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

Your path through the collection lead along Tracking, CLOSED NO POWER. For prescriptions go to Walgreens 2690 Mission OPEN UNTIL 5 PM., The Loop of the Sparta K-10, Green or blue, Tineke's Sparta K-10, Le dos-cul ment, Debatably graded, Shoulder, Populus, Shelter, Original Copy, A Glass Bubble, Slightly Askew (2), Roofing (2), Roofing (6) – JEM, Thunder Afar, Gatun Locks, Mammoth Tree and the Golden Spurs, Mushroom Picking Prohibited, Bent Concrete, F 6, Potholes, Investment, A smoker's history of energy, At the copyshop, Flint, Iguanodon, N 47°12.346′ E 18°10.400′, Marmara, 12M m3 [2/8] Thaw, 12M m3 [4/8] Dam, 12M m3 [6/8] 56 years, What the left hand forgot, A Fever Dream, Neptune in opposition [13/20] – A foraging fox, Marmara

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 document	was compiled by	on 06.04.2023 13:52,
printed on	and contains 36 do	cuments on 78 pages.
(https://the-doc	uments.org/log/06-0	04-2023-5276/)

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.







I drove through the neighborhood seeking evidence of the disruption using a power outage map as a compass. Winding through quiet streets, I stumbled upon a lone blue PG&E truck idling opposite a charred utility pole with fragments of wood and wire strewn across the pavement. I parked my car and walked toward the truck to ask the driver what had happened. He pointed to the top of the pole where a porcelain insulator dangled precariously from a high-voltage line. "Tracking," he said curtly. "Is that like a short circuit?" I asked. "Kind of," he replied before pausing. He finally elaborated, explaining that the problem arises when moisture from morning fog settles on power lines, creating a pathway for electricity to arc across components.

He then input something into a handheld device before driving away, leaving the repair for another service team to complete. I gathered the debris intending to collect the remaining components that comprise a utility pole, each having failed in one form or another. I shipped the fragments to Maziar the following week.

#### Notes

Mathew Kneebone is an artist based in San Francisco. His interdisciplinary practices takes different forms, all in relation to an interest in electricity and technology. He teaches studio and thesis writing at California College of the Arts.

### the-documents.c

# Tracking



type photograph date 24.02.2023 filename
02\_tracking.jpg, 03\_tracking.jpg

size 3,51 MB, 324 KB author Mathew Kneebone

category

automobile, collecting, encounter, hand, impact, map/plan, precipitation, repair, technology

the-documents.

# Tracking

org



13:52:06

[13:42] Maziar: Power out at Rib now.

[13:45] Mathew: It's windy here today, sorry!

[13:45] Maziar: Saying from the comfort of his

electrified home, or...you also have no power?

[13:45] Mathew: No, I don't. But, typically, outages in the city are shorter than in regional areas. PG&E website estimates service within two hours...Maybe you could post a business sign on Rib's window?<sup>1</sup>

[13:52] Maziar: Yes. Though my phone is almost dead. No light. Can you send me a text for the sign?

I can't access the drive.

[13:52] Mathew: Yeah.

[13:52] Maziar: I feel reality hitting. Not so much the reality of blackouts in the U.S., but the reality of life and work...and that it is time to go home.

[13:55] Mathew: "CLOSED NO POWER For prescriptions go to Walgreens 2690 Mission OPEN UNTIL 5 PM."

[13:55] Maziar: Thanks.

[13:56] Mathew: Yeah, maybe it's time for you to leave for the night. I'm going to drive around to see

what's happening.

[13:59] Maziar: Okay, enjoy.

#### Notes

- 1 Local businesses experiencing a blackout typically post <u>handwritten</u> notices on their street-facing windows. These condensed notes detail acute symptoms felt at a community level, hinting at the improvisation required to maintain social harmony.
- Mathew Kneebone is an artist based in San Francisco. His
  interdisciplinary practices takes different forms, all in relation to an
  interest in electricity and technology. He teaches studio and thesis
  writing at California College of the Arts.

## the-documents.d

# CLOSED NO POWER. For prescriptions go to Walgreens 2690 Mission OPEN UNTIL 5 PM.



type photograph date 21.02.2023 filename closed-no-power.jpg

size 641 KB author Mathew Kneebone On 12 October 2022, I see a third orange Sparta K-10 listed on marktplaats.nl, after Tineke and Fred's. It is sold by one Fr from Zevenaar. Fr put the bike up for sale four days earlier. According to Fr, it is a 'luxury station bike' and 'camping bike'. He is asking 199 euros for it. Fr explains the bike as follows:

'Luxury sparta unisex bike with 3-speed shimanonexus.

Striking specimen.

Looks like new.

Please note.....fixed price!

Ideal for station, camping or for some nice touring.

Equipped with:

Front and rear battery lighting

Handy front and rear luggage rack

All-terrain tyres

3-speed gearbox

Comfortable drifter saddle

Integrated cable lock

Large dingdong bell

A real eye-catcher'1

According to Fr, the price is fixed, but on the website you can make an offer, albeit only from 199 euros. Fr's Sparta K-10 has three gears. The Sparta K-10s of Tineke, John and Fred that are still for sale do not have gears, the Sparta K-10s in Rue Verte in Brussels and on cyclonewebshop.be do not have them, and in the 2011 Sparta leaflet we did not see that option either. In short, we come across a Sparta K-10 with gears for the first time. There is a small typing error in Fr's explanation in Dutch – the t in geïntegreerd is missing – but those who like to browse on marktplaats.nl read smoothly over that. One of the photos of Fr's ad shows the loop attached to the back of the bike. You can clearly see how that loop forms the end of an integrated cable lock.

#### Notes

1 'Luxe sparta unisex fiets met 3 versnellingen shimano-nexus.

Opvallend design exemplaar.

Ziet er uit als nieuw.

Let op.....vaste prijs!

Ideaal voor station, camping of zo om lekker mee te toeren.

Voorzien van:

Batterijverlichting voor én achter

Handig bagagerek voor én achter

All terreinbanden

3 versnellingen

Verende zadelpen

Comfortabel drifter zadel

Geïnegreerd kabelslot

Grote dingdong bel Een echte eye-catcher'

Lars Kwakkenbos lives and works in Brussels and Ghent (B). He teaches
at KASK & Conservatorium in Ghent, where he is currently working on
the research project 'On Instructing Photography' (2023-2024), together
with Michiel and Arnout De Cleene

### the-documents.

# The Loop of the Sparta K-10



filename Screenshot 2022-10-12 at 22-19-22 Sparta K-10 luxe stationsfiets campingfiets 3V — Fietsen Dames Damesfietsen — Marktplaats.png

size author 1,68 MB Lars Kwakkenbos

type screenshot date 23.01.2023

category bicycle, economy, technology

According to @missbluesette, the green K-10 put up for sale by Fred from Zwolle that I came across on marktplaats.nl on 29 September 2022 is not green, but blue. The colour resembles turquoise, I explain, a colour I have always called green. No, turquoise is not green, but blue, she replies. And the texts of my Instagram posts are too long, she says, so she doesn't read them.

