

A STRANGER DRIFTS INTO TOWN

OR SOMEONE GOES ON A JOURNEY

A STRANGER DRIFTS INTO TOWN, OR SOMEONE GOES ON A JOURNEY

an a.a.s. curated group show

THE CITY GALLERY

21st September 2005
to
26th October 2005



T H E C I T Y G A L L E R Y

Published by The City Gallery, 90 Granby Street, Leicester. LE1 1DJ

All right reserved. No part of this publication may be copied in any form
without permission of the copyright holders.

0-9543211-6-2

Copyright for individual images and texts remains with the original artists.

Copyright for the rest of this publication © a.a.s. 2005



The following is a collection of images, notes and other data relating to our investigations regarding the individual we refer to as "The Stranger".

We have been researching this case for some time, and seem to be no further than when we started. In fact we may know even less now than we did at first.

It has not been ascertained where The Stranger is from, although the concentration of activity in the Midlands suggests some connection to this area.

This person is such a master of disguise we are not even sure of their gender, there has even been some suggestion that there is something supernatural or extra-terrestrial about them, although we have no evidence to support this.

We present this case file in the hope that you can make more sense of this than we can. It seems our time searching for answers may have affected us more deeply than we realised. Perhaps this has been more of a metaphysical search, since we are left suspecting that The Stranger does not exist, that he or she is a phantasm conjured from our deepest dreams or darkest fears.

a.a.s.

The following people and organisations have contributed to this file and to our investigations in general.

a.a.s. would like to thank them for their vigilance and bravery.

Arlene Burnett, Arts Council England, the City Gallery, Coffee Heaven, Sally Dibben, DOT, S. Mark Gubb, Elodie, FuncArt, Milee Lee, Oona Lurås Wiggan, LCB Depot, Maria Malone, David Miller, Paul Newman, Richard Peel, David Roach, Paul Ross, Jason Thomson, Vivid, Whatsthebigmistry, Justin Wiggan, Neil Wiseman.



FuncArt

FUNCTION
DESIGN | CRAFT

ART?

The FuncArt Boardwalk/Causeway

The FuncArt Boardwalk/Causeway is an 'easy-to-assemble', 'flat-pack' raised walkway that lifts the users off the normal floor giving them a superior view and feeling.

For Further Information Contact:
edwoodorton@yahoo.co.uk

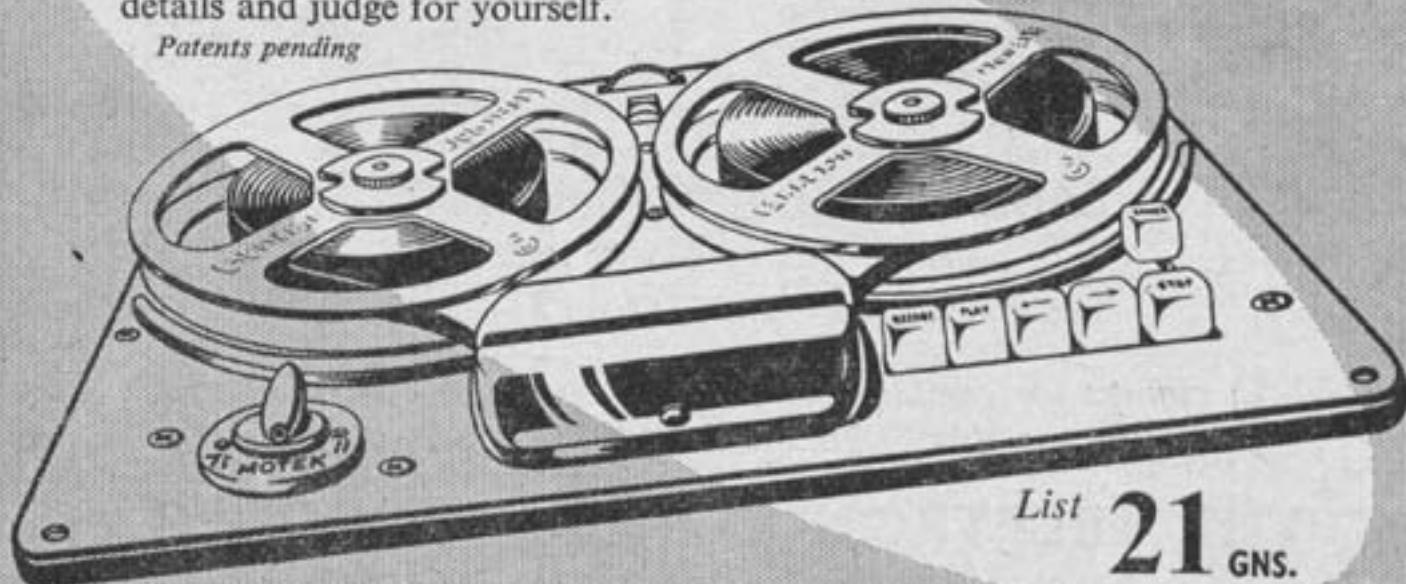
FuncArt, bringing its concepts of built environment and interactive work-forces to The City Gallery, to create the joy of function within everything.

