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

Your path through the collection lead along Tracking, Iguanodon, Tracking, pgealerts.alerts.pge.com/, CLOSED NO POWER. For prescriptions go to Walgreens 2690 Mission OPEN UNTIL 5 PM., Tracking, 12:13, Flashlight in a dark corner of the Oval Room, The Saddle of a Sparta K-10, Rue Verte, Brussels, K10 in Folder Sparta Bikes 2011, Roofing (3) – Simon, tu me manques, 12M m3 [3/8] Swell, The Imaginary Edge of the Roadway, Mammoth Tree and the Golden Spurs, Marmara, Mould, Strings, Neptune in opposition [5/20] – Magnolia leaves on a cloudy afternoon, Neptune in opposition [17/20] – Remote, We Welcome Comments

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 13.04.2023 14:09,
printed on	and contains 19 do	cuments on 43 pages.
(https://the-doc	cuments.org/log/13-0	04-2023-5306/)

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

the-documents.org has been online since 23.05.2021.

Notes

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

Sources

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







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

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

Notes

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

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Tracking



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

size 3,51 MB, 324 KB author Mathew Kneebone

category

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

the-documents.

Tracking

org



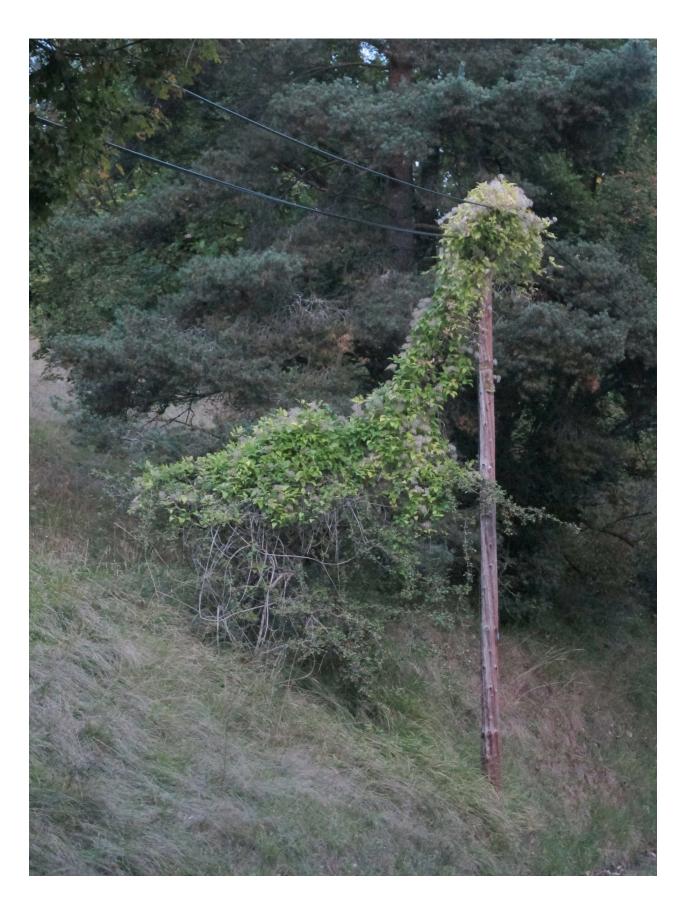
13:07:43

I recognized it in a flash, the late Jurassic-early Cretaceous herbivore looming dangerously over the road I was cycling on. I thought of *Some Windy Trees*.¹

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

the-documents.d

Iguanodon



type photograph date 17.10.2021 filename IMG_2711.jpg size 4,66 MB author Michiel De Cleene

category angst, animal, book, botany, dusk, mistake, tree, trompe l'oeil, wind

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

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Tracking



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

size 3,51 MB, 324 KB author Mathew Kneebone

category

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

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Tracking

org



13:08:24

On a windy morning in April, I was on a video call with a friend, curator Maziar Afrassiabi. He listened patiently from Rotterdam as I labored over a direction for my research. It concerned a device I installed in his art space, Rib, six months prior, that monitored blackouts across California by scraping real-time data from utility companies. When a county experienced a significant blackout, it would cut Rib's electricity in kind—causing Rib to inherit and adapt to conditions that shape Californian infrastructure. During its operation, I'd been researching the grid—learning what it is, why it fails, and how communities respond when it does.

