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

Your path through the collection lead along A peregrine falcon in the internal perimeter, It's Pouring, Gatun Locks, The Authenticity in the woods of the Bosque Protector de Arraiján, Gatun Locks, Backpack, A Fever Dream, An Unfired Mortar, A Seismic Change, The Events That Took Place in Grimbergen, Marmara, Une étoile est-elle un document?, Market, Phase, Raisins, Roofing (2), Pipe, Populus

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 Gitelman 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 documer	nt was compiled by	on 04.03.2022 14:48,
printed on	_ and contains 18 do	cuments on 38 pages.
(https://the-do	cuments.org/log/04-0	3-2022-3897/)

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.
- Gitelman, L. Paper Knowledge. Toward a Media History of Documents.
 Durham/ London: Duke University Press, 2014.
- Oxford English Dictionary Online. Accessed on 13.05.2021.







At the nuclear waste processing facility. While the photographer and the head of the communication department are making their way from the processing building to the temporary storage building, they walk past the central chimney.

'On the highest of the accessible levels of the chimney, operators were finding small steel rings. They gathered them, but soon noticed that new rings were added. At a certain point at a rate of one ring a day.

[...]

It took them some time to realize what they were, so they started collecting them by slipping them onto a piece of rope. By now the rings on the rope span about this distance [spreads his arms to indicate a distance of about 1.2m].

ſ...1

They turned out to be rings that came from pigeon's legs.

[...]

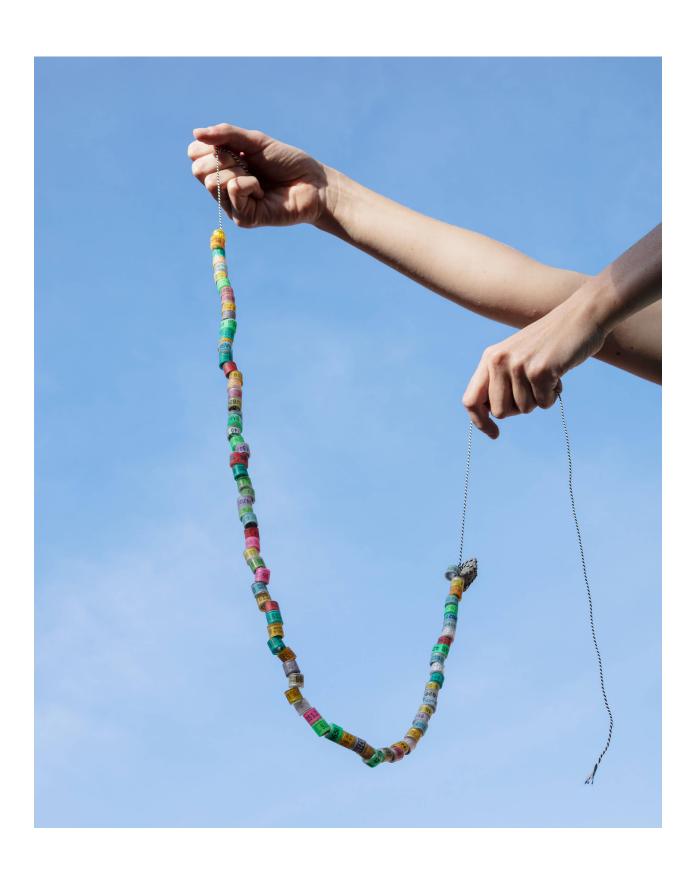
On top of our chimney resides a peregrine falcon.

[...]

I was told pigeon fanciers have a tendency to give a peregrine falcon – or any other bird of prey in their area – a hand at disappearing, but this one took up residency in the internal perimeter, where – as you know – access is severely restricted.'

