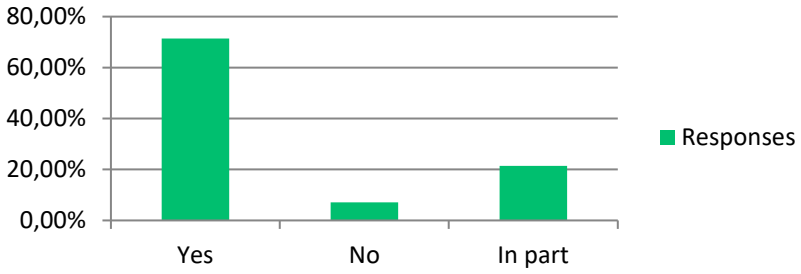
After the Theft

CERL Collection Security Summer School

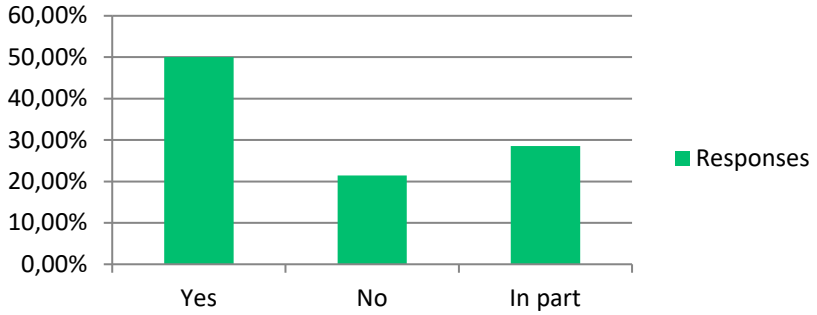
6 September 2017

After the theft (Q 15-17)

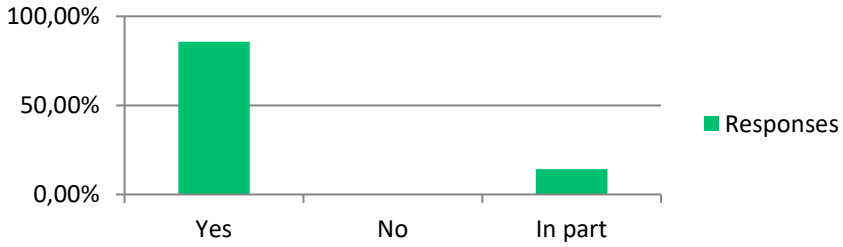
You report proven instances of theft immediately to the police

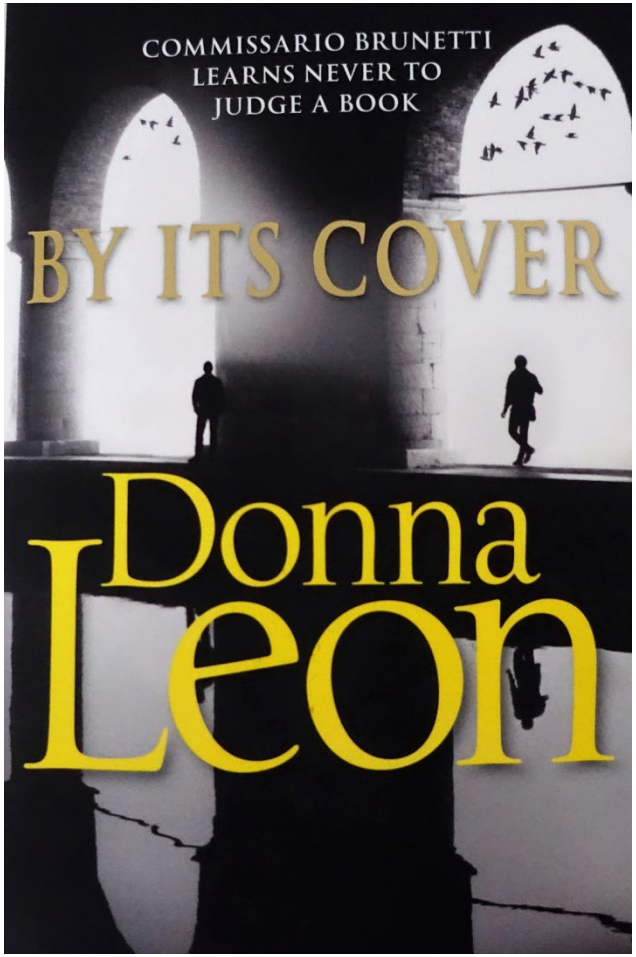


You report proven instances of theft to the relevant trade / professional bodies - e.g. the book trade

