

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

Your path through the collection lead along 300 year old seaweed, Elevator, Measures, Bent Concrete, The Imaginary Edge of the Roadway, From Asturias, Into Cantabria, Border, I64.762/EDK/YDW, Croûton d'Or, A Seismic Change, Quarry, A Seismic Change, Quarry, A Seismic Change, Phase, Antlers

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 06.09.2022 14:37, printed on _____ and contains 16 documents on 35 pages. (<https://the-documents.org/log/06-09-2022-4315/>)

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.decleenedecline.be / info@decleenedecline.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.



Flanders
State of the Art



This stack of seaweed was offered by Henning, a farmer of the wonderful island of Laeso. This matriarchal pirate island, north of Denmark, is known for its tradition of building roofs from the seaweed growing in the surrounding salty water. Back in time, women would harvest and slowly weave the material around wooden beams from shipwrecks. This time-consuming process and technique of building shelters from what comes from the sea engaged the population in working together, building a ritual around each construction. Then those wild, yet full-of-care roofs, conserved in salt, would last for hundreds of years.

When I arrived on his land, Henning told me about how he restores those old beauties, weaving fresh seaweed around old beams and pressing the collected old material into insulation panels for new buildings. We talked about the clay of his land and how seaweed can become a material for ceramics in the process of making glazes.

Notes

- Clementine Vaultier's interests, although trained as a ceramist, are in the warm surroundings of the fire rather than the production it engenders.



type
photograph

date
06.09.2022

filename
clementine_300_yo_seaweed.JPEG

size
1 MB

author
Clémentine Vaultier

category
architecture, encounter, house, repair

14:30:31

The building is almost finished. One apartment is still up for sale, on the top floor. The contractor is finishing up. There's a long list of comments and deficiencies that need to be addressed before the building can be handed over definitively to the owner. The elevator's walls are protected by styrofoam to prevent squares, levels, measures, drills, air compressors, chairs, bird cages, etc. from making scratches on the brand new wooden panelling.

In 1932 Brassai began taking photographs of graffiti scratched into walls of Parisian buildings. On his long walks he was often accompanied by the author Raymond Queneau, who lived in the same building but on a different floor. Brassai published a small collection of the photographs in *Minotaure*, illustrating an article titled 'Du mur des cavernes au mur d'usine' ['From cave wall to factory wall'].



type
photograph

date
13.11.2021

filename
IMG_0039.jpeg

size
2,57 MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
architecture, decoration, sign

14:31:17

Besides the scale indicating the length in centimeters, and the marks made by using it, a folding ruler displays other marks. These are the marks found on the *weber broutin* www.weber-broutin.be folding ruler, from left to right:

- 2m (in a frame, between 1cm and 2cm); indicating the total length of the folding ruler.
- a hexagon, barely visible, punched into the wood (between 2cm and 3cm); unknown signification.
- LUXMA (in a frame, between 4cm and 5cm); the manufacturer of the folding ruler (different from the company who ordered the folding ruler, their (the company's, i.e. weber-broutin's) name is printed on the sides of the ruler, and is only readable when the ruler is folded together for at least 50% (=1m).
- III (in an oval, between 6cm and 7cm); indication of the preciseness of the scale in centimeters, with 'I' in roman numbers meaning the most precise, and 'IV' in roman numbers meaning the least precise. (It is therefore not entirely certain that the 'III' on *weber-broutin's* folding ruler can actually be found between 6cm and 7cm.)
- D 99 (in an oval, probably between 7cm and 8cm, see argument mentioned above); unknown signification.
- 1.1.60 (in an oval, probably between 7cm and 8cm, beneath D 99), signification unknown.



type		filename		author	
scan	date	Handgeschreven_2020-12-	size		
	26.12.2020	26_153034.jpg	659KB	Arnout De Cleene	

category
scale, sign, mistake, mathematics

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 x 15 x 40cm.

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.'

