rg is an online platform, collecting, describing, presenting and generating documents of all sorts. It documents documents. Your path through the collection lead along Stopwatch, Schelp, Straight in the morning, curvy in the afternoon, Marmara, Shelter, 12M m3 [1/8] Rapid Snowmelt, Roofing (3) - Simon, tu me manques, Hétéroclites, Crash (1), Potholes, Dome, Cover, Anraum, Magic Mountain, It's Pouring, Shelter, Antlers, A Fever Dream, Slightly Askew (1), The Events That Took Place in Grimbergen, Slightly Askew (1), Measures, The Face of a Chair, Magic Mountain, Mai Ndombe, Roofing (1), Roofing (2)

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 $\qquad$ on 07.06.2022 10:41, printed on ___ and contains 27 documents on 56 pages. (https://the-documents.org/log/07-06-2022-4015/)
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.

[^0]
## 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.
気 $\begin{aligned} & \text { Flanders } \\ & \text { State of the art }\end{aligned}$

He's wearing a digital watch. It looks like a Casio. It's impossible to read the time, no matter whether you are studying the high-resolution scan of the negative or the negative itself, with the aid of a loupe and lightbox.

The device had a stopwatch function. When we were around eight and ten, we used to compete in trying to start and stop the stopwatch in the shortest possible interval. The smaller the gap, the closer to zero. Sometimes he would also have a try. We once managed to get it down to 00:00:00:03. Neither of us dared to press 'reset' and try again.

Notes



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

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

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

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


## Bronnen, noten en/of referenties

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

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

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

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

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

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

09.01. 2022

IMG_9441.HEIC

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

type
photograph

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.

size
2,1MB
author
Arnout De Cleene


In what order and by whom the various texts and drawings were carved into the soft roofing is unclear. To the right of 'EVA', a heart symbol and an arrow (pointing to the left), the roofing reads 'SIMON TU ME MANQUES'.

The short sentence usually - yet hastily - translates to 'Simon, I miss you'. However, in French the 'you' (tu) is the subject and has an active role, whereas the 'I' (me) is the direct object. In short: by his not being there, Simon actively effectuates hurt to the one who carved this text.


French writer Raymond Queneau did extensive research into what he called hétéroclites, and at other times fous littéraires, a continuation of a longstanding bibliographic project of assembling texts proposing eccentric theories that were never picked up by the scientific community. Disappointed by the results of his research and unable to find a publisher, he abandoned the idea of publishing the encyclopaedia he was compiling. Later, in his encyclopaedic novel Les enfants du limon, he picks up the thread, from a different perspective. It tells the story of two quirky characters, Chambernac and Purpulan, wanting to compile an encyclopedia on fous littéraires. The novel cites from the texts they have dug up. The novel ends when they give up on the project, and give their findings to a novelist they meet and who says to be interested in the material, and asks if it would be OK if he'd attribute it to a character in a story he's writing. Chambernac agrees, asking the name of the novelist he's meeting: 'Monsieur comment?' - 'Queneau'.

photograph
date
06.03 .2021
filename
_MG_6560.JPG
author
Arnout De Cleene

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

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


Holding two cans of spray paint, a city employee

Potholes


A visit to the Royal Observatory of Belgium, in Ukkel. Most of the domes are damaged and need repairing. Only a few telescopes are in use. It is difficult to find a good spot from which to film the site. When we asked the people at the Royal Meteorological Institute - the Observatory's neighbouring institution - if we could access their building's roof to film the observatory, the answer was 'no'.

## Notes

I (M.D.C.) remember there was a fire nearby. We couldn't see the flames, but a tall dark plume of smoke rose above the trees lining the site. We didn't insist any longer and ceased our attempt to access the roof, hoping we might find a good spot to film the smoke with a dome in the foreground.

## Sources

Kesteloot, J. Leerboek van Cosmografie voor Middelbaar en Lager
Normaal Onderwijs (derde vermeerderde uitgave). Brugge: Firma Karel Beyaert, 1948.


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


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

filename
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Raureif_im_Bayerischen_Wald.JPG 262KB

## author

Arnout De Cleene

A skiing holiday with my in-laws. The ski pass does not allow you to visit Schatzalp. We buy a separate ticket and take the train up the hill to the hotel, which served as the backdrop for Thomas Mann's Magic Mountain. The stately hotel and former sanatorium is gorgeous.

