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

Your path through the collection lead along Wheelhouse (replica), Antlers, YAY HOORAY, Shelter, Magic Mountain, Anraum, Crash (1), A Seismic Change, Deneef ‘for ever’, Plaster, Border, Crocodile Copy, The Birds, Another letter from abroad, A smoker’s history of energy, This site has been seized

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 30.03.2022 10:24, printed on ____ and contains 16 documents on 35 pages. (https://the-documents.org/log/30-03-2022-3943/)

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.



The GPS-plotter displays the ship near Keyhaven Lake, indefinitely. The sea appears calm, the horizon is level from one perspective.

the-documents.c

Wheelhouse (replica)



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	20.03.2022	bridge_001.jpg	15,31 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
map/plan, Reference Guide, replica/copy, sea, sticker, trompe l'oeil

10:05:36

(‘Imaginary landscape in the actual greater Gent, some thousands of years ago. A grassy riparian zone separates rivers from the edge of the forests’)

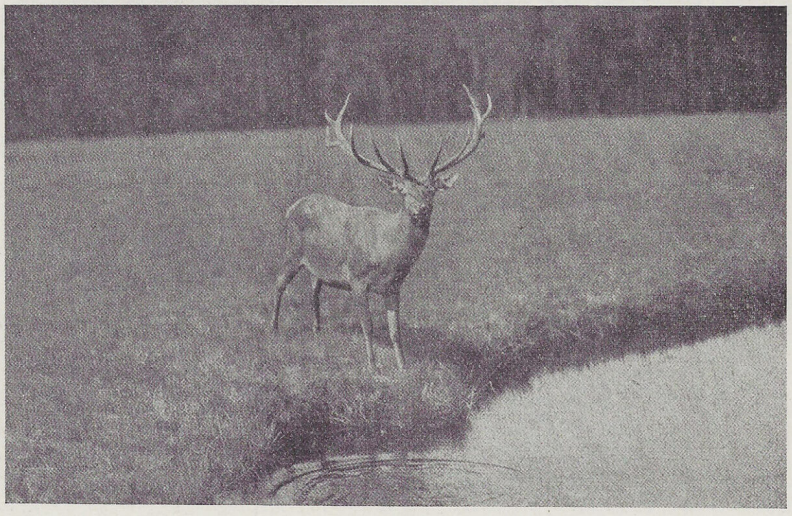
Imagine a deserted city of Gent, overtaken by nature, Thiery asks the reader in his book *Het woud (The Forest).* After fifty years, you return to the city. Buildings have collapsed, streets are overgrown. It has become an impenetrable, dense forest, except for the river on which the reader makes his or her way through it. In the first half of the twentieth century, Leo Michel Thiery made one of Belgium’s first botanical gardens for educational purposes. In the middle of an industrialized quarter of the city of Gent, the garden presented different sceneries. There were landscapes from the Alps, dunes, the Ardennes, steppe. Besides sceneries with chalk-, loam-, marl- and sand-based vegetation, there were forests, grasslands and swamps.

After his death, Thiery’s garden decayed. Decades later, it was restored, with the Alps, dunes, the Ardennes and steppe now classified as a protected view.

Sources

Thiery, M. *Het woud. Een proeve van plantenaardrijkskunde.* Gent: De Garve, s.d., p. 14

Antlers



Denkbeeldig landschap in het huidige Groot-Gent, eenige duizenden van jaren terug. Grazige oeverlanden scheidden er de rivieren van den boschzoom.

type	date	filename	size	author
scan	21.12.2020	Document_2020-12-21_083327.jpg	3,2MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
animal, botany, book, landscape

10:05:56

Depending on the perspective one chooses to look at the address, the house is adorned or not.
The perspective from the main road is an image made in August 2020, the website (Google Maps) says. Our car is in front of the garage. It must be the end of August. We drive home from the hospital with the newborn, who doesn't stop crying. Maybe I tightened the belts in the car seat too much.
Arriving at our house, we see the slogans and decorations friends have hung at our front door.
On the sill of the neighbour's first floor window, there's a brick that must have fallen from the second floor facade.