¹

Sources

- 1 Weizman, E. 'Introduction', in: Forensic Architecture. *Forensis. The Architecture of Public Truth*. London/Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2014.



type
photograph

date
02.06.2021

filename
_44A7339.dng

size
42,54MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
archaeology, architecture, crash, impact, mistake, sand

14:32:36

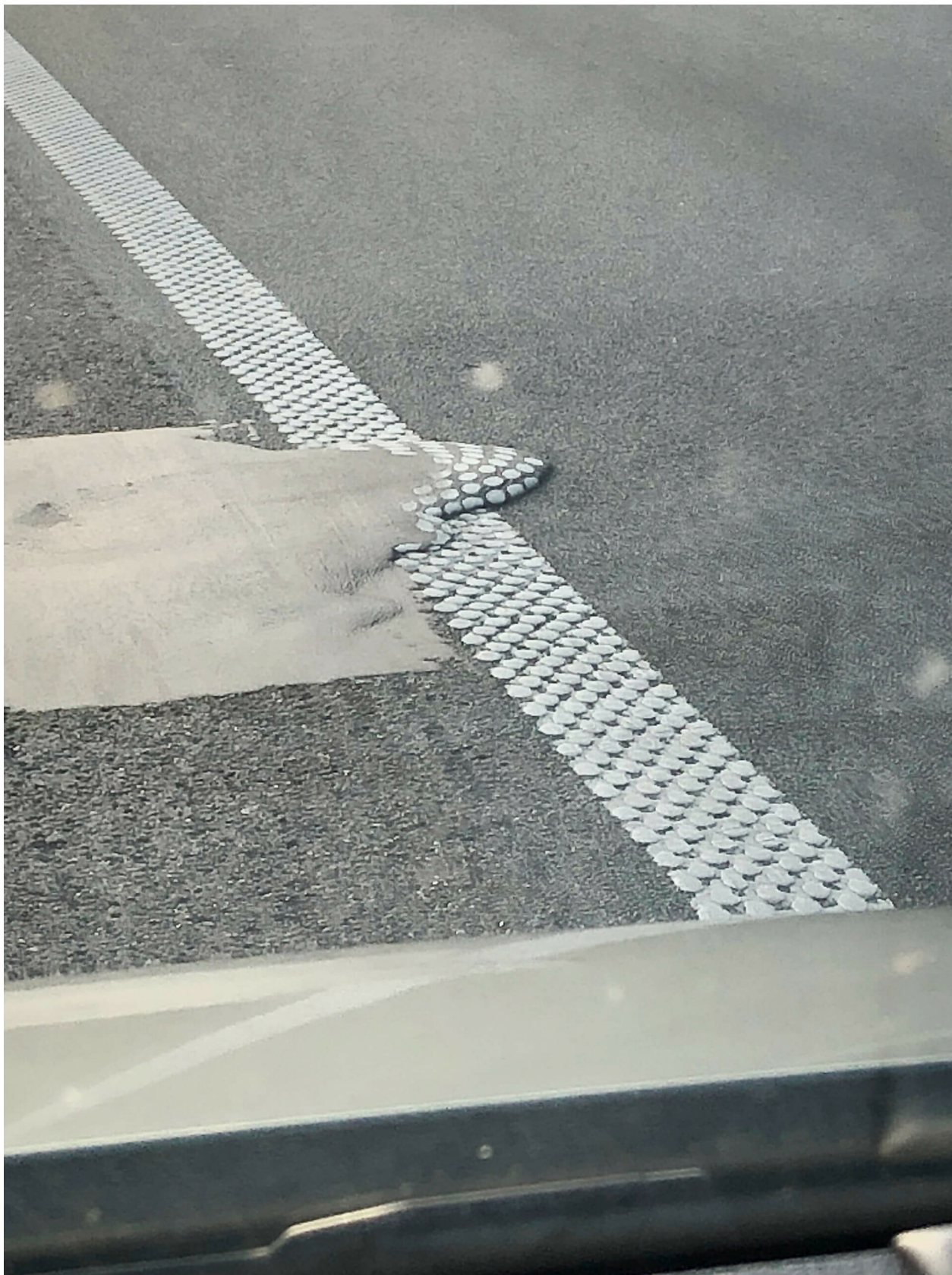
Article 75 of the Royal Decree containing general regulations for road traffic and the use of public roads, published in *Het Belgisch Staatsblad* on 9 December 1975, lists the rules for longitudinal markings indicating the edge of the roadway.

