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, From Asturias, Into Cantabria, Pipe, Dust, 12M m3 [6/8] 56 years, The Events That Took Place in Grimbergen, I64.762/EDK/YDW, Gold Varnish, Slightly Askew (1), A Glass Bubble, Index, An Unfired Mortar, Essie, A Dead Insect on the Trunk of a Cedrus Atlantica Glauca, Roofing (4) – Celine & Logan, A flowering juneberry signals a beekeeper's spring, The First Light of Day, Shelter, Strings, Pipe

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 10.02.2022 14:57,
printed on	and contains 21 do	ocuments on 44 pages.
(https://the-doc	uments.org/log/10-0	02-2022-3796/)

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.







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

the-documents.c

Mould

org



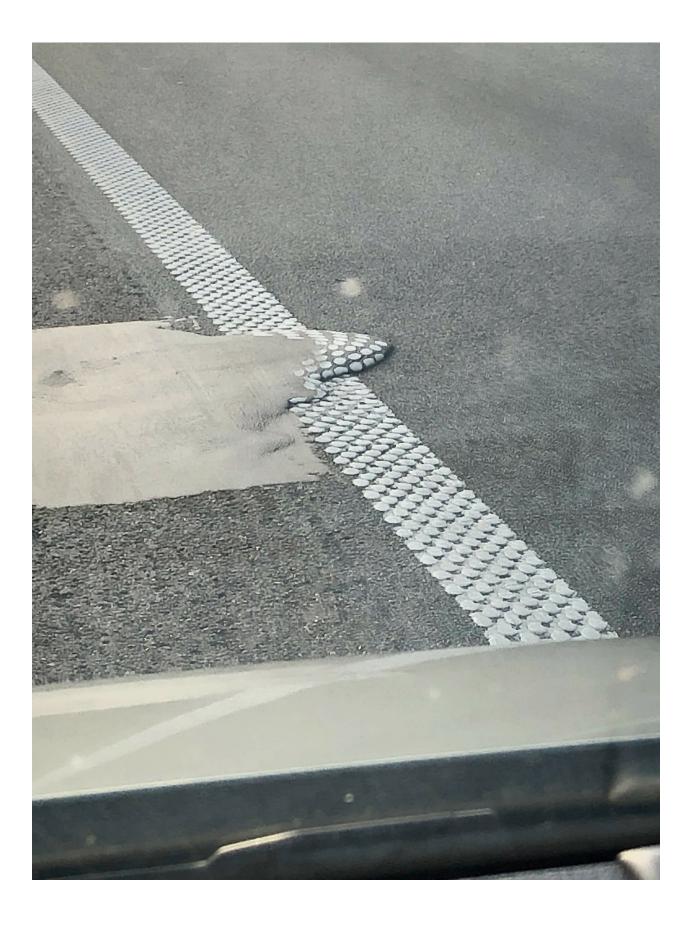
type photograph date 27.01.2022 filename _44A3429.tif size 36,81 MB author De Cleene De Cleene Article 75 of the Royal Decree containing general regulations for road traffic and the use of public roads, published in *Het Belgisch Staatsblad* on 9 December 1975, lists the rules for longitudinal markings 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.

