

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

Your path through the collection lead along Swarms, Garage Paul > Garage Robert (collection of 2023), Negative sheet 17, negative 36, negative 36,5, Knee, Negative sheet 02, negative 5, negative 6, CLOSED NO POWER. For prescriptions go to Walgreens 2690 Mission OPEN UNTIL 5 PM., pgealerts.alerts.pge.com/, 12:13, Flashlight in a dark corner of the Oval Room, K10 in Folder Sparta Bikes 2011, Two Sparta K-10s, Owned by Fred and Partner, A New Sparta K-10, John's Sparta K-10, A Sparta K-10, Rue Verte, Brussels, Le dos-cul ment, New Year's Eve, 2015, Debatably graded

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 29.02.2024 13:43, printed on _____ and contains 16 documents on 36 pages. (<https://the-documents.org/log/29-02-2024-5804/>)

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.



Flanders
State of the Art



July. Our eight-month-old son has a fever. We have a hard time getting him to drink enough. The tally marks on the back of a tortellini-box keep track of the diapers he wets and the millilitres of milk and electrolytes he's able to hold down.

Stuck inside with worrying parents, a sticker-book about a farm is his brother's favourite pass-time.

Tired of having to go back and forth between the pastures and the sticker-filled sheets we decide to use my arm as a repository for animals that share a habitat.



type
photograph

date
23.01.2024

filename
IMG_6467.jpeg

size
1,66 MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
collecting, family, hand, sticker

12:42:30

A year ago I moved into Solange's appartement.
From the balcony, I see half the parking lot and the
adjacent high rise. On the mailbox, I haven't
replaced her name for mine.

1. GARAGE PAUL, (+32) 0489. 764 540 / recto-
verso NL/FR
2. CASH 24, (+32) 0466 15 32 16 / recto-verso
NL/FR
3. GARAGE NADIM (+32) 0470 606 474 / recto-
verso NL (1)
4. GARAGE NADIM (+32) 0470 606 474 / recto-
verso FR (2)
5. GARAGE GABRIEL (+32) 0489 76 45 40 /
recto-verso NL (1)
6. GARAGE GABRIEL (+32) 0489 76 45 40 /
recto-verso FR (2)
7. MAGNUM's (+32) 0492 92 70 70 / recto-verso
FR
8. GARAGE ROBERT (+32) 0492 92 70 70 / recto-
verso FR (1)
9. GARAGE ROBERT (+32) 0492 92 70 70 / recto-
verso FR (2)

I don't know whether Solange owned a car.

Notes



- Bieke Criel, lives and works in Gent (BE). Intrigued by landscape, movement, light and the poetics of what lies in between. Does not own a car, loves to drive one. Part of 019.

GARAGE PAUL

WILT U UW AUTO VERKOPEN ?

NEEM DAN CONTACT MET ONS OP !!

UW AUTO INTERESSEERT ONS !

• Voor alle voertuigen (4x4, bestelwagens...) • Zelfs wanneer er geen groot aantal km op de Teller staat • Zonder technische controle • Beschadigd • Met mechanische Problemen. **7/7 et**

0489. 764 540

GSM. (+32) SMS. **0489. 764 540**

Email: europe.cars.export@gmail.com A.U.B. niet op de openbare weg gooien! Dank u.

DIRECT ANTWOORD CASH BETALING !!!



GARAGE GABRIEL AUTO EXPORT

Aankopen van alle merken gebruikte voertuigen

Zelfs zonder technische controle beschadigd of met veel km.

Betaling via OVERSCHRIJVING of CONTANT

24/7

Als u hem wil verkopen nu of later neem contact op met ons!

GSM. / SMS. (+32) **0489 76 45 40**

europe.cars.export@gmail.com

Neem niet op de openbare weg gegooid worden!

CASH 24 Uw wagen interesseert ons!

AANKOOP GEBRUIKTE AUTO'S

Zelfs zonder keuring, veel km., of beschadigd.

Bij CASH 24 is uw wagen geld waard, Beste aankoopprijs.

Bel ons gerust! G.S.M. **0466 15 32 16**

GSM. (+32) **0466 15 32 16**

24/7

A.U.B. niet op de openbare weg gegooid worden!

GARAGE GABRIEL AUTO EXPORT

Achats de véhicules d'occasion toutes marques

Même accidentée, beaucoup de km., sans contrôle technique ou en panne

Paiement par VIREMENT ou CASH

24/7

Si vous avez envie de la vendre, maintenant ou plus tard contactez-nous!

GSM. / SMS. (+32) **0489 76 45 40**

europe.cars.export@gmail.com

Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique SVP

GARAGE NADIM

Goede dag, u wilt uw auto verkopen, nu of later ?

WIJ KOPEN AAN GOEDE PRIJS.

Zelfs zonder technisch controle of beschadigd.

Contacteer ons via SMS of telefoon!

0470 606 474

GSM. (+32) **0470 606 474**

email: alex1965@live.be

A.U.B. niet op de openbare weg gooien! Dank u

MAGNUM'S

Vendez votre voiture d'occasion facilement et sûrement

Même accidentée ou en panne, sans contrôle technique

7/7

my.auto.be@gmail.com

0492.92.70.70

GSM. / SMS. (+32) **0492.92.70.70**

Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique SVP

GARAGE NADIM

Bonjour, vous désirez vendre votre voiture, maintenant ou plus tard ?

NOUS LE REPRENONS À UN EXCELLENT PRIX.

Même sans contrôle technique ou accidenté.

Contactez-nous par SMS ou par téléphone!

0470 606 474

GSM. (+32) **0470 606 474**

email: alex1965@live.be

Merci de ne pas jeter sur voie publique!

GARAGE ROBERT

ENVIE DE VENDRE VOTRE VÉHICULE ?