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

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

Sources

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



type
photograph

date
08.08.2021

filename
IMG_7943.HEIC

size
659 KB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, government, parking, repair, sign

14:33:07

A half a day's walk from the Fuente Dé *teleférico*,
there are less and less traces of passers-by. The path
to Sotres suddenly runs through a lush green.
The fence between two pastures keeps the sheep
from crossing and coincides with the border
between two regions. A hole in the fence would
change the landscape's hue.



type
photograph

date
15.05.2021

filename
_MG_9795.jpg

size
4,6MB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
animal, landscape, government

14:33:30

The European flag symbolises both the European Union and, more broadly, the identity and unity of Europe. It features a circle of 12 gold stars on a blue background. They stand for the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe. The number of stars has nothing to do with the number of member countries, though the circle is a symbol of unity.¹

1. Coat of arms of Gmina Puck, a rural district in Puck County, Pomeranian Voivodeship, in northern Poland.
2. Illegible.
3. F.C. Hansa, Mecklenburg, Pommern, FC Hansa Rostock is a German association football club based in the city of Rostock, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. They have emerged as one of the most successful clubs from the former East Germany and have made several appearances in the top-flight Bundesliga. Hansa Rostock's official anthem is "FC Hansa, wir lieben Dich total". Hansa struggles with hooliganism, estimating up to 500 supporters to be leaning towards violence. The club's logo consists of a red sailing ship with a blue sail showing the Rostock Griffin.
4. Mon École Écologique.org is an organization for environmental conservation. On 07.01.2021 there was no website listed on this URL.
5. Illegible.
6. Illegible, apart from '1962' in the middle.
7. Innocenti Bruderschaft, EL, 2018, a community of German Lambretta Innocenti riders and aficionados.
8. Imag'Ink, Bretignolles Sur Mer, Tatoueur, 06 06 44 13 51, a French tattoo shop.
9. Illegible.
10. Hardly legible, the only word that can be made out is 'Futbolom': Russian for soccer.
11. Kaluga on tour. Kaluga is a Russian city 150km southwest of Moscow. It is often called the cradle of space exploration thanks to the city's most famous resident: Konstantin Tsiolkovsky.
12. Hansa Ultras, F.C. Hansa. The Ultras are a group of F.C. Hansa fans (see: '3').
13. Illegible because '12' was stuck over it.
14. Illegible.
15. La Hutoise is a regional student-association for higher education students from the Belgian town of Huy and its surroundings. Its aim is to

bring together students from Huy in a spirit of camaraderie and to perpetuate student folklore. The logo consists of a two headed bird of prey with a cap on each head. The bird wears a scarf over one shoulder and holds a glass of beer in each paw.

16. F.C. Hansa, Grimmen. The F.C. Hansa logo (see '3' and '12') is combined with the coat of arms of Grimmen: a griffin on a pile of 10 bricks. Grimmen is a German town in Nordvorpommern on the banks of the river Trebel.
17. Illegible.
18. Heil Hansa. To the left of this text the F.C. Hansa logo (see '3', '12' and '16'), on the right a logo consisting of a black bull with his tongue out and a golden crown on his head. This controversial sticker lead to several arrests in the run-up to the match between F.C. Hansa Rostock and Bayern München in February 2020. Supporters of F.C. Hansa had attached this sticker to public buildings on their way to the stadium.
19. Illegible because '16' was stuck over it.
20. The Cuban flag.
21. Illegible.
22. Illegible.
23. Kaluga (see '11').
24. De Veterinnen, a round, black sticker with a red print of a head wearing a round hat and a carnivalesque collar with a carrot for a nose. No further information found.
25. Zlombol 11. Zëombol is a yearly charity car rally racing event that starts in Katowice Poland. Contesters must drive a car that was built or designed during the communist era. The destination of the 2011 edition was Loch Ness.
26. F.C. Hansa, Mecklenburg, Pommern, identical sticker to '3', see also '12', '16', and '18'.
27. Torpedo Moscow, only for white. Football club Torpedo Moscow is a Russian professional club based in Moscow, founded in 1930. Some fans of the club wave far-right symbols and banners, both during and outside of matches. Massive fan-protest ensued when the club tried to sign a black player in 2018. The player's contract was cancelled.
28. Heil Hansa. See '3', '12', '16', '18' and '26'.
29. Illegible.
30. Illegible.
31. Illegible.
32. Illegible.

