

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

Your path through the collection lead along Neptune in opposition [6/20] – Pier, LIGO, Schelp, Slightly Askew (2), Hétéroclites, Deneef ‘for ever’, Crocodile Copy, A peregrine falcon in the internal perimeter, Another letter from abroad, 2 bdrms, Tipp-Ex, Slightly Askew (2), 12M m3 [7/8] A Fissure, Directory, Raisins, A Seismic Change

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 21.09.2022 19:54, printed on _____ and contains 16 documents on 35 pages. (<https://the-documents.org/log/21-09-2022-4591/>)

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

the-documents.org has been online since 23.05.2021.

Notes

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

Sources

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



Flanders
State of the Art



As an architectural structure, the pier is fundamental in observational astronomy: it can be found in the backyards of amateur observatories, as well as in professional ones. This column is a quintessential part of the physical interventions that are necessary to distinguish noise from valuable data. The pier disjoins the telescope from the observer, from the observatory and from the surroundings. Tremors of passing cars, the astronomer's footsteps and coughs, the neighbour's soundsystem: they could result in an agitated telescope. A falling mug would cause the instrument to shift lightyears away from its target.

Notes

- In August 2019, I visited Chris De Pauw, an astrophotographer, at home. He showed me his private observatory. As we were both waiting for clouds to obscure the sun and get softer light for the photograph, he told me about the rolling shed, its advantages and the modifications he was planning on. On closing the observatory – by rolling the shed over the instrument – he manoeuvred the instrument into its 'park'-position: an azimuth of 160 degrees and an elevation of 8 degrees above the horizon. The shed's doors and hinges barely cleared the telescope.



