

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

Your path through the collection lead along Mould, The Imaginary Edge of the Roadway, Market, Lemon, Lemon, Mushroom Picking Prohibited, Mushroom Picking Prohibited, Dust, Bent Concrete, Block, It's Pouring, A Bibliographic Reference, Original Copy, Crocodile Copy, At the copyshop, Original Copy

What constitutes a 'document' and how does it function?

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the etymological origin is the Latin 'documentum', meaning 'lesson, proof, instance, specimen'. As a verb, it is 'to prove or support (something) by documentary evidence', and 'to provide with documents'. The online version of the *OED* includes a draft addition, whereby a document (as a noun) is 'a collection of data in digital form that is considered a single item and typically has a unique filename by which it can be stored, retrieved, or transmitted (as a file, a spreadsheet, or a graphic)'. The current use of the noun 'document' is defined as '*something* written, inscribed, etc., which furnishes evidence or information upon any subject, as a manuscript, title-deed, tomb-stone, coin, picture, etc.' (emphasis added).

Both 'something' and that first 'etc.' leave ample room for discussion. A document doubts whether it functions as something unique, or as something reproducible. A passport is a document, but a flyer equally so. Moreover, there is a circular reasoning: to document is 'to provide with documents'. Defining (the functioning of) a document most likely involves ideas of communication, information, evidence, inscriptions, and implies notions of objectivity and neutrality – but the document is neither reducible to one of them, nor is it equal to their sum. It is hard to pinpoint it, as it disperses into and is affected by other fields: it is intrinsically tied to the history of media and to important currents in literature, photography and art; it is linked to epistemic and power structures. However ubiquitous it is, as an often tangible thing in our environment, and as a concept, a document *deranges*.

the-documents.org continuously gathers documents and provides them with a short textual description, explanation, or digression, written by multiple authors. In *Paper Knowledge*, Lisa Gittelman paraphrases ‘documentalist’ Suzanne Briet, stating that ‘an antelope running wild would not be a document, but an antelope taken into a zoo would be one, presumably because it would then be framed – or reframed – as an example, specimen, or instance’. The gathered files are all documents – if they weren’t before publication, they now are. That is what the-documents.org, irreversibly, *does*. It is a zoo turning an antelope into an ‘antelope’.

As you made your way through the collection, the-documents.org tracked the entries you viewed. It documented your path through the website. As such, the time spent on the-documents.org turned into this – a new document.

This document was compiled by _____ on 09.02.2022 14:31, printed on _____ and contains 16 documents on 34 pages. (<https://the-documents.org/log/09-02-2022-3788/>)

the-documents.org is a project created and edited by De Cleene De Cleene; design & development by atelier Haegeman Temmerman.

the-documents.org has been online since 23.05.2021.

Notes

- De Cleene De Cleene is Michiel De Cleene and Arnout De Cleene. Together they form a research group that focusses on novel ways of approaching the everyday, by artistic means and from a cultural and critical perspective.
www.decleenedecleene.be / info@decleenedecleene.be
- This project was made possible with the support of the Flemish Government and KASK & Conservatorium, the school of arts of HOGENT and Howest. It is part of the research project *Documenting Objects*, financed by the HOGENT Arts Research Fund.

Sources

- Briet, S. *Qu'est-ce que la documentation?* Paris: Edit, 1951.
- Gittelman, L. *Paper Knowledge. Toward a Media History of Documents*. Durham/ London: Duke University Press, 2014.
- *Oxford English Dictionary Online*. Accessed on 13.05.2021.



Flanders
State of the Art



howest

At a dental practice, the white Alligat®-powder is mixed with the right amount of water to get a mouldable dough that is pressed upon a patient's teeth. After thirty seconds, the Alligat®-dough stiffens and takes on a rubber-like quality. At that point, still white, it must be removed from the patient's mouth. Over the next few hours, the mould turns increasingly pink as the substance becomes less humid. Now, it can be used as a mould to create a positive master cast of the patient's teeth.

Outside the dental practice, the powder's possibilities remain to be fully explored.