Sources

- 1 https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/flag_en



type
photograph

date
20.01.2021

filename
_44A2787.dng

size
52,4MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
animal, automobile, brick, parking, sign, sticker

14:34:04

33. F.C. Hansa. Variation of '3' and '26' with a circle of yellow crops around the logo. See also '12', '16', '18' and '28'.
34. Live animals, contents: Rivne UA. These stickers are required by the International Air Transport Association for airline cargo pet travel. Rivne is a city in western Ukraine (UA) with an international airport. The sticker does not specify the transported animal but displays a dog, two birds, two fish and a turtle.
35. Illegible.
36. Illegible.
37. Illegible.
38. Illegible, apart from 'Iska' on the bottom.
39. Norrland Fly Guys, Reading Water. The sticker displays a minimal landscape with two pine trees, and a shed on a chunk of floating ice, a single four-point star shines in the sky. Norrland is the northernmost part of Sweden. No further information found. Whether the 'fly guys' own airplanes or are involved in fly fishing is unclear.
40. This sticker displays – what appears to be – a smiling potato in front of an enlarged snow crystal. No further information found.
41. Traumsucht is an artist collective from Berlin. Their website lists German rap-artists
42. Illegible.



An architect in Z. receives a reminder. 'Please send, as soon as possible, the plans of the construction before the damage.' The reminder was sent by the Ministry of Reconstruction, in 1951. The architect's address in Z., as mentioned in this file, is nowadays a house adjacent to Saloon Redbarn, a hall used for activities organized by a club of country and western-aficionados.

Sources

Semi-translucent paper, typoscript, stamps, handwritten notes and signature, from the archive of architect O. Clemminck, file 'Remi Van Bockstael'

F8. VIII. 1951

MINISTERIE VAN WEDEROPBOUW Technische Diensten zijn
voorlopig gevestigd te Gent,
Lange Violettenstraat, 1

Provinciale Directie voor
Oorlogsschade van Cost-Vlaanderen
Technische Dienst.
Nr. I64.762/EDK/YDW.
(Gelieve dit nummer in het antwoord te vermelden)

GENT, de
St. Pieters Aalststraat, 60

De bureau's der Prov. Directie zijn
voor het publiek toegankelijk op
alle werkdagen van 9 u. tot 12 u.
De Provinciale Directeur ontvangt
enkel op uitnodiging.

BIJLAGE Mijneheer,

Betreft : Dossier nr. 4.001.623 - VAN BOCKSTAL Remi
Hoekstraat, 14 - ZEVENEKEN

Ten einde het in rand vermeld dossier te kunnen afwerken,
verzoek ik U mij, ten spoedigste, het plan van bedoeld complex
voór de beschadiging te laten geworden.

Hoogachtend.

Namens de Minister :
Vr. de Directeur P. VAN ROYWEGHEN
De Adviseur-Deskundige,

Dhr. CLEMMINCK Omer
- Architect -
Dorp 77
ZAFFELARE

H. De Schryver
H. DE SCHRYVER.

391 H

type	date	filename	size	author
scan	14.12.2020	Ministerie_van_wederopbouw.pdf	1MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
architecture, house, archive, map/plan, O. Clemminck, government, insurance

14:34:46

The archive of O. Clemminck, architect, was preserved in a box of croutons – by him, the historian who gave it to my father, or someone else (it contains a letter written by Clemminck's widow asking a client to pay the bill her husband had sent). The croutons had a flavor of fine herbs and, a stamp on the box with the plans in it says, should have been consumed before April 1987.



type
photograph

date
14.01.2022

filename
_MG_7420.JPG

size
6MB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
architecture, archive, data storage, food, O. Clemminck, packaging

14:34:54

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.



