

ODE TO ARCHIVERY

by
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It seems that the key to survival
In matters most strictly archival
Is: "Don't shuffle the stuff"-
It's messed up enough.
To provenance there's just no rival.

The first thing that you'll have to say
Is whether or not things should stay.
Should we keep it forever?
(A worthy endeavor)
Or throw the whole boxful away?

An archivist surely must learn
When to save and then when to burn.
"When in doubt--Pitch it out"
Then don't stand there and pout;
You'll have much more room in return.

The condition of some of our papers
May call for some poisonous vapors
To kill off the mold
And bugs that are bold
Thus preventing their ornery capers.

When the records are properly mended
And placed in file folders unbended
We'll arrange them all neatly
And box them discreetly
And hope that their use is not ended.

An archivist's job seems to me
A job as secure as can be
'Cause papers keep coming
While government's humming
And the end of the flood we can't see.

D. J. Drake