PRENEZ CONTACT AVEC NOUS !!

VOTRE VÉHICULE NOUS INTÉRESSE !

• Pour tous véhicules (4x4, camionnette...) • Même avec beaucoup de km. au compteur • Sans contrôle technique • Accidentée • Avec problèmes mécaniques.

0492 92 70 70

GSM. (+32) SMS. **0492 92 70 70**

my.auto.be@gmail.com

S.V.P. Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique. Merci.

GARAGE ROBERT

ENVIE DE VENDRE VOTRE VÉHICULE ?

PRENEZ CONTACT AVEC NOUS !!

VOTRE VÉHICULE NOUS INTÉRESSE !

• Pour tous véhicules (4x4, camionnette...) • Même avec beaucoup de km. au compteur • Sans contrôle technique • Accidentée • Avec problèmes mécaniques.

0492 92 70 70

GSM. (+32) SMS. **0492 92 70 70**

my.auto.be@gmail.com

S.V.P. Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique. Merci.

Photographing the house and the clearing it stood in proved difficult. During summer, the nettles and brambles slowed down the pace. Some plants stung the elbows. The clearing only became visible when the sun fell through the opening in the canopy. On cloudy days the clearing disappeared.

Notes

- ‘As the order of institutions follows its course, or as huts give way to villages and then to cities and finally to cosmopolitan academies, the forests move further and further away from the center of the clearing. At the center one eventually forgets that one is dwelling in a clearing. [...] Yet however wide the circle may get through the inertia of civic expansion, it presumably retains an edge of opacity where history meets the earth, where the human abode reaches its limits.’

Sources

- Pogue Harrison, R. ‘The Ecology of Finitude’, in: id., *Forests*. Chicago, 1992, 245.



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	11.10.2023	017c_05.jpg	1,48 MB	De Cleene De Cleene
category	architecture, archive, house, landscape, panorama, tree			

12:43:02

The scientific exactitude sought for in the *Iconographie de la Salpêtrière* and the *Nouvelle Iconographie de la Salpêtrière*, the (in)famous scientific publications stemming from Paris' psychiatric hospital La Salpêtrière (1876-1918), lead to an abundance of photographic images in their pages. The photographs' ideal: 'Trace incontestable, incontestablement fidèle, durable, transmissible'.¹ The ambition of exactitude results in cold, and often cruel depictions of patients. In the digitized version of the Sorbonne library's copies, some photographs have left an imprint on the opposite page. The knee of Charles, 'le géant', adds an unwanted layer upon its measures on the opposite page, while the photograph of the knee itself loses ink.²

Sources

- 1 Didi-Huberman, G. *Invention de l'hystérie*. Paris: Macula, 2014, 72.
- 2 Launois, P.-E., Roy, P., 'Gigantisme et infantilisme', *Nouvelle Iconographie de la Salpêtrière*, Tome XV, 1902, 548, pl. LXVI, online: <https://patrimoine.sorbonne-universite.fr/fonds/item/2613-nouvelle-iconographie-de-la-salpetriere-tome-15?offset=6>

	mai 1899	novembre 1902
Hauteur de la malléole interne	87 mm.	79 mm.
Longueur du pied	287 »	299 »
Longueur du 1 ^{er} orteil avec le métatarsien	143 »	» »
Longueur du 2 ^e orteil seul	82 »	» »
Longueur du 1 ^{er} orteil (partie libre)	48 »	» »
Largeur bicondylienne.	108 »	» »
Largeur bimalléolaire	81 »	» »
Largeur du pied	126 »	» »
<i>Membre supérieur gauche.</i>		
Hauteur de l'humérus	381 »	422 »
Hauteur du radius.	298 »	298 »
Longueur de la main.	233 »	243 »
Longueur du médus.	118 1/2	124 »
Longueur du pouce avec le métacarpien.	125 »	126 1/2
Longueur du pouce seul	72 »	76 »
Longueur de l'ongle du médus	16 »	16 »
Largeur de l'humérus (extrémité inférieure)	74 »	83 »
Largeur du poignet	67 »	69 1/2
Largeur de la main	97 »	103 »
<i>Circonférences.</i>		
Cou.	370 »	370 »
Thorax	1015 »	1040 »
Taille	892 »	925 »
Bras	280 »	260 »
Avant-bras	271 »	250 »
Poignet	197 »	197 »
Cuisse : circonférence supérieure à droite	544 »	» »
— — à gauche	539 »	450 »
— inférieure à droite.	420 »	» »
— — à gauche	399 »	» »
Mollet : droit.	382 »	» »
gauche	375 »	350 »
Malléoles (droite et gauche).	240 »	» »
<i>Tête.</i>		
Hauteur naso-alvéolaire	87 »	87 »
Hauteur naso-sous-nasale.	64 »	64 »
Largeur biangulaire interne (yeux).	36 »	37 »
Hauteur ophryo-alvéolaire.	102 »	102 »
Largeur biangulaire externe (yeux).	96 »	» »
Largeur bimastoïdienne.	142 1/2	145 »
Diamètre antéro-postérieur glabellaire.	199 »	200 »
Hauteur ophryo-mentonnière.	154 »	159 1/2
Diamètre antéro-postérieur métopique.	195 »	197 »

type	date	filename	size	author
scan	01.09.2023	Pagina's van CS_000015_015_pdf-2.pdf	184 KB	Arnout De Cleene

category
archive, book, interference, medicine, replica/copy

12:43:05



The architect's photographic archive contains seven images that can be labelled as panoramic pictures. However, they only appear as such when the photographs are viewed in the archive, as strips of negatives. In order to see the panoramic construct, the viewer needs to be presented with two consecutive negatives.

There are two kinds of panorama in the archive: the kind that can only be attributed to a kind of laziness or a need for efficiency on behalf of the architect, and another that originates from frugality.

