



org is an online platform, collecting, describing, presenting and generating documents of all sorts. It documents documents.

**Your path through the collection lead along** Mould, The Imaginary Edge of the Roadway, Mushroom Picking Prohibited, Gold Varnish, Schelp, Straight in the morning, curvy in the afternoon, Crash (2), Passing Time Near a Particle Accelerator, Block, It's Pouring, Lemon, Mushroom Picking Prohibited, Dust, Mushroom Picking Prohibited, Dust, Gatun Locks, The Authenticity in the woods of the Bosque Protector de Arraiján, Gatun Locks, Estuary

## What constitutes a 'document' and how does it function?

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the etymological origin is the Latin 'documentum', meaning 'lesson, proof, instance, specimen'. As a verb, it is 'to prove or support (something) by documentary evidence', and 'to provide with documents'. The online version of the *OED* includes a draft addition, whereby a document (as a noun) is 'a collection of data in digital form that is considered a single item and typically has a unique filename by which it can be stored, retrieved, or transmitted (as a file, a spreadsheet, or a graphic)'. The current use of the noun 'document' is defined as '*something* written, inscribed, etc., which furnishes evidence or information upon any subject, as a manuscript, title-deed, tomb-stone, coin, picture, etc.' (emphasis added).

Both 'something' and that first 'etc.' leave ample room for discussion. A document doubts whether it functions as something unique, or as something reproducible. A passport is a document, but a flyer equally so. Moreover, there is a circular reasoning: to document is 'to provide with documents'. Defining (the functioning of) a document most likely involves ideas of communication, information, evidence, inscriptions, and implies notions of objectivity and neutrality – but the document is neither reducible to one of them, nor is it equal to their sum. It is hard to pinpoint it, as it disperses into and is affected by other fields: it is intrinsically tied to the history of media and to important currents in literature, photography and art; it is linked to epistemic and power structures. However ubiquitous it is, as an often tangible thing in our environment, and as a concept, a document *deranges*.

the-documents.org continuously gathers documents and provides them with a short textual description, explanation, or digression, written by multiple authors. In *Paper Knowledge*, Lisa Gittelman paraphrases ‘documentalist’ Suzanne Briet, stating that ‘an antelope running wild would not be a document, but an antelope taken into a zoo would be one, presumably because it would then be framed – or reframed – as an example, specimen, or instance’. The gathered files are all documents – if they weren’t before publication, they now are. That is what the-documents.org, irreversibly, *does*. It is a zoo turning an antelope into an ‘antelope’.

As you made your way through the collection, the-documents.org tracked the entries you viewed. It documented your path through the website. As such, the time spent on the-documents.org turned into this – a new document.

This document was compiled by \_\_\_\_\_ on 03.02.2022 18:44, printed on \_\_\_\_\_ and contains 19 documents on 40 pages. (<https://the-documents.org/log/03-02-2022-3748/>)

the-documents.org is a project created and edited by De Cleene De Cleene; design & development by atelier Haegeman Temmerman.

the-documents.org has been online since 23.05.2021.

#### Notes

- De Cleene De Cleene is Michiel De Cleene and Arnout De Cleene. Together they form a research group that focusses on novel ways of approaching the everyday, by artistic means and from a cultural and critical perspective.  
[www.decleenedecleene.be](http://www.decleenedecleene.be) / [info@decleenedecleene.be](mailto:info@decleenedecleene.be)
- This project was made possible with the support of the Flemish Government and KASK & Conservatorium, the school of arts of HOGENT and Howest. It is part of the research project *Documenting Objects*, financed by the HOGENT Arts Research Fund.

#### Sources

- Briet, S. *Qu'est-ce que la documentation?* Paris: Edit, 1951.
- Gittelman, L. *Paper Knowledge. Toward a Media History of Documents*. Durham/ London: Duke University Press, 2014.
- *Oxford English Dictionary Online*. Accessed on 13.05.2021.



Flanders  
State of the Art



howest

At a dental practice, the white Alligat®-powder is mixed with the right amount of water to get a mouldable dough that is pressed upon a patient's teeth. After thirty seconds, the Alligat®-dough stiffens and takes on a rubber-like quality. At that point, still white, it must be removed from the patient's mouth. Over the next few hours, the mould turns increasingly pink as the substance becomes less humid. Now, it can be used as a mould to create a positive master cast of the patient's teeth.

Outside the dental practice, the powder's possibilities remain to be fully explored.

#### Notes



#### Sources

- First published as part of De Cleene De Cleene. 'Amidst the Fire, I Was Not Burnt', *Trigger (Special issue: Uncertainty)*, 2. FOMU/Fw:Books, 25-30



type  
photograph

date  
27.01.2022

filename  
\_44A3429.tif

size  
36,81 MB

author  
De Cleene De Cleene

category  
manual, medicine, packaging, repair, replica/copy

18:39:12

Article 75 of the Royal Decree containing general regulations for road traffic and the use of public roads, published in *Het Belgisch Staatsblad* on 9 December 1975, lists the rules for longitudinal markings indicating the edge of the roadway.