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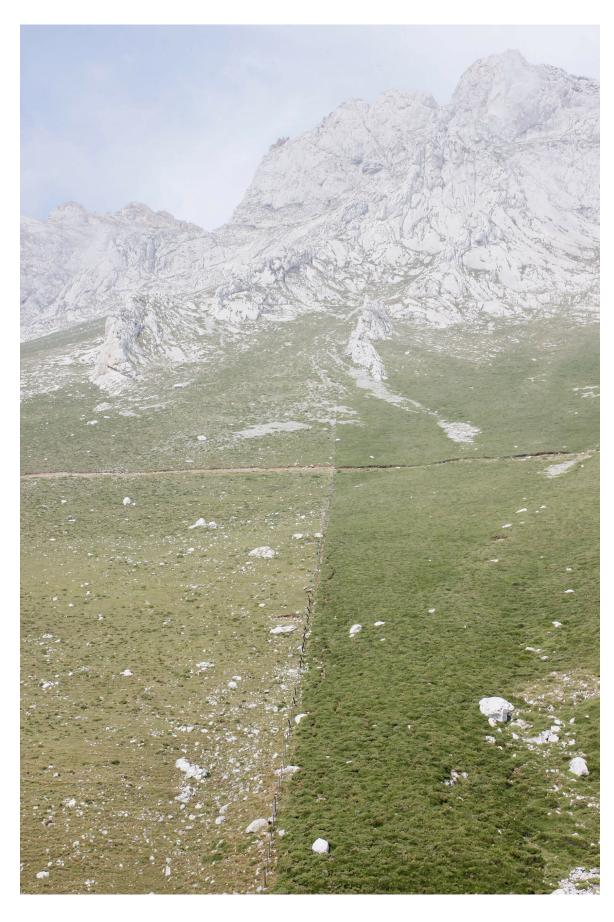
The Imaginary Edge of the Roadway



type photograph date 08.08.2021 filename IMG_7943.HEIC size 659 KB author Michiel De Cleene 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 lusher 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.

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From Asturias, Into Cantabria



type photograph date 15.05.2021 filename _MG_9795.jpg size 4,6MB author Arnout De Cleene

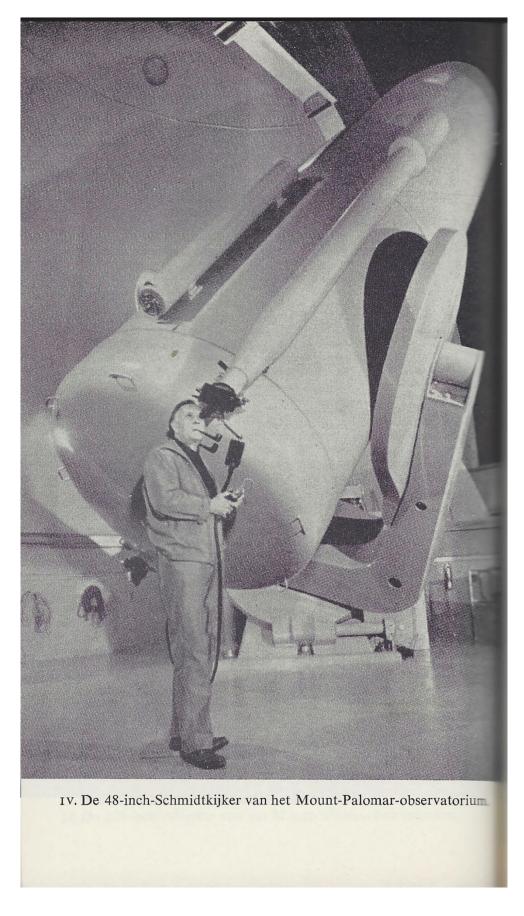
category animal, landscape, government

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

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

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org Pipe



type scan date 14.05.2021 filename Foto_2021-05-18_221027.jpg size 2,5MB author Arnout De Cleene 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.

the-documents.o

Dust



type photograph date 06.09.2021 filename LWT-Oudemirdum0002.tif size 28,17 MB author Michiel De Cleene 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

Recreational airfield at Grimbergen, webcam footage.

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

09:20:00 Two men talking, each one on one side of the barrier. The man on the side of the airstrip has two dogs with him. The aviation signs have changed: the arrow is gone; the horizontal bar of the T-symbol has moved to the other side of the vertical line; one yellow line that made up the cross on the red surface is gone, leaving one yellow diagonal line.

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

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

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

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

11:30:01 White car gone.

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

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

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

12:20:01 Aircraft gone.

