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, Birthday Omen, Cover, 12M m3 [3/8] Swell, APOTD, Weight Bench, Essie, Directory, Roofing (6) – JEM, Mushroom Picking Prohibited, Anraum, Dust, Album, Crash (1), The Imaginary Edge of the Roadway, The Face of a Chair, LIGO, Mirror, A smoker's history of energy

04.02.2022

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 04.02.2022 21:21, printed on ____ and contains 19 documents on 40 pages. (https://the-documents.org/log/04-02-2022-3766/)

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 / 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.

the-documents.c

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

Mould

type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	27.01.2022	_44A3429.tif	36,81 MB	De Cleene De Cleene

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

21:20:29

Most mornings I eat three slices of bread. I stack them. Between the highest slice and the one in the middle I put a slice of cheese (young Gouda). I put the whole in the microwave[1] for 1 minute and 50 seconds. The result is what I like to call a *smelteram*[2].

On the morning of my thirty-second birthday the plate broke in half during heating.

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Notes

1

2 A contraction of *smelten* (Dutch for melting) and *boterham* (Dutch for a slice of bread).

Birthday Omen

type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	05.08.2021	IMG_1129.jpg	2,06 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
fissure, food, house, sign, technology

21:20:42

A year before the crash, Swiss artist Charlotte Stuby designed a tailor-made cover for the car. The dents caused by the unfortunate hailstorm weren’t visible. The work, called *Gone Fishing*, was on view during an open air exhibition on the theme of the parking lot. Heavy wind had caused the temporary traffic signs on the parking lot, left there by the city services, to tip over. One hit a car and caused a scratch. It was unclear if this would be something the insurance company would accept. We attached Stuby’s cover a second time. Parking fines flew irregularly across the lot.

the-documents.c

Cover

type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	08.02.2021	P_016-1024x834.jpg	377KB	De Cleene De Cleene

category
automobile, crash, cloth, parking, precipitation, wind, sign, insurance

21:20:43

The river swells and eventually overflows, causing the death of six people and extensive damage: washed away bridges, damaged homes, submerged factories, destroyed food stocks, heavily eroded roads and paths.

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12M m3 [3/8] Swell

type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	01.12.2021	IMG_0507b.jpg	6,12 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
impact, landscape, precipitation

21:20:45

(transcript CNN Saturday morning news, Aired September 21, 2002 – 07:32 ET)

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THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

MILES O'BRIEN, *CNN Anchor*
Now this Astronomy Picture of the Day goes back as far as the popularization of the Internet. The discovery of what is now Netscape, if you will. Let's take a look at the guys behind it. It's an art gallery of astronomy, featuring explosive supernovas, deep black holes, flaring comets, and breathtaking earth views.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

O'BRIEN (*voice-over*) Every day since the web was in its infancy, two enthusiastic astronomers have posted a new image to Astronomy Picture of the Day.

ROBERT J. NEMIROFF,
NASA Astrophysicist
I think that a lot of these would look great in a gallery. They're very different, there's a lot of different colors involved, there's a lot of different contrasts, a lot of different textures. And, it has the added bonus of being scientifically interesting. It's scientifically true.

O'BRIEN Robert Nimiroff and Jerry Donnell (ph) choose the images based on their educational value, newsworthiness, or just plain beauty.

NEMIROFF
I mean, there's a 'wow' factor here. I usually know within a second or two of seeing a picture whether it's a sure thing for The Astronomy Picture of the Day, because I just say 'Wow, what is going on there?'

O'BRIEN Every image is archived on the site. Underneath each picture is a brief explanation so that the site is not just eye candy but educational, as well. Including images that give us a new perspective.

NEMIROFF
Recently, people put together a bunch of pictures from the moon in this great panorama. You can look all the way around in the circle and see what the astronauts saw. The face on Mars, which the best explanation is, it's just a rock formation, but there's a lot of conspiracy people out there who think it's more, and the picture of the earth at night. And, I think it's one of our most popular images.

O'BRIEN Some images come from telescopes around the world. Others from the Hubble Telescope, peering deep into space. Others, from amateur photographers, an artist's renditions of black holes too distant for detail.

NEMIROFF
And you can just look at it and feel that you're there.

O'BRIEN Many people take the images from the site and post them as wallpaper on their computers, or, create a slideshow screensaver.

NEMIROFF
Our biggest demographic is the intelligent professional who works at some company and has a computer on the desk, has a web browser, and they check us out. We've got e-mail that we're many people's morning cup of coffee.

O'BRIEN Whether you're a space junkie or just enjoy looking up at the sky, Astronomy Picture of the Day is worth the visit.