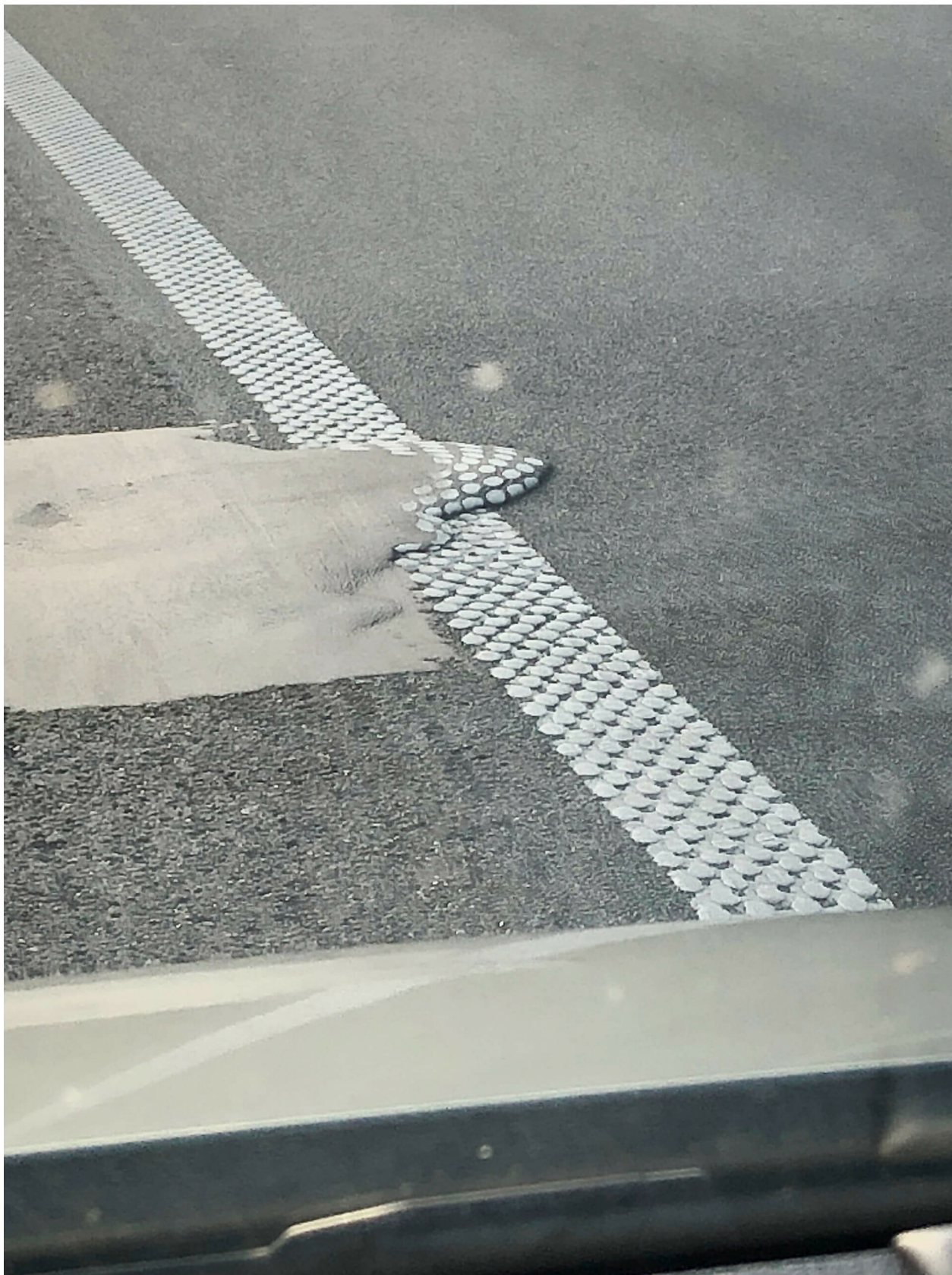
According to 75.1, there are two types of markings that indicate the actual edge of the roadway: a white, continuous stripe and a yellow interrupted line. The former is mainly used to make the edge of the roadway more visible; the latter indicates that parking along it is prohibited.

In 75.2, the decree focuses on markings that indicate the imaginary edge of the roadway. Only a broad, white, continuous stripe is permitted for this purpose. The part of the public road on the other side of this line is reserved for standing still and parking, except on motorways and expressways.

#### Sources

<https://wegcode.be/wetteksten/secties/kb/wegcode/262-art75>





type  
photograph

date  
08.08.2021

filename  
IMG\_7943.HEIC

size  
659 KB

author  
Michiel De Cleene

category  
automobile, government, parking, repair, sign

**18:39:53**



I must have driven past this rocky landscape about sixteen times, going back and forth between viewpoints and the house the parents of a friend let me stay in. On the last day, I left early for the airport, pulled into a lay-by, took my tripod and camera out of the trunk of the red Volkswagen Polo rental car and made two photographs.<sup>1</sup> It was only when I got home, had the film developed, scanned it and was removing dust particles from the file, that I discovered the hand painted text on the rock: ‘PROIBIDO BUSCAR SETAS’.

#### Notes

1.





type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	19.05.2021	Untitled99993-dustfree-nosharpen-crop2.psd	365,37MB	Michiel De Cleene

category

automobile, dusk, food, landscape, parking, sign, tree

I'm taking a scan of a family photo album given to me after my grandmother passed away, wanting to write something about the marvelous portraits inside. The genealogy is only partly clear to me: I recognize my dad as a kid, my uncle, my grandmother, her brother in the laboratory he (said he) ran. He smelled of cigars and severe perfume. The older photographs present people I don't know, but must be my ancestors. My grandmother told me stories<sup>1</sup> that, historically, reach further back than the figures I recognize in the photographs. There are no names and no dates in the album. The first two pictures seem to be the oldest ones.<sup>2</sup> I retract them from the album pockets in which they were slid to check if something is written on the backside. When I take the album away from the scanner's glass plate, particles of leather, gold varnish and sturdy cardboard come loose. I place a sheet of paper on the glass plate and press 'scan' again.

#### Notes

- 1 Once she (my grandmother) went home from school, sick, with her bicycle. She studied to become a nurse. The school was in Brussels, about 60 kilometers from her native village M. The milkman's van tipping over in front of my grandmother's parental house. A milk covered street. My great-grandfather, physician and mayor at M. Something happened during the Second World War having to do with telephones or radios when she was still a kid.