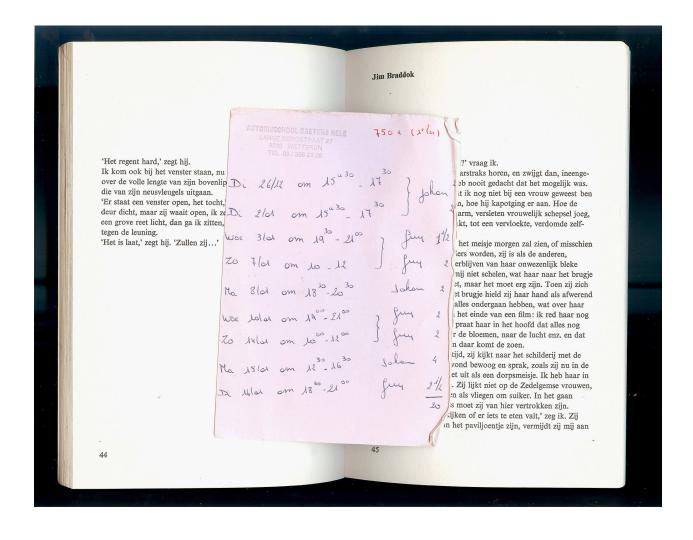
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A peregrine falcon in the internal perimeter



type photograph date 02.03.2022 filename duivenringen_001.jpg size 20,04 MB author Michiel De Cleene 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 bookmarker 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.

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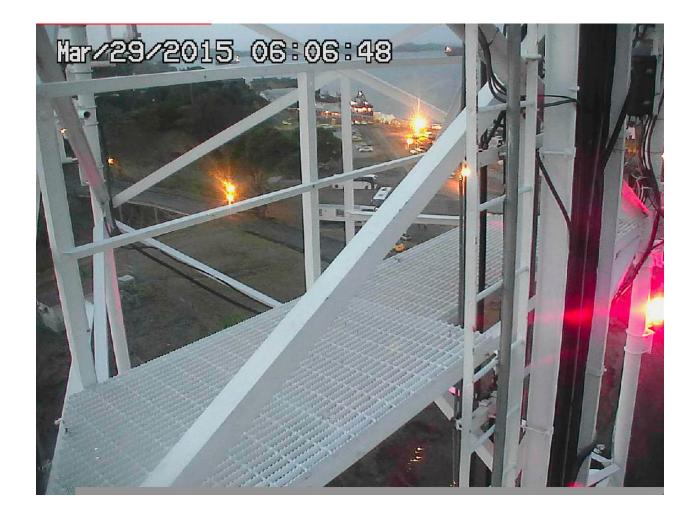
type scan date 09.06.2021 filename
metsiers.jpg

size 11,61 MB author Michiel De Cleene 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.

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Gatun Locks



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

category

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

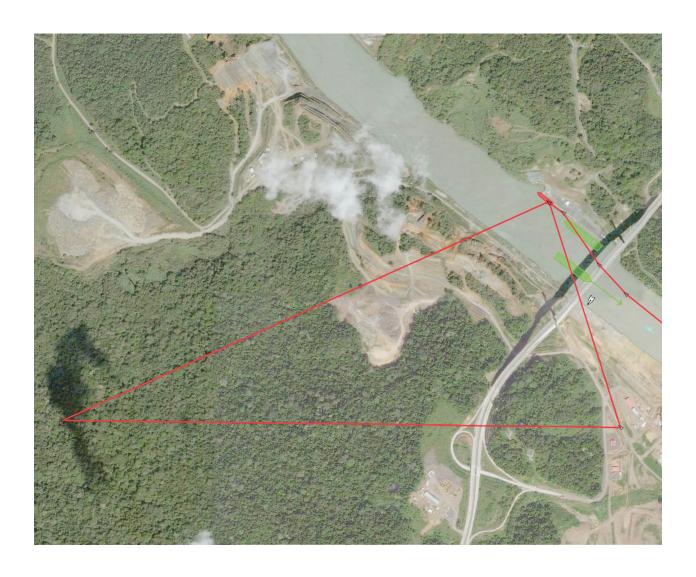
The Authenticity bunkered crude fuel in the Panama Bay. She navigated back and forth between the artificial island Isla Melones and ships leaving or waiting to enter the Panama Canal. On February 14th 2015 she had been moored for a couple of days near the Centennial bridge when the AIStransponder momentarily 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.

