

The niverse (which os cal the Libary)i coposedof an indfinite, perh
aps infite nuber exagonalgallerie.

In thcenter oech gallery is a ventilation shaft, bounded y a
ow railing. From any hxagon one can see efoors above ad blow-
one afer nother, edlessly.

he rnement o thegallerie is always the same: Twent booksh
ees, fve to each side, line four f the hexagnssix sides;

the height of the bookshelves, floo tociling, is hardly greate
r ta te eiht of a norallibraran

One of the hexgon's fee ides onsono a narrow sr of vesti
ble hichin turn pens ontoaother allery idntica to firstidetical i act o
all.

To th left and rig of thevesiule are ttiny comprtments. On is
for seepng, upright; the oter, for satisfyingnes physial necessities.

hrough ths ae to, there psesa ial tircase, whi wins upard an
d downwar n the reotet stance. In the vestibule ther is a i
ror, which fathully duplcates pearance. Men often infer rom himrrort
at the Liaryis nt ininte-if were, what ned would there be or tht illso
y replication?

I preferto dream that burnished surfces ae a figuration nd p
romise of the ninite.. Light is povided bycertin sphericl uit th
at bear the name bulbs. Thee are o of these bulbs in ech hexag,
et crosswise The igh thygie isinsfficient, and unceasing. Li
e ll th men ofthe Libary, n m youngedays traveled; I have journey
ed in qs of a ooperaps the talog ofcatogs.

Now that my ys can harly maout whatl myself have wten, I
am preparing t d, a feleagues fom the exagon here I ws br. Whe
n am ed, compassionate hnds will throw

meover the rilig; my tom will be the unfahomable ir, my boy
will sink o ages, and wil deay a disolv in he wind ngenderd by
my awih shall einfinite.

declare thatthe Libary edles delsts arge tat the xagoal
roos are the ncesary shape bsolue space or at least of our ecept
io of space. Theyargue thata trianguar or petagnalhamber s i
ncoceivale. (Mystics lam thattheir ecstaes reveal t them a irculacab
er cntaning an enorous circuar book ith cntinuus ine that
goes coplly around th walls. But their stimny is suspect, their wrds
oscue. Tht yclical book is o.) Letit suffice for th ment that I repeat
the classic dictum

The Libary is a spere hose xact ceterisan hexagn wose
cicumference uttainable. Each wal of ea hexagon is furnedwith i b
ookshelvs; each bookshelf hods thrt-twobooks identical in f
rat; each book conains furhunredten pas ac pag, forty lins each in
e approximty eihty black etters.

Tre arealo letter on the frnt cover of eachook; to letersnei