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

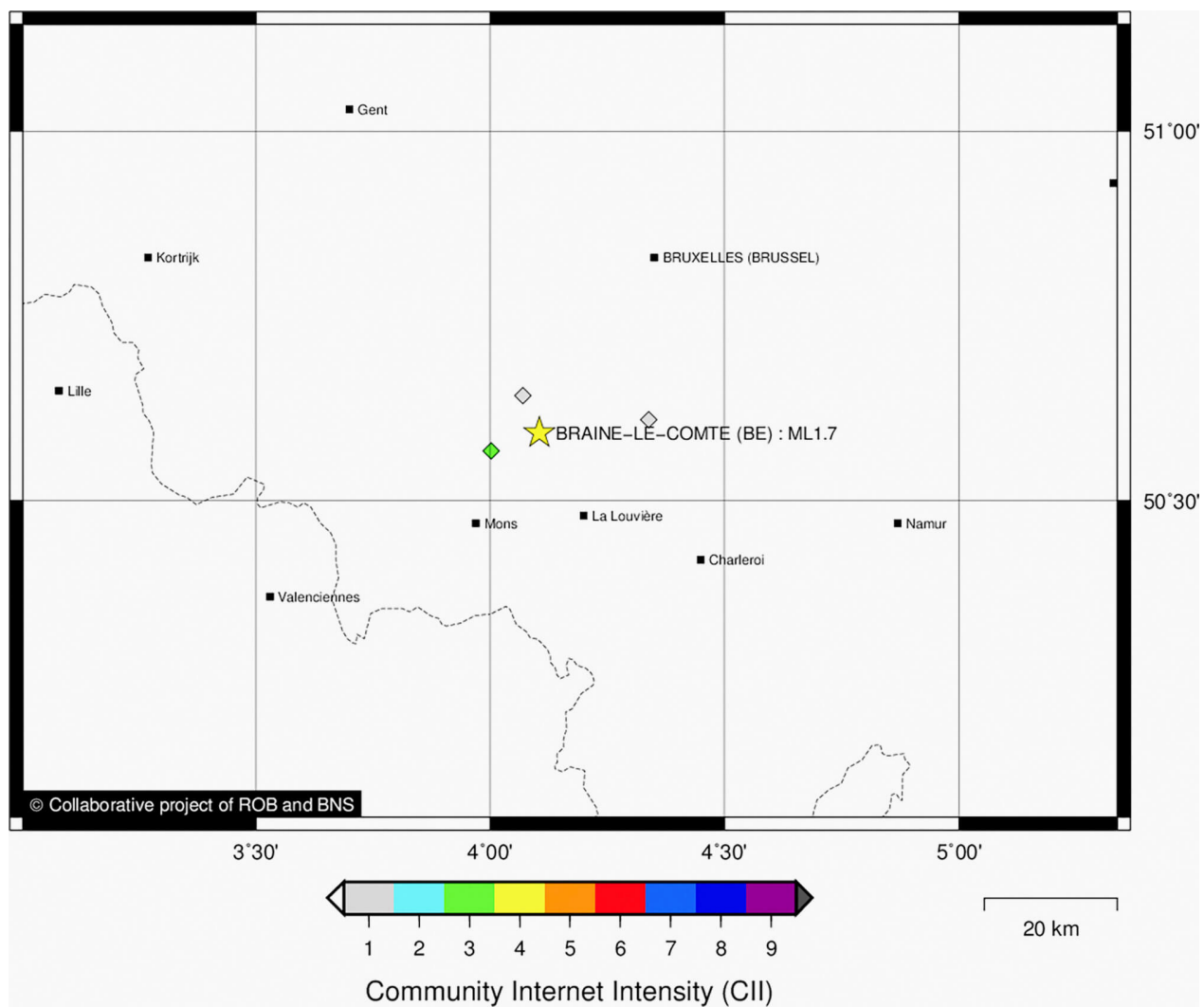
category
automobile, data storage, dusk, seismology, Vesuvius