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Publications, 2019

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

The Authenticity in the woods of the Bosque Protector de Arraiján

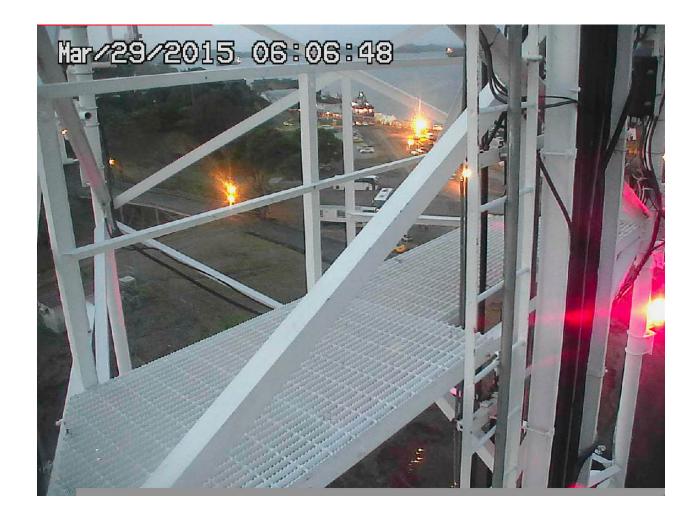


type screenshot date 10.05.2021 filename caribe.jpg size 17,33MB author Michiel De Cleene On March 23th 2015, a high pressure system above Panama Bay blew strong winds landwards. At the Gatun locks, one of the webcams overlooking the Canal neglected the traffic and briefly captured its own images. The 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.

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Gatun Locks



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

category

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

_44A6588.dng

At 13:26:43 I took a photograph of a concrete building without windows in an industrial zone just south of Brussels.

_44A6590.dng

At 16:46:15 I photographed a succession of office buildings in the same industrial zone.

_44A6589.dng

I must have walked about 1 kilometer between the concrete building without windows and the section of the industrial zone with the offices. At 13:43:49, the camera, safely stored in my backpack, recorded 0.4 seconds of the 20 minutes it took me to get there.

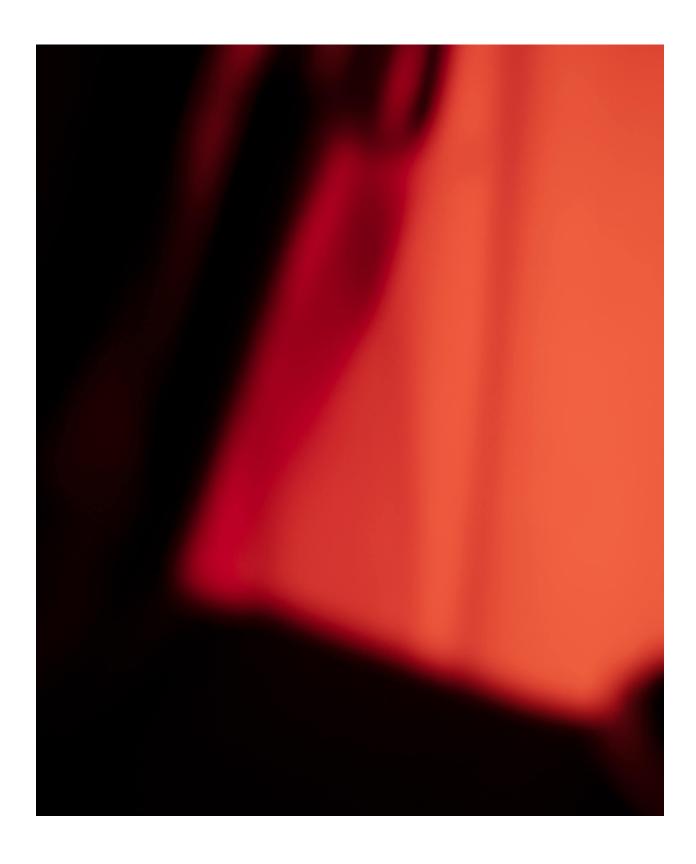
In The Snows of Venice, Alexander Kluge wonders whether he can take the liberty to conjure up what the sky looked like on 31 December 1799, as Schiller made his way to Goethe's house. He goes on by saying that, historically, there's a 'LACK OF SENSORY ATTENTION AT CRUCIAL MOMENTS'. There are exceptions, though, like the cameraman that was sent out to document the fireworks on New Year's Day 2000. The camera was turned on prematurely. The batteries were used up by midnight, but 'certain gray tones, however, filtered through the cracks of its protective case, conveyed the motion of the walking cameraman, the transportation. The incompletely shut, lowinformation container was documented exactly [...] To this day it provides inexact testimony as to the qualities of the leather of a twenty-first century carrying case and the precise sensitivity to light and dark demonstrated by a twenty-first century recording medium.'2

Sources

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Lerner, B., Kluge, A. The Snows of Venice. Leipzig: Spector Books, 2018, p. 53

Backpack



type photograph date 15.02.2022 filename _44A6589.dng size 37,87 MB author Michiel De Cleene During the night, both of us get unwell. One of us is shaking, intensely and relentlessly. The windows are open. For minutes that seem to be hours, it feels like it's freezing. We get extra blankets. Then, it gets too hot.