The former type of panorama is created when the architect is documenting the situation as it is: it is compulsory to document the context of the building or lot, as part of a building application. He simply pivots from left to right, capturing the first and second photograph consecutively. On the filmstrip a panorama appears.

The other kind of panoramic picture only appears at the end of the film role. The last negative on the film has been exposed (the twenty-fourth or thirty-sixth), after which he exerts force onto the lever to move the film forward anyway. Some films are known to have, by accident, a twenty-fifth or a thirty-seventh negative. The plastic between the sprocket holes tears and the film does not advance enough. The result differs fundamentally from the other kind of panorama: there is no separation, no void between the negatives. Rather, there is a slight overlap. A thin, vertical strip of film that has been exposed twice, suggesting contiguity that might not be there. The two exposures might be from altogether different sites, creating a new situation.

Notes

- Based on De Cleene, M. & De Cleene, A. *The Situation as it Is. A Photonovel in Three Movements*. Gent: APE, 2022



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	27.04.2023	002_17.jpg	1,45 MB	De Cleene De Cleene

category
architecture, archive, house, mistake, precipitation, family, panorama

12:43:05

[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.

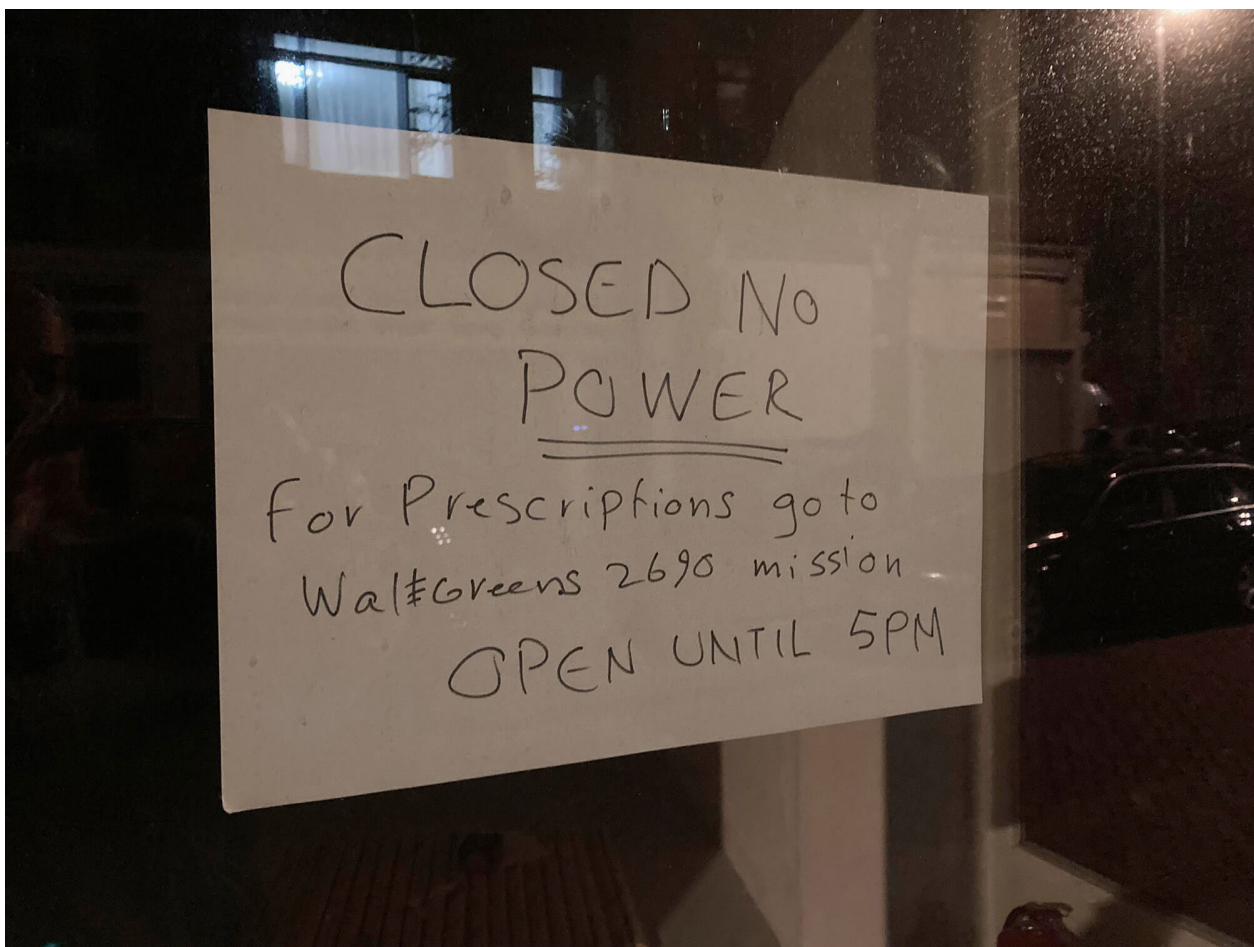
[13:56] Mathew: Yeah, maybe it's time for you to leave for the night. I'm going to drive around to see what's happening.

[13:59] Maziar: Okay, enjoy.

Notes

- 1 Local businesses experiencing a blackout typically post handwritten 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.
- 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.

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

category
automobile, impact, repair, sign, wind

12:43:06

On a windy morning in April, I was on a video call with a friend, curator Maziar Afrassabi. 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.

