

University Library, Special Collections & Archives
Highlight for February 2011

Hearts and haiku in the Adrian Henri archive



Haiku: Manuscripts and Drafts

Reference Number: Henri A/XI

Dates of Creation: c.1975

Physical Description: 13 items, manuscript, typescript and printed material.

This bundle of manuscript and typescript drafts from the Adrian Henri archive: part I was called '*Four Haiku Six Haiku*' and the file has Henri's own handwritten 'Haiku' label. This reflects Henri's own arrangement of his archive, which the online listing follows.

Drafts of haiku, several with figures indicating the syllable count, have been written on assorted scraps of paper - a page from a British Rail notepad; the back of a printed invitation to the reopening of the Banqueting Suite at 2, Mount Pleasant; the cover of a chequebook torn in half.

The haiku include poems addressed to places or events

as well as people: one sheet contains haiku labelled 'For the General Strike' (1926) and 'for the River Mersey' (shown below), which first appeared in a *Haiku* pamphlet privately printed by Anvil Press for Adrian Henri, New Year 1975. They were subsequently published in Henri's *Collected Poems, 1967-1985* (Allison & Busby, 1986) with new artwork by Henri, including the Japanese-style *Haiku* heading below (from the Adrian Henri archive: part II):

Artwork (1985)

Reference Number: Henri/1/1/17

Physical Description: 4 pieces.

HAIKU

Henri's handwriting

1426:

blind ponies
kick their heels
in summer fields
by idle pithheads.

for the River Mersey

today it is a yellow river
no moon
no drunk poets drawing.

One item from the file of artwork which was apparently not used in the *Collected Poems* is a simple painted pink heart. This echoes the anonymous painted pink heart (below), which was found in a file of postcards, photographs and drawings sent to Henri (Adrian Henri archive, part II):

Printed ephemera

Bundle (29 Jun 1938-5 Sep 1975)

Reference Number: Henri/7/6/2

Physical Description: 74 pieces.



References:

University of Liverpool ,
Special Collections & Archives website:
<http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/index.html>

Adrian Henri archive:
<http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/henri.html>