2







type	date	filename	size	author
scan	20.06.2021	Handgeschreven_2021-06-18_110124.jpg	1,9MB	Arnout De Cleene
category				
book, family				

Halfway March my dad started finding empty clam shells on the banks of the Zuidlede along the pasture where he used to herd sheep. He had never seen this type of clam before. There were easily seventy of them along a hundred metre stretch of riverbank.

He brought two specimens to someone he knows in the neighbouring provincial domain. She would look into it, she said, and that she would probably pass it on to someone at the educational department.

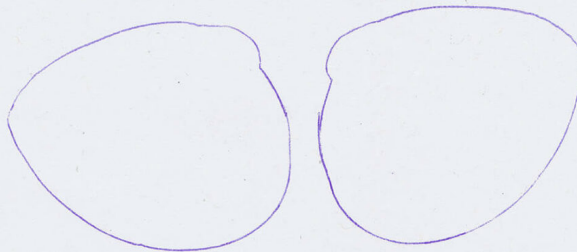
Yesterday he (my dad) received a printout of the Dutch wikipedia-page on the Brakwaterstrandschelp (*Rangia Cuneata*). On the page Paul (who sends his regards at the bottom of the document) traced around the scallops with a blue ballpoint pen.

My dad added in capitals – also with a blue ballpoint pen – that the *Rangia Cuneata* is an invasive species, native to the Gulf of Mexico. The first time it was observed in Europe was in Antwerp in August 2005, most probably they reached Europe in the ballast water tanks of large ships.

WIKIPEDIA

## Brakwaterstrandschelp

De **brakwaterstrandschelp** (*Rangia cuneata*) is een tweekleppigensoort uit de familie van de Mactridae.<sup>[1]</sup> De wetenschappelijke naam van de soort is voor het eerst geldig gepubliceerd in 1832 door Sowerby I.



### Brakwaterstrandschelp

#### Taxonomische indeling

Rijk: Animalia (Dieren)  
Stam: Mollusca (Weekdieren)  
Klasse: Bivalvia (Tweekleppigen)  
Orde: Veneroida  
Familie: Mactridae  
Geslacht: *Rangia*

#### Soort

##### *Rangia cuneata*

(Sowerby I, 1832)

Afbeeldingen op Wikimedia Commons

(en) World Register of Marine Species

(<http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=156991>)

Portaal Biologie

#### Bronnen, noten en/of referenties

- Rosenberg, G.; Huber, M.; Gofas, S. (2012). *Rangia cuneata* (Sowerby I, 1832). Geraadpleegd via: World Register of Marine Species op <http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=156991>

Geplaatst op:  
09-03-2013

Dit artikel is een beginnetje over biologie. U wordt uitgenodigd om op bewerken (<https://nl.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brakwaterstrandschelp&action=edit>) te klikken om uw kennis aan dit artikel toe te voegen.

Overgenomen van "<https://nl.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brakwaterstrandschelp&oldid=53202414>"

Deze pagina is voor het laatst bewerkt op 13 feb 2019 om 20:55.

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<https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brakwaterstrandschelp>

7/04/2021

type  
scan

date  
11.04.2021

filename  
schelp2.jpeg

size  
7MB

author  
Michiel De Cleene

category  
animal, economy, encyclopaedia, food, replica/copy, sea, family

18:40:59

On a pile of fresh hospital sheets, near the radiator, the tangerine curtains and the black marble window sill (the window looks out over the parking lot), underneath the two-day-old bouquet of flowers and next to a pile of magazines with a handwritten note on top (about a syrup that relieves slime and tastes like oranges), lie two sheets of paper.

Earlier that day the physiotherapist had come by. Twice. Once in the morning and once in the afternoon. He had each time drawn the first line, as an example. A straight line in the morning, a curvy line in the afternoon.

With a ballpoint pen my grandfather, who is recovering from an accident, diligently copied the examples (31 in the morning, 5 in the afternoon).





type  
photograph

date  
09.01.2022

filename  
IMG\_9441.HEIC

size  
862 KB

author  
Michiel De Cleene

category  
family, manual, medicine, parking, replica/copy

18:41:11

Near Avenue 61 on an artificial island close to Seef, a truck is being towed after the driver lost control over the vehicle and flipped it onto its side. A warm wind blows in from the Persian Gulf.

A police officer signals us to come closer. 'Why are you taking pictures?' he asks. 'This is just an accident. You have to delete the pictures from your phone. Now.' After checking the pictures-folder on our phones, he gets in his car, drives a few metres, stops the car and rolls down his window. 'And don't do it again!' he yells. Then he drives off, raising a cloud of sand in his wake.

#### Notes

Photograph taken and recovered from my trash bin on 18.12.2020.



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	08.05.2021	IMG_5071.jpeg	2,71MB	Michiel De Cleene

category  
Bahrain, crash, data storage, drought, government, interference, mistake, parking, sand, technology

18:41:20

On the second to last day of a research visit at CERN, there was some spare time in the schedule. I took a long walk towards building 282 in search of some excavation samples: cylindrical pieces of rock that were preserved when the tunnel was dug, glued to a block of wood and frequently exhibited in museums over the last three decades as material evidence of the earthwork and as a witness to the depth. The route led me along the back of building 363 where the wind caused young trees – now gone – to scuff the facade over time.

**Notes**

First published in: De Cleene, M. *Reference Guide*. Amsterdam: Roma Publications, 2019, as W.569.EXC CERN, Towards Building 282, in search of excavation samples





type  
photograph

date  
11.07.2021

filename  
cern\_011.tif

size  
57,57 MB

author  
Michiel De Cleene

category  
archaeology, architecture, archive, landscape, physics, Reference Guide, technology, tree, wind

18:41:34

‘The masons in training pour a concrete slab and build four walls upon it in a stretcher bond. Then the block comes to our department and the students in the course *Electrical installer (residential)* can grind channels and drill cavities in it.’