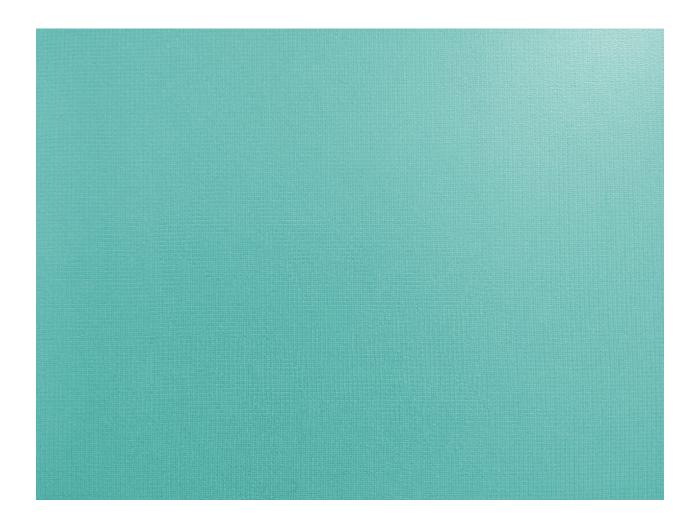
# the-documents.

#### Notes

 Lars Kwakkenbos lives and works in Brussels and Ghent (B). He teaches at KASK & Conservatorium in Ghent, where he is currently working on the research project 'On Instructing Photography' (2023-2024), together with Michiel and Arnout De Cleene.

# Green or blue

org



type image date 19.01.2023 filename teal-turquoise-plastic-withsquare-pattern-texture.jpg

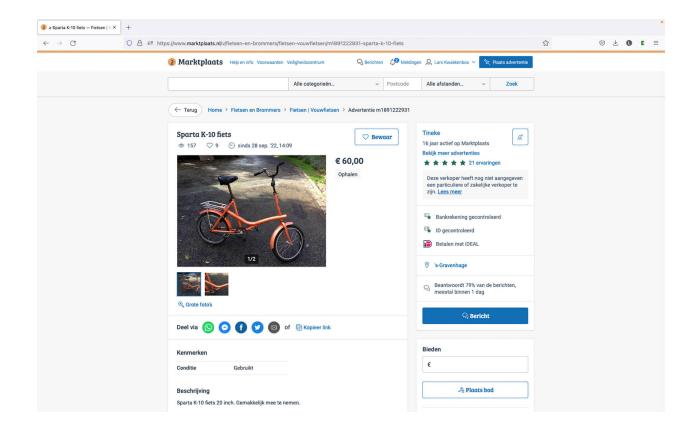
size 308 KB author Lars Kwakkenbos On 29 September 2022, I search the internet for the factory details of an original Sparta K-10. First I come across some second-hand K-10s. On marktplaats.nl, a Sparta K-10 is for sale for 60 euros, but anyone interested may also make an offer. The seller's name is Tineke. She lives in The Hague and writes that the bike is 'easy to take along'. The K-10 she is selling has no chain guard, but it does have a chrome luggage rack. This makes the bike more practical, but in my opinion also less attractive. Her bike also has a bell, but no elegant loop at the end of the long, curved tube around which the frame is built - most other K-10s do have such a loop – or has it disappeared behind the top tube of the luggage carrier? If Tineke is also the owner of the bike, she is much taller than the owner of the Brussels bike, as her saddle is a lot higher, and it is also more or less straight. Moreover, the handlebars are very high thanks to a different stem, which makes the model of the bike a bit unbalanced. I don't know if I would have photographed the bike for sale in The Hague.

### the-documents.c

#### Notes

 Lars Kwakkenbos lives and works in Brussels and Ghent (B). He teaches at KASK & Conservatorium in Ghent, where he is currently working on the research project 'On Instructing Photography' (2023-2024), together with Michiel and Arnout De Cleene.

# Tineke's Sparta K-10



filename Screenshot 2022-09-29 at 11-38-18 Sparta K-10 fiets — Fietsen Vouwfietsen — Marktplaats.png

size

471 KB

type screenshot date 14.01.2023 author Lars Kwakkenbos This is a trace, and it is not.

Ceci est une trace et ne l'est pas.

What is a trace?

Qu'est-ce qu'une trace?

Le document n'en est pas, le document documente.

Documents what?

Peu importe, le mot 'document' est dérivé du latin *docere*, c'est à dire...

to show, to teach, to instruct. The document is docile, unlike the trace.

La trace ne montre pas, n'enseigne pas, n'instruit en rien, à moins d'interpréter.

The trace as indexical: it does not 'show' though one can see it. It does not teach, sauf que tout nous pré-existe, ou plutôt, nous insiste, n'est-ce pas?

It doesn't: it's never there as such until we name it so.

Documenti!
Papiere!
Poètes, vos papiers!
(Léo Ferre 1956)

Le dos-cul ment. Le d'au-cul ment. Le dé au cul ment. Mais co-ment?

Butt how?
The do-cum-meant.
The doc-cue-mint.
The dock-comment.

This is a cardboard mousepad. Are you happy now? Are you happy? Are you? Now?

**document**: a paper or set of papers with written or printed information, especially of an official type. (https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/engli

'He's more of an official type.'

A document is a written, drawn, presented, or memorialized representation of thought, often the manifestation of non-fictional, as well as fictional, content

#### Notes

 Sébastien Conard (1982) is a graphic artist, writer and teacher. He draws, writes and publishes comics, post-comics and artist's books. From 2023 until 2026, he will explore the graphic trace in the context of a postdoctoral research project at LUCA School of Arts.

### the-documents.c

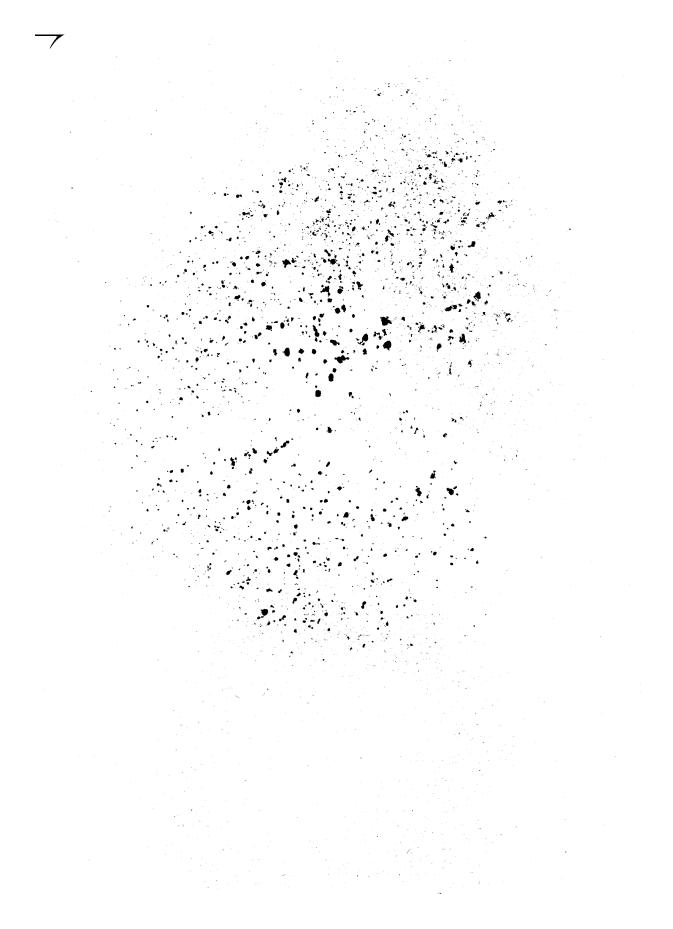
0111111111

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Document)

'She was quite content.'

Tha back-ass lies!