One of us dreams about *coccodrillos*. It starts out with a single animal, like the one we saw in the National Archaeological Museum, escaping from an aquarium, and ends with lots of little ones crawling all over the place. It's impossible to know how many have escaped.

The other dreams about seismologist Luigi Palmieri's unfortunate assistant and his family's quest to redeem his good name. To deprive him of the burden and guilt set upon him by Luigi Palmieri's report of the 1872 eruption of Vesuvius, the assistant's offspring were building a monument just below the observatory in which their greatgrandfather fell asleep. The monument was permanently, and continuously, unfinished.

We both dream of hearing fireworks in Naples.

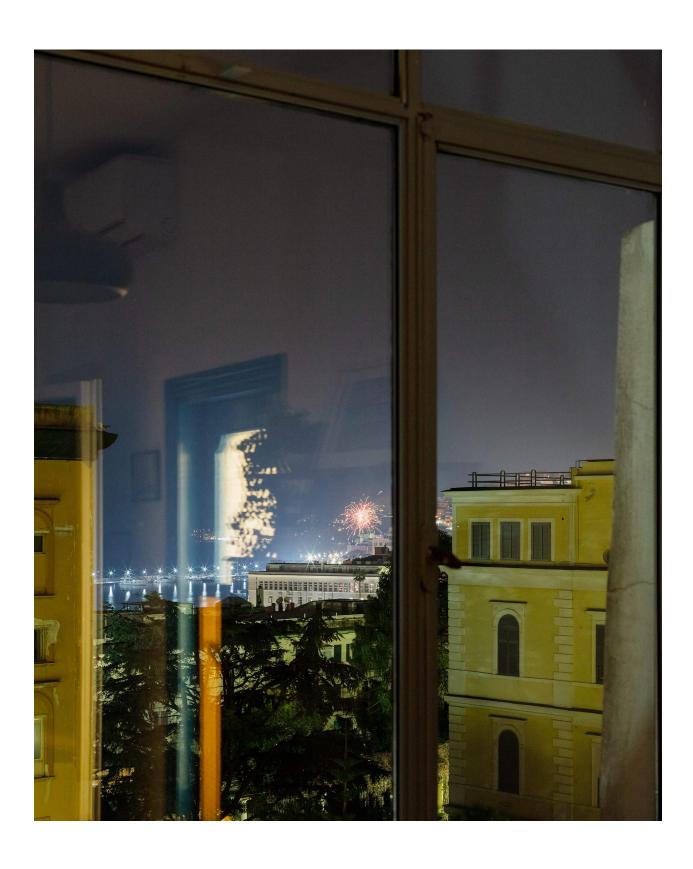
In the morning, we're slightly alarmed that we both got sick and feverish at the same instant. It's the middle of January, and the weather has been summerlike all week. A gentle morning breeze flies in from the Neapolitan bay while we wait for the bus to take us to the airport.

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

the-documents.o

A Fever Dream



type photograph date 24.02.2022 filename
DCDC_napels_089_vuurwerk.tif

size 75,46 MB author De Cleene De Cleene

category angst, animal, seismology, Vesuvius

In Boarhunt, close to Winchester (UK), the fort houses the Royal Armouries' artillery collection. It contains parts of the 'Project Babylon' space gun, the two part bronze Dardanelles Gun and a collection of French field guns, captured in Waterloo. On the lawn to the South of the fort two neat piles of fifteen¹ 36" shells flank a Mallet's Mortar. Manufactured in 1857, the mortar remains unfired up to this day.² In 1873, its inventor – the engineer and geophysicist Robert Mallet – publishes his translation of Luigi Palmieri's Incendio Vesuviano. Before giving a lengthy account of his take on the present state of vulcanicity, he briefly introduces the famous Italian vulcanologist's report: 'The following Memoir of Signor Palmieri on the eruption of Vesuvius in April of this year (1872), brief as it is, embraces two distinct subjects, viz., his narrative as an eye-witness of the actual events of the eruption as they occurred upon the cone and slopes of the mountain, and his observations as to pulses emanating from its interior, as indicated by his Seismograph, and as to the electric conditions of the overhanging cloud of smoke (so called) and ashes, as indicated by his bifilar electrometer, both

established at the Observatory.'