type
photograph

date
21.09.2022

filename
_44A7375.dng, _44A7394.dng

size
55,61 MB,
56,96 MB

author
De Cleene De Cleene

category
architecture, astronomy, encounter, Neptune, technology

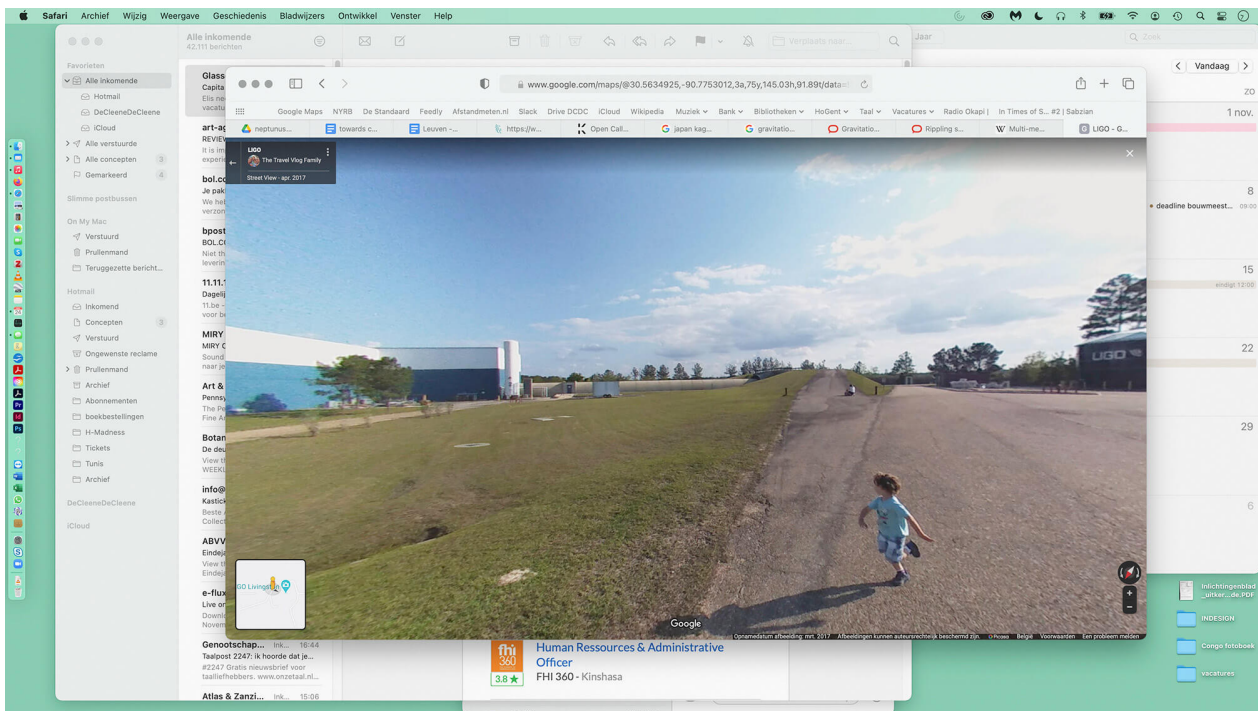
10:52:01



10:52:01

To detect gravitational waves, physicists built enormous research centers, amongst others at Livingston, Louisiana. The facility mainly consists of two tunnels in an L-shape. Mirrors inside provide data. Disturbances from gravitational waves are miniscule. To prevent interference from outside, such as vibrations caused by people passing in the neighbourhood, the mirrors have to be detached from the earth. They ‘float’, suspended by glass fibers in a pendulum-like construction.

As I was watching my screen, a courier was on his way to deliver a book (Noel-Todd, J. *The Penguin Book of the Prose Poem: From Baudelaire to Anne Carson*. London: Penguin, 2019).



type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	24.11.2020	LIGO.png	6,9MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
physics, seismology, mirror, interference, book, architecture, mistake

10:53:03

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.

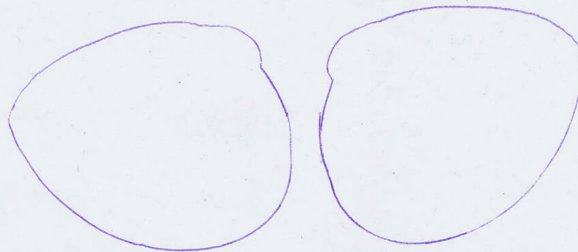
Yesterday he (my dad) received a printout of the Dutch wikipedia-page on the Brakwaterstrandschelp (*Rangia Cuneata*). On the page Paul (who sends his regards at the bottom of the document) traced around the scallops with a blue ballpoint pen.

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.

WIKIPEDIA

Brakwaterstrandschelp

De **brakwaterstrandschelp** (*Rangia cuneata*) is een tweekleppigensoort uit de familie van de Mactridae.^[1] De wetenschappelijke naam van de soort is voor het eerst geldig gepubliceerd in 1832 door Sowerby I.



Brakwaterstrandschelp

Taxonomische indeling

Rijk: Animalia (Dieren)
Stam: Mollusca (Weekdieren)
Klasse: Bivalvia (Tweekleppigen)
Orde: Veneroida
Familie: Mactridae
Geslacht: *Rangia*

Soort

Rangia cuneata

(Sowerby I, 1832)

Afbeeldingen op Wikimedia Commons

(en) World Register of Marine Species

(<http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=156991>)

Portaal Biologie

Bronnen, noten en/of referenties

- 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>

Geplaatst op:
09-03-2013

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"

Deze pagina is voor het laatst bewerkt op 13 feb 2019 om 20:55.

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<https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brakwaterstrandschelp>