We took a short break. Maziar, with tired eyes, stepped away for a smoke. While waiting, I watched the power lines outside my window sway limply in the breeze. In spite of its apparent lifelessness, I've always thought of electricity as a psychological force. My mind wandered through a cursory model of the grid, idiosyncratically cloudy and detailed.

Energy simultaneously generated and used, cascading infrastructural operations in a blink. Outlying stations burning, vaporizing, absorbing fuel, spinning vast electromagnetic turbines. Oscillating current. Neighboring transformers boosting volts to kilovolts, compensating for lost energy coursing through long-distance transmission supported by pylons peppered across Menlo Park.

Current flows into enclosed substations.

Transformers, insulators, resembling a kind of industrial Watts Towers—though uninhabitable and anonymous by comparison—step voltages back down to levels safe enough for wires traversing the city. They branch out through streets via buried cables or, like the lines outside my window, are strung atop Douglas fir utility poles at roughly 30-meter intervals...curious vestigial markers. I'd read somewhere they were provisionally pitched when Samuel Morse found that telegraph signals wouldn't transmit through the earth.

Each pole divides vertically into distinct zones, spaced apart for safety. Treacherous high-voltage wires from substations pass along the top, while safer signals—cable internet and landlines—hang nearest to the ground. The high-voltage wires enter through a barrel-shaped pole-mounted transformer. Within, submerged in oil, two tightly wound copper

Notes

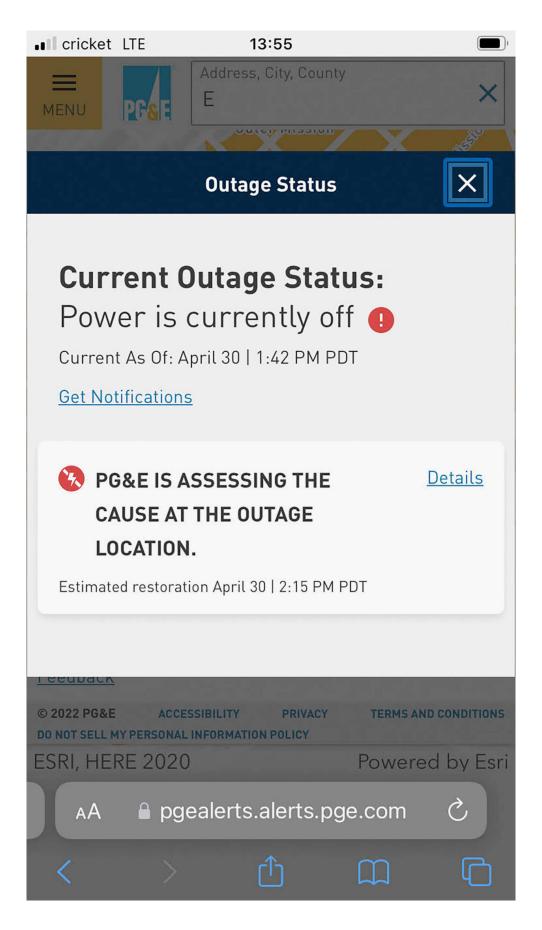
 Mathew Kneebone is an artist based in San Francisco. His interdisciplinary practices takes different forms, all in relation to an interest in electricity and technology. He teaches studio and thesis writing at California College of the Arts.

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coils magnetically harmonize, delivering 240 and 120 volts to three exiting wires, each connected to the electrical meter attached to the building...

A blackout in my neighborhood cut my thoughts and the meeting short. The sudden silence in my apartment indicated Maziar was also in the dark. I received a text message from him and the utility company.





type screenshot date 18.02.2023 filename
unnamed.jpg

size 84 KB author Mathew Kneebone [13:42] Maziar: Power out at Rib now.