[...]

‘It’s not always a success from the outset, but they learn quickly.’

[...]

‘Never grind horizontally, always vertically.

Diagonally if there is no other way.’

[...]

‘Two fingers wide.’

[...]

‘After this it goes to the sanitary department. After the bell drilling, the demolition hammer follows and the masons make us a new block.’

Competentiecentrum VDAB, Wondelgem,  
July 2019.

#### Notes

First published in A+ Architecture in Belgium, A+ 279, Schools (August, September 2019), <https://www.a-plus.be/nl/tijdschrift/schools>





type  
photograph

date  
04.05.2021

filename  
\_44a7269.jpg

size  
27,17MB

author  
Michiel De Cleene

category  
architecture, brick, fissure, house, mistake, parking

18:41:45



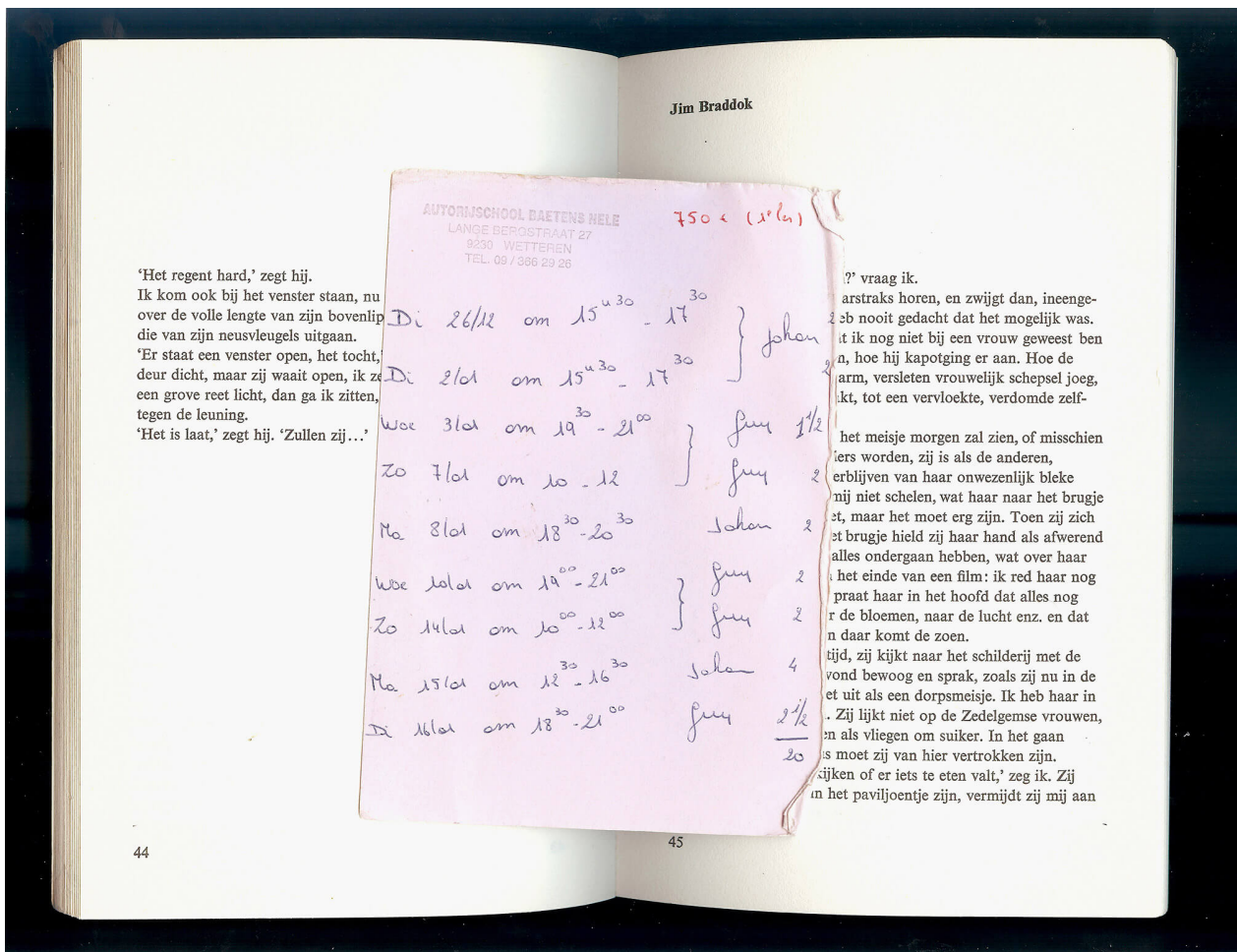
In his debut novel 'De Metsiers' Hugo Claus employs a multiple narrative perspective. In the copy I picked up in a thrift store, there's a bookmark between pages 44 and 45 where the perspective shifts from Ana to Jim Braddok. It's pouring. The pink piece of paper lists 9 sessions at a driving school. There's a total of 20 hours, taught alternately by Johan and Guy.

**Notes**

In 2000, 2006 and 2017 the twenty-sixth of December was a Tuesday.  
(Earlier years are improbable, since the Euro was not introduced yet.)

