Co.; Dublin: John Cumming.	Series of fifty-four maps from latest and most authentic sources engraved on steel, in the first style of the art, by Sydney Hall.
25.	Atlas of Geology of the Comstock lode & the Washoe district, Washington, USA- 1882 J. F. Becker	<b>Becker, J. F.</b> (1882). <i>Atlas of geology of the Comstock lode &amp; the Washoe district, Washington, USA.</i> Washington, D.C.: Julius Bien & Co.	The atlas contains very accurate mining claims, geological maps and shaft-sections, vertical cross-sections at various scales.

26.	Laxton's Examples of Building Construction -1857-58 Henry Laxton	<b>Laxton, H.</b> (1857–1858). <i>Laxton's examples of building construction.</i> London: Published at the office.	The architecture of the most famous and historically important buildings of 19th century of London with details of buildings techniques used at that time.
27.	The Theory, Formation, and Construction of British and Foreign Harbours with 123 engravings-1854 Sir John Rennie	<b>Rennie, J., Sr.</b> (1854). <i>The theory, formation, and construction of British and foreign harbours</i> (123 engravings). London: John Weale.	This book is available in two volumes based on formation, and construction of British and foreign harbours, cocks, breakwaters, etc. These two volumes contain 121- or 123 engraved plates, charts and plans, very occasional slight spotting, titles and a few leaves with minor repairs to margins, 20th century half morocco, folio, London.
28.	Record of the Progress of Modern Engineering- 1868, Humber, William (Ed.)	<b>Humber, W.</b> (Ed.). (1868). <i>Record of the progress of modern engineering.</i> London: Lockwood & Co.	Comprising civil, mechanical, marine, hydraulic, railway, bridge and other engineering works with essays and reviews.
29.	Record of the Progress of Modern Engineering comprising Civil, Mechanical, Marine, Hydraulic, Railway, Bridge, and other Engineering works with Essay and Reviews-1865 William Humber		This record comprises the progress of Modern Engineering such as Civil, Mechanical, Marine, Hydraulic, Railway, Bridge, and other engineering works edited by William Humber.
30.	Agra Canal Atlas, Plans- 1884 Published at Thomason Civil Engineering College Press	<b>Thomason Civil Engineering College Press.</b> (1884). <i>Agra Canal atlas, plans.</i> Roorkee: Thomason Civil Engineering College Press.	This includes detail and well ornamented sections and map plans during the construction of the Agra Canal.

31.	Traité de la chaleur: considérée dans ses applications (Treatise on heat: considered in its applications)-1845	<b>Péclat, E.</b> (1845). <i>Traité de la chaleur: Considérée dans ses applications</i> [Treatise on heat: Considered in its applications]. Paris: Librairie de L. Hachette.	This book in French language explains the Advance heating system of France with 122 illustrated plates. It also contains two early Examples of Central Heating Systems in France during the nineteenth century and new data on all sorts of energy used for heating and lighting since 1805.
32.	Harding's sketches at home and abroad- 1936 James Harding		A collection of imperial folio (size 15" x 22"), printed upon thick wove paper with large full margins. The book contains 51 plates, all drawn on the stone by James Harding between the period September 1824 to October 1835. The views included scenes of Britain, France, Monaco, Italy and Germany.
33.	Illustrations of the rock-cut temples of India- 1845 J. Fergusson	<b>Fergusson, J.</b> (1845). <i>Illustrations of the rock-cut temples of India</i> . London: John Weale.	Based on a paper which was read to the Royal Asiatic Society in 1843, and published in the Eighth Volume of its Journal. This paper was afterwards republished in 1845.
34.	Portraits of the princes & people of India-1844 E. Eden	<b>Eden, E.</b> (1844). <i>Portraits of the princes &amp; people of India</i> . London: J. Dickinson & Son.	A short biography of Emily Eden. It is the toured collection of memories of Oudh and the hill regions in an extensive collection of letters, and in sketches. It is a rare collection of hand colored lithographic work, of the most famous the Sikh rulers of the Punjab, portrait of Ranjit Singh, Maharaja Sher Singh; and Hira Singh. A copy of the folio of Portraits of the princes & people of India sold at Bonhams auction for £47500.