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

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

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

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

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

I can't access the drive.

[13:52] Mathew: Yeah.

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

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

[13:55] Maziar: Thanks.

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

what's happening.

[13:59] Maziar: Okay, enjoy.

Notes

- 1 Local businesses experiencing a blackout typically post <u>handwritten</u> notices on their street-facing windows. These condensed notes detail acute symptoms felt at a community level, hinting at the improvisation required to maintain social harmony.
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CLOSED NO POWER. For prescriptions go to Walgreens 2690 Mission OPEN UNTIL 5 PM.



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

size 641 KB author Mathew Kneebone I drove through the neighborhood seeking evidence of the disruption using a power outage map as a compass. Winding through quiet streets, I stumbled upon a lone blue PG&E truck idling opposite a charred utility pole with fragments of wood and wire strewn across the pavement. I parked my car and walked toward the truck to ask the driver what had happened. He pointed to the top of the pole where a porcelain insulator dangled precariously from a high-voltage line. "Tracking," he said curtly. "Is that like a short circuit?" I asked. "Kind of," he replied before pausing. He finally elaborated, explaining that the problem arises when moisture from morning fog settles on power lines, creating a pathway for electricity to arc across components.

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

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Tracking



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

size 3,51 MB, 324 KB author Mathew Kneebone

category

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

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Tracking

org



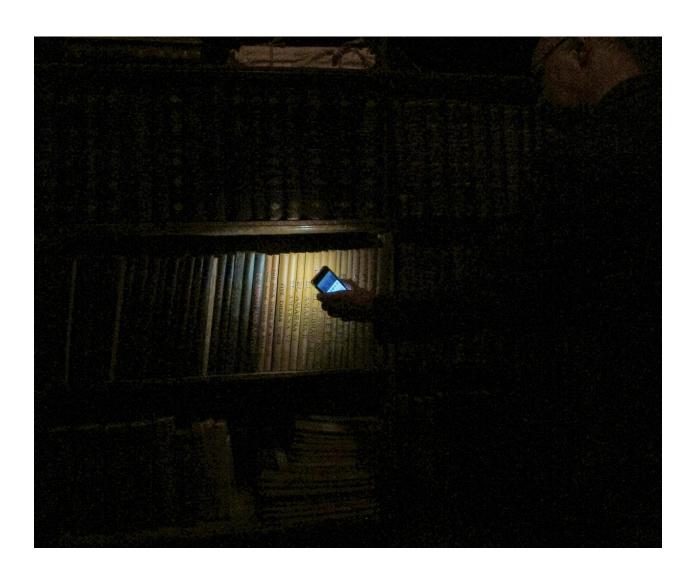
During a two hour tour, H.V. (head of the science collection) guided us from the library to the observatory and back. Along the way, he touched upon various rarities: one hundred ninety-five volumes of the Encyclopédie Méthodique (according to H.V. the most complete copy left in the world), the severed summit of Mont Blanc ('Actually de Saussure brought back a triangular piece of rock from just below the snow line near the summit'), an original copy of the publication on the infamous Lügensteine ('These date back to the time before the hoax was unveiled')...

In guiding us from room to room, H.V. piled oddity upon curiosity. He showed a particular interest in all things fish-related.