7/04/2021

type
scan

date
11.04.2021

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size
7MB

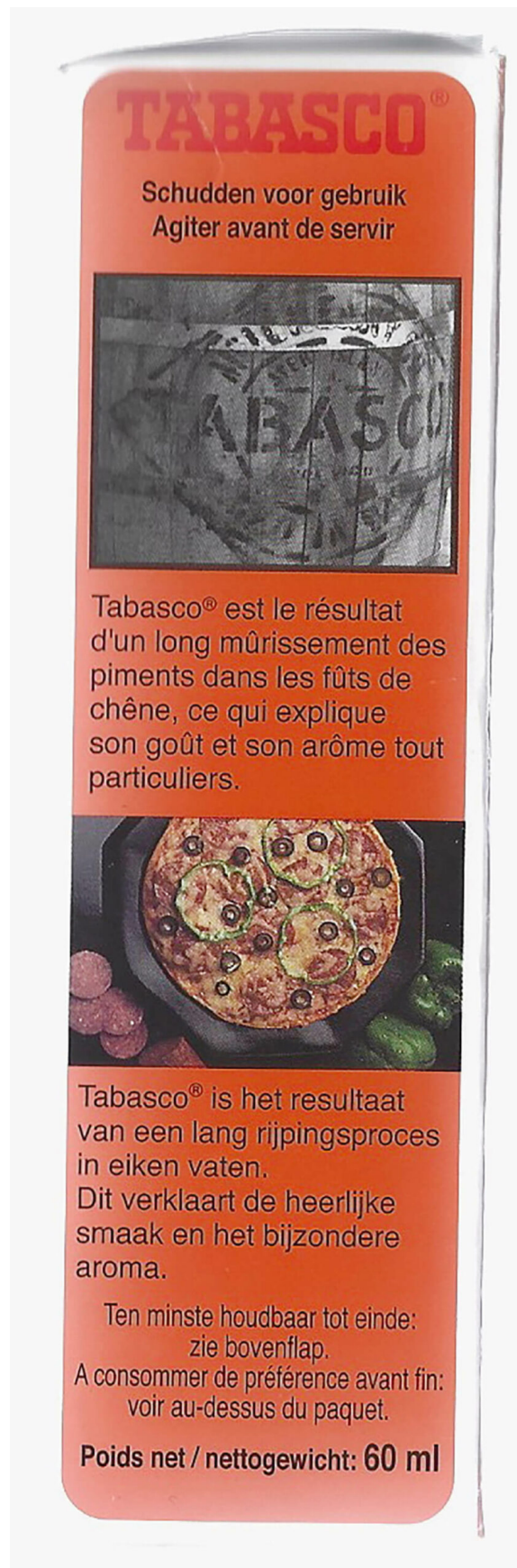
author
Michiel De Cleene

category
animal, economy, encyclopaedia, food, replica/copy, sea, family

10:53:05

It must have been four or five years ago, that I noticed the change in Tabasco's® up until then stable, unchanged and thus kind of unfashionable presence in supermarkets (vinegar section). On one of the box's sides, there had always been a photograph of a man, clipboard in hand, looking upwards to a huge wooden barrel full of Tabasco®. He was inspecting something, from the outside, writing it down.

A couple of years ago, the man disappeared from the packaging. I think he was replaced by a pizza (as one of the suggestions for using Tabasco® on, besides on hashed meat (with an egg yolk, fries and lettuce) and spaghetti bolognese) or a black-and-white image of a part of an oak barrel. It is unclear who is inspecting the barrels now.



type
scan

date
29.03.2021

filename
Document_2021-03-29_111649.jpg

size
180KB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
packaging, food

10:54:09

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'.

Sources

- Queneau, R. *Aux confins des ténèbres. Les fous littéraires du XIXe siècle* (M. Velguth, red.). Paris: Gallimard, 2002.
- Queneau, R. *Les enfants du limon*. Paris: Gallimard, 2004 [1938].



type
photograph

date
06.03.2021

filename
_MG_6560.JPG

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
book, encyclopaedia, mathematics, sign

10:54:11

The previous owners of the house we moved into, left us a piece of a newspaper that was used to clad the wall at the time the building was built, and which they found when they renovated the house. The sport-section of the socialist newspaper *Vooruit* is dated 18 November 1931. It features articles on cycling and soccer. Recently, we noticed the plaster is coming off the wall in one corner of the living room. With sufficient rain, it might reveal other events that happened on that 1931 November Wednesday.