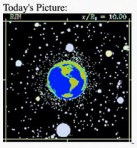
Sources

- https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap950616.html (original post: June 16, 1995)
- http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0209/21/smn.06.html

Astronomy Picture of the Day

The sky is filled with breathtaking pictures, many of which are available on the World Wide Web. Each day we feature a different picture of some part of our fascinating universe, along with a brief explanation written by a professional astronomer.

Today's Picture:



Explanation:

If the Earth could somehow be transformed to the ultra-high density of a neutron star , it might appear as it does in the above computer generated figure. Due to the very strong gravitational field, the neutron star distorts light from the background sky greatly. If you look closely, two images of the constellation Orion are visible. The gravity of this particular neutron star is so great that no part of the neutron star is blocked from view - light is pulled around by gravity even from the back of the neutron star.

We keep an archive file.

Astronomy Picture of the Day is brought to you by Robert Nemiroff and Jerry Bonnell . Original material on this page is copyrighted to Robert Nemiroff and Jerry Bonnell.

type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	11.01.2021	Schermafbeelding 2021-01-12 om 21.54.58.png	225KB	Arnout De Cleene

category
astronomy, archive, encyclopaedia, physics

21:20:47

Today I brought an old bedspring, the styrofoam the air-humidifier came in, a few bags of sawdust and some scrap pieces of plywood to the municipal recycling center. As I was waiting to mount the stairs to the scrap metal container, a gray-haired man wearing blue leather shoes, dark jeans and a checkered shirt was tipping – with relative ease – a weight bench over the edge of the container.

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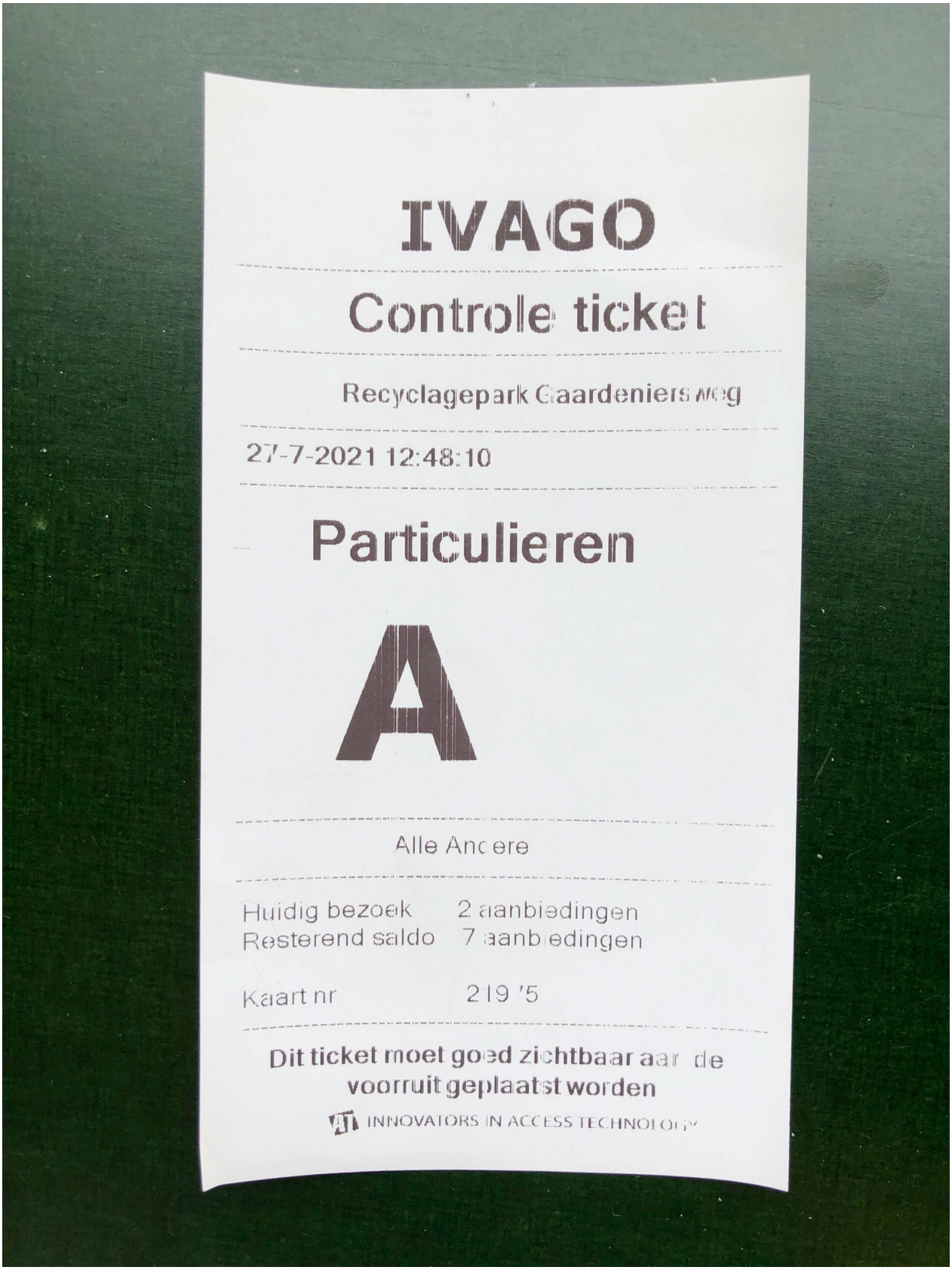
Weight Bench