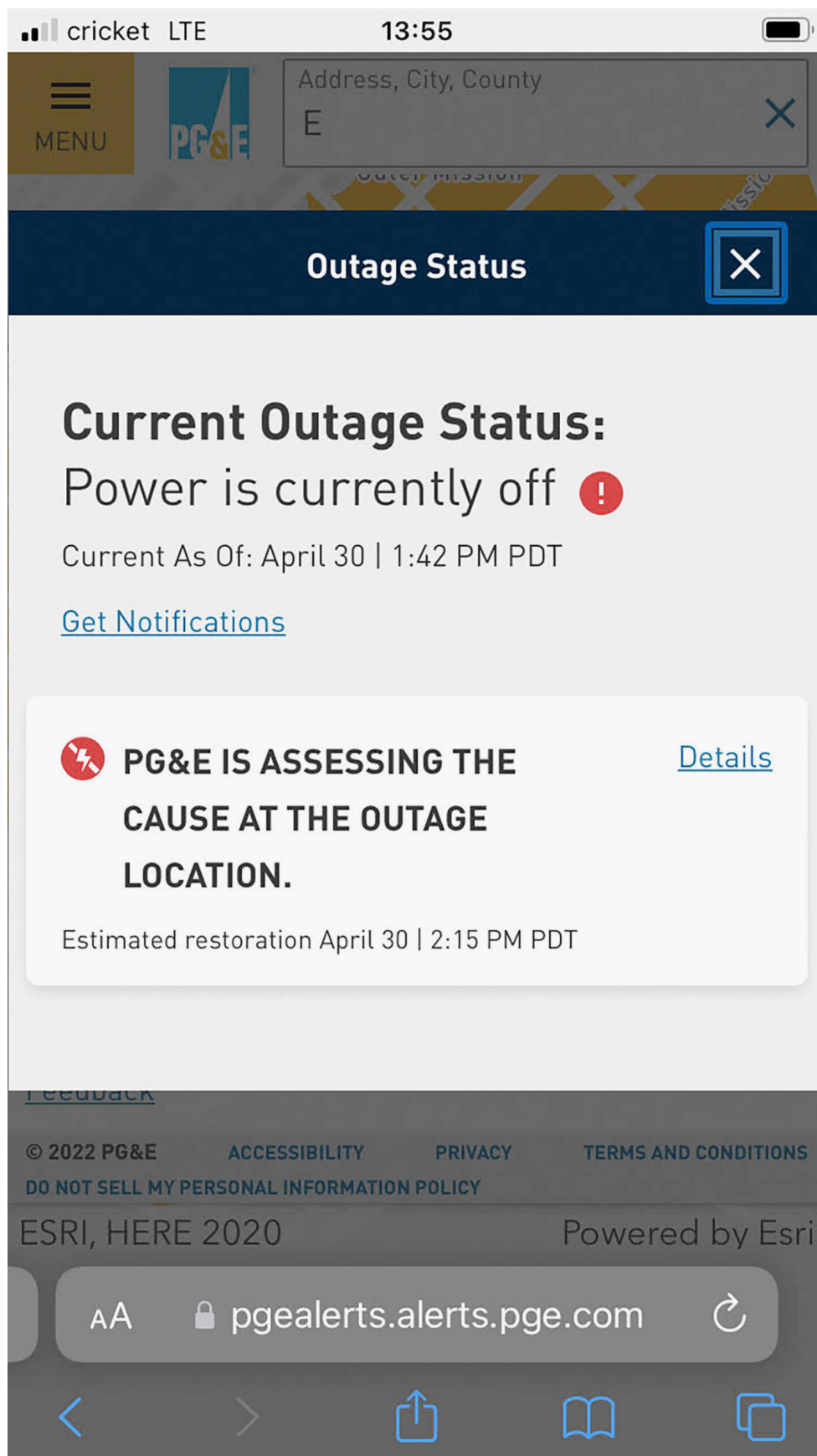
Each pole divides vertically into distinct zones, spaced apart for safety. Treacherous high-voltage wires from substations pass along the top, while safer signals—cable internet and landlines—hang nearest to the ground. The high-voltage wires enter through a barrel-shaped pole-mounted transformer. Within,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

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.

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.



type
screenshot

date
18.02.2023

filename
unnamed.jpg

size
84 KB

author
Mathew Kneebone

category
house, interference, technology, tree, wind

12:43:06

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.

Notes

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



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	30.01.2023	teylers.tif	36,68 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
animal, archaeology, architecture, archive, astronomy, book, encounter, hand, Reference Guide, replica/copy

12:43:06

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 second-hand 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.

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.



type
screenshot

date
20.01.2023

filename
Screenshot 2022-09-30 at 10-59-06
Klik hier voor de folder Sparta
fietsen 2011. - Demuyne Heist.png