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Notes





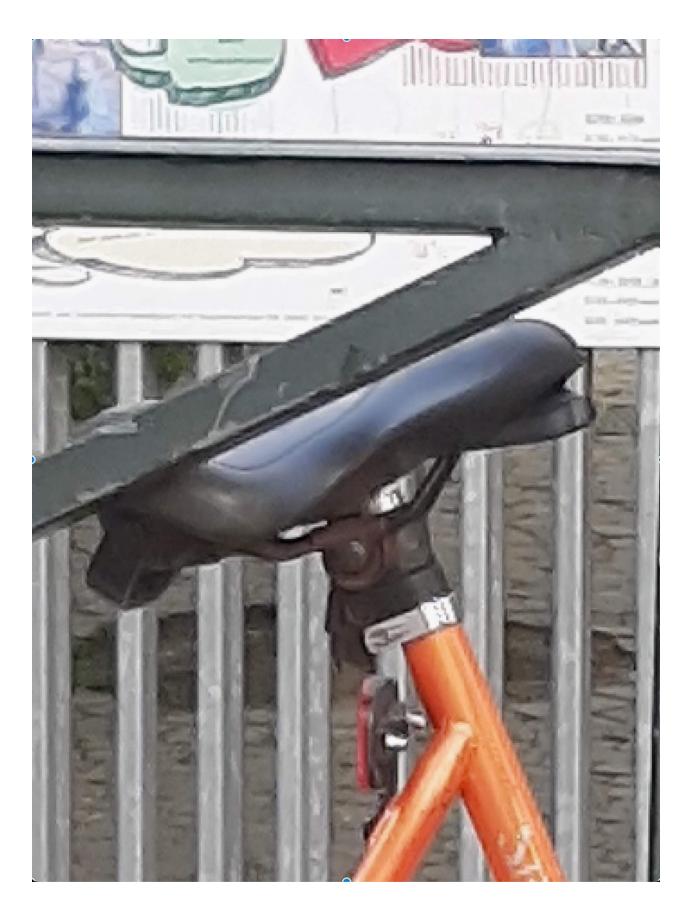
type photograph date 30.01.2023 filename teylers.tif size 36,68 MB author Michiel De Cleene How slanted is this saddle? Anyone looking at the full photo of this Sparta K-10 might think that the street fence is pushing its saddle down at an angle. However, the bike and its saddle are leaning against the fence, they are not pushed under it. Whether the saddle is as slanted as the photo suggests, we are not sure. This detail of the photo suggests otherwise. The rail to which the saddle is attached is already mounted slightly less slanted than the line of the fence behind which the saddle is partly hidden, and above that part of the fence something vaguely protrudes from the back of the saddle. Presumably that is the edge of the saddle, which would reassure us about the cyclist's comfort.

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Notes

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

The Saddle of a Sparta K-10, Rue Verte, Brussels



type photograph

org

date 22.01.2023 filename Naamloos.jpg size 189 KB author Lars Kwakkenbos

The company Demuynck from Heist (B) has put the 2011 brochure of Dutch bicycle manufacturer Sparta on yumpu.com as an ePaper. According to yumpu.com, this was reportedly done on 28 September 2013. The leaflet is titled 'Collection Overview 2011'. On pages 68 and 69, the bike is called K10, the frame says K-TEN, while a version presumably a bit older is usually for sale secondhand as K-10. The K10 is a 'practical, compact city bike', it is available in one unisex frame size 50 and it has an integrated cable lock. There is a loop at the back of the large tube to which the rest of the frame is mounted. This might be the end of that lock. There are optional carriers, front and rear, and there is an optional lighting kit. The recommended retail price is 299 euros.

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K10 in Folder Sparta Bikes 2011





type screenshot date 20.01.2023 filename Screenshot 2022-09-30 at 10-59-06 Klik hier voor de folder Sparta fietsen 2011. - Demuynck Heist.png

size 761 KB author Lars Kwakkenbos

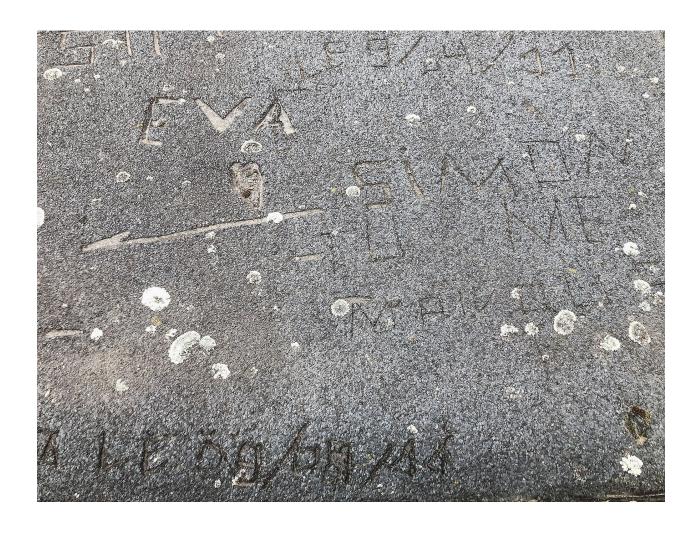
category bicycle, economy

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.