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	26.07.2021	IMG_7874.HEIC	1,2MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
crash, impact, waste

21:20:49

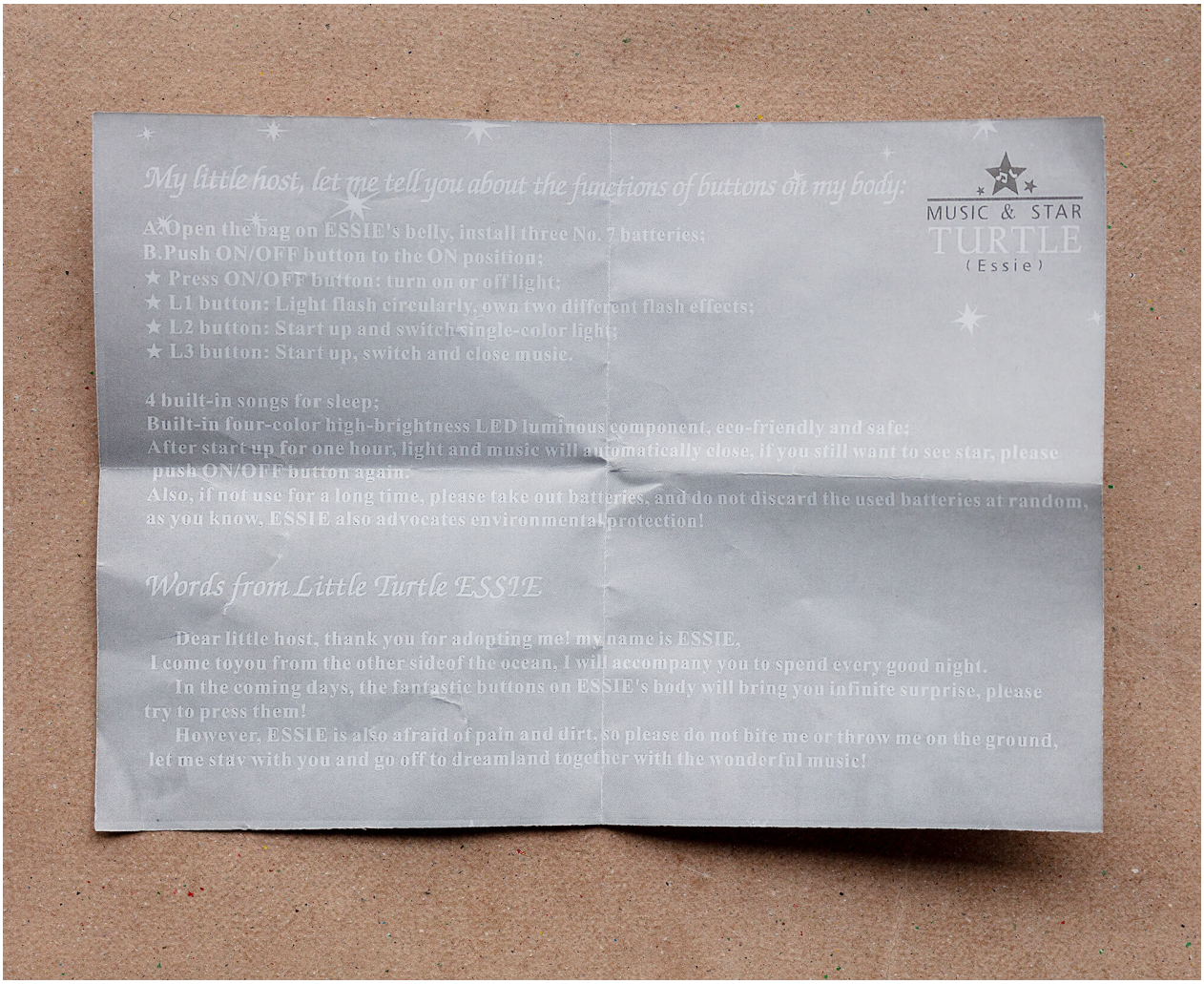
I bought my son a gift while abroad: a toy turtle named Essie whose perforated shield projects stars onto the ceiling in blue, green or amber. ‘8 actual star constellations’, the box proclaims.