Notes

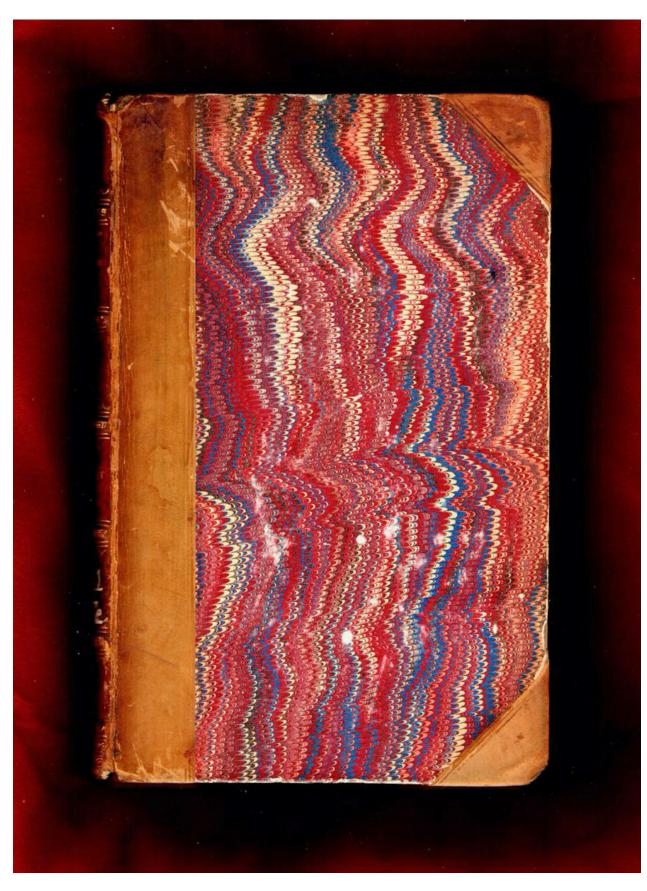
- 1. O OOO OOO OOOOOO
- In the outskirts of East of London, along Repository road in Woolwich, the only other mortar of this type is installed. This particular one fired nineteen shells on three occasions. Each time resulting in a damaged mortar.

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Sources

- Screenshot taken from AbeBooks, where the first edition of The Eruption
 of Vesuvius in 1872 with Notes, and an Introductory Sketch on the
 Present State of Knowledge of Terrestrial Vulcanicity, the Cosmical
 Nature and Relations of Volcanoes and Earthquakes is listed for 1895,00
 USD. https://www.abebooks.com/first-edition/Eruption-Vesuvius1872.with-Notes-Introductory-Sketch/439314424/bd
- Project Gutenberg's The Eruption of Vesuvius in 1872, by Luigi Palmieri (translated by Mallet) can be found at: https://www.gutenberg.org/files/33483/33483-h/33483-h.htm

An Unfired Mortar

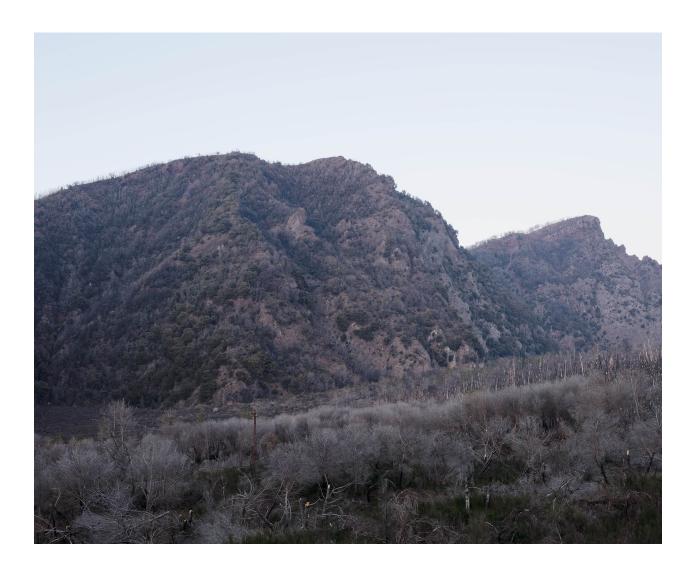


type screenshot date 09.05.2021 filename Schermafbeelding 2021-05-09 om 11.39.23.png