Notes



Sources

- First published as part of De Cleene De Cleene. 'Amidst the Fire, I Was Not Burnt', *Trigger (Special issue: Uncertainty)*, 2. FOMU/Fw:Books, 25-30



type
photograph

date
27.01.2022

filename
_44A3429.tif

size
36,81 MB

author
De Cleene De Cleene

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

14:27:48

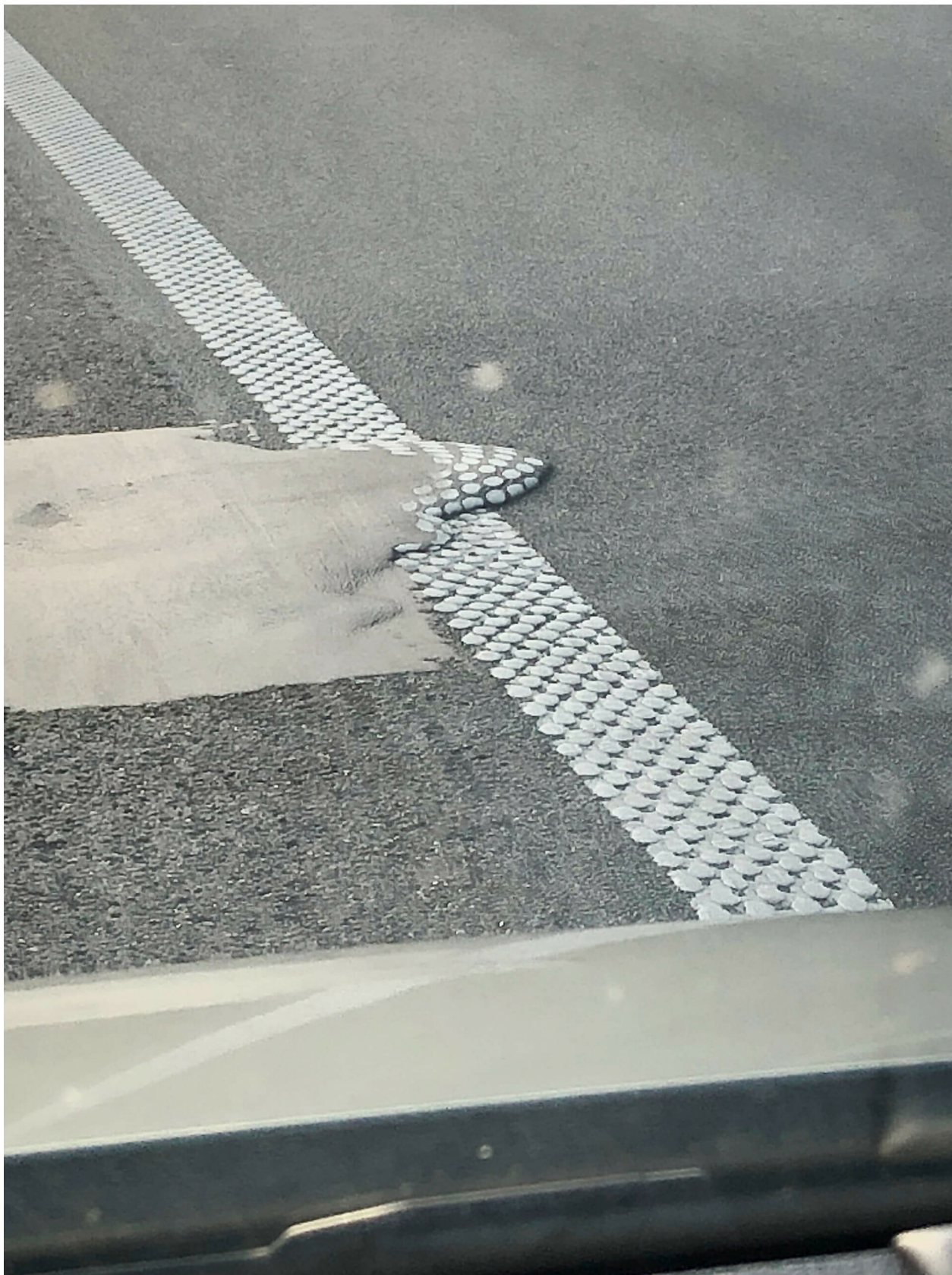
Article 75 of the Royal Decree containing general regulations for road traffic and the use of public roads, published in *Het Belgisch Staatsblad* on 9 December 1975, lists the rules for longitudinal markings indicating the edge of the roadway.