The manual explains how to power up the turtle and what the four buttons on Essie’s back do. The small document (recto: Chinese, verso: English) concludes with some ‘Words from Little Turtle ESSIE’. In it the turtle shifts from direct speech to illeism[1] and back.

Notes

1 The act of referring to oneself in the third instead of first person.

Essie



My little host, let me tell you about the functions of buttons on my body:

MUSIC & STAR
TURTLE
(Essie)

A.Open the bag on ESSIE's belly, install three No. 7 batteries;
B.Push ON/OFF button to the ON position;
★ Press ON/OFF button: turn on or off light;
★ L1 button: Light flash circularly, own two different flash effects;
★ L2 button: Start up and switch single-color light;
★ L3 button: Start up, switch and close music.

4 built-in songs for sleep;
Built-in four-color high-brightness LED luminous component, eco-friendly and safe;
After start up for one hour, light and music will automatically close, if you still want to see star, please push ON/OFF button again.
Also, if not use for a long time, please take out batteries, and do not discard the used batteries at random, as you know, ESSIE also advocates environmental protection!

Words from Little Turtle ESSIE

Dear little host, thank you for adopting me! my name is ESSIE,
I come toyou from the other sideof the ocean, I will accompany you to spend every good night.
In the coming days, the fantastic buttons on ESSIE's body will bring you infinite surprise, please try to press them!
However, ESSIE is also afraid of pain and dirt, so please do not bite me or throw me on the ground, let me stay with you and go off to dreamland together with the wonderful music!

type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	17.12.2020	_44A8424.dng	50,6MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
animal, astronomy, Bahrain, manual, family

21:20:50

In 2020, the print versions of the Flemish telephone books ‘Gouden Gids’ and ‘Witte Gids’ (The Golden Guide and The White Guide), were published for the last time. From that year onwards, the directory could only be accessed and consulted online. The effect of the production of print telephone directories on the environment is considered to be enormous. As yearly updated, ubiquitous books, they were publications that soon turned superfluous. They led to piles of waste.

From the beginning of the 21st century on, both the print version and the online version had been available. This was a period of medium transition. During the last two decades, the print directory increasingly referred to the websites of the companies listed. To search for e.g. someone to inspect the heating installation, it was possible to find such a company’s website via the print directory, and consult the inspector’s services and price online, bypassing search engines such as Google and its complex algorithms. The telephone directory had a thematic and alphabetical order, combined with the possibility to buy additional advertising space.

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type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	02.10.2021	_MG_7415.JPG	8,2MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
book, botany, data storage, technology, waste

21:20:52

In summer, the roofing gets hot and soft. In winter, it gets cold, hard and brittle. None of the gates to the garages are open. It’s unsure whether the numerous texts and drawings – some dig deeper than others – have caused leakages.

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Roofing (6) – JEM

type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	14.04.2021	IMG_6510.jpeg	6,61MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, decoration, fissure, map/plan, parking, precipitation, roofing, sign

21:20:54

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.[1] 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’.

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Notes

1.

Mushroom Picking Prohibited

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

21:20:55

During the one day course *Safety and Avalanches*, teacher G.T. shows pictures of different manifestations of snow and ice. If one learns to read them, one can deduce the wind direction when hiking or skiing in mountainous terrain.
Wind direction is crucial for assessing the stability of the snow. G.T.'s examples are of Austrian origin. He speaks about 'Anraum': displaced snow can get stacked horizontally against an object, such as a tree or a cross. The snow 'grows and builds into the wind'. Counter-intuitively, the snow points to the side the wind is coming from. One can expect dangerous terrain in the direction of the 'unbuilt' side of the object.

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Anraum

type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	14.02.2021	810px-Raureif_im_Bayerischen_Wald.JPG	262KB	Arnout De Cleene

category
manual, mistake, precipitation, tree, wind, sign

21:20:57

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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.