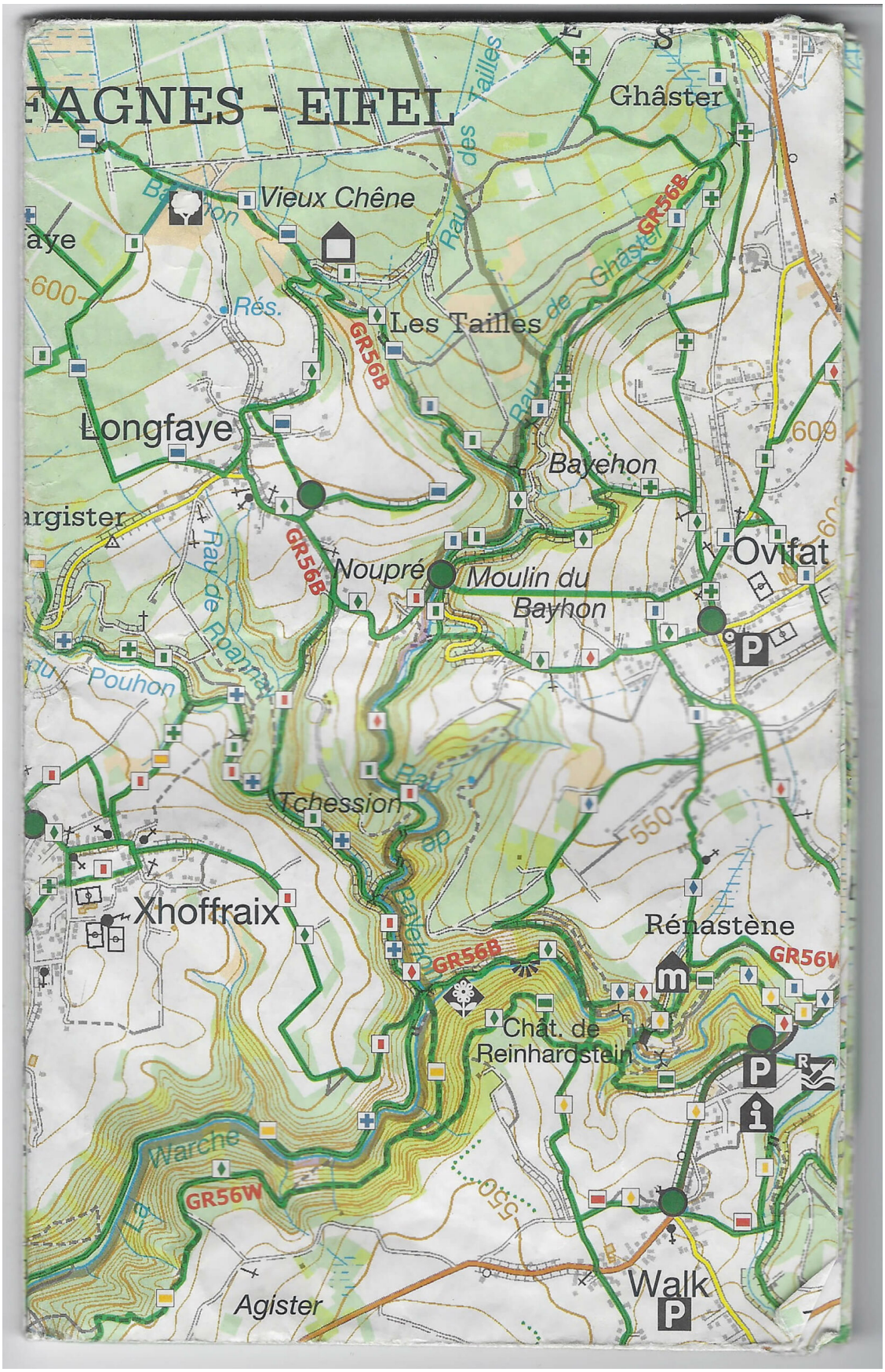


type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	31.12.2020	Schermafbeelding 2020-12-31 om 10.50.02.png	8,7MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
automobile, brick, crash, house, map/plan, family

10:06:07

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.



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	14.02.2021	Handgeschreven_2021-02-14_142153.jpg	2,1MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
map/plan, mistake, scale, sign, wind, precipitation

10:06:15

A skiing holiday with my in-laws. The ski pass does not allow you to visit Schatzalp. We buy a separate ticket and take the train up the hill to the hotel, which served as the backdrop for Thomas Mann's *Magic Mountain*. The stately hotel and former sanatorium is gorgeous.

Meanwhile, a new virus is spreading. Some people are coughing. I am keeping distance while waiting in line to take the train back down to the snow-covered village.



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	14.02.2021	Document_2021-02-14_140547.jpg	770KB	Arnout De Cleene

category
book, card, precipitation, epidemic, family

10:06:23

the-documents.c

During the one day course *Safety and Avalanches*, teacher G.T. shows pictures of different manifestations of snow and ice. If one learns to read them, one can deduce the wind direction when hiking or skiing in mountainous terrain.
Wind direction is crucial for assessing the stability of the snow. G.T.'s examples are of Austrian origin. He speaks about 'Anraum': displaced snow can get stacked horizontally against an object, such as a tree or a cross. The snow 'grows and builds into the wind'. Counter-intuitively, the snow points to the side the wind is coming from. One can expect dangerous terrain in the direction of the 'unbuilt' side of the object.



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	14.02.2021	810px-Raureif_im_Bayerischen_Wald.JPG	262KB	Arnout De Cleene

category
manual, mistake, precipitation, tree, wind, sign

10:06:28

In June, 2014, a severe hailstorm hit Belgium. Warnings were broadcast. A football game between the national teams of Belgium and Tunisia was paused. The morning after, there were small dents in the hood and the roof of the car, each a square centimeter in size, some 10 centimeters separated from each other. The storm didn’t get a name.

Assessing the damage, the insurance company’s expert took the dents into account to establish the wreck’s worth.

Crash (1)



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	16.10.2020	IMG_2236.JPG	2,8MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
automobile, crash, precipitation, insurance

10:06:39

the-documents.c

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.

A Seismic Change



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

category
automobile, data storage, dusk, seismology, Vesuvius

10:07:02

the-documents.c

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.