BUILDING A TAPE RECORDER ?

Then you owe it to yourself to instal the best Tape Deck. This superb unit includes a three-speed control knob among its many outstanding features. Apply for full details and judge for yourself.

Patents pending

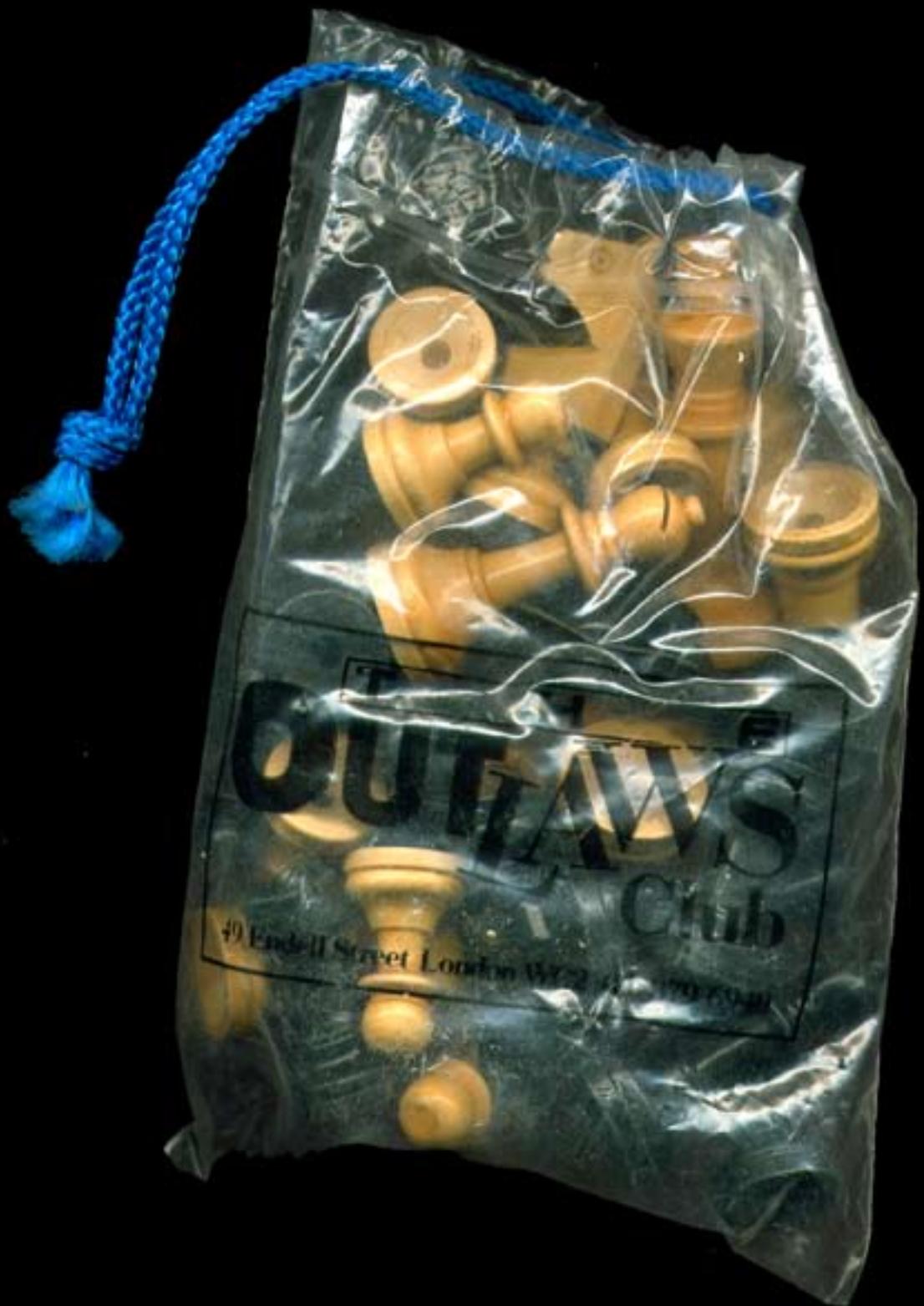
MOTEK • K9



List 21 GNS.

MODERN TECHNIQUES

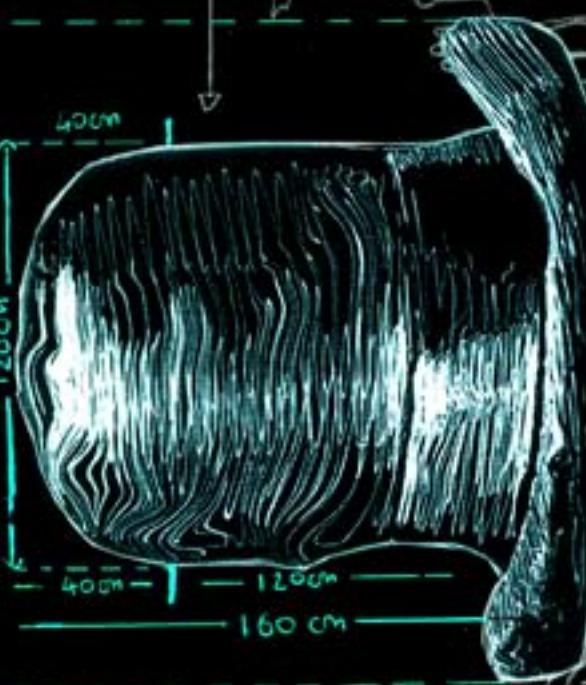
Wedmore Street, London, N.19. Tel: ARCHway 3114



Side view



Side view



305cm / 10'

35cm

35cm

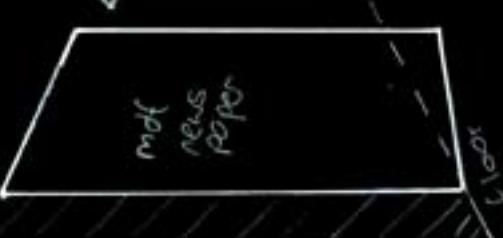


38cm / 12.5'

Overhead view



Side view



100cm

portant, minimal, bottom, lowest
leave n. PARTING: departure, farewell; PERMISSION
consent, dispensation, indulgence, authorization
consent; LIBERTY: furlough, vacation
leave v. ABANDON: forsake, desert; DEPART: withdraw
part, defect, flee, embark, emigrate, scram, split, vac-
ate, go; TRANSMISSION: transmit, will, give, dower; OMIT
drop, forget, neglect
leaving n. departure, exodus
lecher n. debaucher, rake

Strange Journey #1

We went to a cafe with red walls
that reminded us of a 50s American
Diner somehow. The waitress seemed
out of place; she took too long
to find the things we asked for
and I surmised that she was new.
When we paid I noticed a novel
pushed behind the till. I slipped
it into my pocket when her back was turned.