Dust

type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	06.09.2021	LWT-Oudemirdum0002.tif	28,17 MB	Michiel De Cleene

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

21:20:59

At the State Archive in Kortrijk, I am leafing through a 1955 photo album of the construction of the provisional church in Lokeren by the famous furniture company Kunstwerkstede De Coene. Gigantic wooden, prefabricated beams structure the building. It is cold. An old man in a grey suit shuffles between the racks to look up the date of birth of his great great grandmother. Snow covers the unfinished provisional roof. A bus passes, I reckon, through the pouring rain.

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Album

type	date	filename	size	author
audio	22.12.2020	VP100184.MP3	1,8MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
archive, architecture, book, data storage, De Coene, precipitation

21:21:00

In June, 2014, a severe hailstorm hit Belgium. Warnings were broadcast. A football game between the national teams of Belgium and Tunisia was paused. The morning after, there were small dents in the hood and the roof of the car, each a square centimeter in size, some 10 centimeters separated from each other. The storm didn’t get a name.

Assessing the damage, the insurance company’s expert took the dents into account to establish the wreck’s worth.

the-documents.c

Crash (1)

type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	16.10.2020	IMG_2236.JPG	2,8MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
automobile, crash, precipitation, insurance

21:21:02

the-documents.c

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.

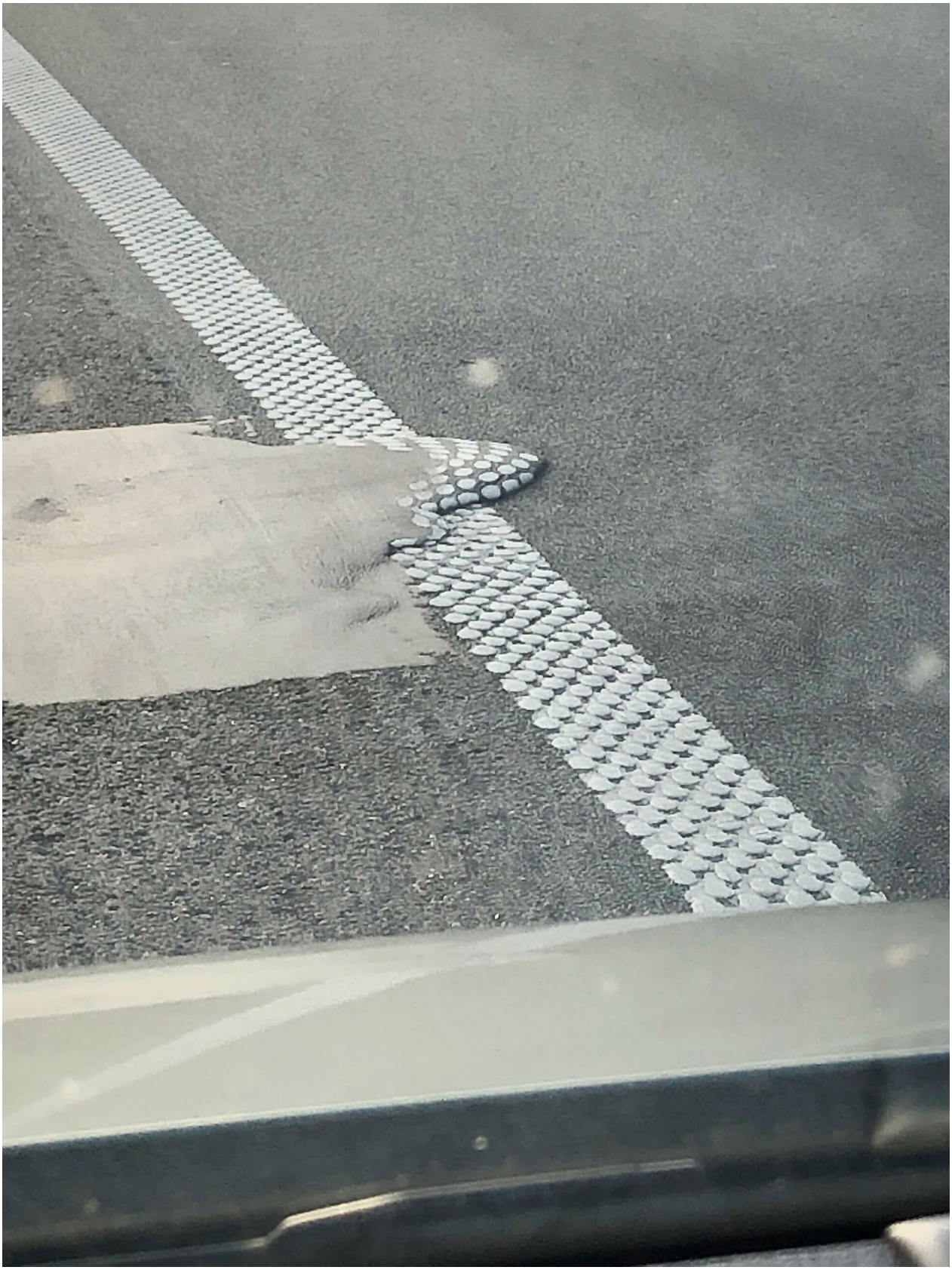
According to 75.1, there are two types of markings that indicate the actual edge of the roadway: a white, continuous stripe and a yellow interrupted line. The former is mainly used to make the edge of the roadway more visible; the latter indicates that parking along it is prohibited.