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

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

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

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

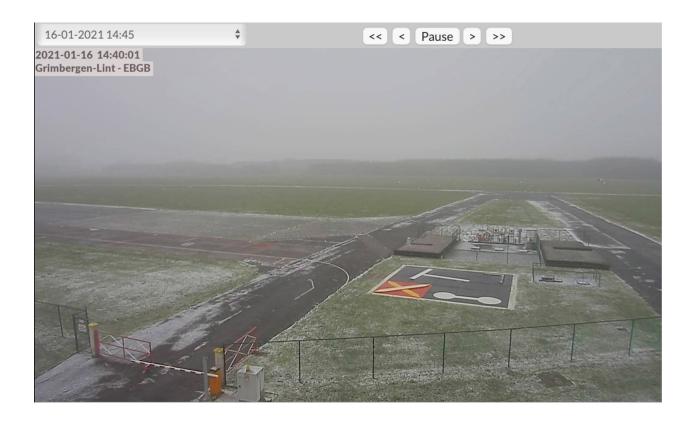
Notes

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

Sources

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

The Events That Took Place in Grimbergen



file

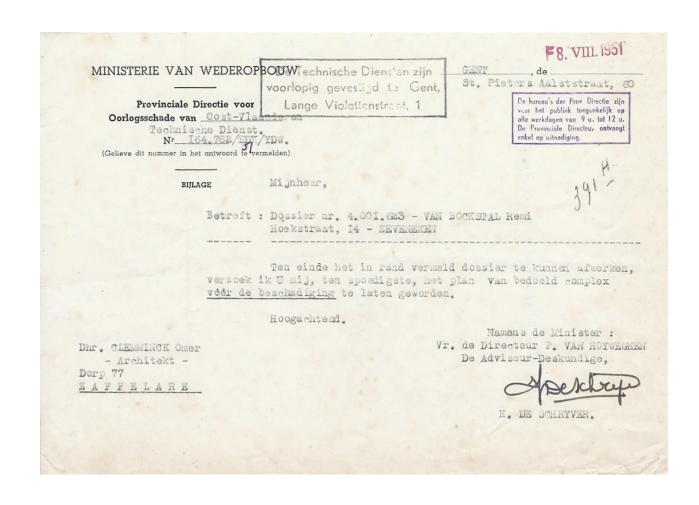
type date video 06.01.2021

Schermopname 2021-01-06 om 15.35.57.mov

size 4,4MB author De Cleene De Cleene 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.

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org



type scan date 14.12.2020 filename

Ministerie_van_wederopbouw.pdf

size 1MB author

Arnout De Cleene

I'm taking a scan of a family photo album given to me after my grandmother passed away, wanting to write something about the marvelous portraits inside. The genealogy is only partly clear to me: I recognize my dad as a kid, my uncle, my grandmother, her brother in the laboratory he (said he) ran. He smelled of cigars and severe perfume. The older photographs present people I don't know, but must be my ancestors. My grandmother told me stories¹ that, historically, reach further back than the figures I recognize in the photographs. There are no names and no dates in the album. The first two pictures seem to be the oldest ones.² I retract them from the album pockets in which they were slid to check if something is written on the backside. When I take the album away from the scanner's glass plate, particles of leather, gold varnish and sturdy cardboard come loose. I place a sheet of paper on the glass plate and press 'scan' again.

Notes

Once she (my grandmother) went home from school, sick, with her bicycle. She studied to become a nurse. The school was in Brussels, about 60 kilometers from her native village M. The milkman's van tipping over in front of my grandmother's parental house. A milk covered street. My great-grandfather, physician and mayor at M. Something happened during the Second World War having to do with telephones or radios when she was still a kid.



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Gold Varnish



type scan date 20.06.2021 filename Handgeschreven_2021-06-18_110124.jpg

size 1,9MB author Arnout De Cleene Until recently, for as long as I could remember, the packaging of Tabasco® Pepper Sauce had been unchanged. On the front of the packaging, there is a photograph of a bottle of Tabasco®, 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 life-sized 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.