Deneef ‘for ever’



4 - Vooruit, 18 Nov. 1931

TELEFOON : 15748

SPORT-EC

WIELRIJDEN

Na ef ‘Week-end, Winterbanen

(Vervolg)

USSEL HAD MEN EEN NIG BEGEESTEREND PANACHE-NUMMER

Voor het jongste «week-end»-programma had master Pascal in de halve-fond de zuivere snelheid voorzien, doch ts de deelname van enkele gekende klassiekers was de gewenschte geestt niettemin bepaald koek.

de zuivere snelheid ontdeed Poeske reus zich heel gemakkelijk van Bernal en Ariet, wat trouwens niemand verwonderd hebben en tegenover kampioen van Frankrijk, Lucien eux, wist hij zijn rege in den Prijs van den Wapenstilstand met veel klank te bevestigen, och een veelbetekenende pres-

grooten Brusselschen houtFaucheux zich flink verde- «Poes» moest een der onre eindrunben voordischen een «niets» te kunnen winering verschil kan in niets van dit nieuw sukses bedaar de «Poes» de leiding nachman liet bij de bel en ggre eremonies moest doen n buitenkant te komen was zuiver kunstwerk «h

niet eens tot een hevig en, waardoor Pascal er id moet van overtuigd tgenoemde aan de gehappen mangelt. id achter motoren was obert Grassin de onder plankens, zoo- reu terecht word

es zonder oo

De zes-dagen van Stuttgart

CHARLIER-DENEEF AAN DE LEIDING

In het verder verloop van den nacht van Zondag op Maandag werd de koppeling Rausch-Hurtgen zwaar gehandicapeerd door een val van eerstgenoemde, waarbij ze meerdere ronden verloren.

Na de klassieke, kalmte der morgenuren kwam Rausch met enkele schrammen aan het hoofd zijn plaats hernemen en tijdens de sprintenreeks van het middaguur kwam hij zelfs een aanval inzetten, waarbij de ronden verlies alras werden goedgemaakt.

Opgave van P. Van Kempen

De namiddaguren zijn daarentegen uiterst kalm en men moet de sprintenreeks van 10 uur afwachten om de eckboortjes weer in volle aktie te zien.

De vliegende Hollander Piet Van Kempen is de groote bewerker van dezen «corridas» doch de Belgen Charlier-Deneef zijn er de groote helden van en weten zelfs de leiding te veroveren.

Rond 11 uur komt Van Kempen koozwaar met de planken in aanraking most ter verzorging naar zijn kabien overgebracht worden. De Hollander, die daarbij zwaar lijdend is aan de maag verkiest daarbij te laten, wat een zekere teleurstelling teweeg brengt onder de toeschouwers.

Deneef «for ever»

Kort vóór middernacht wordt er een groote premie aangekondigd over 5 sprinten en de Waasche hazewind protweert ervan om deze goed afgetekend nen.

Charlier rijdt sen beter

VOETBAL

Nationale Kompetitie

RP WE ELEN G ALLE N WEG.

DE LEIDING, DOCH KORT OP LYRA EN RAC. BRUSSEL ELE ELFTALLEN TERUG OP DREEF.

NABETRACHTINGEN

ALGEME GEVO

afstand van 4 punten, zoodat beide teams, Lyra en Rac. Brussel, die vorig seizoen de deur naar eere-klasse fataal voor zich zagen toeslaan, dit jaar geen erbarmen willen kennen.

Algemeen is dit seizoen ook Rac. Tienen tegen gevallen. Men was met t team zoo hoog opgeloopen dat bij vorige kampioenschappen zoo uitstekend figuur sloeg in bevordering en nu blijkt de ploeg nauw op dreef. Welswaar zijn er eenige teams uit de oudeerste klasse als mededingers in het veld getreden, maar S. C. Charleroi, Seraing en Stade Leuven presteerden tot er toe toch wat beter dan de zuikerkers.

slotte hebben elftallen als Luik, Montegnée, Tilleur, Verviers, oud gekenden in eere-klasse, bitdinig gepresteerd en valt het te been of ze nog dit jaar Rac. Brusdege zullen kunnen verontrusten opmarsch naar den kampioenstI.

IN EERE-AFDEELING

RING—CLUB MECHELEN. — Deeft eenieder verwonderd door zijn ook de Clubmen kregen er geen in meesten er teren het onder-

Hedenavond te 8 uur

Gustaaf Roth ver welterkroon tege

OOK FRAN

De Brussel worden bedank der Louis Bert uitgenoodigd, v wellig den slec organisatie va Pierre Charles—

Er worden ons pen aangeboden, tijen vermaarde wen brengen, de men waarborgen.

Het officieel kampio ropa voor de welterge schen den sinjeer Gust challenger Huizenaar Nederland, moet fijnproevers.

