

Library's Stolen Prized Possessions Returned After 22 Years

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. jot down /dʒɒt daʊn/ to write something quickly on a piece of paper so that you remember it:
Example: I carry a notebook so that I can jot down any ideas.
2. disappear /ˌdɪs-əˈpiər/ (verb) (of a person or thing) to go to a place or into a condition where the person or thing cannot be seen:
Example: She disappeared into the house.
3. beyond words /bēˈænd wərdz/ (idiom) an overwhelming situation where one cannot find words to express one's emotions.
Example: I am just thrilled beyond words that so many of you were able to come to our baby shower!
4. priceless /ˈpraɪsləs/ (adjective) more valuable than any amount of money; precious
Example: He has a priceless collection of antique silver.
5. appeal /əˈpi:l/ (verb) to make a serious or formal request, especially to the public, for money, information, or help:
Example: They're appealing for clothes and blankets to send to the devastated region.



On two leather and copper-bound field notebooks, Charles Darwin **jotted down** a variety of ideas that formed his theory of evolution. Held at Cambridge University Library for decades, in the year 2000 they were stolen.

Twenty-two years later, as strangely as they **disappeared**, they were returned—wrapped in plastic in exactly the same condition as they left, and in the same archive box, though this time it was placed inside a pink gift bag and left outside the librarian's office.

Inside, the box was wrapped in thick brown paper with a note from the individual, uncaught by CCTV cameras. It read, "Librarian / Happy Easter / X."

"My sense of relief at the notebooks' safe return is **beyond words**," said Librarian Dr. Jessica Gardner, who found them outside her offices on the 4th floor landing of the university

library building. "Along with so many others all across the world, I was saddened to learn of their loss and my joy at their return is great."

A Cambridgeshire Police spokesman said, "We share the university's delight that these **priceless** notebooks are now back where they belong. Our investigation remains open and we are following up some lines of inquiry. We also want to **appeal** again for anyone with information about the case to contact us."

DISCUSSION

1. Who do you think took the notebooks? Why?
2. Why do you think the notebooks were returned?
3. Should the police continue investigating who took them?
4. How important are the belongings of important people in history?
5. What will you do if you accidentally find one?
6. What is one thing that you own that is not that costly but means the world to you? Why?