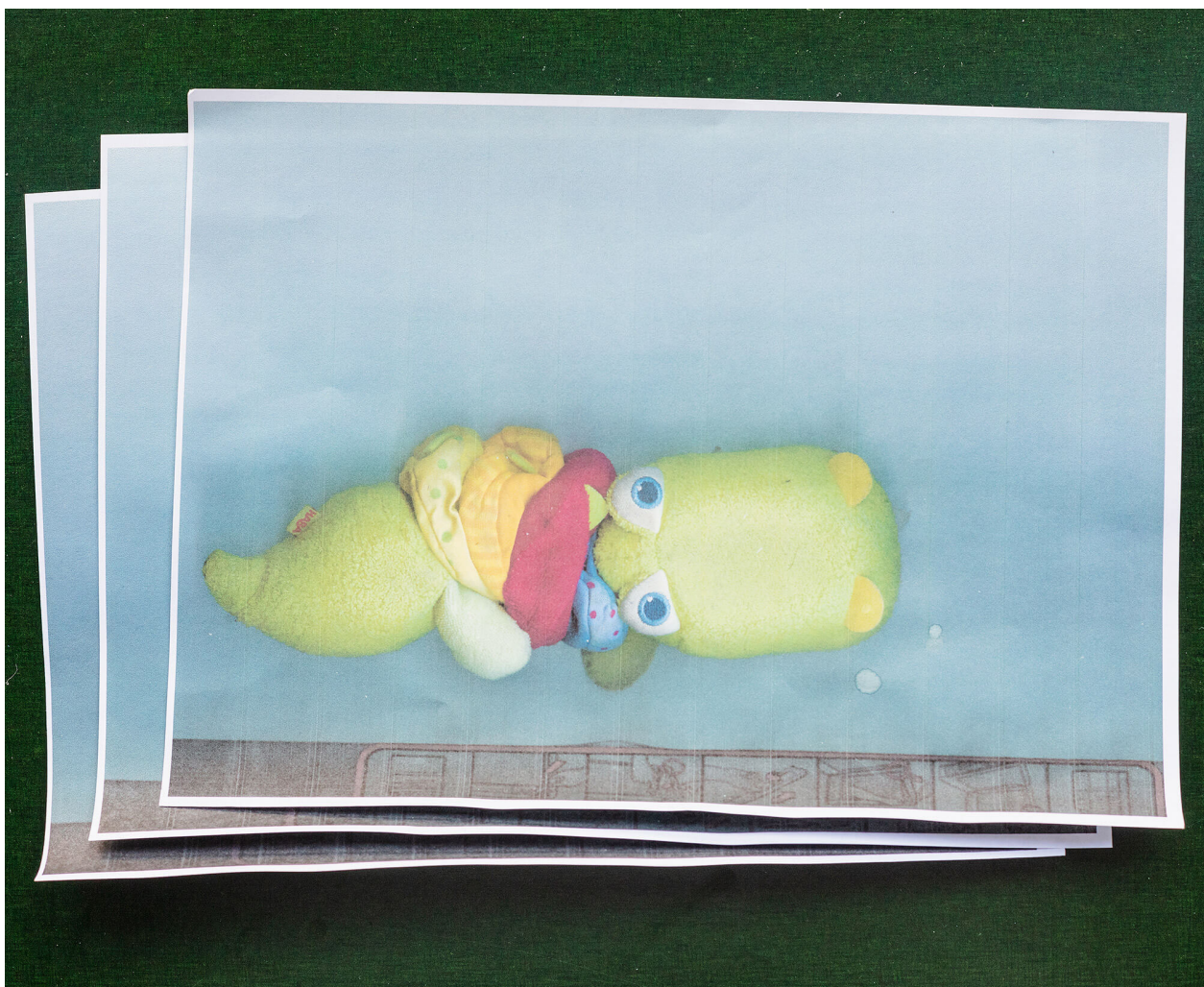


type	date	filename	size	author
scan	20.02.2021	Document_2021-02-20_133700.jpg	1,7MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
archaeology, architecture, fissure, decoration, house, precipitation

10:54:12

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

10:54:12

At the nuclear waste processing facility. While the photographer and the head of the communication department are making their way from the processing building to the temporary storage building, they walk past the central chimney.

‘On the highest of the accessible levels of the chimney, operators were finding small steel rings. They gathered them, but soon noticed that new rings were added. At a certain point at a rate of one ring a day.

[...]

It took them some time to realize what they were, so they started collecting them by slipping them onto a piece of rope. By now the rings on the rope span about this distance [spreads his arms to indicate a distance of about 1.2m].

[...]

They turned out to be rings that came from pigeon’s legs.

[...]

On top of our chimney resides a peregrine falcon.

[...]

I was told pigeon fanciers have a tendency to give a peregrine falcon – or any other bird of prey in their area – a hand at disappearing, but this one took up residency in the internal perimeter, where – as you know – access is severely restricted.’

Notes

First published in: De Cleene, M. *Reference Guide*. Amsterdam: Roma Publications, 2019



type
photograph

date
02.03.2022

filename
duivenringen_001.jpg

size
20,04 MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
animal, collecting, food, Reference Guide, technology, waste, hand

10:54:13

Because an acquaintance of the family was a missionary, the postage stamp collection had a large quantity of stamps from the Philippines. You had to boil water, hold the empty envelope above it, wait until the glue and the missionary's saliva loosened and evaporated, and then gently peel off the stamp. Then, it was put on a piece of pink blotting paper. Once dry, the stamp was slid into a tailor-made booklet.