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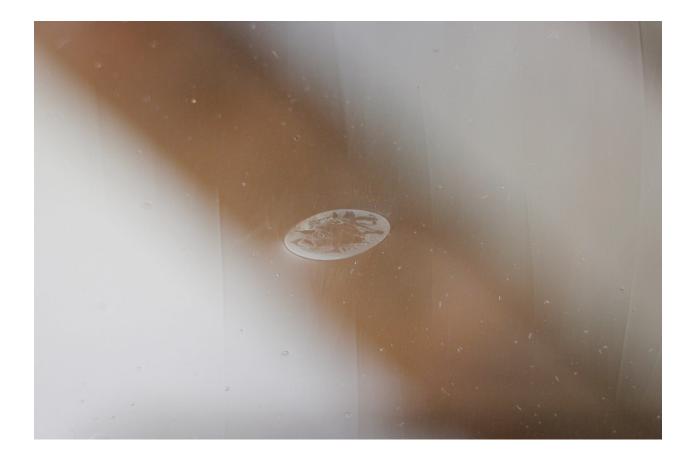
Slightly Askew (1)



type scan date 29.03.2021 filename Document_2021-03-29_111649.jpg size 180KB author Arnout 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.

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A Glass Bubble



type photograph date 02.03.2021 filename _MG_6545.JPG size 5,5MB author Arnout De Cleene In John Berger and Jean Mohr's groundbreaking book *Another Way of Telling*, the index at the end gives information on the images printed throughout the book. Most of them are Jean Mohr's. In the section 'If each time...' – a wordless sequence of images which aims to develop an alternative way of telling a story – some images are referenced as 'documents'. The information is sparse. On page 138, the index states, there is a 'Document, detail'. It features a closeup of a knitted piece of fabric. It appears to be the same picture as seen on the first page of the section (p. 135), where it is printed beneath another image – a photo by Mohr of hands knitting. On this occasion, the image is indexed as 'Document'.

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Index

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113 Baby at breast (photo: Saul Landau)
123 Boy sleeping, May 25, 1912, Budapest (photo: André Kertesz)
125 Friends, September 3, 1917, Esztergan (photo: André Kertesz)
127 Lovers, May 15, 1915, Budapest (photo: André Kertesz)
If each time . . .
(All photos are by Jean Mohr unless otherwise indicated.)
135 J.'s hands
135 Document
136 A spring, Haute-Savoie
137 A spring in the alpage, Haute-Savoie
138 Document, detail
139 In a meadow, Val d'Aoste
139 Document, Russian painting
140 Village in the Tatry Mountains, Poland
141 Poland
142 Mother and child's hand, Great Britain
143 Poland
144 Document
145 A spring
146 J.'s hands
147 Paris
148 Tunisia
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150 School in the Township of Mieussy
151 Rabbit skeletons, Haute-Savoie
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153 Katya (photo: John Berger)
154 School
156 Foundation of a chalet, Norway
157 Document
158 Children going to the dairy, Fribourg, Switzerland
158 On the road to Sommand, Haute-Savoie
159 Ibid
160 Six in the morning at the dairy, Haute-Savoie
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type scan date 18.02.2021 filename

Document_2021-02-18_092842.jpg

size 541KB author Arnout De Cleene

category

book, cloth

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

established at the Observatory.'

