

# ARCHIVE FEVER

‘The archive always holds a problem  
for translation.’

– Jaques Derrida

‘The desire to produce something  
not too ephemeral demands a spine.’

– Anthony Froshaug

For this assignment you will be  
the editor and designer of a  
publication which brings together  
a selection of items from the  
archive of the International  
Institute of Social History (IISH),  
additional content collected by  
you, and one of the following texts:

1. Jaques Derrida: *Archive Fever* –  
*A Freudian Impression* (1994)

2. Sigmund Freud: *A Note upon the*  
*“Mystic Writing Pad”* (1925)

3. Ilya & Emilia Kabakov: *The Man*  
*Who Never Threw Anything Away (The*  
*Garbage Man)* (1988)

Your task is to combine these  
sources and to develop a typographic  
concept which focuses on macro  
decisions (such as page format,  
margins, pagination) as much as  
on the treatment of text on a micro  
scale (such as type size, tracking,  
leading, kerning, hyphenation,  
justification).

In parallel we’ll revive memories  
of past typography courses –  
*Everything We Know About Typography*  
– and bring some classics from  
the book shelf back to the table.

## STEPS

1

Introduction to the archive, first  
research session in the reading  
room. Handout of the proposed texts  
(Derrida, Freud, Kabakov).

2

Define and collect your content  
from the archive. Read the proposed  
texts and choose one of them  
to become part of your publication.  
Develop a publication concept and  
how to bring the parts (archive  
material, research, text) together.  
During class we’ll discuss your  
materials and publication ideas.

3

Decide format, paper and binding,  
produce a paper dummy showing these  
decisions. Start developing a grid  
and choose a typeface. The grid  
must hold and bring together essay,  
image material, captions, titles,  
and any other content. During class  
we’ll discuss your work and you’ll  
continue working on macro and micro  
typography, and start working on  
a cover.

4

Produce a printed dummy to review  
the final layout, and a new paper  
dummy (if necessary). During class  
we’ll review materiality, layout  
and typography of the book block,  
the cover, discuss possible correc-  
tions and changes, and talk about  
production.

5

Production and preparation of the  
final presentation of publications.