Strange Journey #2

We took the train from North
Station, from though it was
middle of the day every platform
was deserted and the sands of
the town faded as we set home, only
to return as the next train arrived
and we got on



#3

With a carpenter at
old and knowledgeable,
but a little eerie. When he was
engrossed in doing something I looked
around his studio and found
many puzzling objects that seemed
to have no purpose. When I picked
one up he looked at me with
a gleam in his eye that made
me cold.



I think I may
have seen these
in a charity
shop on the
High Street



Found these boots
outside my door this
morning.

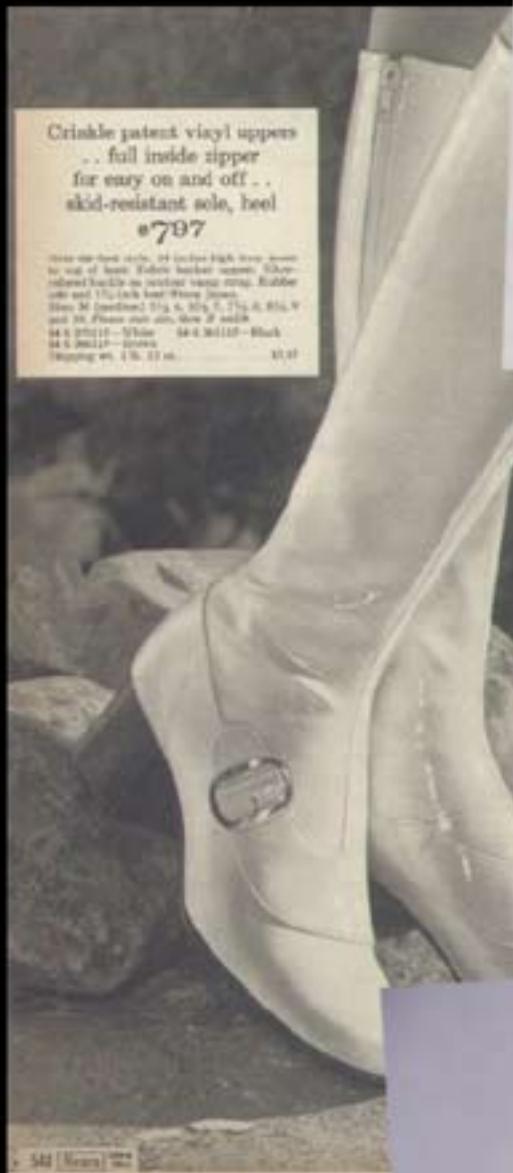
I left them there but
they had vanished by
the next day.



Went to look but
they weren't there

memo

Never walk home
alone after dark.
Try to catch a bus
or walk in a group



keep to busy, well lit
roads, short cuts
aren't worth the
risk

remember, your
safety and well
being are more
important than
personal
belongings



definitions of inspiration on the Web.

- * arousal of the mind to special unusual activity or creativity
- * a product of your creative thinking and work; "he had little respect for the inspirations of other artists; after years of work his brainchild was a tangible reality"
- * a sudden intuition as part of solving a problem
- * divine guidance (theology) a special influence of a divinity on the minds of human beings; they believe that the books of Scripture were written under divine guidance
- * arousing to a particular emotion or action
- * inhalation: the act of inhaling
- * inhaling; taking in oxygen
- * The process by which the body takes in oxygen
- * When applied to a sacred thought processes of the writer, it is the logical result of inspiration
- * a psychic state in which one degree, unwittingly lends one's self to the influence of another
- * To breathe into, to breath into all the soul's vehicles on Earth
- * Mysterious, unpredictable process
- * Graves compared inspiration to breathing
- * The intake of air (or oxygen)
- * The view that the Biblical process of writing was superintended by God
- * The doctrine that the Bible is inspired by God which implies direct illumination in that it shows us what we could not know
- * that the Bible is inspired is to examine the OT prophecies fulfilled in the NT concerning Jesus (Luke 24:27-45).