Notes

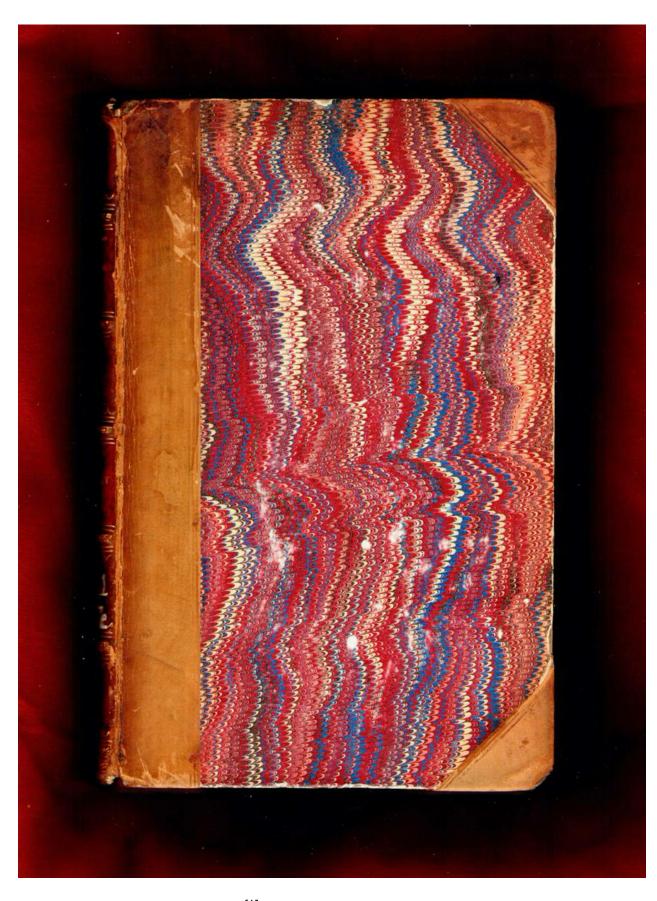
- 1. O OOO OOO OOOOOO
- In the outskirts of East of London, along Repository road in Woolwich, the only other mortar of this type is installed. This particular one fired nineteen shells on three occasions. Each time resulting in a damaged mortar.

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Sources

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

An Unfired Mortar



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

size 7,30MB author Michiel De Cleene

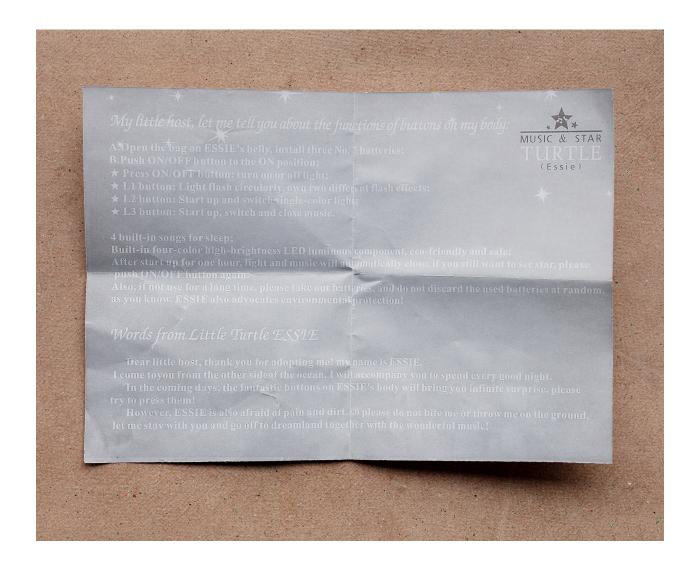
book, encyclopaedia, landscape, physics, seismology, Vesuvius, technology

I bought my son a gift while abroad: a toy turtle named Essie whose perforated shield projects stars onto the ceiling in blue, green or amber. '8 actual star constellations', the box proclaims.

The manual explains how to power up the turtle and what the four buttons on Essie's back do. The small document (recto: Chinese, verso: English) concludes with some 'Words from Little Turtle ESSIE'. In it the turtle shifts from direct speech to illeism¹ and back.

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Essie



type photograph date 17.12.2020 filename _44A8424.dng size 50,6MB author Michiel De Cleene It's early spring. The pool is covered with a sheet of plastic. The deciduous trees are just leafing out. A tree stump serves as a placeholder for the diving board's foot – it was customary to take it indoors for winter – and keeps people from kicking its threaded rods sticking up from the silex tiles that line the pool.