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

14:28:00

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

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

Notes

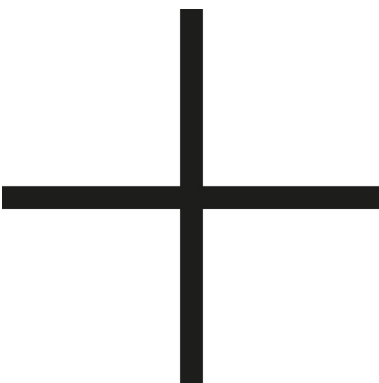
1.



2.



3.



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



type
photograph

date
26.12.2021

filename
market_.jpg

size
3,82 MB

author
Márk Redele

category
automobile, economy, food, fruit, landscape, manual, parking, precipitation, sign

14:28:09

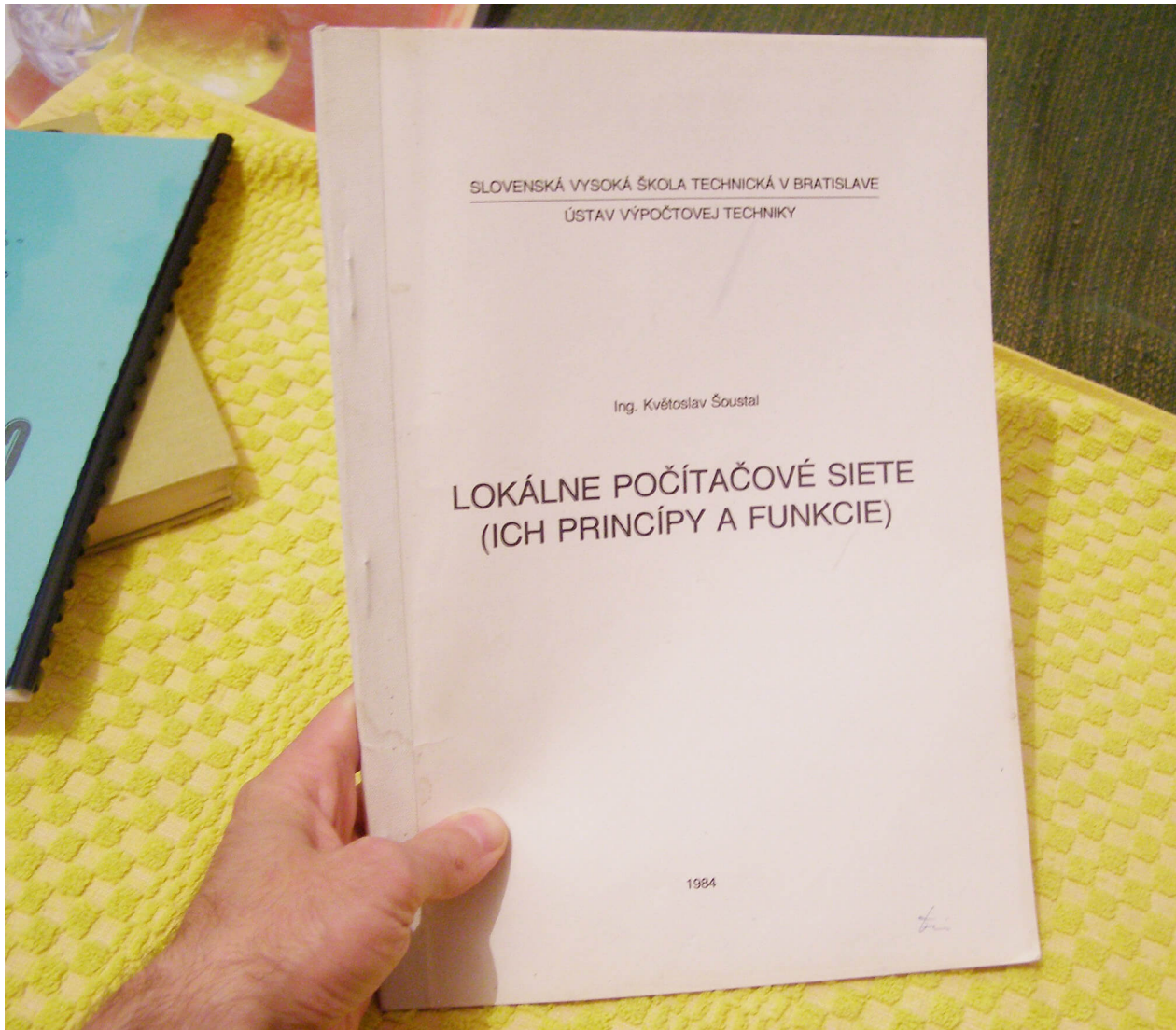
Depending on the language one chooses, the Wikipedia entry for 'document' shows a different picture. The French-language page shows what appears to be a Slovenian thesis written in 1984. The caption states it is a 'book of Czechoslovak computer science author Květoslav Šoustal about computer networks'. The image was uploaded by Kelovy, a Slovakian mushroom-picker.