35.	A COLLECTION OF PRINTS – 1730 By Bernard Picart	<b>Picart, B.</b> (1730). <i>A collection of prints</i> . London: John and Josiah Boydell, Cheapside; and at the Shakespeare Gallery, Pall-Mall.	Engraved in imitation of these masters, and according to the particular taste of each. with a discourse on the prejudices of certain critics, in regard to engraving.
36.	Summer Scenes in Kashmeer-1858 H. Clark	<b>Clark, H.</b> (1858). <i>Summer scenes in Kashmeer</i> . London: Day & Son, Lithographers to the Queen.	Extremely rare suite of plates of views of Kashmir. According to Worldcat, only 6 copies can be traced in institutions (2 copies at the British Library, National Art Library, London Library, Strassburg and Yale. And now 1 at IIT Roorkee.
37.	VIEWS OF THE NEILGHERRIES, OR BLUE MOUNTAINS OF COIMBETORE- 1829 Captain E.A. Miccurdy		The book contains four plates and one cover plate drawn on stone by the author in Ottacamund.
38.	London Churches of the XVII and XVIII <sup>th</sup> Centuries- 1896 Jones, C. Wren; N. Hawksmoor & J. Gibbs	<b>Jones, C., Wren, C., Hawksmoor, N., &amp; Gibbs, J.</b> (1896). <i>London churches of the XVII and XVIII<sup>th</sup> centuries</i> . London: B. T. Batsford.	A collection of most remarkable architecture of ecclesiastical buildings, church designs, including St. Paul's Cathedral with historical and descriptive accounts by George H. Birch. It illustrates a most remarkable phase in the history of Art in the country. It also describes ancient rules and regulations concerning the plan.
39.	Views in India: Chiefly among the Himalaya mountains- 1837 Lieut. George Francis White	<b>White, G. F.</b> (1837). <i>Views in India: Chiefly among the Himalaya Mountains</i> . London & Paris: Fisher, Son, and Co.	The descriptive portion must speak for itself; its accuracy may be relied upon, and it will be found to contain much new and interesting information concerning the alpine regions of the East.

40.	A collection of engravings, from paintings and drawings by the most celebrated masters- 1807	<b>Gilling, W. T. (1807).</b> <i>A collection of engravings, from paintings and drawings by the most celebrated masters.</i> London: Printed for W. T. Gilling.	This book is mainly based on engravings and etchings. Most of the painting of this book is available in The British Museum Collection as Portrait of Helena Leonora de Sieveri, The ruin'd Temple of Diana, Hagar and Ishmael etc.
41.	The History of Sumatra-1810, William Marsden		These are some of the plates accompanying Marsden's History of Sumatra, first published in 1783 following his return from Sumatra after thirteen years' service there with the East India Company. A numismatist and scholar of oriental languages, Marsden founded the Royal Irish Academy and was Treasurer of the Royal Society.
42.	A History of the Late Siege of Gibraltar with a Description and Account of that Garrison, from the Earliest Periods-1790 John Drinkwater	<b>Drinkwater, J. (1790).</b> <i>A history of the late siege of Gibraltar with a description and account of that garrison, from the earliest periods.</i> London: T. Spilsbury and Son; J. Johnson; T. and J. Egerton; J. Edwards.	Records the events during the longest siege endured by British forces. The following history is compiled from accurate observations daily noted down upon the spot by author.
43.	The Annals of The Turkish Empire from 1591 to 1691 of Christian Era-1832 Naima	<b>Naima. (1832).</b> <i>The annals of the Turkish Empire from 1591 to 1691 of the Christian era.</i> London: Printed for the Oriental Translation Fund of Great Britain and Ireland; sold by John Murray and Parbury, Allen, & Co.	Naima has described the imperial histories of the Turkish Empire from 1591 AD to 1070 AD and consists of excellent description of the narrative events and were printed in Constantinople press.