# Le dos-cul ment



type scan date 06.01.2023 filename Conard-Mousepad2022.png size 115KB author Sébastien Conard The two photographs arrived in Belgium inside a used hardback<sup>1</sup> in spring 2016, though it is unclear how long before that time they were actually taken.<sup>2</sup>

# Photograph #1 measures $151 \times 100 \text{ mm}$ and shows

- The book is a first edition, first printing hardback copy of Word Virus: the William S. Burroughs reader, edited by James Grauerholz and Ira Silverberg, with an introduction by Ann Douglas, published by Grove Press (New York) in 1998 (160mm x 235mm, 532pp.). On the used book aggregator webstore, the book was graded 'Very Good' (or, VG),\* which proved a realistic assessment as it appeared (in fact, still does) largely unread with a dust jacket in equally good condition and no markings inside whatsoever. In fact, the book's condition might well have warranted a 'Fine' (F) grading were it not for the only notable (yet not noted) defect, which was that the 'Spoken Word CD' that was originally included — as indicated by a 32mm diameter round sticker in the top right corner of the front of the dust jacket, and the glued-in envelope in the back of the book — was no longer present. This defect may well have accounted for the apparent disparity between the state and grading of the book and the low price of \$4.53 (shipping not included) it was sold at, although the fact remains that this incomplete state ought to have been mentioned in the listing. Since the time of purchase, however, markings were added to the book, presumably with an additional adverse effect on its market value: appearing on the half-title page, they are in dark green crayon and of an abstract nature and were made by the current owner's infant son.
  - \* According to the terminology of the grading scale proposed in 1949 by AB Bookman's Weekly and still widely, if not universally, in use in the online used book market today, albeit with some additions or modifications by individual platforms. See Wikipedia for a brief overview.
- 2 Elements of style and physical nature of the artifacts may be taken to indicate an origin roughly contemporaneous with the book.
- 3 '[In the United States of America, the] twelfth grade is the twelfth school year after kindergarten. It is also the last year of compulsory secondary education, or high school. Students are often 17–19 years old. Twelfth graders are referred to as Seniors.' (Wikipedia)
- 4 A 7-digit phone number, without country or area code, redacted here.
- 5 Located in the state of Nevada, no further identification of the particular shop was provided on the aggregator webstore, and it must be noted that the book was subsequently shipped from 'Auburn', presumably Auburn, CA
- 6 Indeed in accordance with its 'Very Good' grading, which is generally understood to explicitly list any defects such as markings (including dedications) but also any missing materials.
- 7 Quality hardbacks being notably easier to read without damaging the book.
- Speculations on this, and any potential subsequent extrapolations are, fortunately perhaps, further inhibited by the fact that the book presents a rather generous cross-section of writings spanning the entirety of William S. Burroughs' famously prolific career. The inclusions span the period between 1929 and 1994. Although undertakings of this kind will inevitably meet with criticism, the consensus indeed seems to be that the editors have done an excellent job in selecting and presenting the material. Was 'Clay' mainly drawn by the hard-boiled straightforward prose style of the early novels; the highly experimental and provocative writings of the 'middle period' (traditionally labeled as rather 'hermetic' and 'cold', though they are quite often not without a haunting, perhaps even 'poetic' quality); or the later, one might say 'integrated' style which saw the earlier experiments wedded to a certain 'return to narrative' and, in old age, traces of a much more 'humane' author than ever before (if a point of critique may yet be formulated, one might indeed say that the writings from this later period (roughly 1978-1997) are somewhat favoured (quantitatively) in the Word Virus volume; as these have a (still: relatively) greater 'readability' than much of the older material that may indicate a decision of a commercial nature, yet there is also the fact that these texts were written in collaboration with one of the editors of Word Virus)?
- 9 Being in fact a promo sampler for the 4CD Giorno Poetry Systems compilation of William S. Burroughs material also released (by Mouth Almighty Records and Mercury Records) in 1998. See <u>Discogs</u>.
- 10 Nevada has three area codes (702, 725, and 775), yet quick Google searches of the 7-digit number combined with any one of those yield no easy identification. Considering the overall scarcity of information, however, it seems clear that anyone seeking to reconstruct the biographies of 'Clay' and/or the note-writer should take up this line of investigation.
- David Depestel hesitates in trying to make something of himself; a
  character, a profession, a fixed mode of being, are for him concepts that
  already shadow forth the outlines of the skeleton, which is all that will be
  left of him in the end.

#### the-documents.

two young people who appear to be mountain climbing and captured while clearing a ridge. Behind the two subjects a bluish mountainous landscape is vaguely visible, suggesting a vantage point of some considerable elevation. The person on the left is wearing a white T-shirt and a bracelet, and has several earrings. The person on the right is carrying a backpack. What appears to be a black tank-top may in fact also be the straps of the pack. On their head they wear what appears to be a grey Tshirt or other garment, presumably to protect the subject from the sun; this person also has earrings and is wearing a necklace and sunglasses. The weather appears nice, both subjects are smiling and appear relaxed. The effort may well have been staged.

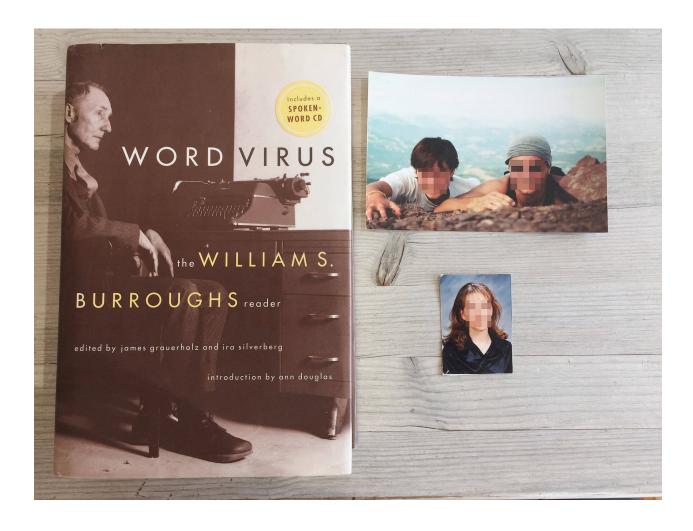
Photograph #2 measures (approximately) 43 x 62 mm with the left, bottom and right sides appearing to be cut, rather unevenly, with scissors. It has the typical appearance of an American high school yearbook photo and shows a young person wearing a shiny black blouse and a necklace. They have blue eyes and below-shoulder length auburn hair. The red lips appear painted. On the back of this photograph is written in a clearly legible hand:

Clay, I can't
wait until next
year when we're
in grade 12!<sup>3</sup>
Have a great
Summer and
call me [XXX XXXX]<sup>4</sup>
by the way, I haven't
forgot about how big UR

The only assumptions to be made somewhat safely from these two items are that (a) the book has once belonged to 'Clay', and, (b) a relationship of a close, friendly, perhaps even intimate, nature has at one time existed between 'Clay' and the person in the second photograph (assuming also that (c) the note on the back of the second photograph was indeed written by the person in that photograph). The circumstances surrounding, and/or motivations ('Clay''s or any third parties') behind the book's ending up in a used-book shop<sup>5</sup> must necessarily remain a matter of speculation. There are no reasons towns with the book was gifted to 'Clay' by the

- notips://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of used back conditions in the condition of the condition of wiki/List of used back conditions in the condition of the condition
- appears with the less than ustal so termain in the molysive wile in the less than two or three configurations.