On May 6th 2020, 14h06 and 31 seconds, the Belgian Seismological Institute records an earthquake with a 1,7 magnitude in the region of Braine-Le-Compte. Three reactions from people in the neighbourhood, filed by the Institute, confirm the official seismological recordings. The Institute's website classifies the earthquake as a 'quarry blast'.

the-documents.c

Sources

<http://seismologie.be/nl/seismologie/aardbevingen-in-belgie/en130qj1o>



type
screenshot

date
16.02.2021

filename
9980.png

size
45KB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
data storage, interference, map/plan, scale, seismology, technology

14:35:53

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.



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

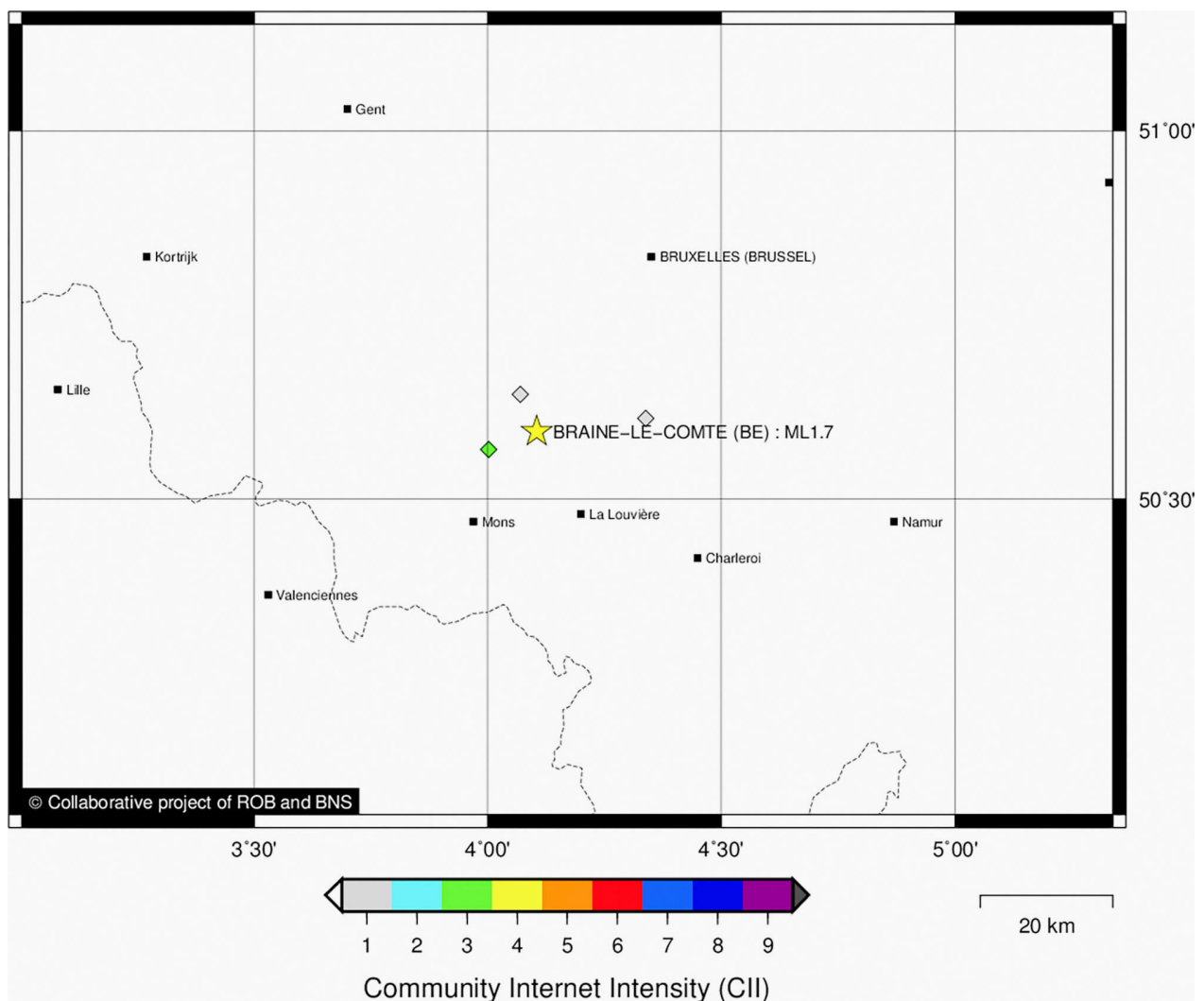
category
automobile, data storage, dusk, seismology, Vesuvius