**Sources**

Claus, H. *De Metsiers*. Amsterdam: Uitgeverij De Bezige Bij, 1978.



type  
scan

date  
09.06.2021

filename  
metsiers.jpg

size  
11,61 MB

author  
Michiel De Cleene

category  
automobile, book, card, literature, precipitation

18:41:58

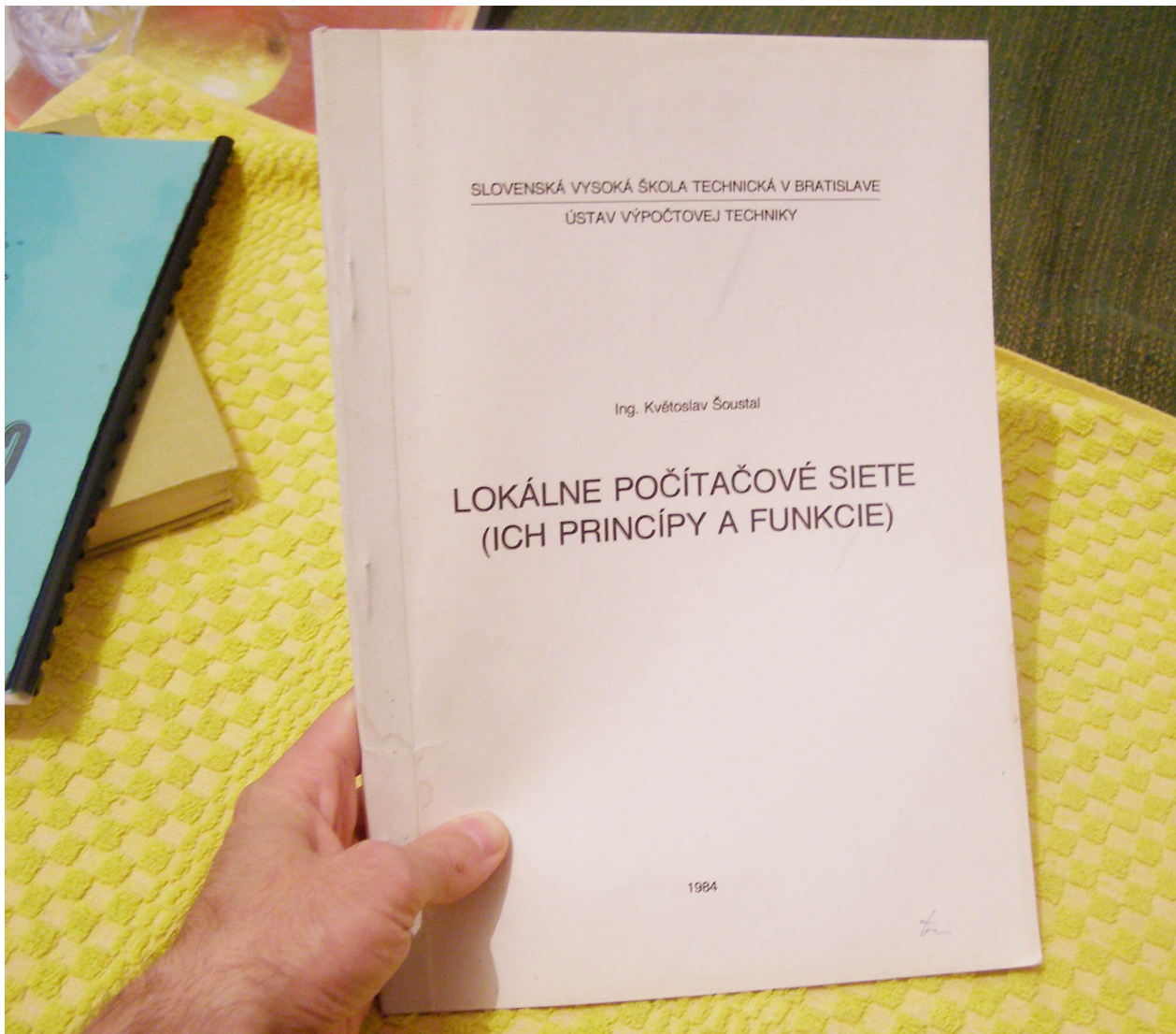
Depending on the language one chooses, the Wikipedia entry for 'document' shows a different picture. The French-language page shows what appears to be a Slovenian thesis written in 1984. The caption states it is a 'book of Czechoslovak computer science author Květoslav Šoustal about computer networks'. The image was uploaded by Kelovy, a Slovakian mushroom-picker.

The anonymous hand rests on a lemon-yellow tablecloth, on which a yellow book and a blue binded file lie. The top left corner is the most intriguing, however: the tablecloth seems to be draped over a lemon, alongside a drinking glass. The cloth, however, does not get shaped by the lemon. Nor does the shadow-side of the lemon coincide with the shadow the other documents throw on the tablecloth. A closer look seems to indicate that the lemon is in fact an image of a lemon, printed on a plastic napkin.

The Russian wikipedia shows the image of a lease agreement. The German wikipedia for 'document' is text only.

#### Sources

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Document#/media/Fichier:KVETOSLAV\\_SOUSTAL\\_BOOK.JPG](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Document#/media/Fichier:KVETOSLAV_SOUSTAL_BOOK.JPG), created October 3, 2006 / original in original: paper, 1984



type  
photograph

date  
23.12.2020

filename  
KVETOSLAV\_SOUSTAL\_BOOK.JPG

size  
956KB

author  
Arnout De Cleene

category  
book, encyclopaedia, fruit, food, trompe l'oeil, cloth, manual, technology

18:42:12

I must have driven past this rocky landscape about sixteen times, going back and forth between viewpoints and the house the parents of a friend let me stay in. On the last day, I left early for the airport, pulled into a lay-by, took my tripod and camera out of the trunk of the red Volkswagen Polo rental car and made two photographs.<sup>1</sup> It was only when I got home, had the film developed, scanned it and was removing dust particles from the file, that I discovered the hand painted text on the rock: ‘PROIBIDO BUSCAR SETAS’.