# Debatably graded



type photograph date 18.10.2022 filename IMG\_0059.JPG, IMG\_058.JPG

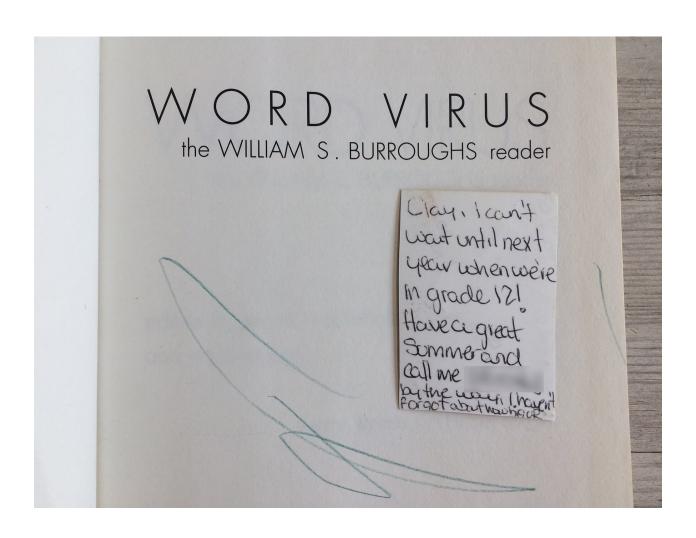
size 2,11 MB, 1,55 MB

author David Depestel persons appearing across the two photographs, and whether any of these is in fact 'Clay'.

Indeed, the number of questions raised by these items far exceeds the number of answers they provide. Even leaving aside the nature of the writings in the book, one cannot help but speculate as to:

- how much, if any, of the book 'Clay' ever read;<sup>7,8</sup>
- what happened to the CD originally included with the book;<sup>9</sup>
- why the unrelated inserted materials were not removed from the book before sale (as opposed to the CD);
- whether 'Clay' did in fact ring up the writer of the note over that summer;<sup>10</sup> indeed whether the two ever did meet again, remain close during their 'senior' year, perhaps even stay in contact after graduating;
- the meaning of the rather cryptic final line of the note.

### the-documents.c



Yesterday I had my shoulder checked by a radiologist. He took an ultrasound and saw some minor inflammation of my right subscapularis.

After giving me some advice – 'we could give you a shot of cortisone in the shoulder. It would relieve you from your pain for six weeks and then, without proper exercise, you'd be back where you are now'- he walked towards the door. 'I propose you do this exercise thirty times, three times a day.' The radiologists put his right hand on the doorframe, his arm stretched, the weight of his body on it and then leaned forward and back again, while keeping his arm stretched. 'This will increase the muscles around the sore subscapularis. It will take months.' After giving me his advice, he sent me back into the dressing room. I put my shirt back on and went into the waiting room. The nurse called out my name, charged me 14,00 EUR and gave me a card. 'This code will allow you to look at the images of the ultrasound at home', she said.

Today I entered the code and password and – instead of my shoulder – found the röntgen-images of someone else's broken heel.

### the-documents.c

# Shoulder



type radiograph date 14.01.2021 filename 1f713c4c-6975-4760-ada1-9cc485930adc.PNG

size 1,2MB author Michiel 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.

### the-documents.c

#### 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

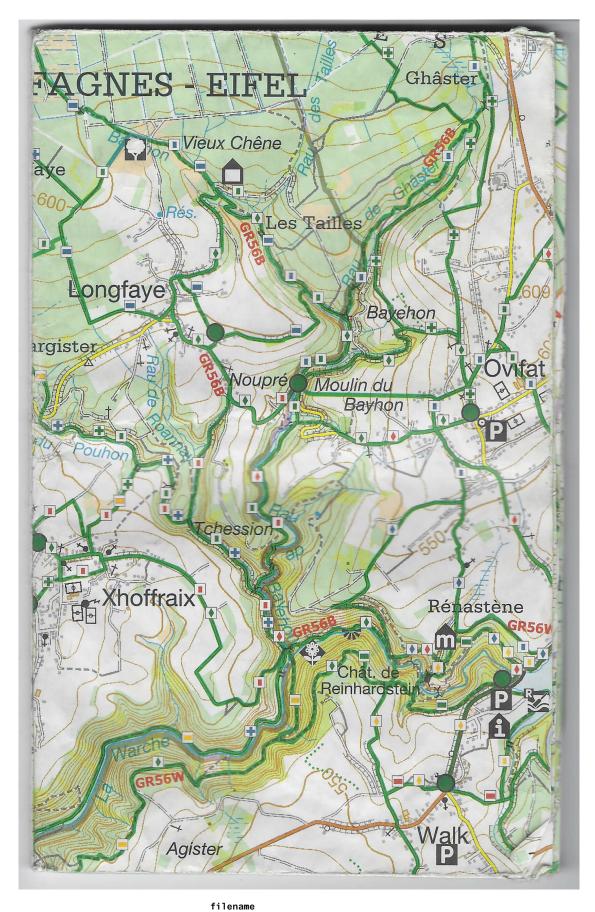
size 823KB author Arnout De Cleene

category botany, tree, packaging, house, epidemic, family The paths in the valley of the Bayehon are covered with ice. We are making our way down towards the valley of the Ghâster. The temperature is minus 15 degrees Celsius. The water in our drinking bottles is frozen. We are betting on the shelter indicated on the map (*Au Pied des Fagnes, Carte De Promenades*, 1:25.000, Institut Geographique National) to pitch our tent. There is almost no wind, but every breath of air feels like we're being hit with a thousand needles. What the map indicates as a shelter appears to be a picnic table.

## the-documents.d

# Shelter

org



type date Handgeschreven\_2021-02- size author scan 14.02.2021 14\_142153.jpg 2,1MB Arnout De Cleene

category  $$\operatorname{\mathsf{map}}/\operatorname{\mathsf{plan}}$, mistake, scale, sign, wind, precipitation$ 

On Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 2:23:14 PM Koh Elaine starts the thread *original or original copy* on the The Free Dictionary by Farlex's forum.

'Is "original copy" correct or should it be "original"? Thanks.'

The seventh reply to Elaine's question is Wilmar's on Thursday (his was preceded by towan52, georgew, NKM, Koh Elaine, Sarrriesfan, ChrisKC, Ashwin Joshi).

'An original copy IS the original.

Folks usually call the document first created the original, but some will say original copy. If I run that original thru the copy machine, I end up with two copies (yes, I said copies) of the same thing – the original and the duplicate of it (in terms of content). This is how the term is commonly used.

If your writing or conversation depends heavily on understand the difference, I would recommend using the terms original and duplicates. There are many times when that is very important, in that the original must be retained by a particular party, and the duplicates are marked as such and distributed or stored as required depending on the document and the circumstance.

If you are just trying to make sure that you have enough copies to distribute to everyone at the company meeting this afternoon, use whatever terms trips your trigger. But, if you want to ensure that you keep custody of the original, so that you can make additional duplicates (copies) when additional people attend, then be more specific about the words you use.

OH, and, please, in the future, include some context with your question. Asking if "word" is correct doesn't go very far in supplying a reasonably useful response.'