size
761 KB

author
Lars Kwakkenbos

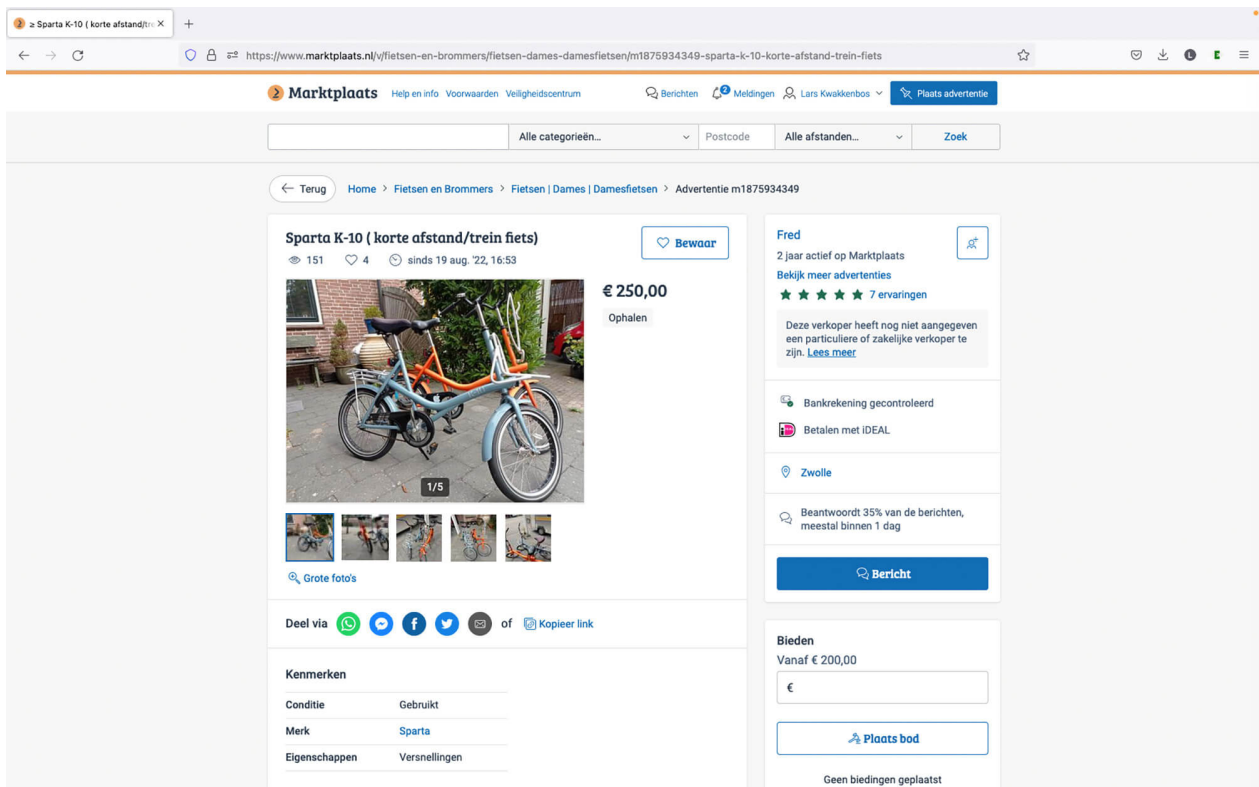
category
bicycle, economy

Fred from Zwolle offers two Sparta K-10s on Marktplaats.nl on 29 September 2022. The asking price for the two bikes is 250 euros, bids may start from 200 euros. The green bike has a front light that is powered by a rim dynamo, while in another photo we see a front light on the orange bike that is presumably battery-powered, as may be the case for the rear lights. The carrier mounted at the front of the green bike is clearly a luggage carrier, as is the one at the back. What the carrier mounted at the front of the orange bike is for, is unclear. The description of the bikes does mention the function of the loop protruding from the frame at the back of the Sparta K-10:

‘20-inch bikes that we have always used while camping. No gears but smooth and light pedalling. Ideal for running small errands close by or a quick errand in the toilet building. They are light and quite short making them easy to take on the train. Ideal as a short-distance bike between station and work. Both are, furthermore, in good condition. Each bike comes with a key for the integrated cable lock. Are listed as a ladies’ bike but I (male) get on just fine.’¹

Notes

- 1 ‘20 inch fietsen die wij altijd tijdens het kamperen hebben gebruikt. Geen versnellingen maar soepel en licht trappend. Ideaal om kleine boodschappen dichtbij te doen of een snelle boodschap in het toilet gebouw. Ze zijn licht en vrij kort waardoor ze makkelijk mee te nemen zijn in de trein. Ideaal als korte afstandfiets tussen station en werk. Beiden zijn verder in goede staat. Van elke fiets beide sleutels aanwezig voorzien van een geïntegreerd kabelslot. Worden als damesfiets genoemd maar ik (man) kom er prima mee vooruit.’
- 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.



type
screenshot

date
18.01.2023

filename
Screenshot 2022-09-29 at 12-19-38
≥ Sparta K-10 (korte
afstand_trein fiets) – Fietsen
Dames Damesfietsen –
Marktplaats.png

size
522 KB

author
Lars Kwakkenbos

category
bicycle, economy

12:43:12

On 29 September 2022, I find a picture of a new Sparta K-10 on the website of cyclonewebshop.be. The bike is matt black and has a chaincase and a nice luggage rack at the front. The typical loop at the back is less noticeable in this photo. This is partly due to the colour of the bike.

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.