44.	Memoir of the Conquest of Java; with the subsequent Operations of the British Forces- 1815 Major Williams Thorne	<b>Thorne, W.</b> (1815). <i>Memoir of the conquest of Java; with the subsequent operations of the British forces</i> . London: T. Egerton, Military Library.	Record of historical events that he witnessed while serving in Java. He recounts the British campaign against the Dutch and how the British eventually conquered Batavia. They British pushed into Java defeating the Dutch and the local sultanates.
45.	The History of England during the Thirty Years' of Peace (1816-1846) – 1850 Harriet Martineau	<b>Martineau, H.</b> (1850). <i>The history of England during the thirty years' of peace (1816–1846)</i> . London: Charles Knight.	This 2 <sup>nd</sup> volume is a well-organized collection of year wise historical events of England from 1830 to 1846. The book contains a historical sketch of England and maps of South Africa, Australia, North America, and New Zealand.
46.	An Account of the Progress of the Expedition to Central Africa- 1854 Augustus Petermann	<b>Petermann, A.</b> (1854). <i>An account of the progress of the expedition to Central Africa</i> . London: Published for the author by E. Stanford; Gotha: Justus Perthes.	A rare folio on Barth's famous expedition to Sudan, illustrated with three important lithographed maps, hand-colored in outlines and a pictorial tinted border of the region. The map is an exact copy of the original drawing of Dr. Barth sent to the British
47.	The Constitution of India- 1949 Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, and the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly of India		The document of the supreme law of Indian Constitution, adopted by the Constituent Assembly, on 26.11.1949. It came into force on 26.01.1950. It is the longest written constitution of any country. It lays down fundamental political code, structure, procedures, powers, and duties of Government institutions and sets out fundamental rights, directive principles, and the duties of citizens.

48.	General system of Horsemanship 1743, William Cavendish	<b>Cavendish, W. (1743).</b> <i>General system of horsemanship.</i> London: Printed for J. Rindley, Bookseller to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.	One of the most beautiful books on horses ever published, but also a landmark in the development of equestrian technique.
49.	The History of Freemasonry 1884 Robert Freke Gould	<b>Gould, R. F. (1884).</b> <i>The history of Freemasonry.</i> London: Thomas C. Jack.	A highly reputed on the history of Freemasonry (organization), its antiquities, symbols, constitutions, customs, etc. Derived from official sources, this is an investigation of the records of the Organisations of the fraternity in England, Scotland, Ireland, British Colonies, France, Germany, and the United States.
50.	Memoir of the life of Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, Civil engineer-1862, Sir Richard Bemish	<b>Bemish, R. (1862).</b> <i>Memoir of the life of Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, civil engineer.</i> London: Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts.	Sir M. I. Brunel (1769-1849) was a great British civil and mechanical engineer. His most famous achievement was the construction of the underwater Thames Tunnel connecting Rotherhithe and Wapping. He also designed the First Transatlantic Steamer.
51.	Views in the Himalayas- 1852 Lt Col Sir Henry Montgomery Lawrence		Very apt descriptions and plates of the scenic beauty of NW Himalaya. Also lifestyles of the people living in those areas.
52.	Illustrations of Himalayan Plants- 1855 J. D. Hooker	<b>Hooker, J. D. (1855).</b> <i>Illustrations of Himalayan plants</i> (Plates executed by W. H. Fitch).	Descriptive book of water colored lithographic plates. It probably contains the finest plates of Magnolia Campbellii and Meconopsis simplicifolia ever made, as well as other important Himalayan plants" (Great Flower Books).
53.	Birds of Asia-1850-61 J. Gould		Birds from European genera are described and excellent figures are shown of those additional species also found in other places.