#### Notes

1.







type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	19.05.2021	Untitled99993-dustfree-nosharpen-crop2.psd	365,37MB	Michiel De Cleene

category  
automobile, dusk, food, landscape, parking, sign, tree

18:42:21

Ten years ago, in November, I drove up to Frisia – the northernmost province of The Netherlands. I was there to document the remains of air watchtowers: a network of 276 towers that were built in the fifties and sixties to warn the troops and population of possible aerial danger coming from the Soviet Union. It was very windy. The camera shook heavily. The poplars surrounding the concrete tower leaned heavily to one side.

I drove up to the seaside, a few kilometers farther. The wind was still strong when I reached the grassy dike that overlooked the kite-filled beach. I exposed the last piece of film left on the roll. Strong gusts of wind blew landwards.

Months later I didn't bother to blow off the dust that had settled on the film before scanning it. A photograph without use, with low resolution, made for the sake of the archive's completeness.

The dust on the film appears to be carried landwards, by the same gust of wind lifting the kites.





type  
photograph

date  
06.09.2021

filename  
LWT-Oudemirdum0002.tif

size  
28,17 MB

author  
Michiel De Cleene

category  
architecture, archive, data storage, landscape, sea, wind

18:42:28

I must have driven past this rocky landscape about sixteen times, going back and forth between viewpoints and the house the parents of a friend let me stay in. On the last day, I left early for the airport, pulled into a lay-by, took my tripod and camera out of the trunk of the red Volkswagen Polo rental car and made two photographs.<sup>1</sup> It was only when I got home, had the film developed, scanned it and was removing dust particles from the file, that I discovered the hand painted text on the rock: ‘PROIBIDO BUSCAR SETAS’.

#### Notes

1.







type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	19.05.2021	Untitled99993-dustfree-nosharpen-crop2.psd	365,37MB	Michiel De Cleene
category				
automobile, dusk, food, landscape, parking, sign, tree				

18:43:13

Ten years ago, in November, I drove up to Frisia – the northernmost province of The Netherlands. I was there to document the remains of air watchtowers: a network of 276 towers that were built in the fifties and sixties to warn the troops and population of possible aerial danger coming from the Soviet Union. It was very windy. The camera shook heavily. The poplars surrounding the concrete tower leaned heavily to one side.

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type  
photograph

date  
06.09.2021

filename  
LWT-Oudemirdum0002.tif

size  
28,17 MB

author  
Michiel De Cleene

category  
architecture, archive, data storage, landscape, sea, wind

18:43:19

On March 23th 2015, a high pressure system above Panama Bay blew strong winds landwards. At the Gatun locks, one of the webcams overlooking the Canal neglected the traffic and briefly captured its own images. The ship's presumed passage through the Gatun locks wasn't recorded by this camera and the AIS-transponder did not save any data of the ship's transit from the Pacific to the Atlantic side of the canal: the Authenticity managed to swap oceans undetected.

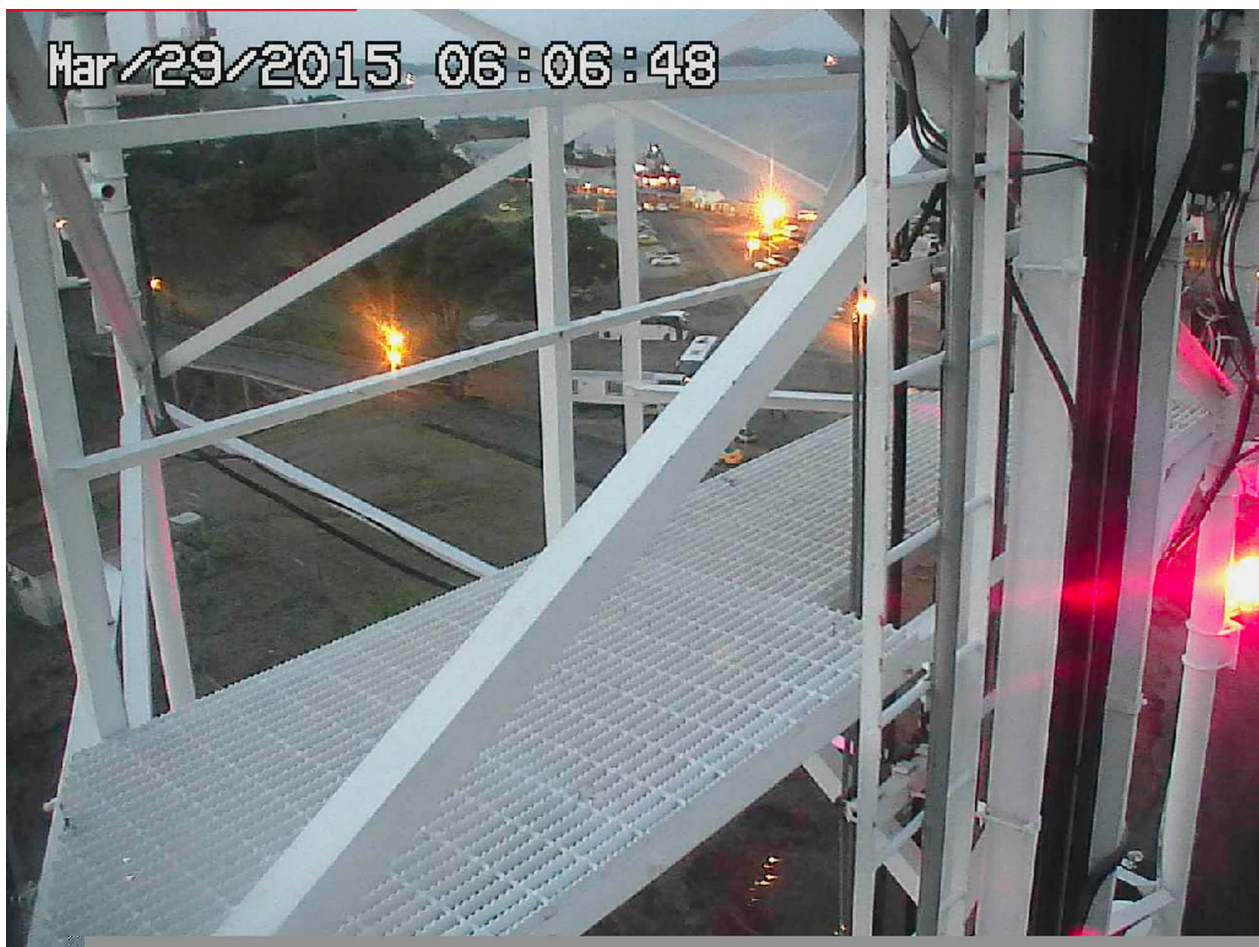
On February 16th 2016, the transponder still signals the ship near the port of Bahia Las Minas. The current is calm, the ship has been practically immobile for a year.