type
image

date
17.01.2023

filename
20200420_141733.webp

size
141 KB

author
Lars Kwakkenbos

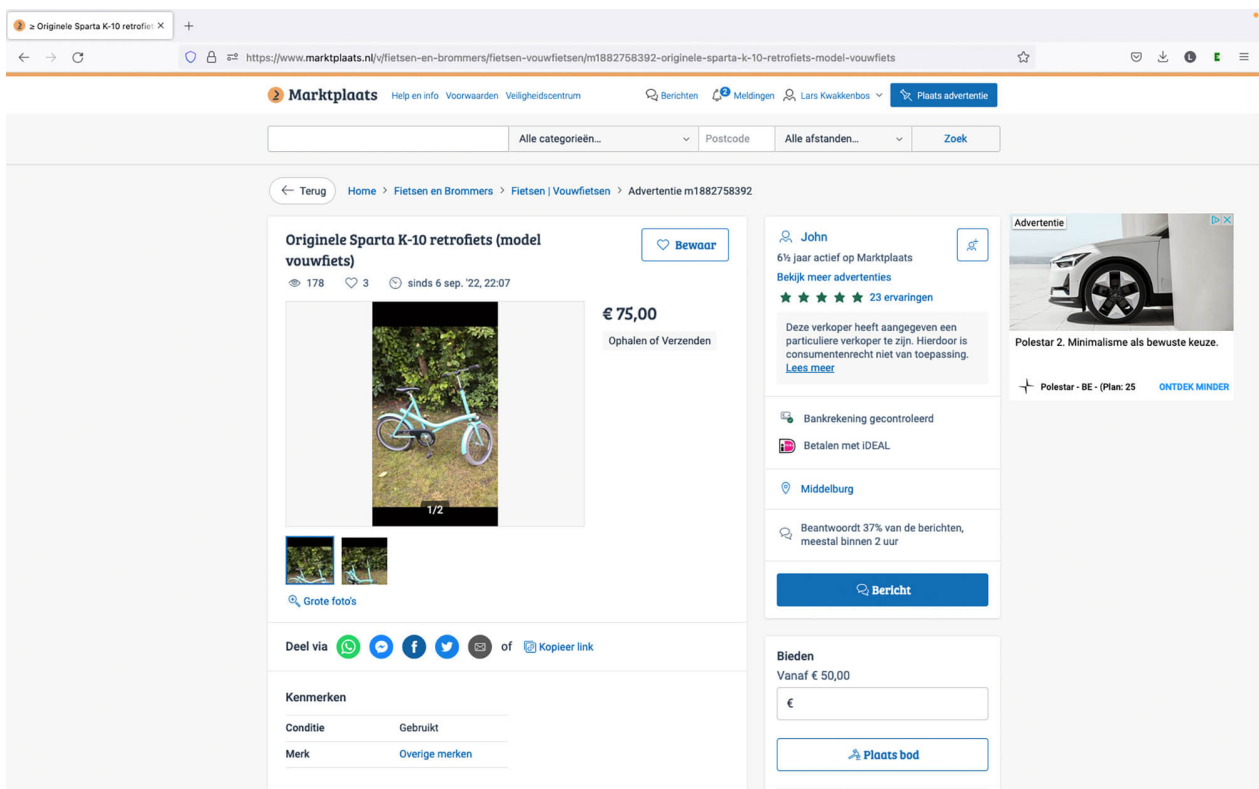
category
bicycle, economy

12:43:12

John from Middelburg offers a K-10 without a loop at the back on marktplaats.nl. His K-10 does have a front light, which strangely never seems to be mounted in the front of the long tube of the frame. The asking price is 75 euros, bids may start from 50 euros.

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.



type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	16.01.2023	Screenshot 2022-09-30 at 09-09-26 ≥ Originele Sparta K-10 retrofiets (model vouwfiets) – Fietsen Vouwfietsen – Marktplaats.png	437 KB	Lars Kwakkenbos
category	bicycle, economy, technology			

12:43:12

This bike regularly pops up on the streets of the Brussels neighbourhood where I live. On 4 June 2021, it stands in Rue Verte, in front of the entrance to the Reine Verte Park. The park is built on one of the steepest slopes in Brussels. That condition required a clever park design, in which you can hang out or walk from Rue Verte to Rue des Palais, up, or vice versa, down. The park is well cared for by city services.

The bike is an orange Sparta K-10. It has a remarkably low entry and high handlebars. As a result, it seems to be a comfortable bike, albeit one whose body posture while cycling is not geared to the gradient of our neighbourhood, in which it usually stands. Moreover, it has no gears and the saddle is very slanted.

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.



type
photograph

date
13.01.2023

filename
20210604_081159.jpg

size
5,09 MB

author
Lars Kwakkenbos

category
bicycle, landscape

12:43:13

This is a trace, and it is not.

Ceci est une trace et ne l'est pas.

What is a trace?

Qu'est-ce qu'une trace?

Le document n'en est pas, le document documente.

Documents what?

Peu importe, le mot 'document' est dérivé du latin *docere*, c'est à dire...

to show, to teach, to instruct. The document is docile, unlike the trace.

La trace ne montre pas, n'enseigne pas, n'instruit en rien, à moins d'interpréter.

The trace as indexical: it does not 'show' though one can see it. It does not teach,

sauf que tout nous pré-existe, ou plutôt, nous insiste, n'est-ce pas?

It doesn't: it's never there as such until we name it so.

Documenti!

Papier!

Poètes, vos papiers!

(Léo Ferre 1956)

Le document.

Le dos-cul ment.

Le d'au-cul ment.

Le dé au cul ment.

Mais co-ment?

Butt how?

The do-cum-meant.

The doc-cue-mint.

The dock-comment.

This is a cardboard mousepad.

Are you happy now?

Are you happy?

Are you?

Now?

document: a paper or set of papers with written or printed information, especially of an official type.

(<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/engli>

'He's more of an official type.'

A **document** is a written, drawn, presented, or memorialized representation of thought, often the manifestation of non-fictional as well as fictional.

manifestation of non-fictional, as well as fictional, content.

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Document>)

'She was quite content.'

Tha back-ass lies!

Notes

- Sébastien Conard (1982) is a graphic artist, writer and teacher. He draws, writes and publishes comics, post-comics and artist's books. From 2023 until 2026, he will explore the graphic trace in the context of a postdoctoral research project at LUCA School of Arts.

7



The end of 2015. For hours, precipitation of all sorts had impeded a view of the Asian side of the city. Ships went out of sight before they reached the horizon. I can't recall where exactly we were standing, or what we were visiting. I imagined it to be a place full of history. The Bosphorus seemed agitated.

The Greek historian Herodotus wrote about Persian King Xerxes' torn after a storm demolished the bridge he was building across the Dardanelles, at the other side of the Sea of Marmara: 'When Xerxes heard of this, he was very angry and commanded that the Hellespont be whipped with three hundred lashes, and a pair of fetters be thrown into the sea. I have even heard that he sent branders with them to brand the Hellespont. He commanded them while they whipped to utter words outlandish and presumptuous, "Bitter water, our master thus punishes you, because you did him wrong though he had done you none. Xerxes the king will pass over you, whether you want it or not; in accordance with justice no one offers you sacrifice, for you are a turbid and briny river."'¹

Two days later, heavy snow delayed our flight back home. For hours, we were stuck inside the cabin, watching the tarmac. Passengers wanting to get out scorned the stewards. Trucks sprayed a fluid on our plane's wings. We arrived at the family gathering just before midnight. Underneath the unlit fireworks hanging from the chandeliers, dessert was being served.