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Roofing (3) – Simon, tu me manques



type photograph date 14.04.2021 filename IMG_6512.jpeg size 4,50MB author Michiel De Cleene The river swells and eventually overflows, causing the death of six people and extensive damage: washed away bridges, damaged homes, submerged factories, destroyed food stocks, heavily eroded roads and paths.

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type photograph date 01.12.2021 filename IMG_0507b.jpg size 6,12 MB author Michiel 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

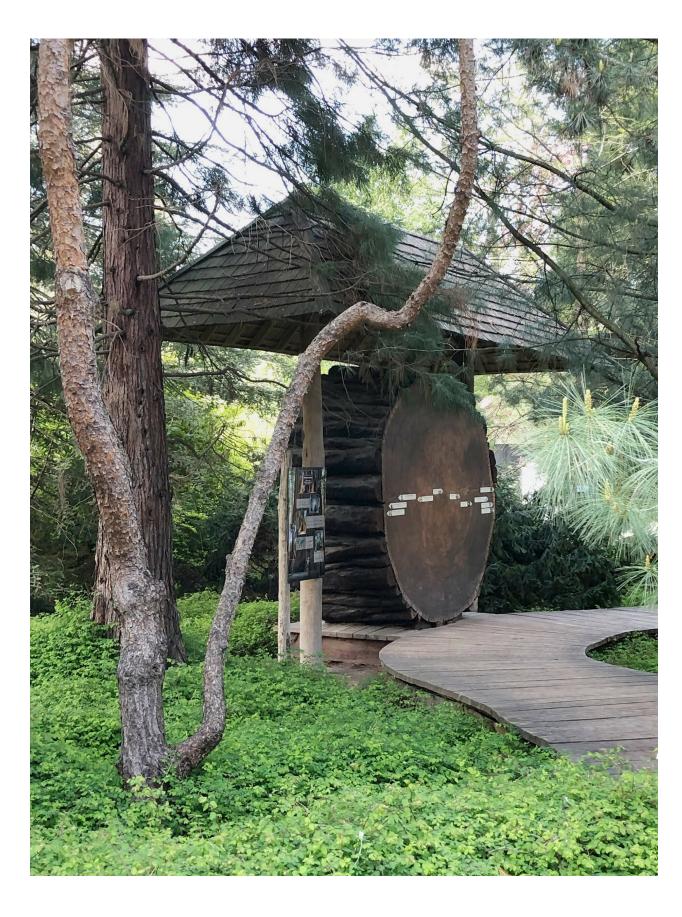
Between the rhinos and the kangaroos in the Antwerp Zoo a wooden footpath curves through a grove of Sequoiadendron Giganteum trees. In the middle of this Californian forest, visitors find the giant slice of a felled tree of the same species. It was brought to the zoo in 1962 and was approximately 650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

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

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Notes

Mammoth Tree and the Golden Spurs



type photograph

date 15.05.2021 filename IMG_6958.HEIC size 1,9MB author Michiel De Cleene

category animal, book, botany, card, tree

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

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Marmara

org



type photograph date 19.11.2021 filename marmar_.jpg size 3,47 MB author Márk Redele 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

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Mould

org



type photograph date 27.01.2022 filename _44A3429.tif size 36,81 MB author De Cleene De Cleene 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 While calibrating their telescopes, or dealing with unforeseen, cloudy weather, amateur astronomers tend to trade the far for the not-so-far, and point their telescopes at their immediate surroundings.

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Sources

Neptune in opposition [5/20] – Magnolia leaves on a cloudy afternoon



type video 'My backyard is oriented perfectly, I can see the entire southern sky without obstructions. In two years, they will start building an apartment block, though, two floors high with a roof on top. The height is not a problem, but of course it does mean heat and potential turbulence. I just hope they will be well insulated.

