

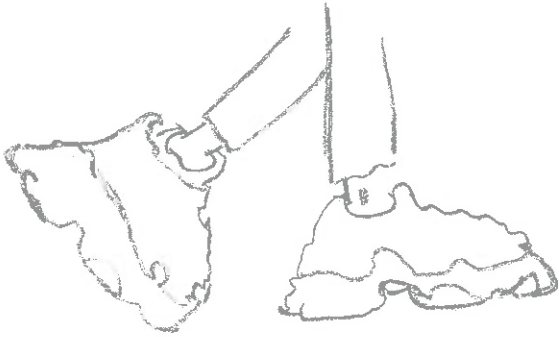
FAKE IT

oliver

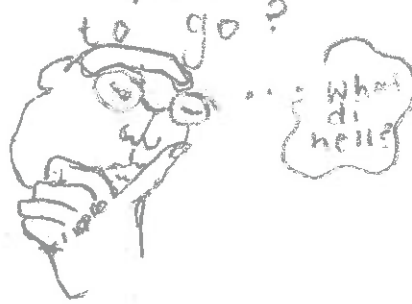
Until YOU

MAKE IT

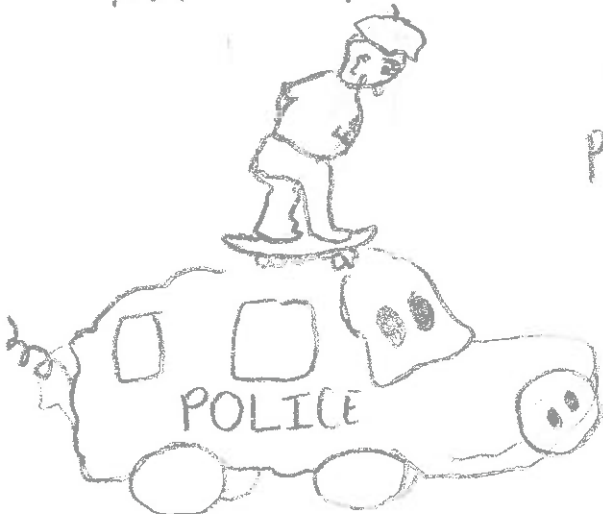
I went to Claiming Authority
at Chapin today



After days of... uh...
str8 up procrastinating,
why was I so
~~APPREHENSIVE~~
to go?



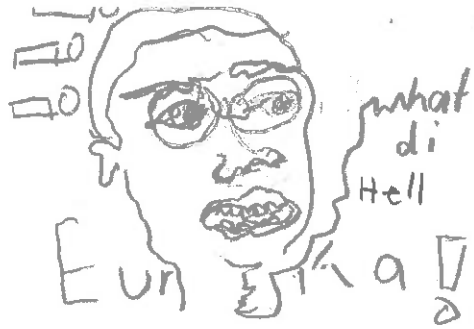
Well. I was purely
lazy initially. But later
I started thinking
about my disdain for
Authority.



and why I ^{still} thought
Archives were the
peak of that
unquestionable
Authority



Huh. After thinking for a while (2 minutes) I came to the conclusion that...it's their history.

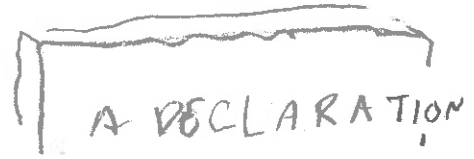


Archives are absolutely neutral and unbiased. They are where FACTS are located.

Archives have the power to authenticate anything. If it is in an archive, then it must be true.



Simply put, "Archive is the term used for those old titles... which contain the rights... and prerogatives of a house... or Kingdom" (Panitch 33).