- * That extraordinary supernatural influence exerted by the Holy Ghost on the writers of our Sacred Books, by which their words were rendered also the words of God, and therefore, perfectly infallible" (by Benjamin Warfield, The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible, P & R 1948, page 420)
- * The receiving by humans of divine or supernatural truths. It is often associated with the biblical writers in writing the Scripture From the Latin word 'inspirare' meaning 'to breathe in'
- * Inhalation, the movement of air into the respiratory system
- * From the human side, means contact with the subconscious of the individual or the race. From the divine, means contact with the Universal Spirit.
- * A state of psychic or spiritual awareness where the individual is susceptible to creative spiritual influence; such creativity demonstrated in forms of lectures, works of art, science, literature, and music.
- * The act of the Holy Spirit in which He superintended the writers of the Scriptures so that, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, they produced God's Word written, authoritative, trustworthy and free from error in the original writings. See Plenary Verbal
- * "God-breathed", that is, God's Word expressed in human language
- * The psychic sense used to identify knowledge that is beyond deductive reasoning. In the case of channeling this is the "knowing" or *Prasna* that comes after a channeled message. You read a spiritual message and are "inspired".
- * (inhalation) The act of breathing air into the alveoli of the lungs; also called inhalation
- * To breath in
- * to be filled with the Spirit (this was not the original definition in the book, but has been corrected as I felt was necessary, I may explain in a future article).

Strange Journey #4

We went to a town where all the people were cowboys. It took us a while to notice, you see one and it's a bit odd, see two and wonder if they're in a band, then there was and more and you suddenly feel like the alien. Any large numbers ~~becomes~~ becomes a mob.



Strange Journey #5

I followed a girl as she walked home alone at night

Strange Journey #6

We went to a party and met a man, very stylish and erudite. He became intoxicated over the course of the evening on fine red wine and disclosed to me in a confidential tone that he was 125 years old. I'd have guessed he was a century younger.



I found this on the pavement
by the Phoenix Cinema.

I waited by the gallery that
night.

I saw a woman in a headscarf
and dark glasses watch me for a
few minutes, before she
disappeared.

No-one else paid me any
attention.

My Darling,

meet me soon, don't make
me wait, the night will
come it will be too late.

My heart is open filled with love
as open as the sky above.

city
gallery

MEX

granby street

train
station



Photo Death

Dandical efforts to stop the passage of time, to stop aging, running away from nature and reality to become something else, an object to be looked at and admired, to lose a dimension and emerge pictorial, flat and unchanging.

Posed, motionless, trying to compose an expression that best represents our innermost selves, we are photographed. Barthes refers to this moment as a kind of little death, feeling himself change to a visual object, his spirit captured on the film. But what Barthes refers to as 'Photo Death' is the mortality of photographs. The document of record dying with the subject.

The Dandy's pretense to be an object, unaffected by time and culture ultimately fails. Age scars, make-up and clothes cannot hide the decay taking place beneath forever. This journey is unavoidable and cannot be stopped, but why not travel in style!



Coffee, black, and a slice of cherry pie

Directed by
a.a.s.



ANA
BENLOCH

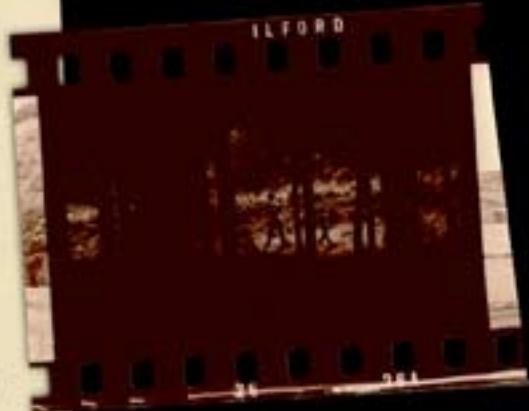
STUART
TAIT

SALLY
DIBBEN

AND INTRODUCING 'ELODIE'
MUSIC: JULIAN CATCHPOLE LOCATION: COFFEE HEAVEN LCB DEPOT

Strange Journey #10

We stayed in a B&B somewhere in the Midlands. There was blood on the radiator. Human blood. When I was taking a sample I saw a tiny stroke behind it. When I listened to it I thought there was nothing on it but trying again later I heard the ambient noise of the room.