The upper right corner of the plastic frame is missing. It's probably where the insect – now dead, dry and yellowish – got in. The frame was left behind in the laundry room overlooking the garden, the pool and the pool house. At the time it hadn't been used for quite a while. Half empty, the water green.

In summer, when the wind dropped, horse-flies came. You could shake them off temporarily by swimming a few meters underwater.

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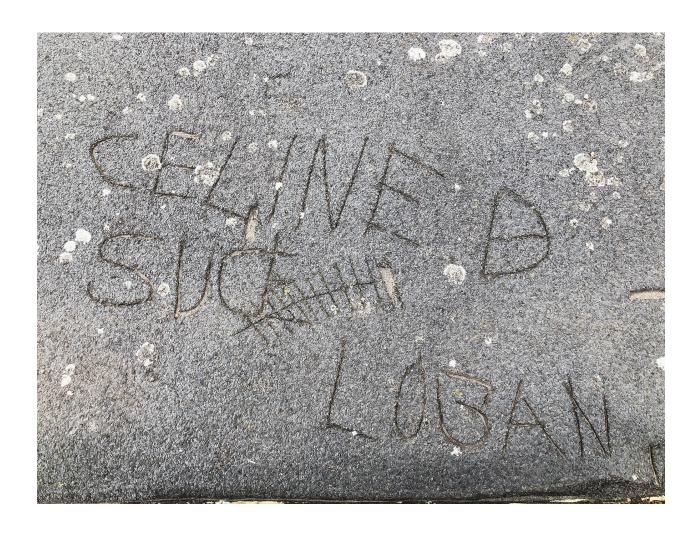
A Dead Insect on the Trunk of a Cedrus Atlantica Glauca



type scan date 22.07.2021 filename pool.jpg size 38,87 MB author Michiel De Cleene A carving that looks like a stitched-up scar (a long, slightly curved line crossed at a right angle by eleven short straight lines) is inserted into a short statement about Celine and Logan. An initial of Celine's last name is included. At first sight it looks like a 'D', but the line through the middle might just as well make it a 'B'. Maybe it was Celine D who added the line in an attempt to convince those reading the roofing that it's actually Celine B who blows Logan.

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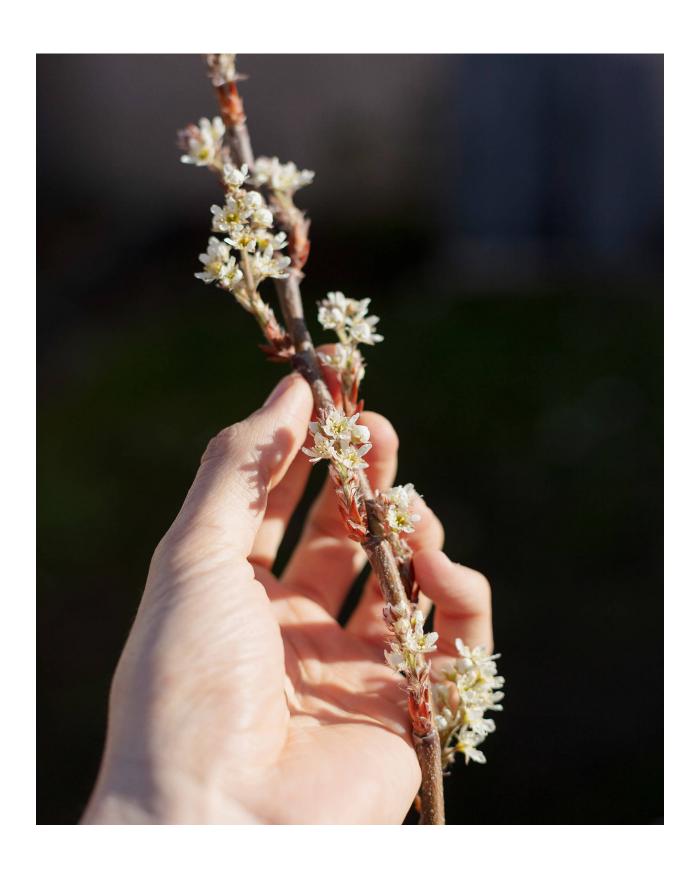