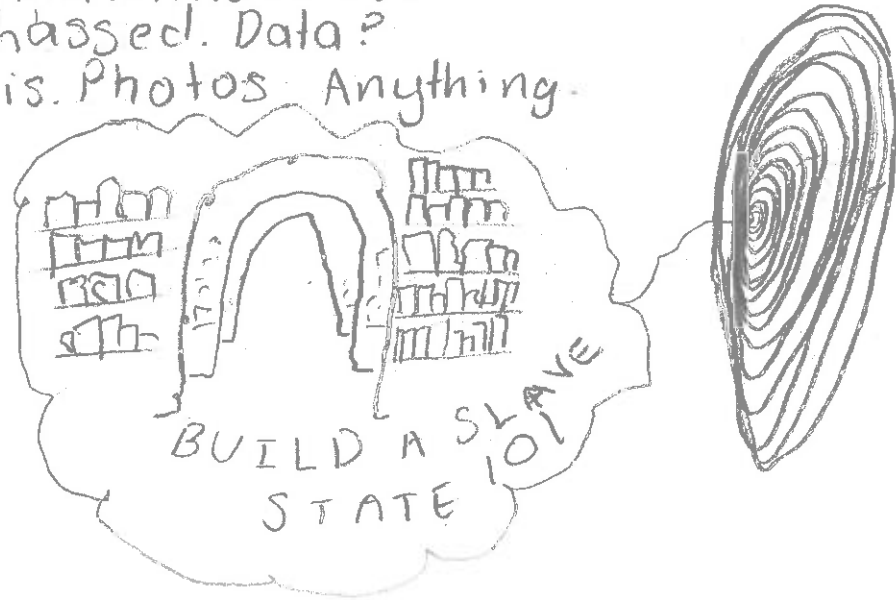
In other words, archives contain all things needed to build and authenticate a government and society.



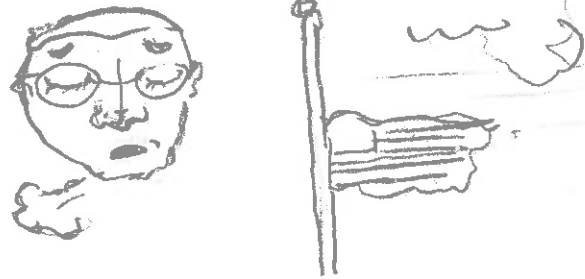
FOR EXAMPLE:
Archives helped make slavery law, unquestioned—Reality.



Records of Low IQ, evolutionary inferiority, unholiness etc. were amassed. Data? Analysis. Photos. Anything.



ANYWAY.

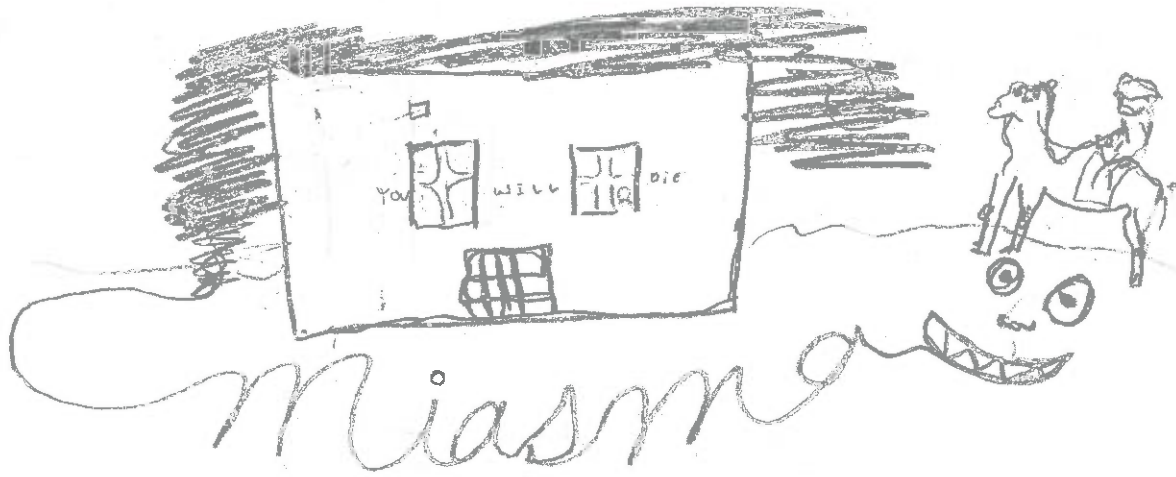


Before we both get too sad,
Let's realize that nothing is absolute.

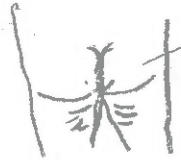


CHAPE - IN

(Special collection)



SO I finally made it to special collections. Nervous.



Buttcheck clenched



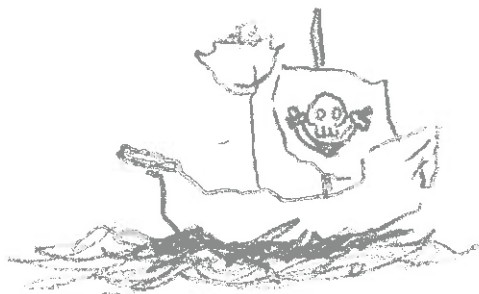
But I found one item that changed my mind about Authority.

