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Accidental Book Burning

(On April Fools' Day, 2016, the University of the Philippines Faculty Center was razed by fire. And according to the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the "students and faculty said that personal properties and rare books that were burned have been rendered as 'incalculable' losses.")

Its initial spark all the way from
the Royal Library of Alexandria,
Egypt of 270s AD,
that bibliophobe fire's
a violent slap in the face
of our complacency:
we passed our days
settled in the seeming
permanence of our books,
memorabilia, etcetera.

Not that we never thought
such, combustible.

It's just that...

The thin wooden walls
seemed insulant enough,
and conflagration, remote.

Now resignedly we mourn
as we scavenge and ford
through the ashen detritus.