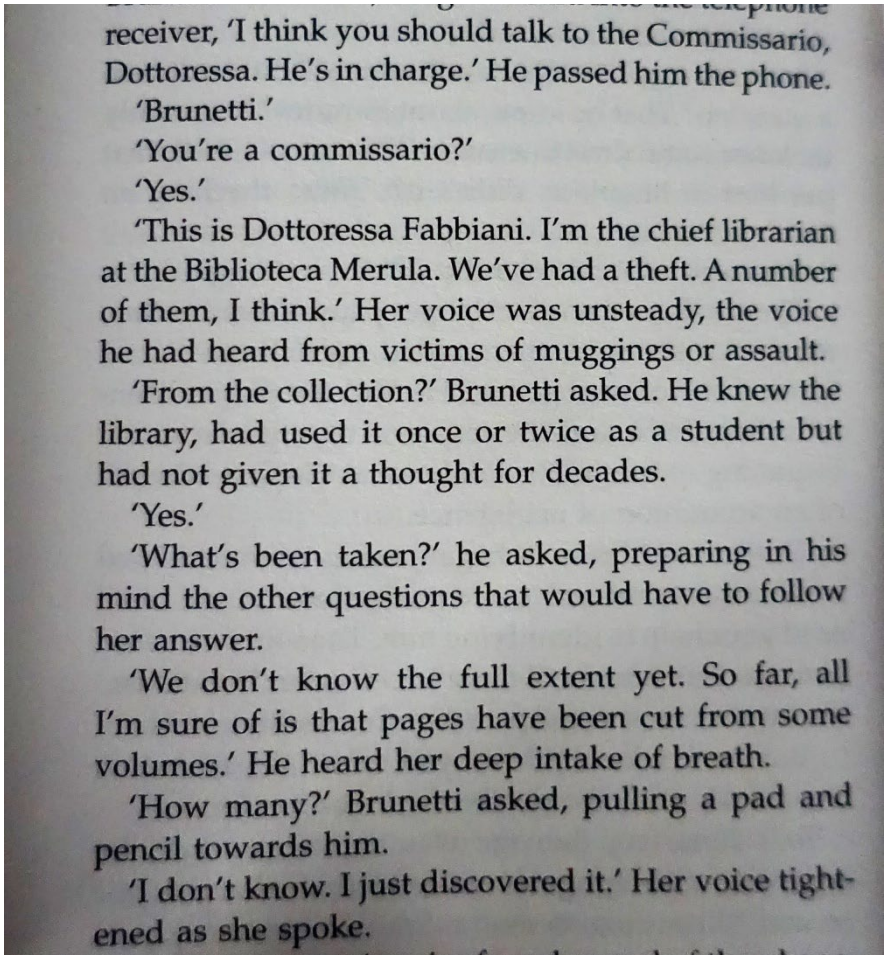


You share information on known threats to collection security with other libraries/archives when appropriate




COMMISSARIO BRUNETTI
LEARNS NEVER TO
JUDGE A BOOK
BY ITS COVER
Donna
Leon

Report to the police



receiver, 'I think you should talk to the Commissario, Dottoressa. He's in charge.' He passed him the phone.

'Brunetti.'

'You're a commissario?'

'Yes.'

'This is Dottoressa Fabbiani. I'm the chief librarian at the Biblioteca Merula. We've had a theft. A number of them, I think.' Her voice was unsteady, the voice he had heard from victims of muggings or assault.

'From the collection?' Brunetti asked. He knew the library, had used it once or twice as a student but had not given it a thought for decades.

'Yes.'

'What's been taken?' he asked, preparing in his mind the other questions that would have to follow her answer.

'We don't know the full extent yet. So far, all I'm sure of is that pages have been cut from some volumes.' He heard her deep intake of breath.

'How many?' Brunetti asked, pulling a pad and pencil towards him.

'I don't know. I just discovered it.' Her voice tightened as she spoke.

What to report?

- A lot of questions to be asked:
  - What happened?
  - When did it happen?
  - Do you know who did it?
  - Do you know what you are missing?
  - Did you secure evidence?
  - Etc

Proof?