Roth, wiens Schilde gisteravo kampioen Van H lichtgewichtkroo sedert een paar haren titeldrager zijn ontelbare c ting ging bekam Huizenaar, die z ongenaakbaar wie beter lot zal c Nekolny, Holst, Bo We zien dus Roth, staand technisch afgetekende punten

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

10:09:10

As a result of intense drainage of drinking water, an area around the Belgian city of Waver was designated as having a potential for land subsidence – the downward movement of the soil over an extended period of time. People in Waver were startled to find their town mentioned in an international study published in *Science*. Flemish newspaper *De Standaard* uncovered that the researchers had used an older study, published in 2005, which claimed that the soil in Waver had moved some five centimeters in a period of eleven years. Pictures of fissures in Waver-facades had been added to the original article.

Last year, cracks in our living room wall were covered up by placing plasterboard in front of the plastered brick wall. As such, we avoided having to paint the wall with the cracks and the marks left by the IKEA Billy bookcases.

Sources

- https://science.sciencemag.org/content/sci/suppl/2020/12/29/371.6524.34.DC1/abb8549_Herrera_SM.pdf
- https://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20210106_97889104
- http://earth.esa.int/fringe2005/proceedings/papers/677_devleeschouwer.pdf

org Plaster



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	11.12.2020	IMG_0280.JPG	2,6MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
drought, fissure, brick, house, seismology, precipitation, book

10:10:46

Belgium, approximately 1.5km from the French border, photograph made on 16.06.2018.

the-documents.c

The European flag symbolises both the European Union and, more broadly, the identity and unity of Europe. It features a circle of 12 gold stars on a blue background. They stand for the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe. The number of stars has nothing to do with the number of member countries, though the circle is a symbol of unity.[1]

1. Coat of arms of Gmina Puck, a rural district in Puck County, Pomeranian Voivodeship, in northern Poland.
2. Illegible.
3. F.C. Hansa, Mecklenburg, Pommern, FC Hansa Rostock is a German association football club based in the city of Rostock, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. They have emerged as one of the most successful clubs from the former East Germany and have made several appearances in the top-flight Bundesliga. Hansa Rostock's official anthem is "FC Hansa, wir lieben Dich total". Hansa struggles with hooliganism, estimating up to 500 supporters to be leaning towards violence. The club's logo consists of a red sailing ship with a blue sail showing the Rostock Griffin.
4. Mon École Écologique.org is an organization for environmental conservation. On 07.01.2021 there was no website listed on this URL.
5. Illegible.
6. Illegible, apart from '1962' in the middle.
7. Innocenti Bruderschaft, EL, 2018, a community of German Lambretta Innocenti riders and aficionados.
8. Imag'Ink, Bretignolles Sur Mer, Tatoueur, 06 06 44 13 51, a French tattoo shop.
9. Illegible.
10. Hardly legible, the only word that can be made out is 'Futbolom': Russian for soccer.
11. Kaluga on tour. Kaluga is a Russian city 150km southwest of Moscow. It is often called the cradle of space exploration thanks to the city's most famous resident: Konstantin Tsiolkovsky.
12. Hansa Ultras, F.C. Hansa. The Ultras are a group of F.C. Hansa fans (see: '3').
13. Illegible because '12' was stuck over it.
14. Illegible.
15. La Hutoise is a regional student-association for higher education students from the Belgian town of Huy and its surroundings. Its aim is to bring together students from Huy in a spirit of camaraderie and to perpetuate student folklore. The logo consists of a two headed bird of prey with a cap on each head. The bird wears a scarf over one shoulder and holds a glass of beer in each paw.
16. F.C. Hansa, Grimmen. The F.C. Hansa logo (see '3' and '12') is combined with the coat of arms of Grimmen: a griffin on a pile of 10 bricks. Grimmen is a German town in Nordvorpommern on the banks of the river Trebel.
17. Illegible.
18. Heil Hansa. To the left of this text the F.C. Hansa logo (see '3', '12' and '16'), on the right a logo consisting of a black bull with his tongue out and a golden crown on his head.
    This controversial sticker lead to several arrests in the run-up to the match between F.C. Hansa Rostock and Bayern München in February 2020. Supporters of F.C. Hansa had attached this sticker to public buildings on their way to the stadium.
19. Illegible because '16' was stuck over it.
20. The Cuban flag.
21. Illegible.
22. Illegible.
23. Kaluga (see '11').
24. De Veterinnen, a round, black sticker with a red print of a head wearing a round hat and a carnivalesque collar with a carrot for a nose. No further information found.
25. Zlombol 11. Zěombol is a yearly charity car rally racing event that starts in Katowice Poland. Contesters must drive a car that was built or designed during the communist era. The destination of the 2011 edition was Loch Ness.
26. F.C. Hansa, Mecklenburg, Pommern, identical sticker to '3', see also '12', '16', and '18'.
27. Torpedo Moscow, only for white. Football club Torpedo Moscow is a Russian professional club based in Moscow, founded in 1930. Some fans of the club wave far-right symbols and banners, both during and outside of matches. Massive fan-protest ensued when the club tried to sign a black player in 2018. The player's contract was cancelled.
28. Heil Hansa. See '3', '12', '16', '18' and '26'.
29. Illegible.
30. Illegible.
31. Illegible.
32. Illegible.