The anonymous hand rests on a lemon-yellow tablecloth, on which a yellow book and a blue binded file lie. The top left corner is the most intriguing, however: the tablecloth seems to be draped over a lemon, alongside a drinking glass. The cloth, however, does not get shaped by the lemon. Nor does the shadow-side of the lemon coincide with the shadow the other documents throw on the tablecloth. A closer look seems to indicate that the lemon is in fact an image of a lemon, printed on a plastic napkin.

The Russian wikipedia shows the image of a lease agreement. The German wikipedia for 'document' is text only.

Sources

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Document#/media/Fichier:KVETOSLAV_SOUSTAL_BOOK.JPG, created October 3, 2006 / original in original: paper, 1984



type
photograph

date
23.12.2020

filename
KVETOSLAV_SOUSTAL_BOOK.JPG

size
956KB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
book, encyclopaedia, fruit, food, trompe l'oeil, cloth, manual, technology

14:28:23

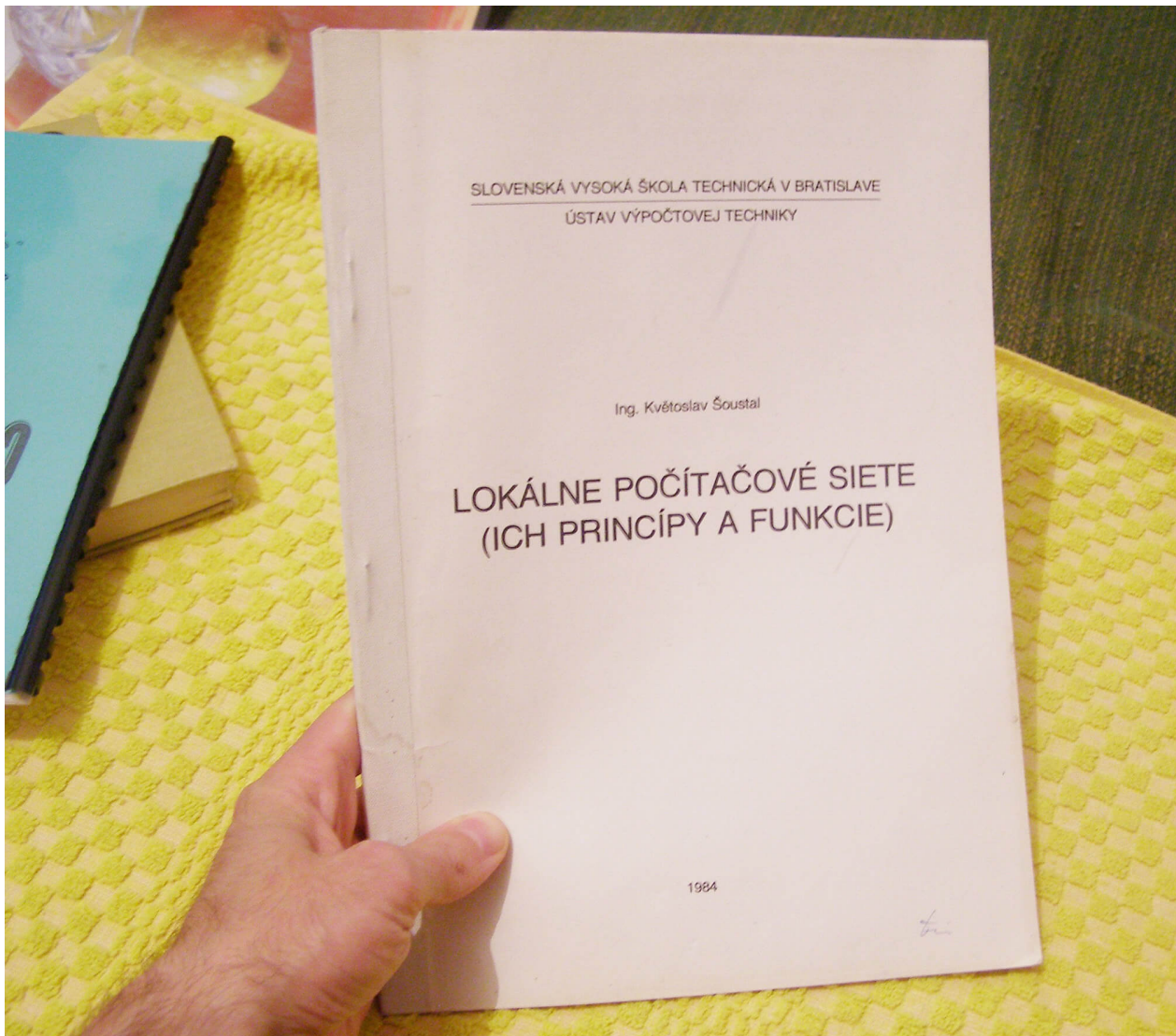
Depending on the language one chooses, the Wikipedia entry for 'document' shows a different picture. The French-language page shows what appears to be a Slovenian thesis written in 1984. The caption states it is a 'book of Czechoslovak computer science author Květoslav Šoustal about computer networks'. The image was uploaded by Kelovy, a Slovakian mushroom-picker.