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

The Imaginary Edge of the Roadway



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	08.08.2021	IMG_7943.HEIC	659 KB	Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, government, parking, repair, sign

21:21:04

All chairs are empty, but all face something different. The bottom photograph shows empty chairs facing empty desks. In the middle picture, empty chairs face each other (underneath the inaudible sound of the cinema above). In the top photograph, the chairs seem to be facing the photographer. However, the altar's in front of the photographer. He stands at the back of the provisional church. The chairs face the photographer and have turned their backs to the altar.

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Sources

Revue Héraclite, 5 (1), april 1936, p. 7, paper, from the archive of architect O. Clemminck.

Eglise Provisoire St. Laurent à Anvers

Isolation de sous-toiture en plaques Héraclite. — Architecte: M.G. Huygh à Anvers. — Phot.: L. Van Eynde à Anvers

Café-Concert „Mon Village", en plein centre de Bruxelles

Application de l'Héraclite comme isolation du plafond (Environ 1500m² Héraclite 5 cm). Doublage du plafond en béton en nervure. L'établissement est situé exactement en-dessous du Cinéma „Ambassador" et il y a lieu de prendre sérieusement en considération que le bail portait en cause principale qu'aucun bruit ne pouvait gêner l'exploitation du Cinéma, même dans ses auditions les plus silencieuses. — Architecte: M. Jos. Govaerts à Bruxelles. — Phot.: La Photographie Industrielle Bruxelles

Défence Automobile et Sportive (D.A.S.), Siège social au Mans

Aménagement de bureaux sous combles en Héraclite 2½ cm. — Architecte: M. Grigné, D.P.L.G.

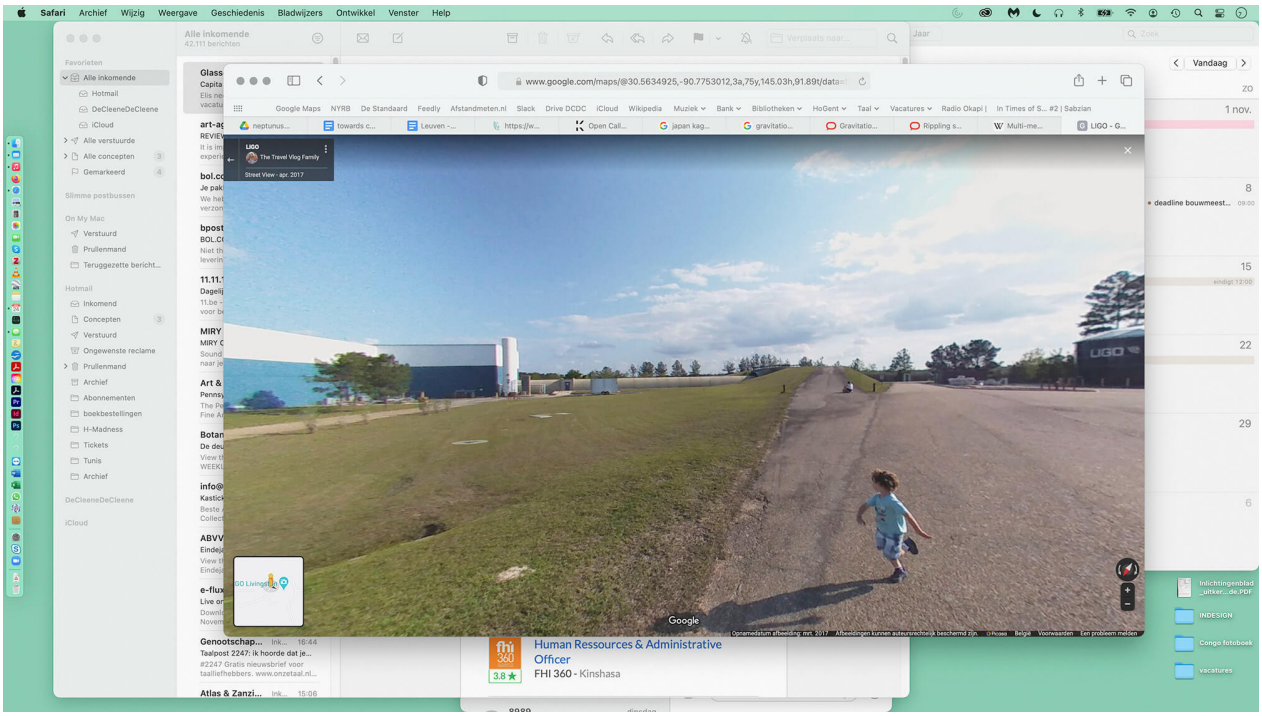
type	date	filename	size	author
scan	14.12.2020	Document_2020-12-14_164943.pdf	4,2MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
automobile, architecture, archive, O. Clemminck