Sources

1 https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/flag_en

Border



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	20.01.2021	_44A2787.dng	52,4MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
animal, automobile, brick, parking, sign, sticker

10:14:15

the-documents.c

33. F.C. Hansa. Variation of ‘3’ and ‘26’ with a circle of yellow crops around the logo. See also ‘12’, ‘16’, ‘18’ and ‘28’.
34. Live animals, contents: Rivne UA. These stickers are required by the International Air Transport Association for airline cargo pet travel. Rivne is a city in western Ukraine (UA) with an international airport. The sticker does not specify the transported animal but displays a dog, two birds, two fish and a turtle.
35. Illegible.
36. Illegible.
37. Illegible.
38. Illegible, apart from ‘lska’ on the bottom.
39. Norrland Fly Guys, Reading Water. The sticker displays a minimal landscape with two pine trees, and a shed on a chunk of floating ice, a single four-point star shines in the sky. Norrland is the northernmost part of Sweden. No further information found. Whether the ‘fly guys’ own airplanes or are involved in fly fishing is unclear.
40. This sticker displays – what appears to be – a smiling potato in front of an enlarged snow crystal. No further information found.
41. Traumsucht is an artist collective from Berlin. Their website lists German rap-artists
42. Illegible.

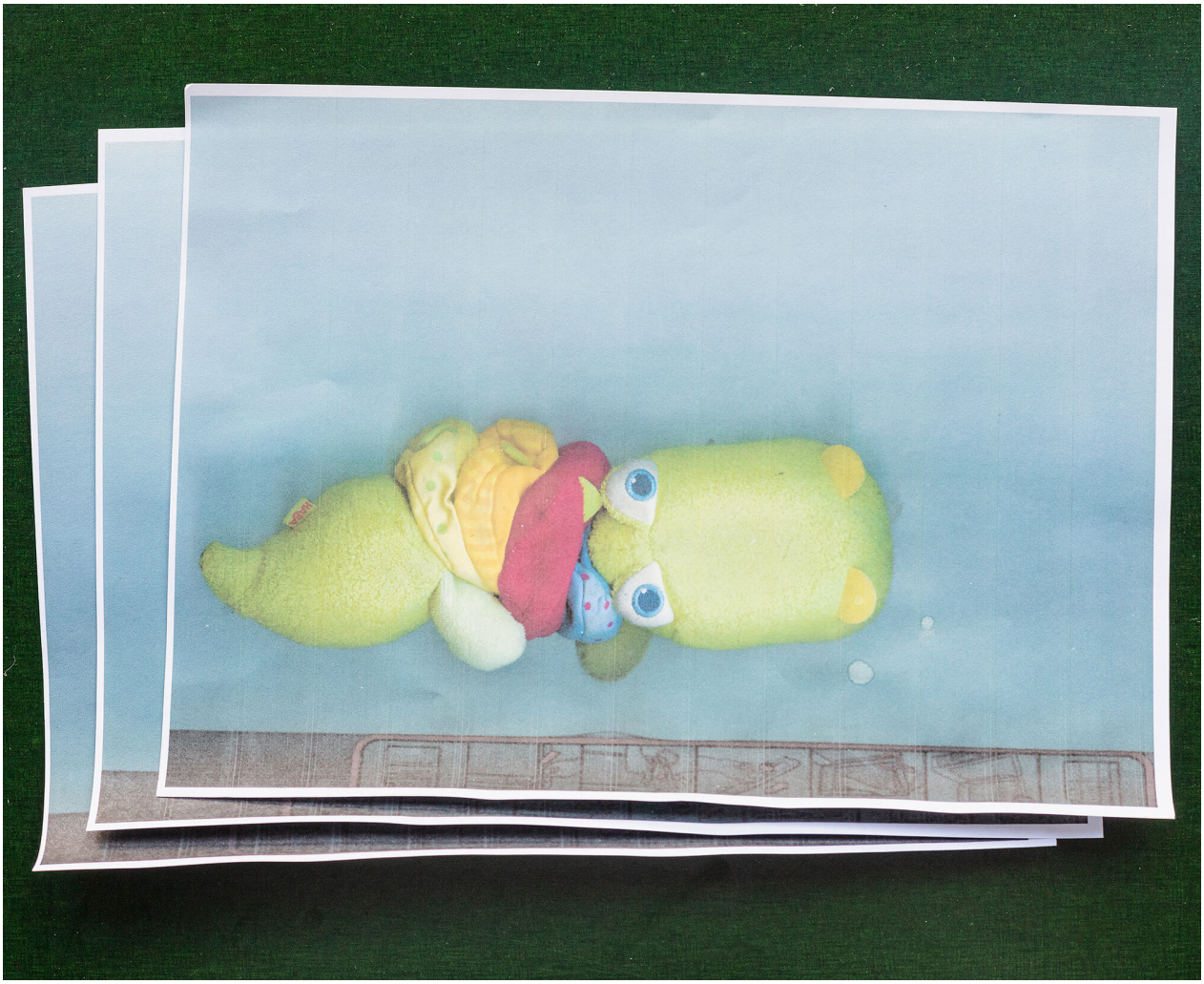
org Border



10:14:15

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.

org Crocodile Copy



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	16.02.2021	_44A8728.dng	50,04MB	Michiel De Cleene

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

10:14:56

This is the spread one sees upon opening the bird field guide that once stood, as the stamp indicates, in the library of a psychiatric institution.[1] It shows birds' silhouettes, as they can be seen beside the road.