'Can you see that no one else touches these books?' Brunetti asked. 'Some of my men will be here this afternoon to check them for fingerprints. If this comes to trial, we'll need that evidence.'

'If?' she asked. 'If?'

'We have to find him and we must have proof that he took them.'

'But we know he did,' she said, looking at Brunetti as though he had taken leave of his senses. 'It's obvious.'

Brunetti said nothing. The obvious was sometimes impossible to prove, and what people knew to be true was often of no use to a judge: not in the absence of proof. He did not want to have to say this to her. Instead, he put a mild expression on his face and waved a hand towards the door.

Proof

- Obvious things like CCTV images, witnesses

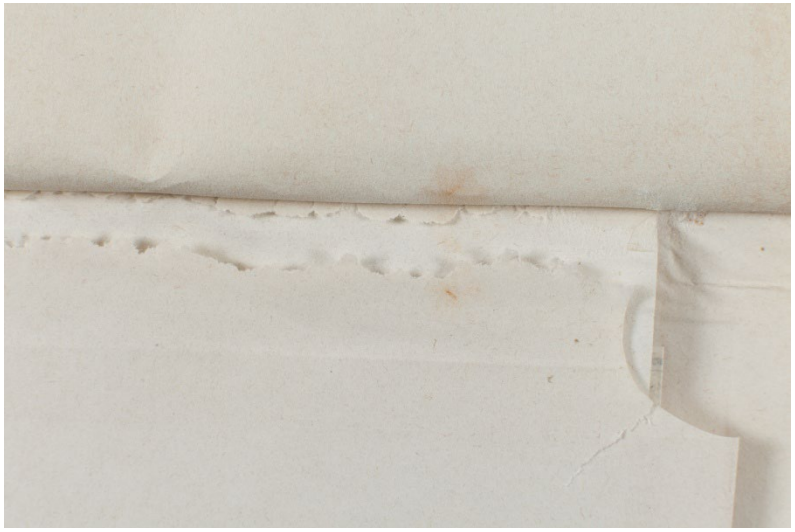


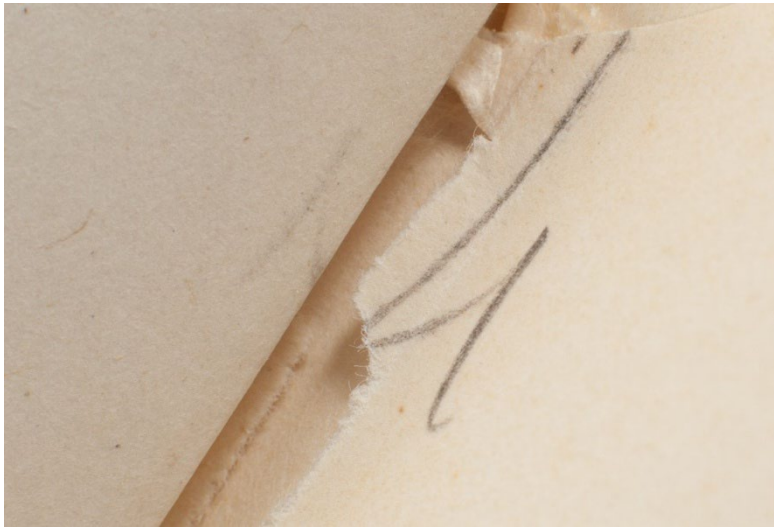
Proof

- Good, complete descriptions
- Digital copies
- DNA marking
- Other copy related information:
  - Identification marks, bindings, but also wormholes, foxing, etc.

Proof







Other things to be done

- All depending on the kind of theft, and the extent:

- Inform the trade
- Inform colleagues
- Inform the press

Contact colleagues

After a pause, she added, 'I've spoken to people at some of the other libraries, and they all insist that they have systems in place that will prevent theft.' Brunetti glanced at Griffoni, who raised her eyebrows but said nothing.

'I sent them copies of Nickerson's passport photo and letter of recommendation and suggested they see if he had done research in their libraries.'