21:21:08

To detect gravitational waves, physicists built enormous research centers, amongst others at Livingston, Louisiana. The facility mainly consists of two tunnels in an L-shape. Mirrors inside provide data. Disturbances from gravitational waves are miniscule. To prevent interference from outside, such as vibrations caused by people passing in the neighbourhood, the mirrors have to be detached from the earth. They ‘float’, suspended by glass fibers in a pendulum-like construction.
As I was watching my screen, a courier was on his way to deliver a book (Noel-Todd, J. *The Penguin Book of the Prose Poem: From Baudelaire to Anne Carson*. London: Penguin, 2019).

the-documents.c



type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	24.11.2020	LIGO.png	6,9MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
physics, seismology, mirror, interference, book, architecture, mistake

21:21:10

On the online thrift shop 2dehands.be the homepage generates a ‘for you’ section. On November 9th this section listed, among other things, a picture of the sky on a patch of concrete. On closer inspection, it became clear that it was the sky’s reflection in a mirror with a red frame and four lightbulbs in it, the kind you might see at the hairdresser’s or backstage in a television studio or theatre. The seller estimates the mirror’s current value to be 45,00 EUR. The listing includes five photographs. In the fifth one, the object for sale reflects a bucolic landscape: a blue sky, white clouds, some trees and a fragment of a barn.

the-documents.c

Mirror

type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	16.01.2022	Schermafbeelding 2021-11-09 om 20.54.40.png	2,92 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
economy, landscape, mirror

21:21:13

the-documents.c

A mostly empty book designed to collect cigar bands. The bands are glued to the paper at their left side, so the information on the backside, explaining the image and referring to the series it belongs to and the number of different labels the series contains, can be looked up. The book has complete and incomplete series on Christopher Columbus (complete), tanks (incomplete), the origins of civilization (complete), Ancient cultures (incomplete), fashion (complete), South-American sculptures (complete), Ancient columns (incomplete), Nobel Prize Winners (incomplete), an unclarified series of seven men, most of whom are ‘prof.’ or ‘dr.’(complete / incomplete), design plates (incomplete), famous Belgians (complete / incomplete), statesmen (incomplete) and football players (incomplete). The first page in the book is used to present two series. The left column presents the Egyptian dynasty (incomplete). The middle and right column present a series of bands by the brand Jubilé on the history of energy in telling scenes and pieces of machinery.

Series: Energy

Middle column, top to bottom:

- The writing telegraph. Hughes
- Experiment with a sulphur globe. William Gilbert
- Primitive telephone. Philipp Reis
- Wireless telegraph.[1] Guglielo [sic] Marconi
- The arc of Volta. Sir Humphry Davy
- Fire in the wagon. Thomas Alva Edison
- Experiments with lightning. Benjamin Franklin
- Cathode for creating X-Rays. Wilhelm Röntgen
- Rotating magnetic field. Galileo Ferraris

Right column, top to bottom:

- Electric discharge. William Watt
- Magnetic telephone. Antonio Meucci
- Muscels reacting to electricity. Luigi Galvani
- Voltaic pile. Alessandro Volta
- Oscillating circuit. Guglielo [sic] Marconi
- Development of the telephone. Graham Bell
- Telephone, beginning of the 20th century
- Next to his wireless telegraph. Guglielo [sic] Marconi
- Invention of the incandescent light bulb. Thomas Alva Edison
- Morse’s telegraph. Samuel Morse

The series is incomplete.[2]