size 7,30MB author Michiel De Cleene The road down from the top of Mount Vesuvius, at Atrio Del Cavaillo. The sun sets. The last tourist bus has headed down. Then the headlights of the guardian's car swing their way down. It must be freezing. I am holding an orange-sized piece of petrified lava, probably stemming from the 1872 or 1944 eruption. A kilometer further down the road, the old Observatory is empty. Nowadays, monitoring seismic changes is done in a research centre in the city of Naples. Their seismographic registrations can be followed online, in real time. Two headlights swirling along the slopes, underneath me, are coming upwards.

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A Seismic Change



type audio date 15.01.2021 filename A seismic change.mp3 size 862KB author Arnout De Cleene

Recreational airfield at Grimbergen, webcam footage.

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09:10:00	The frame shows the first movement on
	the terrain. The gate has been opened,
	the barrier lowered. A black car is in the
	back. In the forefront, aviation signs on
	the ground: a yellow cross on a surface
	painted red; an arrow in a 90° angular
	shape; two circles connected by a line;
	a T-shaped line.
	-

09:20:00 Two men talking, each one on one side of the barrier. The man on the side of the airstrip has two dogs with him.

The aviation signs have changed: the arrow is gone; the horizontal bar of the T-symbol has moved to the other side of the vertical line; one yellow line that made up the cross on the red surface is gone, leaving one yellow diagonal line.

10:09:01 A small white aircraft (the two men and the dogs are gone).

10:20:01 The aircraft in the same position, with what seems to be an open roof.

10:40:00 Aircraft leaving the gas station where it was before.

11:10:01 A white car at the gas station, where previously the aircraft was stationed; a silhouette of a man, perhaps.

11:30:01 White car gone.

11:50:01 Small white aircraft at the gas station; man in red jacket next to the aircraft.

Not clear if it is the same aircraft seen in frame 10:09:01.

12:10:01 Aircraft appears to be heading for take-off.

12:20:01 Aircraft gone.

12:40:01 White dots on the grass that appear to be birds.

14:10:00 First precipitation: snow, visibility lessens.

14:20:00 More snow, wind is stronger; someone has replaced the yellow stripe so that, again, a yellow cross is formed on the red background.

15:10:00 The grass and the concrete get increasingly white. No aircrafts, vehicles or persons can be discerned. The aviation signs beneath the thin-layered snow are still visible, and unaltered.

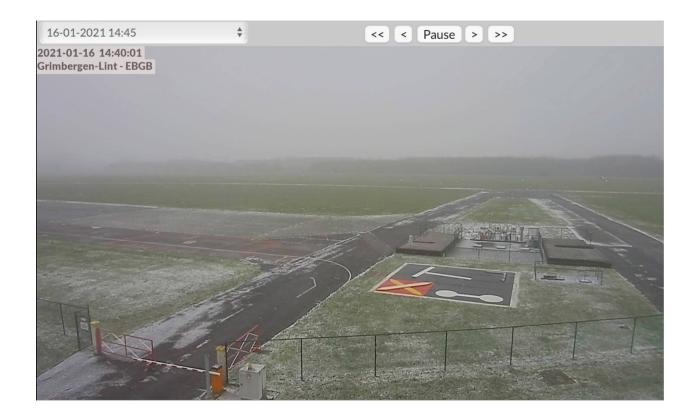
Notes

Every so often architects ask me to photograph projects of theirs under a blanket of snow. Snow-days are rare around here. In an attempt to avoid a futile drive along roads in winter conditions, I check webcams near the project-to-be-photographed before setting out.

Sources

- Webcam Grimbergen, meteobelgie.be: https://www.meteobelgie.be/waarnemingen/belgie/webcam/272/grimbergen
- http://www.rvg.be

The Events That Took Place in Grimbergen



date

type

video

Schermopname 2021-01-06 om 15.35.57.mov

size 4,4MB author De Cleene De Cleene

06.01.2021

Fairly detailed map of the two major marble quarries on the island of Tinos, Greece. The spontaneous route-advice was prepared by a local marble worker, P.D., in the Karia region of the island on a locally extracted, green marble slab. The waved lines represent roads traversing uphill, while the straight lines represent roads following a contour line of the topography.