**Notes**

First published in: De Cleene, M. *Reference Guide*. Amsterdam: Roma Publications, 2019

**Sources**

Webcam Gatun Locks, Panama Canal, <http://www.pancanal.com>



type	date	filename	size	author
video	10.05.2021	gatun-cam3.mp4	53,16MB	Michiel De Cleene

category  
animal, data storage, economy, encyclopaedia, interference, landscape, precipitation, Reference Guide, sea, technology

18:43:24



The Authenticity bunkered crude fuel in the Panama Bay. She navigated back and forth between the artificial island Isla Melones and ships leaving or waiting to enter the Panama Canal. On February 14th 2015 she had been moored for a couple of days near the Centennial bridge when the AIS-transponder momentarily signalled the ship's position in the woods of the Bosque Protector de Arraiján. Afterwards no signal of the ship was received for 41 days, until she reappeared near the port of Bahia Las Minas, at the other side of the Panama Canal.

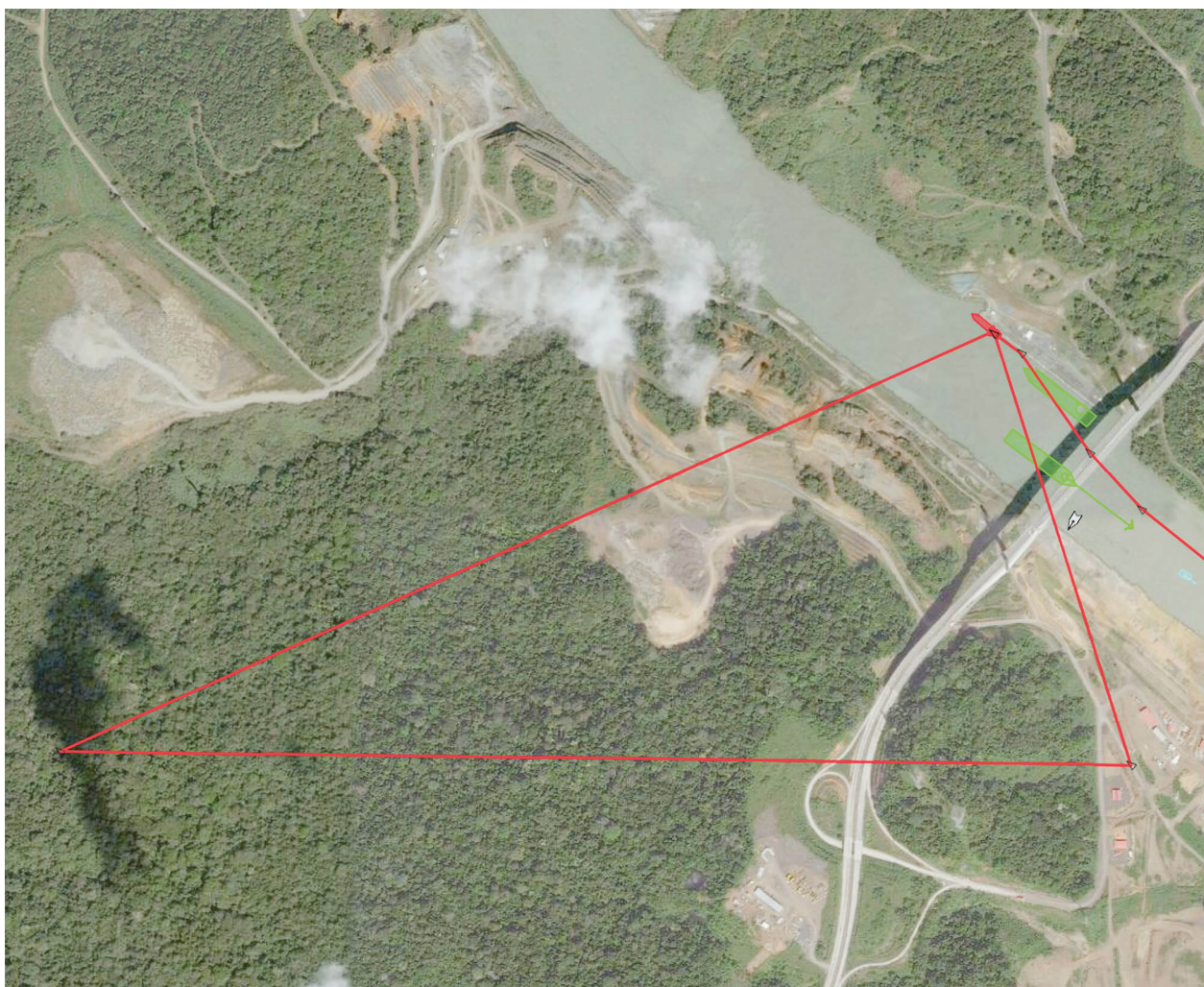
**Notes**

First published in: De Cleene, M. *Reference Guide*. Amsterdam: Roma Publications, 2019