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the-documents.c

Sources

<http://seismologie.be/nl/seismologie/aardbevingen-in-belgie/en130qj1o>



type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	16.02.2021	9980.png	45KB	Arnout De Cleene

category
data storage, interference, map/plan, scale, seismology, technology

14:36:14

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.



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

category
automobile, data storage, dusk, seismology, Vesuvius

At the Tunis Institut National du Patrimoine, the sand-covered floor has traced Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker'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.



type
photograph

date
25.05.2021

filename
_MG_1019.JPG

size
6,5MB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
music, map/plan, sand, scale

14:36:47

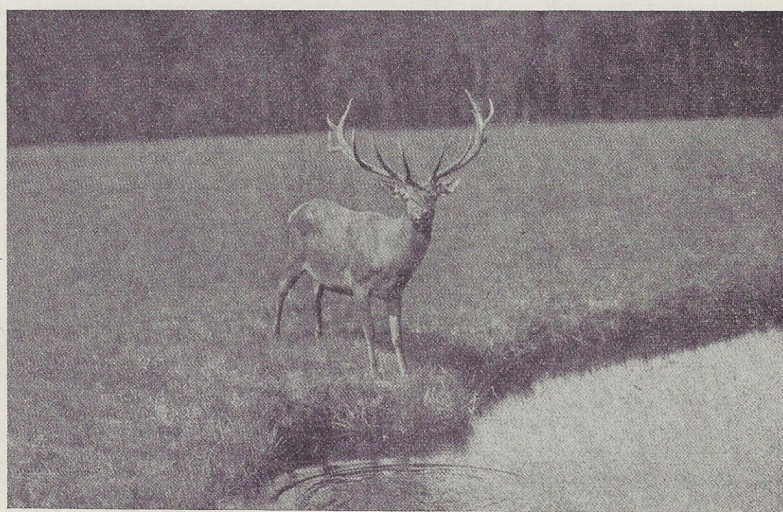
(‘*Imaginary landscape in the actual greater Gent, some thousands of years ago. A grassy riparian zone separates rivers from the edge of the forests*’)

Imagine a deserted city of Gent, overtaken by nature, Thiery asks the reader in his book *Het woud* (*The Forest*). After fifty years, you return to the city. Buildings have collapsed, streets are overgrown. It has become an impenetrable, dense forest, except for the river on which the reader makes his or her way through it. In the first half of the twentieth century, Leo Michel Thiery made one of Belgium’s first botanical gardens for educational purposes. In the middle of an industrialized quarter of the city of Gent, the garden presented different sceneries. There were landscapes from the Alps, dunes, the Ardennes, steppe. Besides sceneries with chalk-, loam-, marl- and sand-based vegetation, there were forests, grasslands and swamps.

After his death, Thiery’s garden decayed. Decades later, it was restored, with the Alps, dunes, the Ardennes and steppe now classified as a protected view.

Sources

Thiery, M. *Het woud. Een proeve van plantenaardrijkskunde*. Gent: De Garve, s.d., p. 14



Denkbeeldig landschap in het huidige Groot-Gent, eenige duizenden van jaren terug. Grazige oeverlanden scheidden er de rivieren van den boschzoom.

type
scan

date
21.12.2020

filename
Document_2020-12-21_083327.jpg

size
3,2MB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
animal, botany, book, landscape

14:37:09