Between a Horta building's facade and King Baudouin's portrait, there are exotic fish, religious scenes, butterflies, and advertisements for NGOs.

Mango is the Philippines' national fruit. Pope John Paul II visited it in 1995. There was a guerrilla unit in Northwest Pampanga during WWII.



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	23.01.2022	2022-01-22_213134.png	27,7MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
animal, architecture, book, collecting, fruit, sticker

10:54:14

Recently built apartment with two bedrooms, two terraces, underground car parking space and basement storage. The layout is as follows: beautiful spacious entrance hall with fitted cupboard, spacious living room with a sliding window and a terrace, open kitchen, storage room. Separate toilet with sink. Bathroom with shower, bath, toilet and bathroom furniture with double sink and mirror cabinet, 2 bedrooms, 1 with terrace. Fully painted and ready to move in. Public transport and shops in the immediate vicinity. Rental price: 775 € / month + 55 € general costs / month. RECOMMENDED!'

Zaffelare, December 2019.

Notes

First published in A+ Architecture in Belgium, A+ 282, Village (February, March 2020), <https://www.a-plus.be/nl/tijdschrift/village/>

Sources

<https://www.immoweb.be/nl/zoekertje/appartement/te-huur/zaffelare/9080/id8452503>



type
photograph

date
04.05.2021

filename
MDC_aplus_DORP_adobeRGB.jpg

size
21,90MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
architecture, automobile, economy, decoration, house, parking

10:54:14

A white Mercedes van inserts in front of me in a traffic jam near Antwerp. The back of the van has been altered in several ways: a latch was added to the door,¹ a footstep was bolted to the bumper, a couple of tie-wraps are holding up the lights on the left side.² Traffic is moving slow. There is no Mercedes logo.³ Some parts have been retouched with white paint that differs slightly from the rest of the bodywork,⁴ not unlike a tipp-ex'ed document.

Notes

- 1 Maybe the original locking mechanism no longer functions, or, perhaps, the owner wants to add a padlock to the doors at night.
- 2 Maybe a corroded screw caused the lights to come loose, or a slight collision.
- 3 Someone might have stolen it. Mercedes stars are often stolen, although mostly from the hood.
- 4 Maybe to counter corrosion, to conceal a mark someone made on the van or to cover up a fixed dent.
- Legislation concerning the publication of someone else's licence plate on the internet and the demand to blur it, is somewhat ambiguous.



type
photograph

date
05.07.2021

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size
714 KB

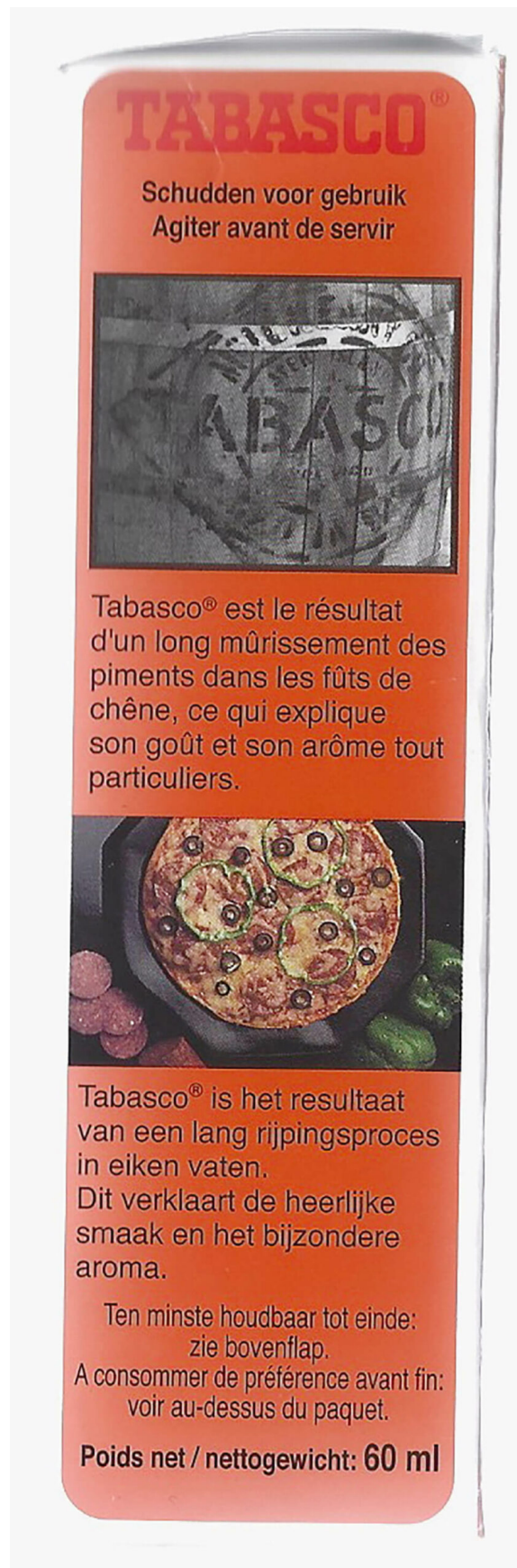
author
Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, crash, impact, insurance, sticker