### the-documents.c

# Original Copy

### Wilmar (USA) 1M

Rank: Advanced Member

Joined: 6/4/2015

Posts: 5,721

Neurons: 1,278,032

Location: Vinton, Iowa, United States

date 16.02.2021 screenshot

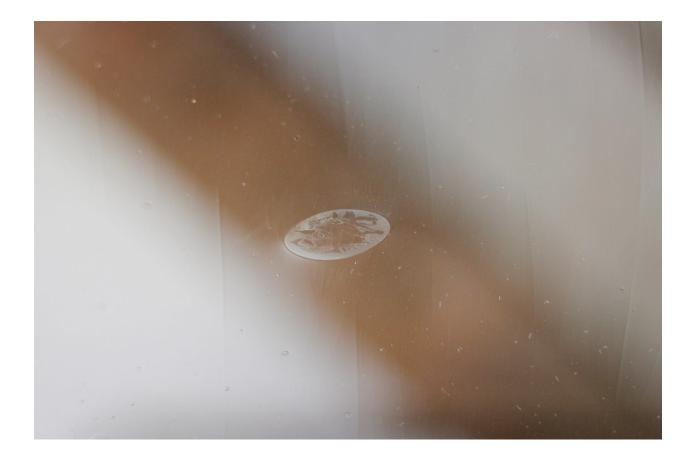
Schermafbeelding 2021-02-16 om 11.08.01.png

size 45KB

author Michiel De Cleene The door leading to the kitchen has a section in stained glass. The other day, I took a closer look at one of the spots on it, which I had half-consciously registered every time I passed it. On two square meters, there are three of them. All are oval in shape. Two of them seem to be flat bubbles of air, haphazardly produced during the manufacturing of the glass, I imagine. The third one, however, is peculiar. It drew my attention because it appeared to represent something. Upon closer investigation, it seemed to allude to different things. A model ship, like the ones in glass bottles. A dragon, like the one used on the Welsh national flag. A tailed, devilish figure riding a cloud-like motorcycle. What skills the glass worker must have had, to produce an image in a glass covered air capsule like this. I closed the door softly, as the microwave's signal sounded.

### the-documents.c

# A Glass Bubble



type photograph date 02.03.2021 filename \_MG\_6545.JPG size 5,5MB author Arnout De Cleene It must have been four or five years ago, that I noticed the change in Tabasco's® up until then stable, unchanged and thus kind of unfashionable presence in supermarkets (vinegar section). On one of the box's sides, there had always been a photograph of a man, clipboard in hand, looking upwards to a huge wooden barrel full of Tabasco®. He was inspecting something, from the outside, writing it down.

A couple of years ago, the man disappeared from the packaging. I think he was replaced by a pizza (as one of the suggestions for using Tabasco® on, besides on hashed meat (with an egg yolk, fries and lettuce) and spaghetti bolognese) or a black-and-white image of a part of an oak barrel. It is unclear who is inspecting the barrels now.

### the-documents.c

# Slightly Askew (2)



type scan date 29.03.2021 filename Document\_2021-03-29\_111649.jpg size 180KB author Arnout 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.

# the-documents.d



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

size 16,98MB author Michiel De Cleene 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.

## the-documents.



type photograph date 14.04.2021 filename IMG\_6510.jpeg size 6,61MB

It's 21:49 on Tuesday May 4th 2021. I'm sifting through the folders of a back-up drive. When I reach Archief2A/2017/wigny donder, the subfolder contains 103 items (97 DNG-files, 1 JPEG-file and 5 PSD-files). The photographs are all very similar. They show the silhouette of the same tree and hills, the red light of the telecommunications mast on the left and the orange glow of the street's sodium lights. The thunderstorm moves from right to left. \_44A3920 is the only exposure (10 seconds) that recorded lightning bolts.

I looked up heat lightning, also known as silent lightning, summer lightning, or dry lightning, which is simply cloud-to-ground lightning that occurs very far away, with thunder that dissipates before it reaches the observer. On YouTube I watched: Top 10 Dangerous Lightning Strikes Thunder recorded on Camera (HIGH VOLTAGE!!) followed by Lightning Strikes at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open. It's 22:07, I am doubtful at first but become convinced I can hear thunder afar.

### the-documents.c

## Thunder Afar



type photograph date 04.05.2021 filename \_44A3920.psd size 449,09MB

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.

### the-documents.c

## 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

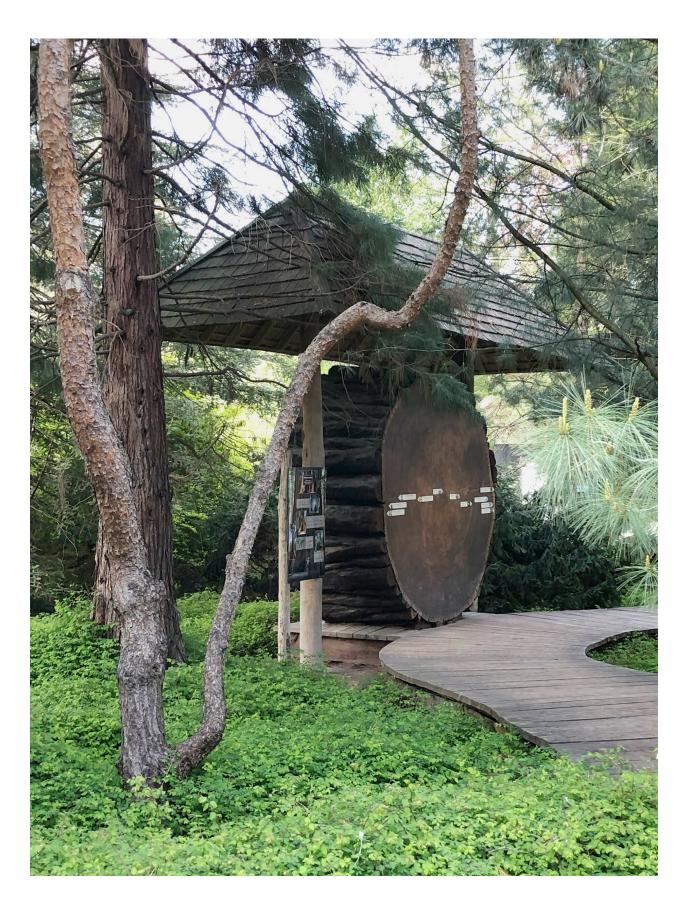
Between the rhinos and the kangaroos in the Antwerp Zoo a wooden footpath curves through a grove of Sequoiadendron Giganteum trees. In the middle of this Californian forest, visitors find the giant slice of a felled tree of the same species. It was brought to the zoo in 1962 and was approximately 650 years old at the time. Eleven labels point out significant moments in history on the tree's growth rings. They range from zoo- and zoologyrelated moments (for instance: '1901: The Okapi is described as a species', or '1843: Foundation of the RZSA and opening of the Zoo', or '1859: Darwin publishes The Origin of Species', etc.), to cultural and historical milestones ('1555: Plantijn starts publishing books in Antwerp', or '1640: Rubens (baroque painter) dies', or '1492: Columbus in America'). Another label points to the last growth ring and reads: '1962: this tree is felled and this tree disc is installed at the Zoo.'

The label pointing to the centre of the tree implies a simultaneity between the tree's first growth year and the Battle of the Golden Spurs in 1302.