'Tell your friend that the wine is for girls; it's very sweet,' the marble worker alerted my travel companion K.S. after offering us local sweet wine. The workshop smelled like boiled meat and bones.

Notes on map from left to right, top to bottom:

- 1. Towards Vathi
- 2. Quarry
- 3. incomprehensible
- 4. Towards Vathi Bleu
- 5. Isternia
- 6. Pirgos

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Marmara

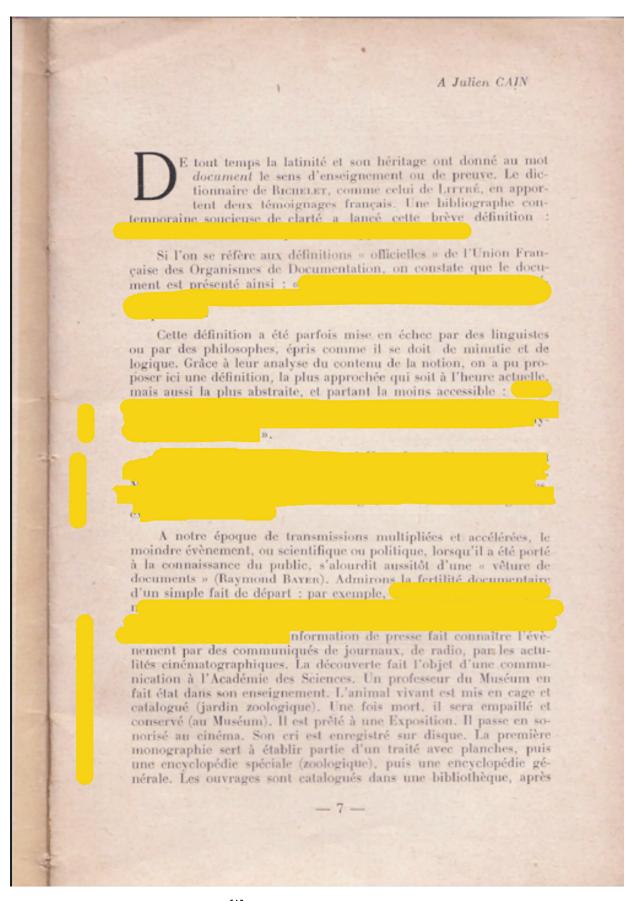
org



type photograph date 19.11.2021 filename marmar_.jpg size 3,47 MB author Márk Redele In the introduction to her book *Qu'est-ce que la documentation?*, French 'documentalist' Suzanne Briet asks what a document is. In a scrappy scan of her book I found online I am highlighting almost everything she writes. Is a star a document? Briet says it isn't. But the catalogues and photographs of stars are. When I quickly opened the file with Apple's 'Preview' application to check the above paraphrase, the highlighted sentences were illegible.

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Une étoile est-elle un document?



type screenshot date 17.05.2021 Schermafbeelding 2021-05-13 om 11.41.58.png

size 201KB author De Cleene De Cleene K. says that the stall where he usually buys fruit has already been packed up. But he is not worried about the quality of the fruit the other vendor sells. He gestures encouragingly.

Five signs of type-1, eleven of type-2 and two of type-3 are visible. Four of type-2 (two visible, two deduced) and two of type-3 retain two vehicles.

Notes 1. 3.

 Márk Redele pursues projects that fundamentally relate to architecture and its practice but rarely look like architecture. www.markredele.com

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Market



type photograph date 26.12.2021 filename
market_.jpg

size 3,82 MB author Márk Redele

At the Tunis Institut National du Patrimoine, the sand-covered floor has traced Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker's movements to Steve Reich's Violin Phase. The venue empties out. It is dark and the way back to the hotel through the medina is labyrinthian and eerie. It has been a couple days since we arrived, and I have managed to make a mental image of the inner city by memorizing some waymarks – intersections, buildings, shops – coupled to a direction. Sometimes, a newly entered street would give out to such a waymark – a peculiar sensation: a flash of spatial insight, like a crumpled ball of paper unfolding. The narrow streets turn and turn. Some passages are closed at night. I must improvise a route, but the basic mental structure to do so is missing. Shopkeepers have moved their goods inside.

I have no sense of orientation. I can't estimate distances nor can I tell north from south. Everything is scaleless. My highly simplified scheme of the city's layout gets us to our destination. The functional interpretation of Tunis differs completely from the actual Tunis. It is a different city we crossed, and made while crossing.