The drawing has a kind of Hitchcock feel to it.[2] The birds seem to be spying on each other, as they also seem to be spying on the unsuspecting passer-by.

The composition of the scene is marvelous. The electric wires, the tree, the wire fence, the double framed list with the birds' names, handsomely positioned in a birdless patch, at once superimposed on the telephone wires, and pushed to the background by the skylark.

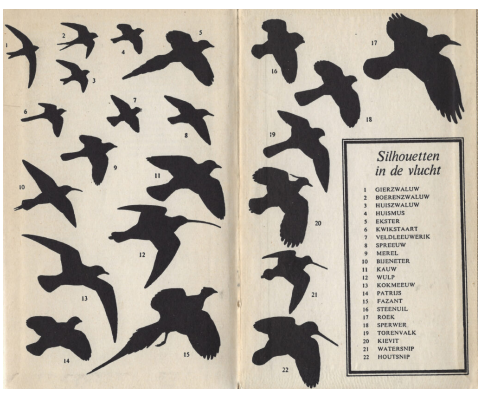
Imagine seeing this scene. What are the odds: to see the silhouettes of Europe's twenty most common species of birds in one glance, from your car's window, as you are driving home at dusk.

Before closing the book, the last spread seems to show the birds fleeing, maybe attacking.[3]

Notes

1 The stamp indicates that, at the psychiatric institution, the book was part of the sublibrary for the Catholic Brothers of Charity. The crossed-out part indicates that there was also a separate physicians' library, to which the book might have originally belonged.

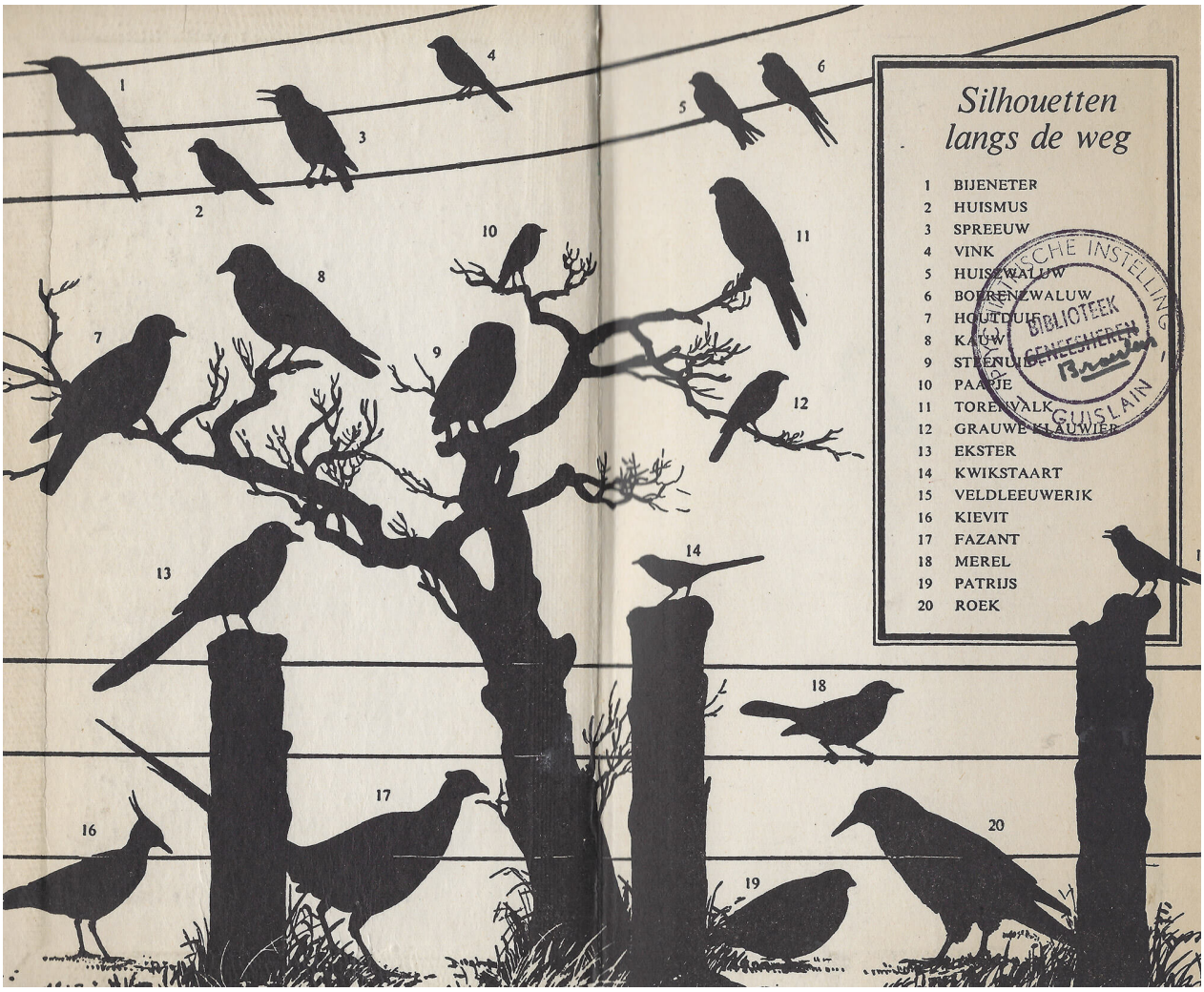
2 On the web, discussions on whether Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* (1963) was shot in colour or in black and white, abound.