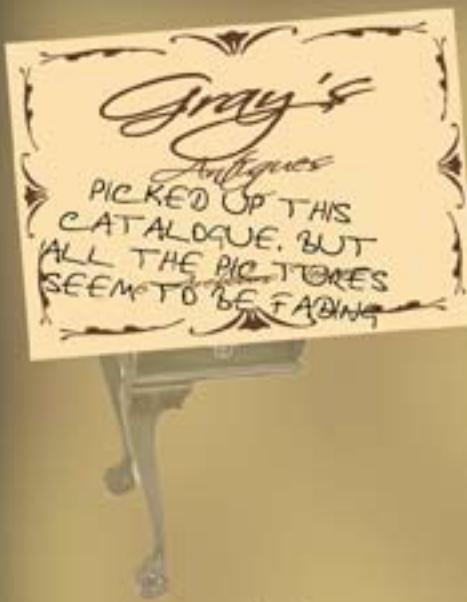


Strange Journey #11

We followed a suspicious character into a charity shop and watched as he gave them a package. I convinced the staff to let me buy it immediately after he left and when I got it home I found a projector and a series of slides of a trip to Italy.







Catalogue Number 3557



Catalogue Number 645



Catalogue Number 9287



Catalogue Number 2228



Catalogue Number 3976



Catalogue Number 1783

Shouts, screams, shrieks, wails, hoots, howls, death rattles and sobs are all soaked up by this unfinished structure of our space. I have been responding and disappearing in the swollen bellies of cityscapes. Old is modernised or destroyed to allow room for new and unique and individual architecture. This is supposed to give people space to move, freedom to choose direction, freedom to choose individual product.

On closer inspection we find ourselves lost in a shuffling crowd, herded down isles of repetitive consumer units...

And so I look for treasures for the individual. And so I look.



The contrast of a light blue summer nights sky over dark almost black ground, the weight of dense melting spring snow and the power and determination of the little dandelion shooting up through it, the unbearable heat of a summer day by the river that makes you jump in the white water and get amazed about the ice cold freshness contained within even after flowing over hot stones for hours, the darkness that swallows every ray of light midday in winter and gives it all back in abundance in summer when it never really darkens.

A sense of being for yourself (and for the world without it noticing). A certain form of exhibitionism but for yourself maybe... Who we are when we are alone is different to who we are when others are with us. Who do we create behind closed doors? Is this a person we admire, a person we find intriguing, a person we can cope with, a person that terrifies us?





Strange Journey #7

We were walking down a road when we saw a Jarvis figure wearing white gloves standing behind a post box. He seemed to move along the street in jumps and starts trying to seem inconspicuous by lurking around trees, wastebins etc. but somehow stood out like a 3D object in a 2D world.

Strange Journey #8

We drifted down a boat at night with a 3D object in a 2D world.
around under my pool
dawn to find a blessed rosary

Strange Journey #9

While waiting at an airport I heard a strange noise coming from a case, a muffled sound that could have been talking, but I wasn't sure. I was a little frightened and looked around for a security guard, but when I looked back, the case had gone