### the-documents.c

#### Notes

# Mammoth Tree and the Golden Spurs



type photograph

date 15.05.2021 filename IMG\_6958.HEIC size 1,9MB

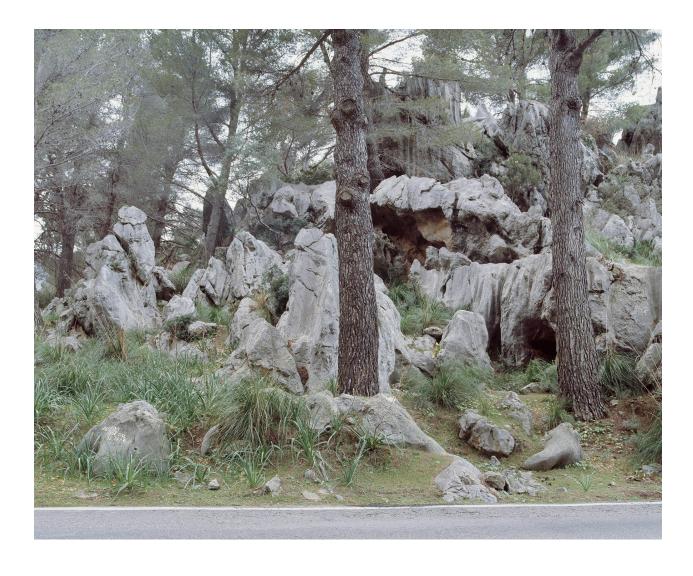
I must have driven past this rocky landscape about sixteen times, going back and forth between viewpoints and the house the parents of a friend let me stay in. On the last day, I left early for the airport, pulled into a lay-by, took my tripod and camera out of the trunk of the red Volkswagen Polo rental car and made two photographs. 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'.

### the-documents.d

Notes



# Mushroom Picking Prohibited



type photograph date 19.05.2021 Untitled99993-dustfree-nosharpencrop2.psd

size 365,37MB

A block of concrete. Fissures are showing and rebar is sticking out from all sides. If it were still straight, the block would measure approximately  $130 \times 15 \times 40 \text{cm}$ .

It is lying by the side of the road, a few hundred meters from a construction site. It appears to be shaped by impact. Maybe the block plummeted to the ground from a great height. Perhaps, something heavy hit it. For all one knows, it served as a column and was exposed to an unforeseen amount of pressure, causing it to buckle.

According to Eyal Weizman '[a]rchitecture emerges as a documentary form, not because photographs of it circulate in the public domain but rather because it performs variations on the following three things: it *registers* the effect of force fields, it contains or *stores* these forces in material deformations, and, with the help of other mediating technologies and the forum, it *transmits* this information further.'

### the-documents.c

#### Sources

## **Bent Concrete**



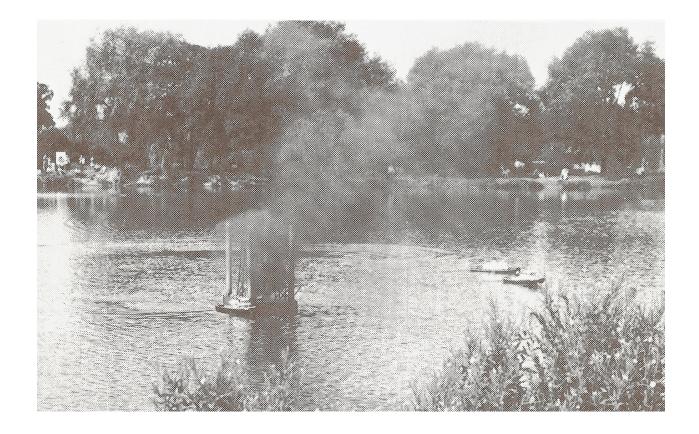
type photograph date 02.06.2021 filename \_44A7339.dng size 42,54MB

In his *Handboek Varende Scheepsmodellen* (Handbook Sailing Ship Models) André Veenstra explains the different classes in ship model-competitions. There's a wide variety. For static ship models the most important one is 'truth-to-nature'. A jury compares the model to photographs of the actual ship and brings into account categories such as amount of work, degree of difficulty, scale ratio, construction execution and painting.

The most interesting class – according to Veenstra – is F 6. In this particular class, a number of participants with different boats will form a team. Together, they will perform a certain 'act' with a maximum duration of ten minutes. During the act, they mimic a slice of reality. Such as, for example, 'rescuing' and towing a ship in distress; extinguishing a fire on a tanker or oil rig, lichen and/or tow the sunken wreckage to the harbor, stage a naval battle, etc.

Page 262 shows a photograph of such a mimicked slice of reality. The caption explains: 'Image 14.15. The Dutch demonstration in the F 6 class during the European Championship of 1975: the oil rig is set on fire by a motorboat with terrorists. The fire is extinguished and the oil rig is quickly towed to a safe harbor by tugs. The show was performed by six people and took a very creditable fourth place.'

### the-documents.c



type scan date 22.06.2021 filename veenstra-b.jpg size 20,17 MB

Holding two cans of spray paint, a city employee walks through a sweet chestnut grove on the graveyard. He's looking for potholes.

the-documents.

## Potholes



type photograph date 15.07.2021 filename IMG\_7751.HEIC size 4,7 MB

The oldest coin in the collection has darkened over time, but upon inspection, the text 'AD USUM BELGII AUSTR' (left) and the contours of a (female) head (right) can be discerned. A quick search learns it stems from the middle of the 18th century. The coin was made and used in the Austrian Netherlands, reigned by Maria Theresa, who is the one depicted. My mother recollects finding it in the backyard when she was a kid.

About 40 years later, the euro was introduced. The ringbinder with my mother's coin collection was taken from the shelf. A dilemma came to the fore: we wondered if we should keep one of each existing Belgian coin and banknote and put them in the binder, alongside Maria Theresa, or if we should exchange them for the new European currency. The decision to keep a coin of five Belgian francs was not difficult to make, but as the amount raised, the answer was increasingly hard to give. This was an assessment of the old currency's emotional and projected historical value, compared to its current financial worth. It was a decision based on investment principles.

To accentuate the value of the Maria Theresa kronenthaler of 1 liard, I put the coin on a pile of red post-it-notes when photographing it. Coins like these are sold on eBay for prices ranging from 0,70 euros to 16 euros.

### the-documents.o

## Investment

org



type photograph date 29.07.2021 filename \_MG\_6826.JPG; \_MG\_6825.JPG size 6,7MB; 7,7MB author Arnout De Cleene

the-documents.



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. 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

#### 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.
- 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.

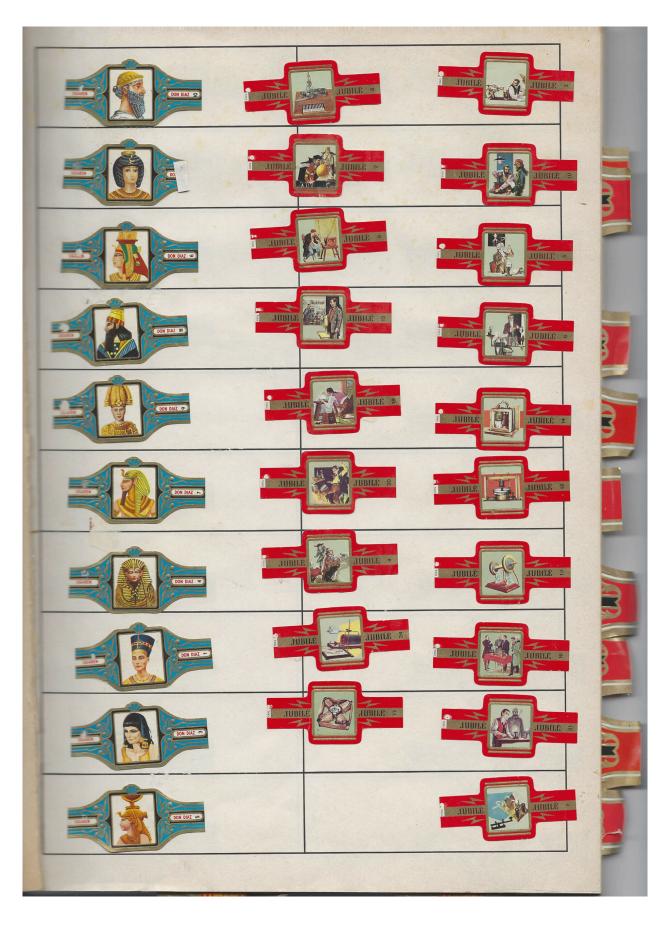
### the-documents.c

- 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.<sup>2</sup>

# A smoker's history of energy

org



type scan date 18.08.2021 filename Document\_2021-07-23\_160752.jpg size 10MB author Arnout De Cleene At the copyshop, on a shelf above photocopier 8, the lid of a box of paper serves as the container for 'forgotten originals'.

the-documents.