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Sources

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Document#/media/Fichier:KVETOSLAV_SOUSTAL_BOOK.JPG, created October 3, 2006 / original in original: paper, 1984



type
photograph

date
23.12.2020

filename
KVETOSLAV_SOUSTAL_BOOK.JPG

size
956KB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
book, encyclopaedia, fruit, food, trompe l'oeil, cloth, manual, technology

14:28:29

I must have driven past this rocky landscape about sixteen times, going back and forth between viewpoints and the house the parents of a friend let me stay in. On the last day, I left early for the airport, pulled into a lay-by, took my tripod and camera out of the trunk of the red Volkswagen Polo rental car and made two photographs.¹ It was only when I got home, had the film developed, scanned it and was removing dust particles from the file, that I discovered the hand painted text on the rock: ‘PROIBIDO BUSCAR SETAS’.

Notes

1.





type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	19.05.2021	Untitled99993-dustfree-nosharpen-crop2.psd	365,37MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, dusk, food, landscape, parking, sign, tree

14:28:48

I must have driven past this rocky landscape about sixteen times, going back and forth between viewpoints and the house the parents of a friend let me stay in. On the last day, I left early for the airport, pulled into a lay-by, took my tripod and camera out of the trunk of the red Volkswagen Polo rental car and made two photographs.¹ It was only when I got home, had the film developed, scanned it and was removing dust particles from the file, that I discovered the hand painted text on the rock: ‘PROIBIDO BUSCAR SETAS’.

Notes

1.





type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	19.05.2021	Untitled99993-dustfree-nosharpen-crop2.psd	365,37MB	Michiel De Cleene
category				
automobile, dusk, food, landscape, parking, sign, tree				

14:28:53

Ten years ago, in November, I drove up to Frisia – the northernmost province of The Netherlands. I was there to document the remains of air watchtowers: a network of 276 towers that were built in the fifties and sixties to warn the troops and population of possible aerial danger coming from the Soviet Union. It was very windy. The camera shook heavily. The poplars surrounding the concrete tower leaned heavily to one side.

I drove up to the seaside, a few kilometers farther. The wind was still strong when I reached the grassy dike that overlooked the kite-filled beach. I exposed the last piece of film left on the roll. Strong gusts of wind blew landwards.