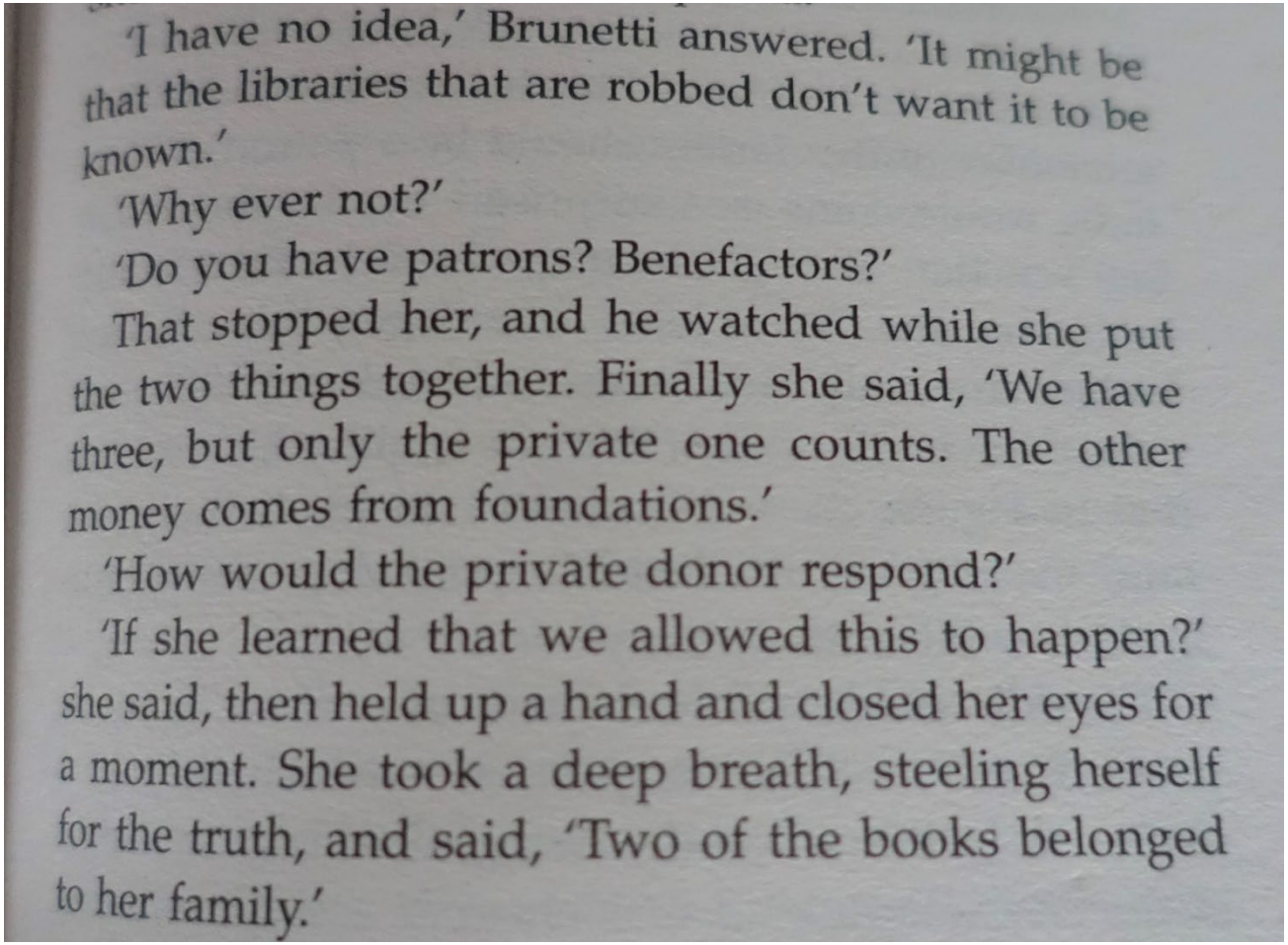
'Had he?' Brunetti asked.

'No one seemed to know. But all of them said they'd check their records for his name.'

'And if he used a different name?' Griffoni broke in to ask. 'What records would they check?'

'Is one of their systems a central record of people who have stolen from other libraries?' Brunetti asked.

Be open



'I have no idea,' Brunetti answered. 'It might be that the libraries that are robbed don't want it to be known.'

'Why ever not?'

'Do you have patrons? Benefactors?'

That stopped her, and he watched while she put the two things together. Finally she said, 'We have three, but only the private one counts. The other money comes from foundations.'

'How would the private donor respond?'

'If she learned that we allowed this to happen?' she said, then held up a hand and closed her eyes for a moment. She took a deep breath, steeling herself for the truth, and said, 'Two of the books belonged to her family.'

Martin Finkelnberg

- Art Crime, The Dutch Perspective