# At the copyshop

org



type photograph date 28.09.2021 filename IMG\_0105.JPG

size 1,8MB author Arnout De Cleene A cigar box, standing at the back of a shelf next to the heating installation, with in it silex-like stones with what seem to be traces of prehistoric usage.

In the garage, there were papers (the archive of O. Clemminck) and objects (stones, tiles) left to us by a man who had worked at the city archive. He was an acclaimed expert on our village's history.<sup>1</sup>

### the-documents.d

#### Notes

1 A recent study by professor Philippe Crombé at Ghent University states that during the last Ice Age, in the region where I grew up, there was once a great lake, with, at the shores, proven presence of prehistoric man. As a kid, we dug up shells with a toothbrush, and set a perimeter with plastic tape. The former presence of a tavern where my parents now live, and the restaurant which still serves seafood at the other side of the road, prevented accurate dating.

## Flint

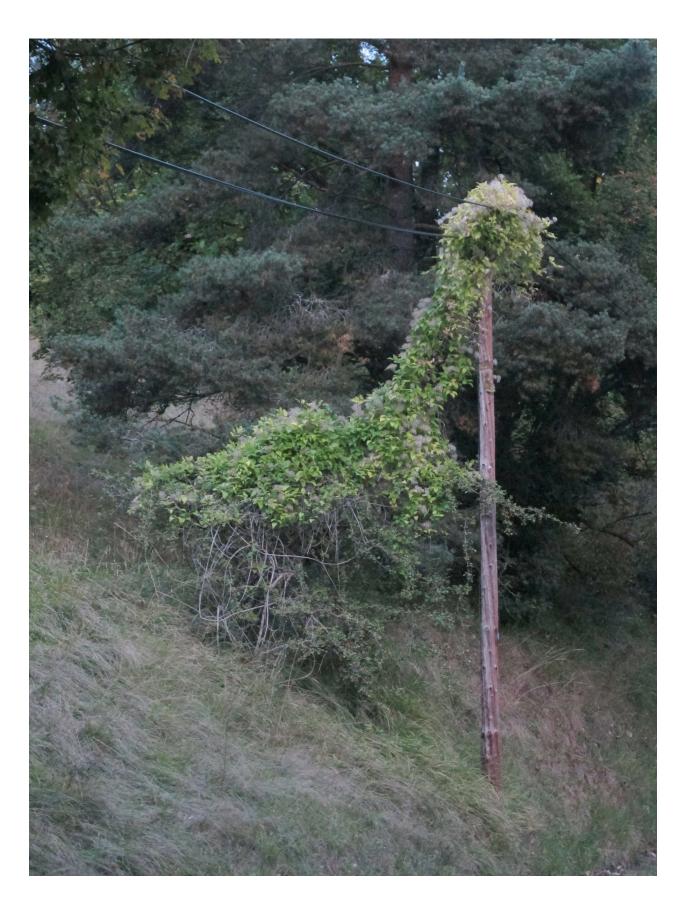


type photograph date 11.10.2021 filename \_MG\_7417.JPG size 6,5MB author Arnout De Cleene I recognized it in a flash, the late Jurassic-early Cretaceous herbivore looming dangerously over the road I was cycling on. I thought of *Some Windy Trees*.<sup>1</sup>

A utility pole (425638, 07/99, 07/2002, COBRA), electrical wires, a hawthorn (Crataegus) and an old man's beard (Clematis vitalba). A symbiosis.

## the-documents.d

# Iguanodon



type photograph date 17.10.2021 filename IMG\_2711.jpg size 4,66 MB

During the 1950s, as part of the communist reconstruction, a large coal/gas power plant was built close to the village of Inota, Hungary. This is the place where I grew up. It operated until about 1994. In the run-up to the final shutdown of the operation they gradually lowered its output. By this time the coal mines in the neighboring city had shut down as well due to the diminishing yield of the low-quality brown coal they had mined for the purpose of fueling the power plant. This resulted in mass unemployment and general decline in the area. The small lake in the photo is an artificial reservoir that collected all the water from the nearby streams. The substantial flow of one of those rivers powered about 11 water-driven flour mills; I know this on account of my grandmother, who would often pick up bags of flour for bread.

The ruin in the photograph once was a pumping facility that drove the water from the lake to the power plant about 3 kilometres away. In the years following the systemic change of Hungary and its celebrated evolution towards a western-type capitalism in '89-'90, the rules of ownership and the perception of public and private property were somewhat elusive. The lack of state control resulted in a transfer of public property to private hands on a monumental scale throughout the whole country, and - by extension - the Eastern Bloc. At the time some of the village dwellers of Inota, driven by the force of a major change and the prospect of a new, prosperous future of capitalist entrepreneurship, gathered to disassemble the water-pumping facility along the artificial lake. Slowly, day by day, under the mist of this elusive moment, they carried away carriageful after carriageful of bricks, disassembled

#### Notes

- The cliffs at the sides of the valley on the photo served as the location for the film My Way Home (Így Jöttem, 1965) by the iconic Hungarian filmmaker Miklós Jancsó, about a 17-year-old boy who falls prisoner to the Russian army and forms a friendship with one of the foes. The film is said to display all the main themes of the director: the psychological presence of landscape, the randomness of violence and the arbitrary nature of power.
- In the distance a formation of meadows can be seen in the photograph.
   Those meadows make up 16 acres of land that were given to my grandfather and subsequently inherited by my mother. It was a reparation for having been stripped of their wealth by the Soviet establishment in the 1950s. The worth of the land is a couple thousand euros as of today. It is part of the largest consistent nature reserve area of the EU.
- While standing on the cliffs and looking south-eastward, the power plant
  can be seen. The orientation of the photograph is approximately north
  facing.
- Turning southwards one can see the stone cellar, about a kilometre away, where my grandfather's adolescent sister had spent more than a year, while two German SS officers occupied their family home. During the advancement of the Red Army, a Russian soldier, entering the cellar, attempted to take advantage of her. The soldier's superior intervened and shot him in the head without hesitation. My parents store potatoes and apples in the cellar to keep them from rotting in the summer and freezing in the winter. It is easy to say when a potato or an apple comes from the cellar; it has an unmistakable, musty taste.
- Márk Redele pursues projects that fundamentally relate to architecture and its practice but rarely look like architecture. www.markredele.com

### the-documents.

from the facade of the building. It was perhaps a way of taking revenge, but certainly also claiming the moment's opportunity. The bricks made their way into the walls of the new-built family homes of some of the villagers. The former water pumping facility became a sort of material reservoir for the construction of a new future. The transformation from a water reservoir to a material (and ideological) one and its subsequent exhaustion, left a ruin that has remained untouched for the last 30 years. The bricks that were difficult to reach were left in place, thus forming a curtain around the upper part of the building just above the pillars. Freed from all perimeter walls, the leftover structure appeared as a pavilion-like, open floor plan.



type photograph date 08.11.2021 filename
pavilion\_.jpg

size 5,66 MB author Márk Redele 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

### the-documents.c

## Marmara

org



type photograph date 19.11.2021 filename marmar\_.jpg size 3,47 MB author Márk Redele It snows on December 19, but the situation changes on the 22nd with the arrival of an Atlantic low-pressure area, bringing masses of hot and humid air. Thaw follows.