type photograph date 14.04.2021 filename IMG_6511.jpeg size 7MB author Michiel De Cleene When the juneberry (Amelanchier Lamarckii) flowers, the beekeeper knows it's time to add a first honey super to the hive. Winter's over and workerforaging bees will fly out and come back with their stomachs full of nectar. To avoid larvae in the honey, the beekeeper will place a grid – the so-called queen excluder – between the main compartment of the hive and the honey super.

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A flowering juneberry signals a beekeeper's spring

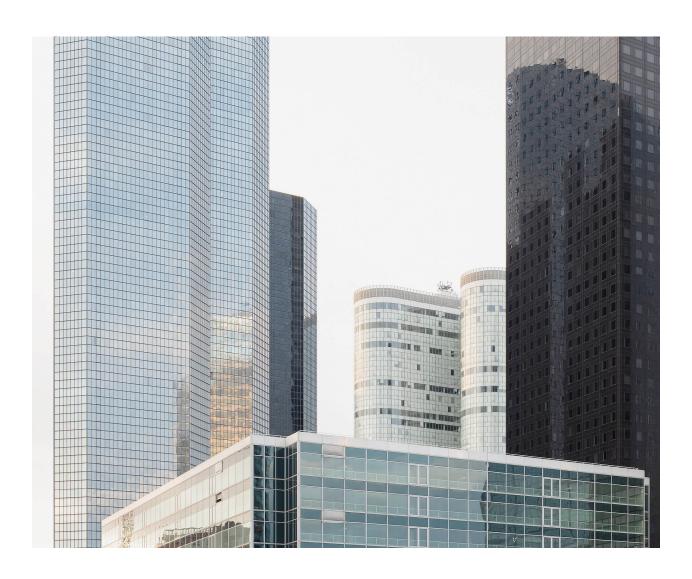


type photograph date 23.04.2021 filename _44A0321.dng size 45,58MB author Michiel De Cleene

A year ago, mid-August, just before sunrise, the mostly unlit office buildings line the road that leads to the underground parking. I turn off the ignition. I'm in F36. The walls are painted pink. Looking for the exit, I take the escalator and get stuck in an empty shopping mall. The music is playing but all the shops are closed off with steel shutters. So are the exits. I'm out of place. In keeping early customers out, the mall is keeping haphazard visitors in. I'm back in the parking lot. The elevator is broken. I take the stairs and walk by a homeless man, sleeping. There's shit on the floor. I open the door that leads out of the stairwell. It slams shut behind me. There's no doorknob. I find myself on a dark floor between mall and parking lot. People are sleeping; some are awake. Heads turn toward me. I start walking slightly uphill towards where I think I might find an exit, or an entrance. The scale of the architecture has shifted from car (F36) and customer (the closed mall) to truck. I find myself amidst the supply-chain. It takes five minutes, maybe fifteen, maybe more to get out and see the office buildings towering over me in the first light of day.