54.	The Botanical Atlas- 1882-83 D. M. Alpine	<b>Alpine, D. M. (1882–1883).</b> <i>The botanical atlas.</i> Edinburgh: W. & A. K. Johnston.	A guide to the practical study of plants containing representatives of the leading forms of plant life with explanatory letterpress.
55.	Illustrations of Indian zoology chiefly selected from the collection of Major General Hardwicke, F.R.S. Vol- I (1830-1832) and Vol- II (1833-1834), J. E. Grey	<b>Gray, J. E. (1830–1834).</b> <i>Illustrations of Indian zoology, chiefly selected from the collection of Major General Hardwicke, F.R.S. (Vols. I-II).</i> London: Treuttel, Würtz, Treuttel, Jun. and Richter; also by Parbury, Allen and Co.	
56.	The Architectural Antiquities of Rome (Vol-2)- 1822, Measured and delineated by: Edward Cresy and G.L. Taylo	<b>Cresy, E., &amp; Taylor, G. L. (1822).</b> <i>The architectural antiquities of Rome (Vol. 2).</i> London: James Moyes; published by G. L. Taylor, E. Cresy, Longman and Co., Rodwell and Martin, and J. Taylor.	Collection of 62 illustrated plates among which a few are lithographs. The plates show plans, elevations, sections, views and details of the ancient buildings.
57.	Reports on the Ganges Canal Works-1860, Vol-1, Colonel Sir Proby T. Cautley	<b>Cautley, P. T. (1860).</b> <i>Reports on the Ganges Canal work (Vol. 1).</i> London: Smith, Elder and Co.	
58.	Reports on the Ganges Canal Works-1861, Vol-2, Colonel Sir Proby T. Cautley	<b>Cautley, P. T. (1861).</b> <i>Reports on the Ganges Canal work (Vol. 1).</i> London: Smith, Elder and Co.	
59.	Reports on the Ganges Canal Works-1862, Vol-3, Colonel Sir Proby T. Cautley	<b>Cautley, P. T. (1862).</b> <i>Reports on the Ganges Canal work (Vol. 1).</i> London: Smith, Elder and Co.	
60.	Thomason Civil Engineering College Calendars (1870-71, 1871-72, 1872-73, 1949-50)	<b>Thomason Civil Engineering College.</b> (1870–1950). <i>Calendars for the academic years 1870–71, 1871–72, 1872–73, 1949–50.</i> Roorkee: Thomason Civil Engineering College Press.	The Calendars published by the college served as official annual handbooks, detailing academic and administrative information for each academic year.
61.	Thomason Civil Engineering College (Staff Circulars)		
62.	Alumni Journal, University of Roorkee, 1958.		

## Rare Book Treasures in the IIT Roorkee Archives: A Legacy of Knowledge Since 1847

From its inception in 1847, the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee then known as Thomason College of Civil Engineering recognized the importance of a dedicated academic library. A modest collection of a few hundred volumes was assembled to support the learning needs of just 34 students and 6 faculty members. In 1856, the library's holdings expanded significantly with the amalgamation of the Ganges Canal Library, leading to its renaming as the Central Library. Further enrichment came in 1862 with the acquisition of the entire collection of Addiscombe College Library of the East India Company, cementing the library's status as a center of valuable and rare academic resources.

Today, the Institute Archives proudly preserve a distinguished Rare Book Collection, one of the most treasured assets of IIT Roorkee's intellectual heritage. This collection includes historically and bibliographically significant works that span disciplines from literature and engineering to archaeology and medicine.

Among the most notable volumes are:

- **William Shakespeare's *Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies* (1623)** – The celebrated First Folio, a cornerstone of English literature and printing history.
- **Austen Henry Layard's *The Monuments of Nineveh* (1849)** – Featuring 100 exquisite plates, these works document archaeological discoveries that transformed the understanding of Mesopotamian civilization.
- **Charles Bell's *The Anatomy of the Brain* (1802)** – A foundational medical text, remarkable for its detailed illustrations and pioneering insights into neurological anatomy.

Apart from these, the archives house a vast collection of other rare and invaluable books covering a wide range of subjects. These examples represent only a fraction of the rich literary and academic legacy preserved within the Institute. The Rare Book Collection continues to serve as a bridge between colonial-era scholarship and modern-day research, reflecting IIT Roorkee's long-standing commitment to the preservation and celebration of knowledge.