And then, it snows again on December 26 and 27, before the arrival of a new warm front on the same day. A significant and brutal rise in temperature ensues: at Lac Noir, at 920 m, the temperature shoots up from  $0.3~^{\circ}\text{C}$  on December 27 at 7 AM to  $7.4~^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 28th at 9 PM.

## the-documents.c



type photograph date 30.11.2021 filename IMG\_0506b.jpg size 5,31 MB

Seven years after the devastating flood, in 1954, the building of the dam is decided upon. Between 1959 and 1963 the infrastructure is built, and the reservoir gets filled with water in 1964 to act as a buffer for sudden floods and to guarantee a flowing Thur through the highly industrialized area downstream.

## the-documents.d



type photograph date 02.12.2021 filename IMG\_0510b.jpg size 5,85 MB

Where once there was twelve million cubic metres of water, excavators and trucks are moving dirt and rocks that have been hidden from sight for 56 years; piling them up into a temporary dam: a *batardeau*.

## the-documents.



type photograph date 05.12.2021 filename IMG\_0512b.jpg size 6,68 MB author Michiel De Cleene At the end of the day, riding home after work, I find a text on my hand:

C

D[...]ers

Desk

K

Communication book

'Diapers', I recall, and stop at the shop to buy them. Sweat, dust, and manic hand rubbing have rendered parts of the writing illegible. 'C' is for Carl, whose newborn I need to visit as soon as possible. Sometimes, I can't remember what the initial stands for. I don't have any friends with names beginning with a K (who have newborns I need to visit).

The right hand writes, the left hand serves as the canvas. The back of the right hand, folded around the pen, is blank and tells the always already written on back of the left hand, whose palm never holds a pen, what to register. Right: an author. Left: a poem, sunken into the pores.

Back home, I trace 'Desk' again, as not to forget to clean it tomorrow.

### the-documents.c

# What the left hand forgot



type photograph author Arnout De Cleene

18.07.2022

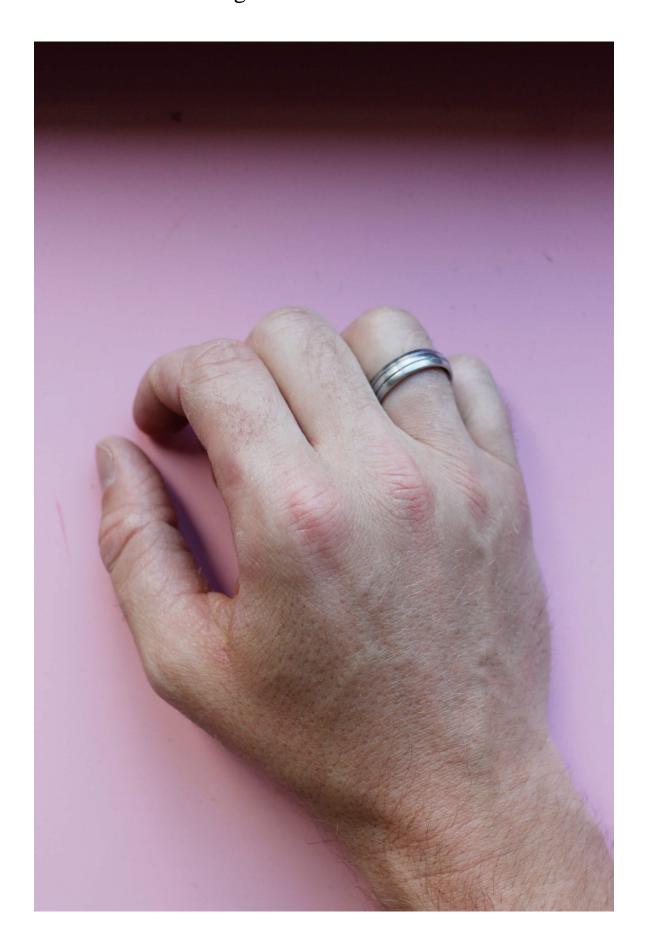
 $\_MG\_7728.JPG, \ \_MG\_7792.JPG$ 

5,5 MB, 5,7 MB

data storage, literature, hand

the-documents.





13:52:26

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.

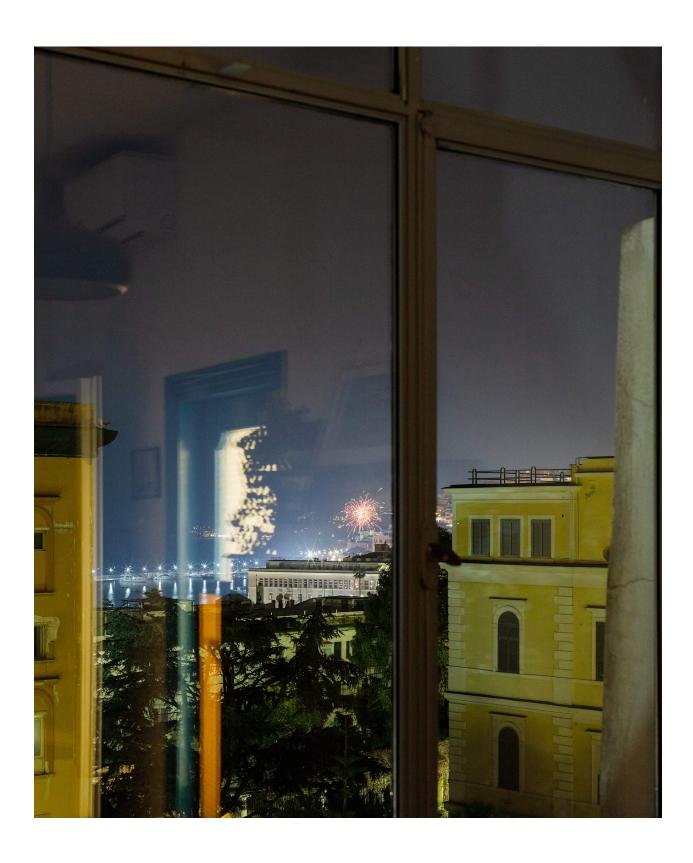
In the morning, we're slightly alarmed that we both got sick and feverish at the same instant. It's the middle of January, and the weather has been summerlike all week. A gentle morning breeze flies in from the Neapolitan bay while we wait for the bus to take us to the airport.

#### 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 A first try at using the instrument for making a recording: excitement as we succeed in pointing the telescope at the brownish dot afar we just noticed on the other side of the valley. As it continues scavenging, we wait for night to set in.

## the-documents.





type video date 27.09.2022 filename 2020-05-30-1755\_8-CapObj size 105,04 MB author De Cleene De Cleene 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.

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- 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