Sources

1. Herodotus. *The Histories* (A. D. Godley, trans.). Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1920, book 7, chapter 35. Online: <https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0126%3Abook%3D7%3Achapter%3D35>



type
photograph

date
28.12.2022

filename
_MG_9652.jpg

size
2,5MB

author
Arnout De Cleene

category
angst, family, food, precipitation, sea

12:43:21

Notes

- 1 The book is a first edition, first printing hardback copy of *Word Virus: the William S. Burroughs reader*, edited by James Grauerholz and Ira Silverberg, with an introduction by Ann Douglas, published by Grove Press (New York) in 1998 (160mm x 235mm, 532pp.). On the used book aggregator webstore, the book was graded 'Very Good' (or, VG),* which proved a realistic assessment as it appeared (in fact, still does) largely unread with a dust jacket in equally good condition and no markings inside whatsoever. In fact, the book's condition might well have warranted a 'Fine' (F) grading were it not for the only notable (yet not noted) defect, which was that the 'Spoken Word CD' that was originally included — as indicated by a 32mm diameter round sticker in the top right corner of the front of the dust jacket, and the glued-in envelope in the back of the book — was no longer present. This defect may well have accounted for the apparent disparity between the state and grading of the book and the low price of \$4.53 (shipping not included) it was sold at, although the fact remains that this incomplete state ought to have been mentioned in the listing. Since the time of purchase, however, markings were added to the book, presumably with an additional adverse effect on its market value: appearing on the half-title page, they are in dark green crayon and of an abstract nature and were made by the current owner's infant son.
* According to the terminology of the grading scale proposed in 1949 by *AB Bookman's Weekly* and still widely, if not universally, in use in the online used book market today, albeit with some additions or modifications by individual platforms. See [Wikipedia](#) for a brief overview.
 - 2 Elements of style and physical nature of the artifacts may be taken to indicate an origin roughly contemporaneous with the book.
 - 3 '[In the United States of America, the] twelfth grade is the twelfth school year after kindergarten. It is also the last year of compulsory secondary education, or high school. Students are often 17–19 years old. Twelfth graders are referred to as Seniors.' (Wikipedia)
 - 4 A 7-digit phone number, without country or area code, redacted here.
 - 5 Located in the state of Nevada, no further identification of the particular shop was provided on the aggregator webstore, and it must be noted that the book was subsequently shipped from 'Auburn', presumably Auburn, CA.
 - 6 Indeed in accordance with its 'Very Good' grading, which is generally understood to explicitly list any defects such as markings (including dedications) but also any missing materials.
 - 7 Quality hardbacks being notably easier to read without damaging the book.
 - 8 Speculations on this, and any potential subsequent extrapolations are, fortunately perhaps, further inhibited by the fact that the book presents a rather generous cross-section of writings spanning the entirety of William S. Burroughs' famously prolific career. The inclusions span the period between 1929 and 1994. Although undertakings of this kind will inevitably meet with criticism, the consensus indeed seems to be that the editors have done an excellent job in selecting and presenting the material. Was 'Clay' mainly drawn by the hard-boiled straightforward prose style of the early novels; the highly experimental and provocative writings of the 'middle period' (traditionally labeled as rather 'hermetic' and 'cold', though they are quite often not without a haunting, perhaps even 'poetic' quality); or the later, one might say 'integrated' style which saw the earlier experiments wedded to a certain 'return to narrative' and, in old age, traces of a much more 'humane' author than ever before (if a point of critique may yet be formulated, one might indeed say that the writings from this later period (roughly 1978–1997) are somewhat favoured (quantitatively) in the *Word Virus* volume; as these have a (still: relatively) greater 'readability' than much of the older material that may indicate a decision of a commercial nature, yet there is also the fact that these texts were written in collaboration with one of the editors of *Word Virus*)?
 - 9 Being in fact a promo sampler for the 4CD *Giorno Poetry Systems* compilation of William S. Burroughs material also released (by Mouth Almighty Records and Mercury Records) in 1998. See [Discogs](#).
 - 10 Nevada has three area codes (702, 725, and 775), yet quick Google searches of the 7-digit number combined with any one of those yield no easy identification. Considering the overall scarcity of information, however, it seems clear that anyone seeking to reconstruct the biographies of 'Clay' and/or the note-writer should take up this line of investigation.
- David Depestel hesitates in trying to make something of himself; a character, a profession, a fixed mode of being, are for him concepts that already shadow forth the outlines of the skeleton, which is all that will be left of him in the end.

The two photographs arrived in Belgium inside a used hardback¹ in spring 2016, though it is unclear how long before that time they were actually taken.²