DISCOVERY AHEAD

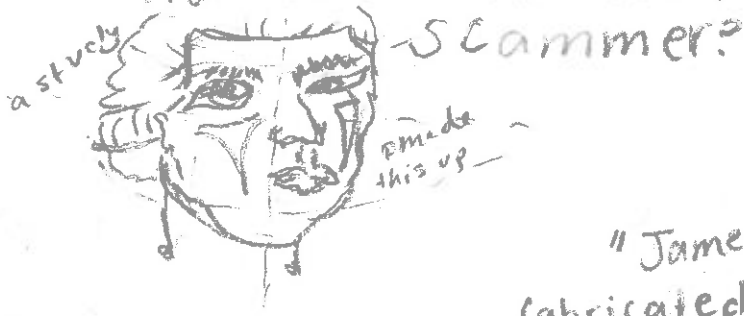


Authority needs archives (of any sort) to exist. Archives are not untouchable.

They are not immune to change... manipulation... Rewriting.



James Macpherson: 1736 - 1796
Scottish Poet, Politician.



"James Macpherson...
fabricated the ancient poet
Ossian, whose work he purported
to translate" (Special).

"Despite... challenges
to authenticity, the
poems were widely
successful and influential" (Special).



My guy literally made a person
up, briefly mentioned on (imaginary)
archive... and was
authenticated?

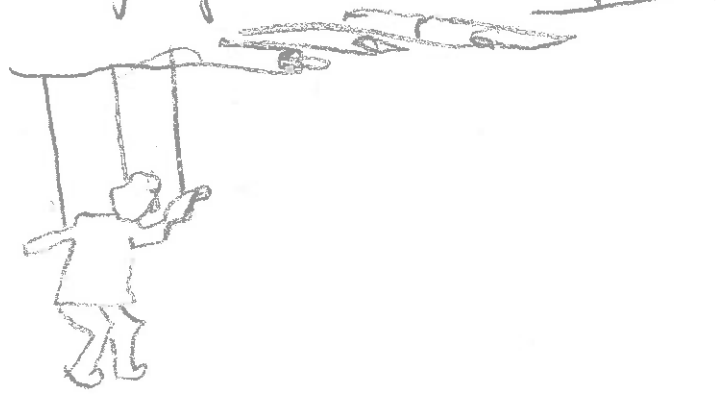


Yup. You heard me.



got away with it

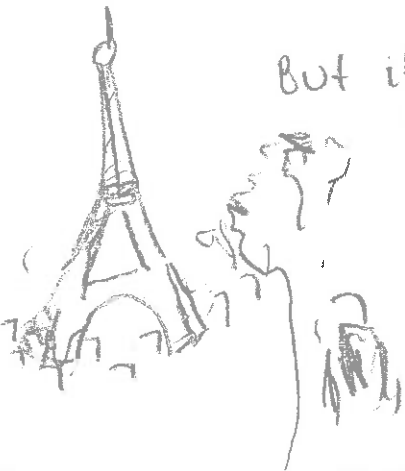
Why did he do it? Because
he was a "proponent
of Gaelic language literature" (Special).



Lying. My maman told me not
to lie.



But it takes 1 lie to change an archive.
to create one. It takes
destruction, selective saving etc.
to change government.
society.



Vive La Revolution

After the Monarchy was overthrown,
french people burned many archives.
Some out of anger.

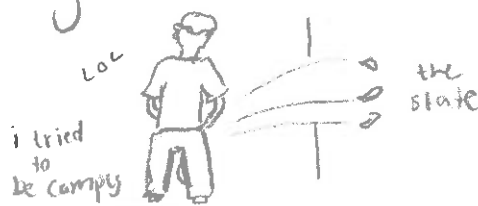


According to Panitch,
this behavior was seized by the
new government erase the past
and re write it.⁴



Did you see what I meant?

Archives hold power but
they are not unchangeable.





Citations

Panitch, Judith M. "Liberty, Equality, Posterity?
Some Archival Lessons from the Case of the
French Revolution." *The American Archivist*,
Vol. 59, no. 1, 1996, pp. 30-47.

Special Collections, Williams College. "Fingal: An
Ancient Epic Poem, James Macpherson
Fingal Description." *Claiming Authority*.