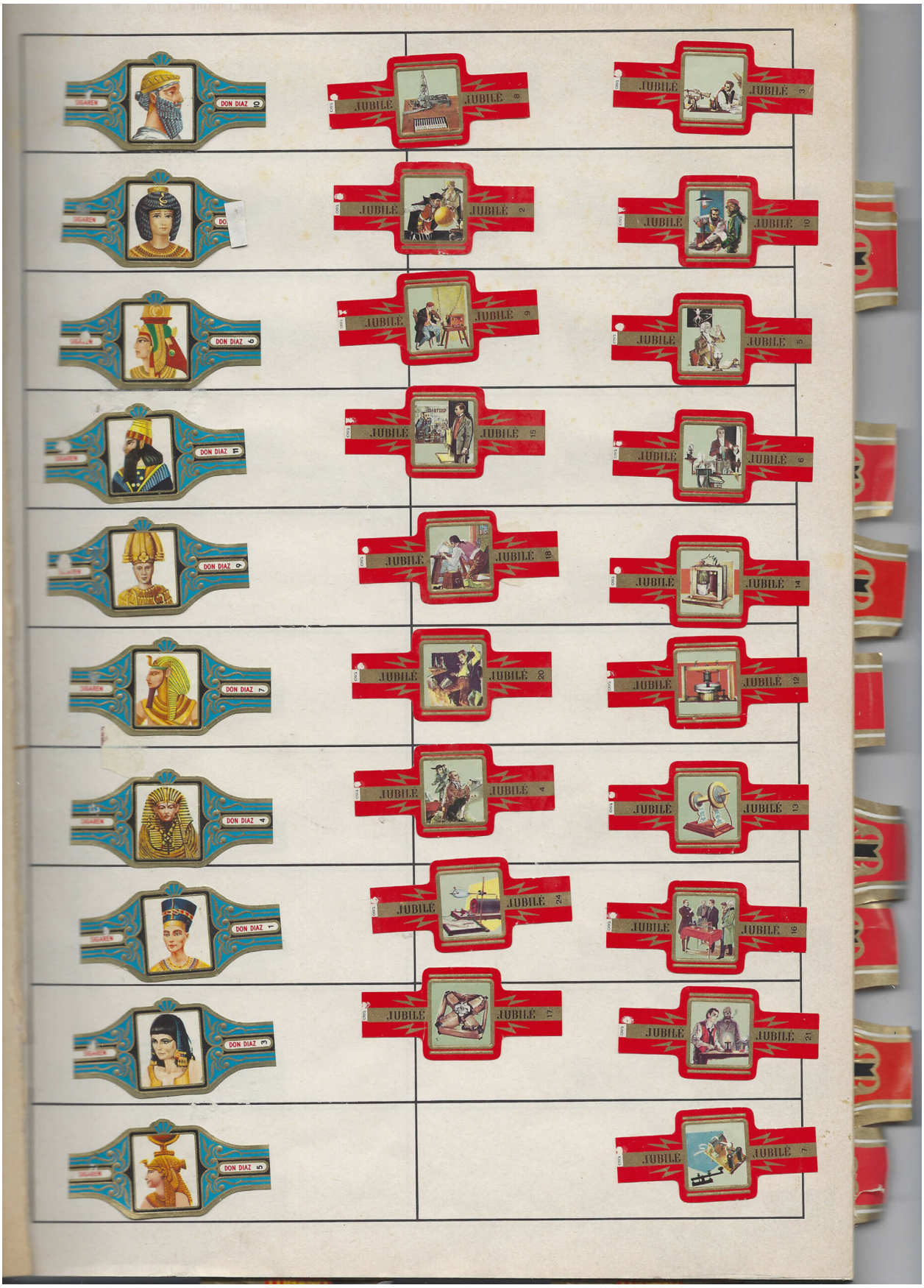
Notes

1 The scene shows a man standing at a desk, sticking out his hand to an officer in a window that reads, in mirror writing: Customs.

2 On eBay a complete series is advertised (15 EUR), with a lo-res picture of the whole collection, including the five bands missing in my grandfather’s collection. The information on the back, however, is not given. It leads to a highly speculative history of energy.

- A man in a gown watching a T-shaped object.
- A child in a cellar, sitting on a stool at a table with gray objects.
- A soldier kneeling beside a child, in front of a train, and in front of a boat.
- A low table with a giant cartwheel of sorts and a box.
- A vertical object with what seems to be a bell on top.

A smoker’s history of energy



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	18.08.2021	Document_2021-07-23_160752.jpg	10MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
collecting, physics, technology

21:21:16