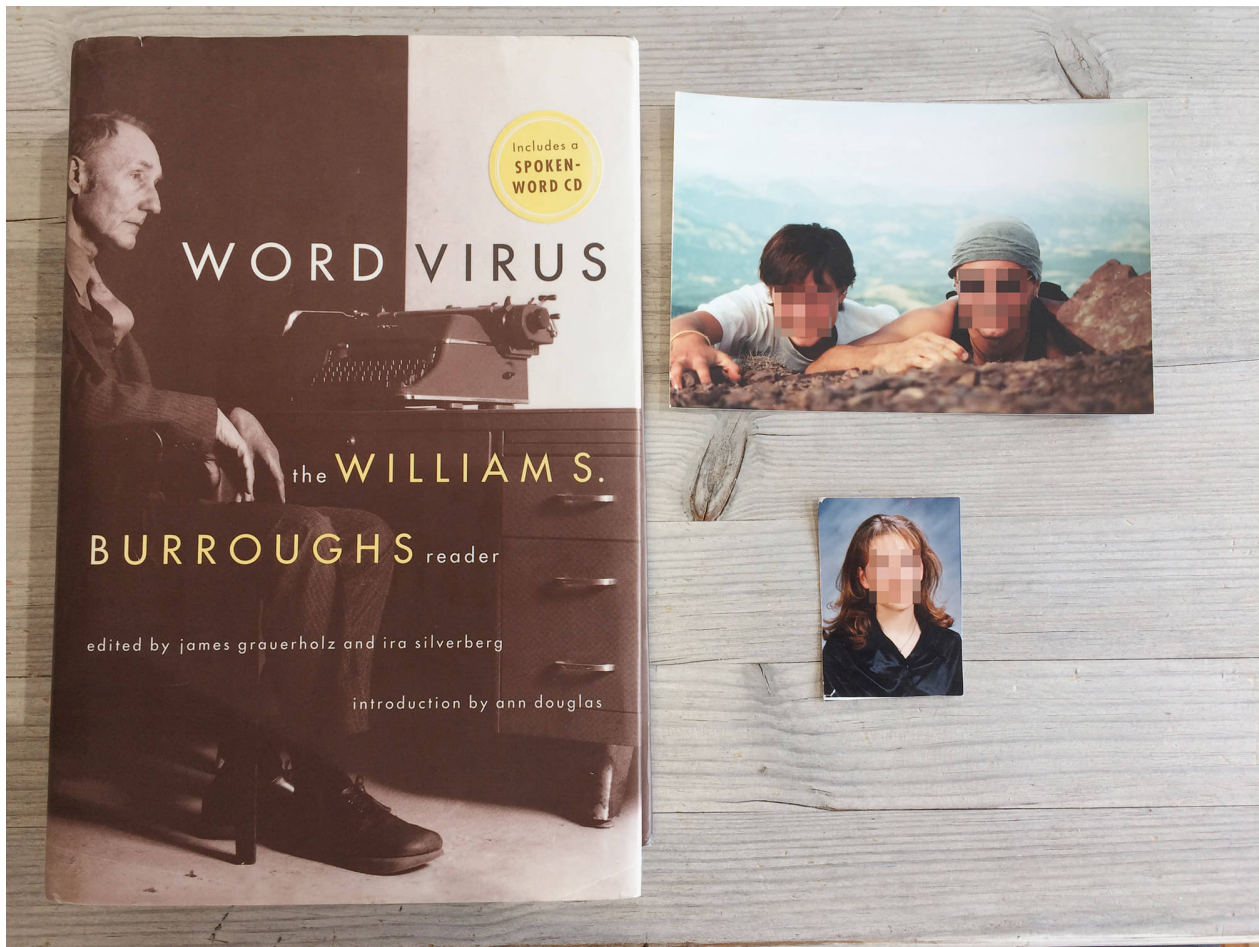
Photograph #1 measures 151 x 100 mm and shows two young people who appear to be mountain climbing and captured while clearing a ridge. Behind the two subjects a bluish mountainous landscape is vaguely visible, suggesting a vantage point of some considerable elevation. The person on the left is wearing a white T-shirt and a bracelet, and has several earrings. The person on the right is carrying a backpack. What appears to be a black tank-top may in fact also be the straps of the pack. On their head they wear what appears to be a grey T-shirt or other garment, presumably to protect the subject from the sun; this person also has earrings and is wearing a necklace and sunglasses. The weather appears nice, both subjects are smiling and appear relaxed. The effort may well have been staged.

Photograph #2 measures (approximately) 43 x 62 mm with the left, bottom and right sides appearing to be cut, rather unevenly, with scissors. It has the typical appearance of an American high school yearbook photo and shows a young person wearing a shiny black blouse and a necklace. They have blue eyes and below-shoulder length auburn hair. The red lips appear painted. On the back of this photograph is written in a clearly legible hand:

*Clay, I can't
wait until next
year when we're
in grade 12!³
Have a great
Summer and
call me [XXX XXXX]⁴
by the way, I haven't
forgot about how big UR*

The only assumptions to be made somewhat safely from these two items are that (a) the book has once belonged to 'Clay', and, (b) a relationship of a close, friendly, perhaps even intimate, nature has at one time existed between 'Clay' and the person in the second photograph (assuming also that (c) the note on the back of the second photograph was indeed written by the person in that photograph).

- The circumstances surrounding, and/or motivations behind, the book's
- (Clay's or any third parties') behind the book's ending up in a used-book shop must necessarily



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	18.10.2022	IMG_0059.JPG, IMG_058.JPG	2,11 MB, 1,55 MB	David Depestel
category				
book, collecting, encounter, landscape, literature				

12:43:26

remain a matter of speculation. There are no reasons to assume that the book was gifted to ‘Clay’ by the note-writer (or by anyone else) as no dedication appears in it.⁶ It must also remain inconclusive whether there are either two or three different persons appearing across the two photographs, and whether any of these is in fact ‘Clay’.

Indeed, the number of questions raised by these items far exceeds the number of answers they provide. Even leaving aside the nature of the writings in the book, one cannot help but speculate as to:

- how much, if any, of the book ‘Clay’ ever read;^{7,8}
- what happened to the CD originally included with the book;⁹
- why the unrelated inserted materials were not removed from the book before sale (as opposed to the CD);
- whether ‘Clay’ did in fact ring up the writer of the note over that summer;¹⁰ indeed whether the two ever did meet again, remain close during their ‘senior’ year, perhaps even stay in contact after graduating;
- the meaning of the rather cryptic final line of the note.

WORD VIRUS

the WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS reader

Clay, I can't
wait until next
year when we're
in grade 12!
Have a great
Summer and
call me
by the way, I haven't
forgot about watching