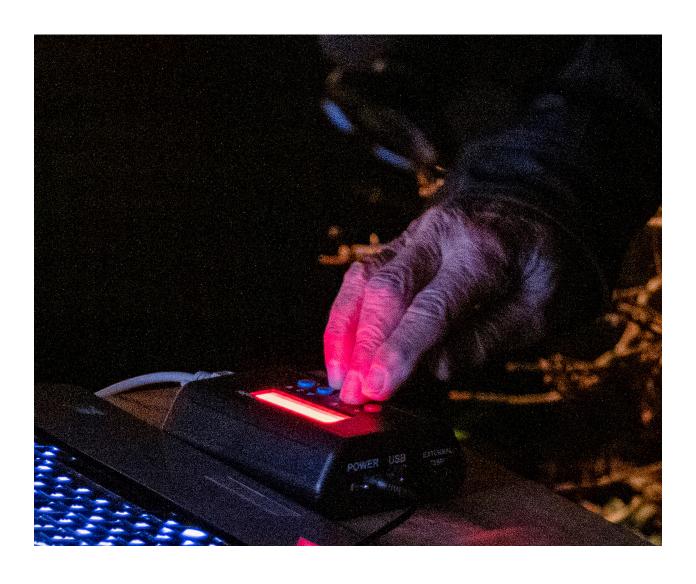
This is what I like doing. I have never been interested in remote observations. In my backyard. I hear the geese flying overhead at night. An owl. The silence. I want to be near.

Notes

- In the photograph <u>John Sussenbach</u> is manipulating the telescope's focus slightly during the recording.
- 1 To make better images, astrophotographers can rent time on a 'remote observatory': a fully equipped observatory located in a less light-polluted region and with a more stable atmosphere than the one the average amateur astronomer lives in. A command given from a computer directs a massive telescope in Chile towards a desired spot.

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type photograph date 02.10.2022 filename _44A6751.dng size 48,84 MB author De Cleene De Cleene Robert Nemiroff and Jerry Bonnell's lesser known project (R.N. and J.B. being the creators of Astronomy Picture of The Day), was making websites containing over a million of digits of square roots of irrational numbers, e.g. seven. 'They were computed during spare time on a VAX alpha class machine over the course of a weekend. [...] We believe these are the most digits ever computed for the square root of seven on or before 1 April 1994.' Elsewhere, R.N. states: 'They are not copyrighted and we do not think it is legally justifiable to copyright such a basic thing as the digits of a commonly used irrational number.' If one wanted to get a copy of the 10 million digits of the square root of the number e R.N. and J.B. computed in their spare time, one can send an email to R.N. at nemiroff@grossc.gsfc.nasa.gov.

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Sources

- https://apod.nasa.gov/htmltest/gifcity/sqrt7.1mil
- $\bullet \qquad https://apod.nasa.gov/htmltest/rjn_dig.html$
- https://apod.nasa.gov/htmltest/rjn.html

We Welcome Comments

What follows are the first 1 million digits of the square root of 7. Actually, slightly more than 1 million digits are given here. These digits were computed by Robert Nemiroff (George Mason University and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center) and checked by Jerry Bonnell (University Space Research Association and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center). They were computed during spare time on a VAX alpha class machine over the course of a weekend. We do NOT guarantee the accuracy of these digits. Although these digits have been checked once we encourage others to check them as well. We believe these are the most digits ever computed for the square root of seven on or before 1 April 1994. If anyone is aware of more digits we ask them to please alert us of their existence. We have computed at least 10 million digits of the square root of two as well as several digits of the number e and the square roots of other numbers. These are available on this mosaic server (URL: http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/htmltest/rjn.html). We welcome comments.

- Robert Nemiroff and Jerry Bonnell

The square root of seven =

filename

type date Schermafbeelding 2021-05-01 om size author screenshot 01.05.2021 16.44.39.png 340KB Arnout De Cleene

category astronomy, archive, data storage, irrational numbers, mathematics