Meanwhile, a new virus is spreading. Some people are coughing. I am keeping distance while waiting in line to take the train back down to the snowcovered village.

## www.davos.ch/berge



# 6 Tage Davos/Klosters <br> **ohne (excluded) Schatzalp <br> Erwachsen 

> Ausgd.09:51 23.02.20 / Haupt. GOTSCH-KC05 Ser:*1-1291-5-394298 DT:=1-161471335:34915105999 $23.02 .20 \quad$ CHF 3511.00

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.


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.

size
2,1MB
author
Arnout De Cleene

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.


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

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| scan | 21.12 .2020 | Document_2020-12-21_083327.jpg | $3,2 \mathrm{MB}$ | Arnout De Cleene |
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10:40:32

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.

## org A Fever Dream


filename
DCDC_nape1s_089_vuurwerk.tif

Until recently, for as long as I could remember, the packaging of Tabasco ${ }^{\oplus}$ Pepper Sauce had been unchanged. On the front of the packaging, there is a photograph of a bottle of Tabasco ${ }^{\oplus}$, scale 1:1, against an orange background.As far as packaged goods go, this is a highly idiosyncratic and quirky example.

The background colour approximates the colour of the liquid inside the bottle, resulting in as good as no contrast. Moreover, as the image of the bottle is scale $1: 1$, the packaging becomes kind of unnecessary and superfluous, also because the lifesized image of the bottle is the only way information is given to the customer: there are no additional slogans, no repetition of the brand name, no props and no decor. The image of the bottle advertises the bottle. It seems to add nothing the bottle could not do by its own (like a bottle of wine does).

What makes the packaging truly stand out, however, is the fact that the image of the bottle is not positioned vertically, but is slightly askew. It seems to be the result of a design error, and has an amateur feel to it. The decision to keep it as such and not correct it up until today, is, however, a stroke of genius. The non-vertical positioning alters the relation of the image of the bottle to the bottle inside: as the box is standing on a shelf, the tilted image of the bottle undermines its representational superfluousness.

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 $90^{\circ}$ 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 takeoff.

12:20:01 Aircraft gone.
12:40:01 White dots on the grass that appear to be birds.

## 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.

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 thinlayered snow are still visible, and unaltered.

Sources

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

The Events That Took Place in Grimbergen


author
De Cleene De Cleene

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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.weberbroutin.be folding ruler, from left to right:

- 2 m (in a frame, between 1 cm and 2 cm ); indicating the total length of the folding ruler.
- a hexagon, barely visible, punched into the wood (between 2 cm and 3 cm ); unknown signification.
- LUXMA (in a frame, between 4 cm and 5 cm ); the manufacturer of the folding ruler (different from the company who ordered the folding ruler, their (the company's, i.c. weberbroutin's) name is printed on the sides of the ruler, and is only readable when the ruler is folded together for at least $50 \%(=1 \mathrm{~m})$.
- III (in an oval, between 6 cm and 7 cm ); 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 6 cm and 7 cm .)
- D 99 (in an oval, probably between 7 cm and 8 cm , see argument mentioned above); unknown signification.
- $\quad 1.1 .60$ (in an oval, probably between 7 cm and 8 cm , beneath D 99), signification unknown.




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


A skiing holiday with my in-laws. The ski pass does not allow you to visit Schatzalp. We buy a separate ticket and take the train up the hill to the hotel, which served as the backdrop for Thomas Mann's Magic Mountain. The stately hotel and former sanatorium is gorgeous.

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On the second to last evening before we head home, we go for dinner at Suzanne's house. She has invited a friend, a national deputy for the region where she grew up. We eat fish and patates douces. We drink beer. The deputy's secretaries - there are three of them - closely inspect the worn manuscript we hand them. In blue ink: proverbs of their region, written by my girlfriend's grandfather in local Kikongo language. In red: a Dutch translation. They laugh. A month later, the deputy will become Vice-minister of Internal affairs. The proverbs get marked by fresh grease stains.



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.

## rg <br> Roofing (2)




[^0]:    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.

