

SAA
ARCHIVAL HAIKU
2011



SOCIETY OF
American
Archivists

Honorable Mentions

Judith Adkins

The past lives in space
Boxes cannot hold its soul,
But light glints in bytes

Steven Bingo

In constellations
of ink, nitrate, and now bits;
our shared narratives.

Debi Griffith

First there was chaos
Then the manila folder.
Now I can find stuff!

Other Haikus of Note

Brett Bodemer

Holocene tarpit,
the sign over the doorway:
“Welcome to Archives”

Sarah Campbell

Rusty paperclips
Eat away my memories
Leaving only dust

Kathryn Kramer

House-sized donation:
Books, music, clippings, posters.
Was he a hoarder?

Sister Joan Terese Niklas

Within doors and files
Past and present united
Gifts for the future.

Patty Rettig

Forty-pound boxes
Get lifted to highest shelf.
Gym irrelevant

Kristen Wilhelm

Cave paintings survive
Not Thermofax or floppies.
We're disappearing.

Aimee Ergas

Colored paper clips
Replace the old, rusty ones
Too much processing?

Bill Fliss

Clamshell boxes stand
In serried ranks, triumphant
Order from chaos

Dolores Hooper

Dusty boxes yield
secrets of the distant past;
I suppress a sneeze

Susan Otto

Caught between the stacks
Circled by words of others
Boxes press me down

Deborah Torres

If archives were food,
Menu no doubt would include,
Gerald Ham Sandwich.

Katherine White

The past never ends,
Leaving remnants to process
Job security

Josh Zimmerman

On clay baked by sun,
A new profession born from
Ancient business.

Kathie Johnson

Many precede us
Many will follow after
Present becomes past

Anne Sauer

At conference time,
Archivists swarm vendor swag
In sensible shoes.

Steve VanBuren

Family treasure
Trash bag orphaned by my door
Corn flakes for breakfast

George Bain

Jameson's offspring
Posner, Schellenberg and all
Cool seventy-five

Waverly Lowell

History Happens
What is old is new again
Archives make it so