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Phase



type photograph date 25.05.2021 filename _MG_1019.JPG size 6,5MB author Arnout De Cleene When I grew up, my parents told me that the number of raisins in the local baker's raisin bread attested to the result of the most recent soccer match of KAA Gent. A victory was celebrated by throwing more raisins into the dough than usual, a loaf following a painful loss was hardly a raisin bread at all.

The baker retired long ago. Today my two-year-old son picked out all the raisins from his slice of bread. KAA Gent's last game was a tie against Union.

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type photograph date 30.12.2021 filename IMG_9810.HEIC size 1,2 MB author Michiel De Cleene Five white boulders close off a shortcut for motorists who attempt to cut the bend in the road. The southernmost roof's pitch runs opposite to the landscape's slope. The lower roofline is, therefore, only about one meter above a small, triangular patch of grass which is hidden from view by a hedge. In summer, when the roofing gets hot and soft, text and drawings get pressed or carved into it.

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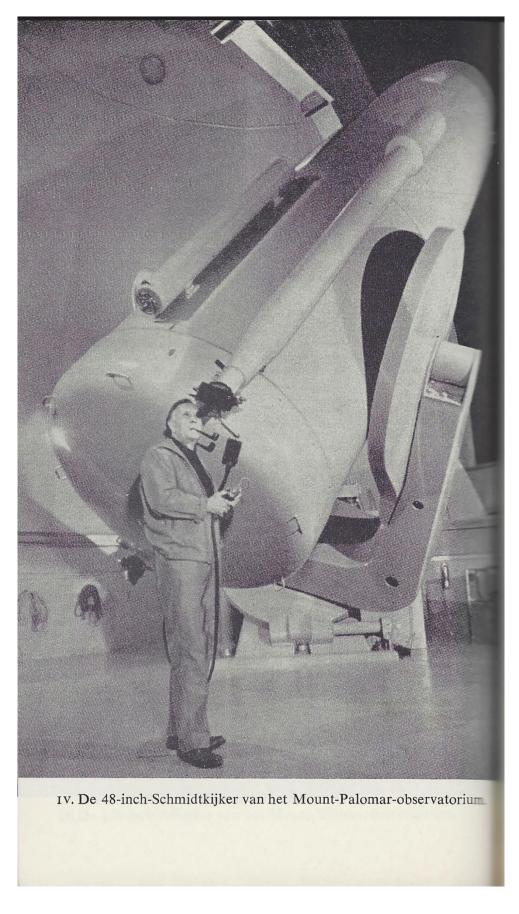
type screenshot date 14.04.2021 filename Schermafbeelding 2021-05-05 om 22.37.00.png

size 16,98MB author Michiel De Cleene The 48-inch Oschin Schmidt, a renowned reflecting telescope at Palomar Observatory, California, was used for the Palomar Observatory Sky Survey (POSS), published in 1958, one of the largest photographic surveys of the night sky.

Based on the man's pipe shadow's direction, thrown onto the telescope, there is reason to believe an off-camera flash was used to make the picture.

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org Pipe



type scan date 14.05.2021 filename Foto_2021-05-18_221027.jpg size 2,5MB author Arnout De Cleene A Sunday stroll near my parents' house. Along one of the roads between the fields, old poplars have been felled. Young trees have been planted. Each one has a baby blue coloured label, identifying them as Poplar tree, and, more specifically, the 'Vesten' cultivar. This cultivar is planted since it is one of the cultivars known for its resistance with regards to bacteria, diseases and insects. The tags on the trunks have staples keeping them together. They're like bracelets. Come spring, the expanding diameter of the fast growing poplar species' trunk will tear them apart.

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Sources

- Steenackers, M., Schamp, K., & De Clercq, W. (2018). De INBO variëteiten van populier, een aanwinst voor de Europese populierenteelt. Silva belgica: tijdschrift van de koninklijke belgische bosbouwmaatschappij = bulletin de la société royale forestière de belgique, N°4/2018, 40-47. [5].
- https://purews.inbo.be/ws/portalfiles/portal/15044340/Dossier_populier_I NBO_KBBM.pdf

Populus

org



filename

type scan date 25.01.2021 Handgeschreven_2021-01-25_091710.jpg

size 823KB author Arnout De Cleene

category botany, tree, packaging, house, epidemic, family