3 

Sources

Peterson, R.T., Mountfort, G. & P.A.D. Hollom. *Vogelgids voor alle in ons land en overig Europa voorkomende vogelsoorten* (J. Kist, transl.). 3d ed. Amsterdam/Brussels: Elsevier, 1955.

The Birds



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	19.07.2021	Document_2021-07-19_094741.jpg	7,5MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
animal, automobile, book, dusk, encyclopaedia, landscape, tree

10:18:50

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.

Another letter from abroad



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

10:20:21

A mostly empty book designed to collect cigar bands. The bands are glued to the paper at their left side, so the information on the backside, explaining the image and referring to the series it belongs to and the number of different labels the series contains, can be looked up. The book has complete and incomplete series on Christopher Columbus (complete), tanks (incomplete), the origins of civilization (complete), Ancient cultures (incomplete), fashion (complete), South-American sculptures (complete), Ancient columns (incomplete), Nobel Prize Winners (incomplete), an unclarified series of seven men, most of whom are ‘prof.’ or ‘dr.’(complete / incomplete), design plates (incomplete), famous Belgians (complete / incomplete), statesmen (incomplete) and football players (incomplete). The first page in the book is used to present two series. The left column presents the Egyptian dynasty (incomplete). The middle and right column present a series of bands by the brand Jubilé on the history of energy in telling scenes and pieces of machinery.

Series: Energy

Middle column, top to bottom:

- The writing telegraph. Hughes
- Experiment with a sulphur globe. William Gilbert
- Primitive telephone. Philipp Reis
- Wireless telegraph.[1] Guglielo [sic] Marconi
- The arc of Volta. Sir Humphry Davy
- Fire in the wagon. Thomas Alva Edison
- Experiments with lightning. Benjamin Franklin
- Cathode for creating X-Rays. Wilhelm Röntgen
- Rotating magnetic field. Galileo Ferraris

Right column, top to bottom:

- Electric discharge. William Watt
- Magnetic telephone. Antonio Meucci
- Muscels reacting to electricity. Luigi Galvani
- Voltaic pile. Alessandro Volta
- Oscillating circuit. Guglielo [sic] Marconi
- Development of the telephone. Graham Bell
- Telephone, beginning of the 20th century
- Next to his wireless telegraph. Guglielo [sic] Marconi
- Invention of the incandescent light bulb. Thomas Alva Edison
- Morse’s telegraph. Samuel Morse

The series is incomplete.[2]