**Sources**

Marine Traffic, Authenticity (Caribe Trader, PA), latest position, 09°01'40,71" N 79°38'18,59"W, viewed 14.02.2015, <http://www.marinetraffic.com>

# The Authenticity in the woods of the Bosque Protector de Arraiján



type  
screenshot

date  
10.05.2021

filename  
caribe.jpg

size  
17,33MB

author  
Michiel De Cleene

category  
economy, encyclopaedia, interference, landscape, map/plan, Reference Guide, sea, technology, tree, data storage

18:44:10

On March 23th 2015, a high pressure system above Panama Bay blew strong winds landwards. At the Gatun locks, one of the webcams overlooking the Canal neglected the traffic and briefly captured its own images. The ship's presumed passage through the Gatun locks wasn't recorded by this camera and the AIS-transponder did not save any data of the ship's transit from the Pacific to the Atlantic side of the canal: the Authenticity managed to swap oceans undetected.

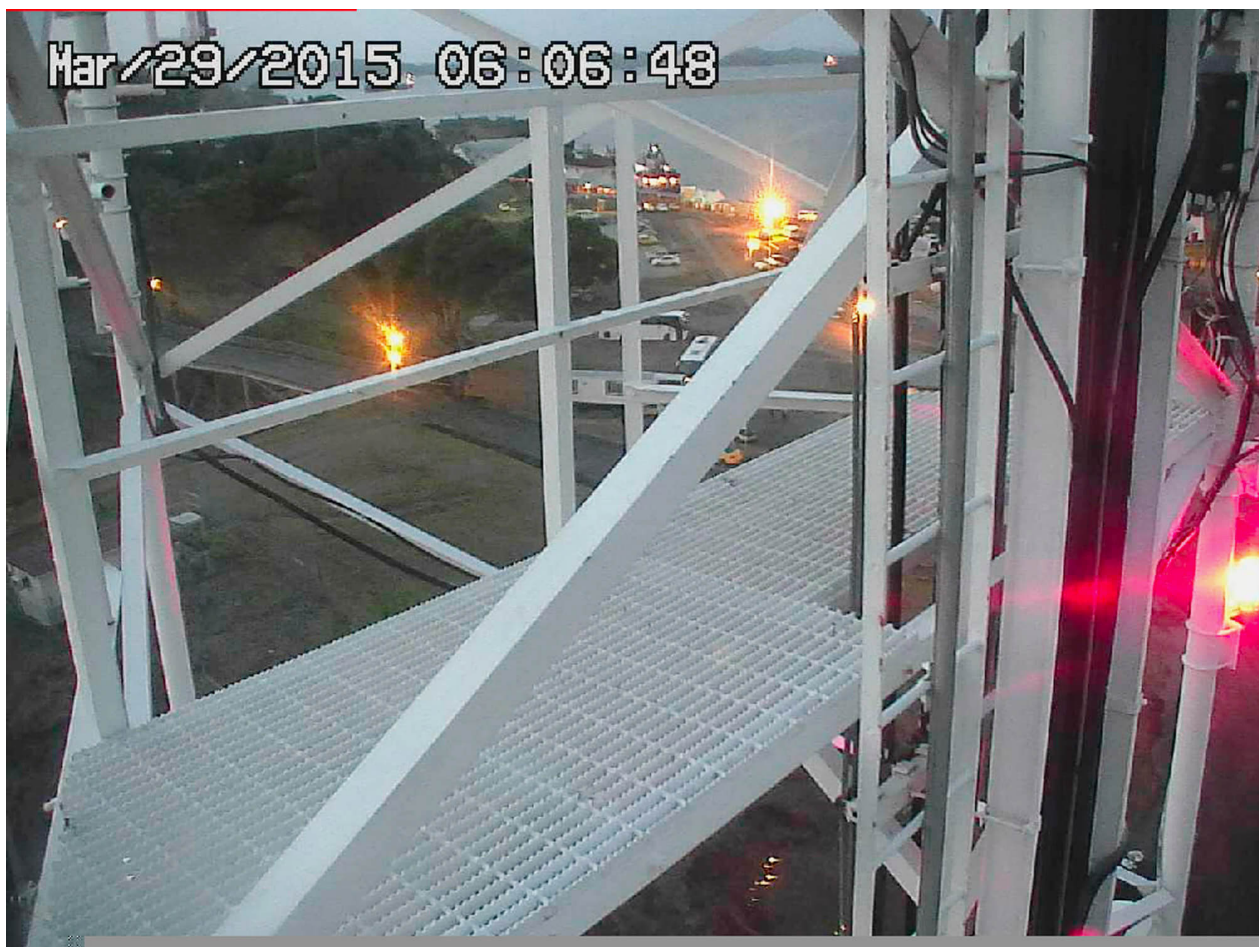
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**Notes**

First published in: De Cleene, M. *Reference Guide*. Amsterdam: Roma Publications, 2019

**Sources**

Webcam Gatun Locks, Panama Canal, <http://www.pancanal.com>



type	date	filename	size	author
video	10.05.2021	gatun-cam3.mp4	53,16MB	Michiel De Cleene

category  
animal, data storage, economy, encyclopaedia, interference, landscape, precipitation, Reference Guide, sea, technology

18:44:21



In between two cities along the Belgian coast, water has run from the dunes (and the Second World War Heritage site scattered among them), underneath the coastal road and tram rails, to the beach. It has formed a small S-shaped estuary, bound to disappear due to the increasingly harsh wind coming from the coast of Britain, blowing North-easterly, and hammering down on the levee. The vibrations of the empty Ostend-bound tram passing just before the photograph was taken, had no visible impact on the estuary.



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	28.12.2020	WhatsApp Image 2020-12-28 at 21.45.31.jpeg	393KB	Arnout De Cleene
category	precipitation, wind, sea, sand			

18:44:27