Months later I didn't bother to blow off the dust that had settled on the film before scanning it. A photograph without use, with low resolution, made for the sake of the archive's completeness.

The dust on the film appears to be carried landwards, by the same gust of wind lifting the kites.



type
photograph

date
06.09.2021

filename
LWT-Oudemirdum0002.tif

size
28,17 MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

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

14:29:05

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

14:29:18

‘The masons in training pour a concrete slab and build four walls upon it in a stretcher bond. Then the block comes to our department and the students in the course *Electrical installer (residential)* can grind channels and drill cavities in it.’

[...]

‘It’s not always a success from the outset, but they learn quickly.’

[...]

‘Never grind horizontally, always vertically.

Diagonally if there is no other way.’

[...]

‘Two fingers wide.’

[...]

‘After this it goes to the sanitary department. After the bell drilling, the demolition hammer follows and the masons make us a new block.’

Competentiecentrum VDAB, Wondelgem,
July 2019.

Notes

First published in A+ Architecture in Belgium, A+ 279, Schools (August, September 2019), <https://www.a-plus.be/nl/tijdschrift/schools>



type
photograph

date
04.05.2021

filename
_44a7269.jpg

size
27,17MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
architecture, brick, fissure, house, mistake, parking

14:29:29

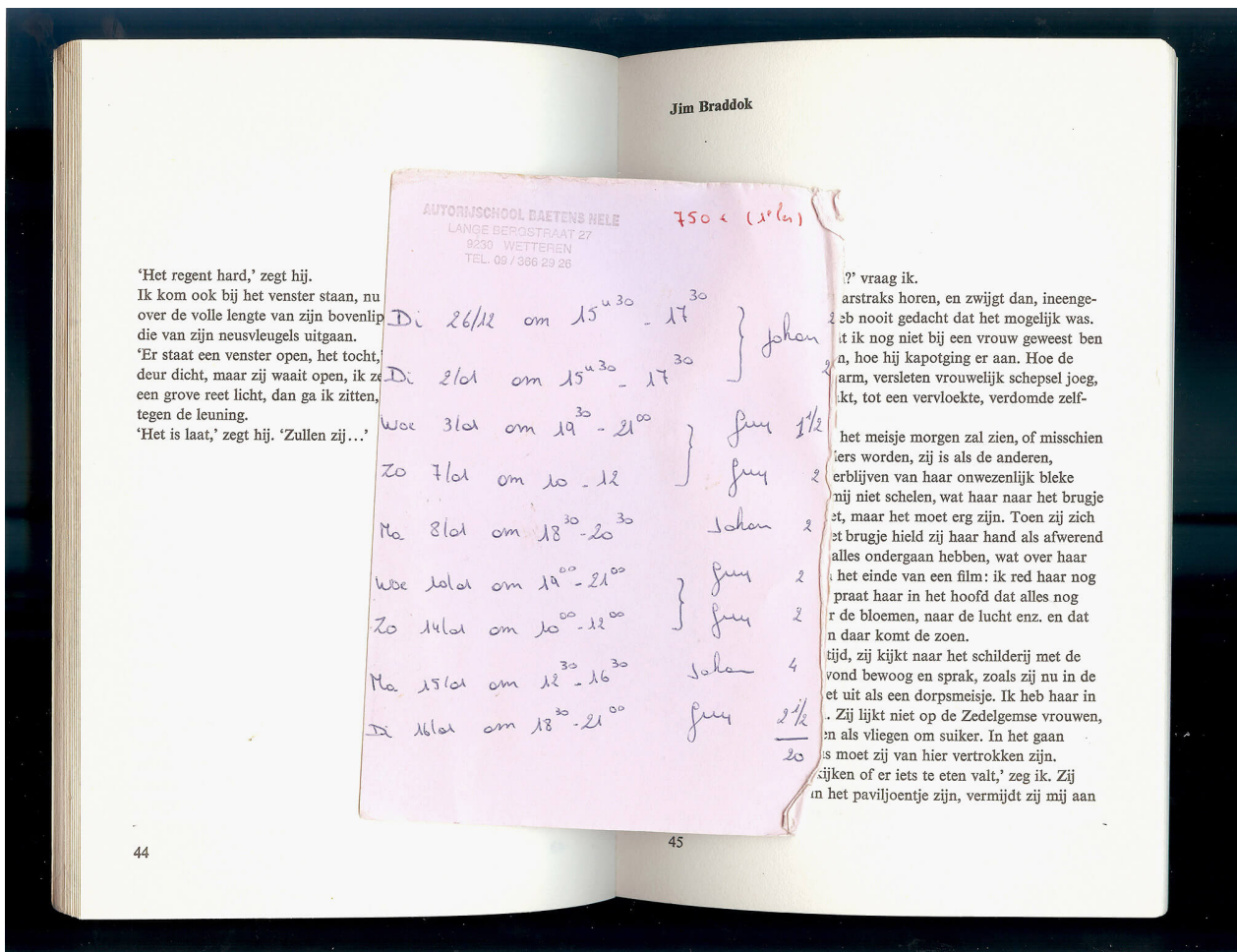
In his debut novel 'De Metsiers' Hugo Claus employs a multiple narrative perspective. In the copy I picked up in a thrift store, there's a bookmark between pages 44 and 45 where the perspective shifts from Ana to Jim Braddok. It's pouring. The pink piece of paper lists 9 sessions at a driving school. There's a total of 20 hours, taught alternately by Johan and Guy.