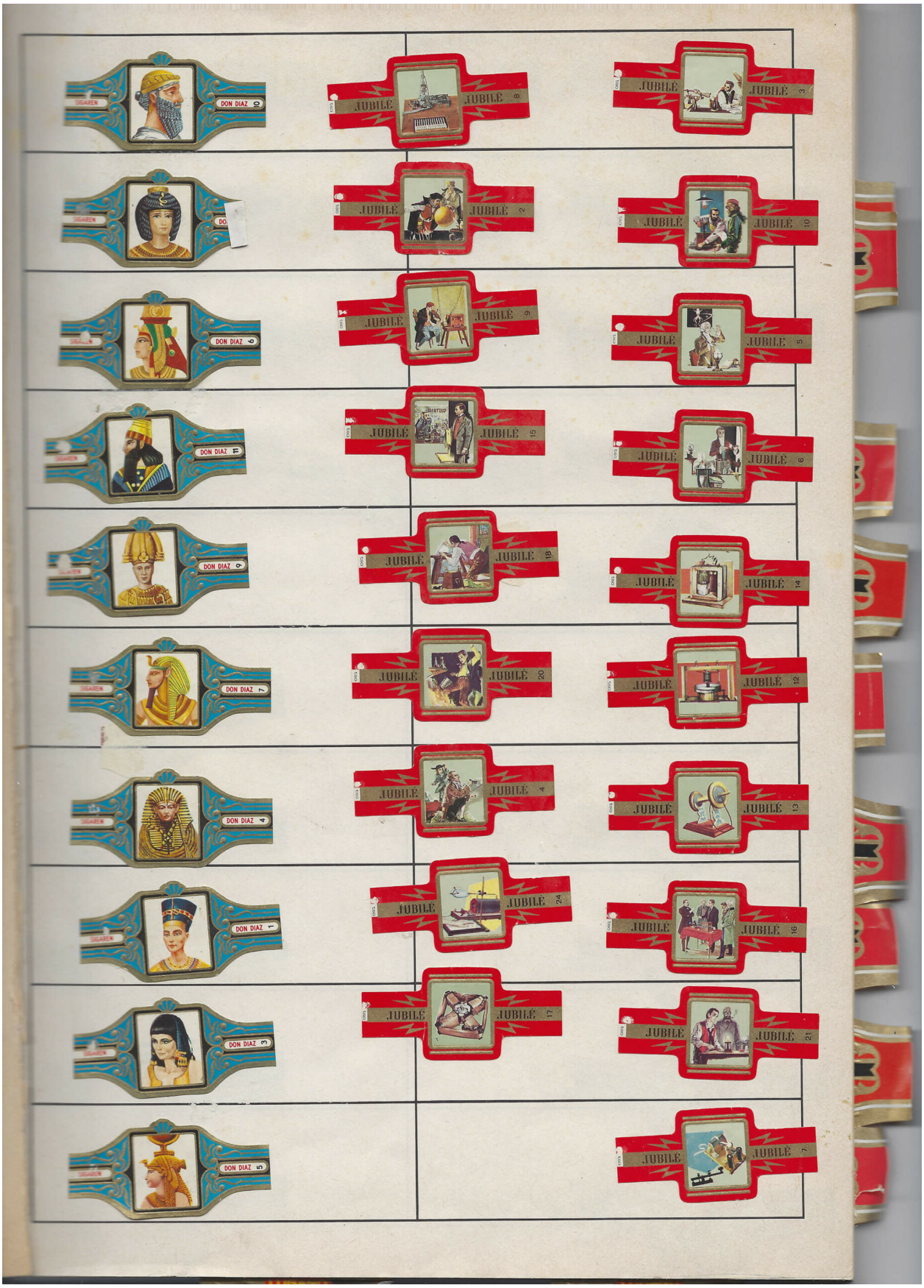
Notes

1 The scene shows a man standing at a desk, sticking out his hand to an officer in a window that reads, in mirror writing: Customs.

2 On eBay a complete series is advertised (15 EUR), with a lo-res picture of the whole collection, including the five bands missing in my grandfather’s collection. The information on the back, however, is not given. It leads to a highly speculative history of energy.

- A man in a gown watching a T-shaped object.
- A child in a cellar, sitting on a stool at a table with gray objects.
- A soldier kneeling beside a child, in front of a train, and in front of a boat.
- A low table with a giant cartwheel of sorts and a box.
- A vertical object with what seems to be a bell on top.

A smoker’s history of energy



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	18.08.2021	Document_2021-07-23_160752.jpg	10MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
collecting, physics, technology

10:22:03

Conducting research into the effects on energy consumption of blockchain-based applications such as bitcoin, I was triggered by the fact that many of the facilities making blockchain-mining[1] possible are located in Georgia. Low energy prices and a relaxed taxation policy are said to be among the reasons why companies such as Bitfury locate their plants there.

After a three-day hike in the Caucasus Mountains, on the Georgian side of the border with Chechnya, we are invited to pitch our tent in the garden of Murati, a local farmer in a small mountain village. We are overwhelmed by the scenery and Murati's hospitality. Many of the villages, thrown on the mountain flanks, have tower-like structures of some twenty meters high, making them all look fortified. They have no windows or doors on the ground floor.[2]

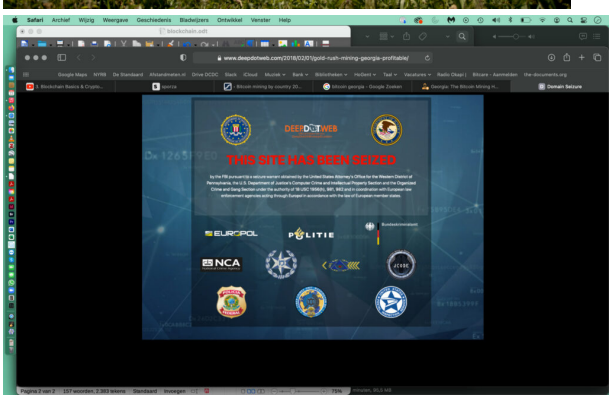
Murati invites us into his house to drink warm milk with his family and brings us cheese-filled bread. One of us speaks Russian. He inspects our backpacks, headlights and drinking bags. He tells us a 500 kilogram pig of his did not return to the house that night. The family is saddened.

In the evening, we see him taking his granddaughter by the hand. They walk to the highest point of the gravel road in front of his house and together watch the last light of the day fall on the snow-covered triangular peak of one of the Caucasus' highest mountains.

I'm mistrusting my memory and look the passage up in the journal we kept. The village is called Zagar. The mountain is Mount Tetnuldi. The granddaughter's name is Anna.

When I click through to one of the websites promising information on Georgia's blockchain economy, I happen to stumble on a dark web-related website and access is denied.[3]

Notes

1. 'Mining' is what is being done when data – a transaction – has to be added to the blockchain (which, in itself, is the sum of all previous transactions, added to each other as data). To do this, computers have to solve a complex mathematical puzzle, which is crucial for the trustworthiness of the system, but for which loads of energy is needed. Criticism on the effects of blockchain-mining is growing, as it has a gruesome effect on resources. In 2018, Andrew North writes, Bitfury used 28 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, equalling the consumption of 120,000 Georgian households.
2. 
3. 

org This site has been seized



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	22.08.2021	_MG_6532.JPG, JPEG	5,9MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
animal, impact, economy, landscape, technology, government, house, numismatics, bitcoin, encounter

10:23:40