10:54:15

It must have been four or five years ago, that I noticed the change in Tabasco's® up until then stable, unchanged and thus kind of unfashionable presence in supermarkets (vinegar section). On one of the box's sides, there had always been a photograph of a man, clipboard in hand, looking upwards to a huge wooden barrel full of Tabasco®. He was inspecting something, from the outside, writing it down.

A couple of years ago, the man disappeared from the packaging. I think he was replaced by a pizza (as one of the suggestions for using Tabasco® on, besides on hashed meat (with an egg yolk, fries and lettuce) and spaghetti bolognese) or a black-and-white image of a part of an oak barrel. It is unclear who is inspecting the barrels now.



type
scan

date
29.03.2021

filename
Document_2021-03-29_111649.jpg

size
180KB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
packaging, food

10:54:16

What they took for ice that slid down the dam's slope, appears to be the reason for draining the reservoir: a fissure in the watertight layer. The dam became unreliable.



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	06.12.2021	IMG_0515b	5,42 MB	Michiel De Cleene
category	fissure, landscape, mistake, repair			

10:54:16

In 2020, the print versions of the Flemish telephone books 'Gouden Gids' and 'Witte Gids' (The Golden Guide and The White Guide), were published for the last time. From that year onwards, the directory could only be accessed and consulted online. The effect of the production of print telephone directories on the environment is considered to be enormous. As yearly updated, ubiquitous books, they were publications that soon turned superfluous. They led to piles of waste.

From the beginning of the 21st century on, both the print version and the online version had been available. This was a period of medium transition. During the last two decades, the print directory increasingly referred to the websites of the companies listed. To search for e.g. someone to inspect the heating installation, it was possible to find such a company's website via the print directory, and consult the inspector's services and price online, bypassing search engines such as Google and its complex algorithms. The telephone directory had a thematic and alphabetical order, combined with the possibility to buy additional advertising space.



type
photograph

date
02.10.2021

filename
_MG_7415.JPG

size
8,2MB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
book, botany, data storage, technology, waste

10:54:17

When I grew up, my parents told me that the number of raisins in the local baker's raisin bread attested to the result of the most recent soccer match of KAA Gent. A victory was celebrated by throwing more raisins into the dough than usual, a loaf following a painful loss was hardly a raisin bread at all.

The baker retired long ago. Today my two-year-old son picked out all the raisins from his slice of bread. KAA Gent's last game was a tie against Union.



type
photograph

date
30.12.2021

filename
IMG_9810.HEIC

size
1,2 MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
family, food

10:54:18

The road down from the top of Mount Vesuvius, at Atrio Del Cavaillo. The sun sets. The last tourist bus has headed down. Then the headlights of the guardian's car swing their way down. It must be freezing. I am holding an orange-sized piece of petrified lava, probably stemming from the 1872 or 1944 eruption. A kilometer further down the road, the old Observatory is empty. Nowadays, monitoring seismic changes is done in a research centre in the city of Naples. Their seismographic registrations can be followed online, in real time. Two headlights swirling along the slopes, underneath me, are coming upwards.



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

category
automobile, data storage, dusk, seismology, Vesuvius