Notes

In 2000, 2006 and 2017 the twenty-sixth of December was a Tuesday.
(Earlier years are improbable, since the Euro was not introduced yet.)

Sources

Claus, H. *De Metsiers*. Amsterdam: Uitgeverij De Bezige Bij, 1978.



type
scan

date
09.06.2021

filename
metsiers.jpg

size
11,61 MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, book, card, literature, precipitation

14:29:49

‘ORIGINAL. Rire de tout ce qui est original, le
haïr, le bafouer, et l’exterminer si l’on peut.’
[‘ORIGINAL. Laugh with everything that’s
original, hate it, scold it, exterminate it if you can.’]

Sources

Flaubert. *Bouvard et Pécuchet* (présenté par Raymond Queneau). Paris:
Livre de poche, 1959 (with p. 232-233: dried leaf of a ginkgo tree, and p.
324-325: dried leaf of a birch tree), p. 429 [2,00 EUR, Librairie Vic-sur-
Cère, August 2021].



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	14.09.2021	_MG_7413.JPG	5,2MB	Arnout De Cleene
category	book, botany, tree, encyclopaedia, replica/copy, literature, collecting			

14:30:00

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.

the-documents.c

'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, Sarriesfan, 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.'

Sources

https://forum.thefreedictionary.com/postst182102_original-or-original-copy.aspx

[Wilmar \(USA\) 1M](#)



Rank: Advanced Member

Joined: 6/4/2015

Posts: 5,721

Neurons: 1,278,032

Location: Vinton, Iowa, United States

type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	16.02.2021	Schermafbeelding 2021-02-16 om 11.08.01.png	45KB	Michiel De Cleene

category
archive, mistake, replica/copy, technology

Our one year old's favourite toy he's not supposed to play with is the *HP Officejet Pro L7590 All-in-one* in my office. I have given up on forbidding him to play with it. We have a new game: he brings me one of his other toys, we put it on the flatbed, close the lid – as far as possible –, press the button 'START COPY – COLOR' and wait for the print to come out of the machine. When we place the original onto the copy, he laughs. So far we have copied his blue pacifier, his planet-earth-bouncy-ball and his rattling crocodile.



type
photograph

date
16.02.2021

filename
_44A8728.dng

size
50,04MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
animal, archive, decoration, house, replica/copy, technology, trompe l'oeil, family

14:30:36

At the copyshop, on a shelf above photocopier 8,
the lid of a box of paper serves as the container for
‘forgotten originals’.¹

the-documents.c

Notes

- 1 The book being copied: Didi-Huberman, G. *La ressemblance par contact*. *Archéologie, anachronisme et modernité de l’empreinte*. Paris: Les Editions de Minuit, 2008.



type
photograph

date
28.09.2021

filename
IMG_0105.JPG

size
1,8MB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
archaeology, book, mistake, replica/copy

14:31:22

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.

the-documents.c

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

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category				
archive, mistake, replica/copy, technology				