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The First Light of Day

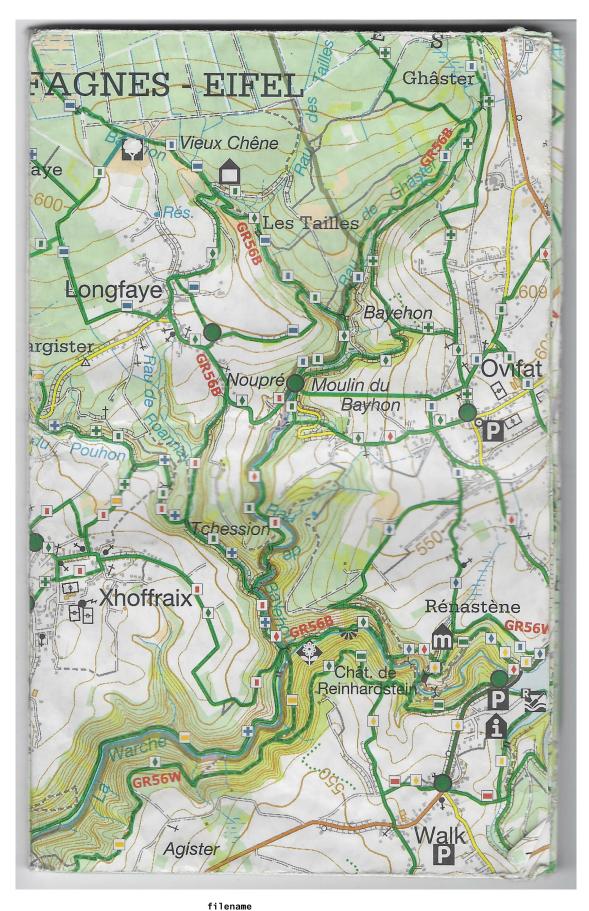


type photograph date 15.10.2021 filename _44A4965.dng size 52 MB author Michiel De Cleene The paths in the valley of the Bayehon are covered with ice. We are making our way down towards the valley of the Ghâster. The temperature is minus 15 degrees Celsius. The water in our drinking bottles is frozen. 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.

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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}}$, sign, wind, precipitation$

The weeds and bushes on what over the years has become savanna are being chopped to clear the ground to replant trees and reinstate the forest. During the dry season, forest fires are frequent. In between the future lots of planted trees, firebreaks are made to keep fires from spreading. Wires are used to measure the required distance between plant beds and to keep a straight line. The sun is sinking. In a bit, the workers will return home and the field will empty out. In a couple of years, the Acacias, Ebben trees, Millettia laurentii and Umbrella trees will testify to the strings.

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Strings

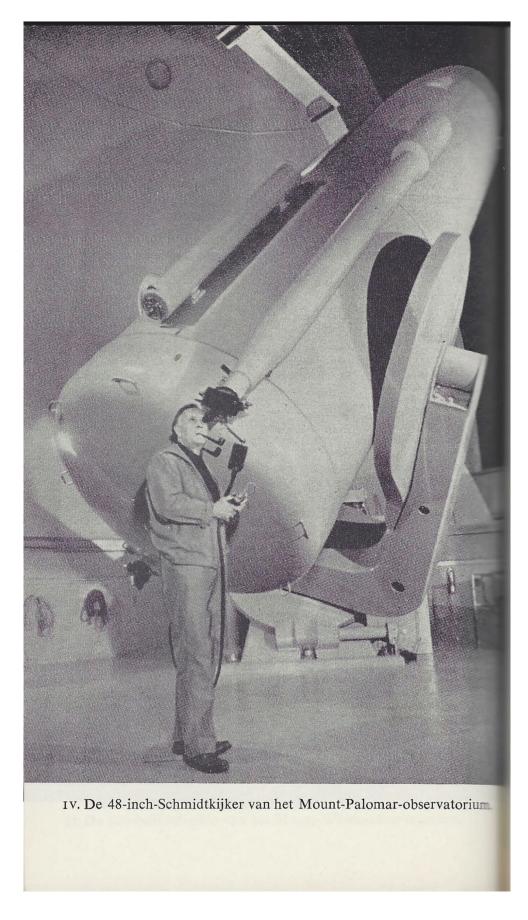


type video date 10.06.2021 filename MVI_2082.MOV size 285MB author Arnout De Cleene The 48-inch Oschin Schmidt, a renowned reflecting telescope at Palomar Observatory, California, was used for the Palomar Observatory Sky Survey (POSS), published in 1958, one of the largest photographic surveys of the night sky.

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

the-documents.d

org Pipe



type scan date 14.05.2021 filename Foto_2021-05-18_221027.jpg size 2,5MB author Arnout De Cleene