		Monday-Friday																								
Birmingham - Nuneaton - Leicester		Saturdays & Bank Holidays																								
Service operated by		07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07	07
Birmingham New Street	06.57	08.00	08.26	08.36	08.54	09.21	09.34	09.54	09.59	10.24	10.36	11.04	11.24	11.54	11.58	14.04	14.24	14.54	15.24	15.54	16.12	16.24	16.54	16.54	16.54	
Worcester	06.57	08.00	08.26	08.36	08.54	09.21	09.34	09.54	09.59	10.24	10.36	11.04	11.24	11.54	11.58	14.04	14.24	14.54	15.24	15.54	16.12	16.24	16.54	16.54	16.54	
Nuneaton	06.47	08.31	09.04	09.21	09.40	09.51	09.55	09.59	10.25	10.37	11.05	11.25	11.33	12.24	12.33	13.25	14.25	14.33	14.54	14.54	14.54	14.54	14.54	14.54	14.54	
Hinckley	06.56	08.26	08.59	09.05	09.26	09.33	09.35	09.37	09.50	09.56	10.26	10.36	11.06	11.26	11.56	11.58	14.06	14.26	14.56	15.26	15.56	16.16	16.26	16.56	16.56	16.56
Leicester	06.56	08.26	08.59	09.05	09.26	09.33	09.35	09.37	09.50	09.56	10.26	10.36	11.06	11.26	11.56	11.58	14.06	14.26	14.56	15.26	15.56	16.16	16.26	16.56	16.56	16.56
South Wigston	06.56	08.26	08.59	09.05	09.26	09.33	09.35	09.37	09.50	09.56	10.26	10.36	11.06	11.26	11.56	11.58	14.06	14.26	14.56	15.26	15.56	16.16	16.26	16.56	16.56	16.56
Leicester	06.57	08.40	09.26	09.50	09.54	09.59	10.14	10.34	10.59	11.14	11.34	11.59	12.14	12.24	13.14	13.34	14.14	14.34	14.54	15.14	15.34	16.12	16.34	16.54	16.54	16.54
	06.57	08.40	09.26	09.50	09.54	09.59	10.14	10.34	10.59	11.14	11.34	11.59	12.14	12.24	13.14	13.34	14.14	14.34	14.54	15.14	15.34	16.12	16.34	16.54	16.54	16.54



This photograph was found stuck behind a poster that had been pasted onto the window. The poster was advertising the band '8:15 from Manchester'. No trains from Manchester run to this station.



This photograph was found on the train between Birmingham and Leicester. We waited to see these chairs until we picked it up.



We found this photograph attached with blu-tac to the left poster on the back wall. It was inside the large letter O



The Train Journey

Outside; blurred fields and stranger's homes,
Monotonous nature dressed in green,
Washing-lines and broken gnomes.

Inside; newspapers and mobile phones,
Short skirts and a stocking seam,
Skin generously covering bones.

Oppressive herringbone, between joyous tweed,
Dulled by black and white hound-tooth,
Brings the melancholic remembrance
Of well-dressed men.

Marvellous marvellousness of beauty,
Saturated in wondrous essence of gorgeous loveliness
With green twigs and terrible berries.

Ominous in beautiful magnitude,
Transient with pale shades of peach and kumquat,
The sun sets on another day,
Casting colours more beautiful than man could imagine.



by David Miller



I found this suitcase in
my nan's attic

There were
lot of old
postcards,
menus and
leaflets
from her
travels.

I also found
a carrier
bag stuffed
with condiments
dating back
30 years



MORE COUNTRY ESTATE THAN HOUSING ESTATE

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com



KUOWLE

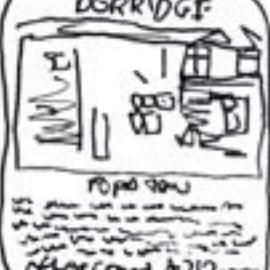


RACKWOOD



Dr. B
Pleasant Grove Station
and
Others called #205

DERRIDG



A simple line drawing of a house with a chimney and a garden.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT



KEYWORD



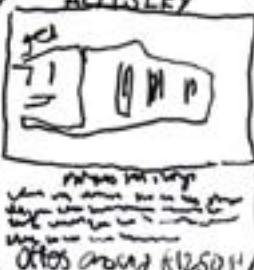
Original Right for the
- - - - -
- - - - -
- - - - -
- - - - -
- - - - -

TONOWLES



~~objection~~
Others would fit 17:55

AU/PSI EV



Reindeer tracks
Otter around 11250 ft

— 1 —

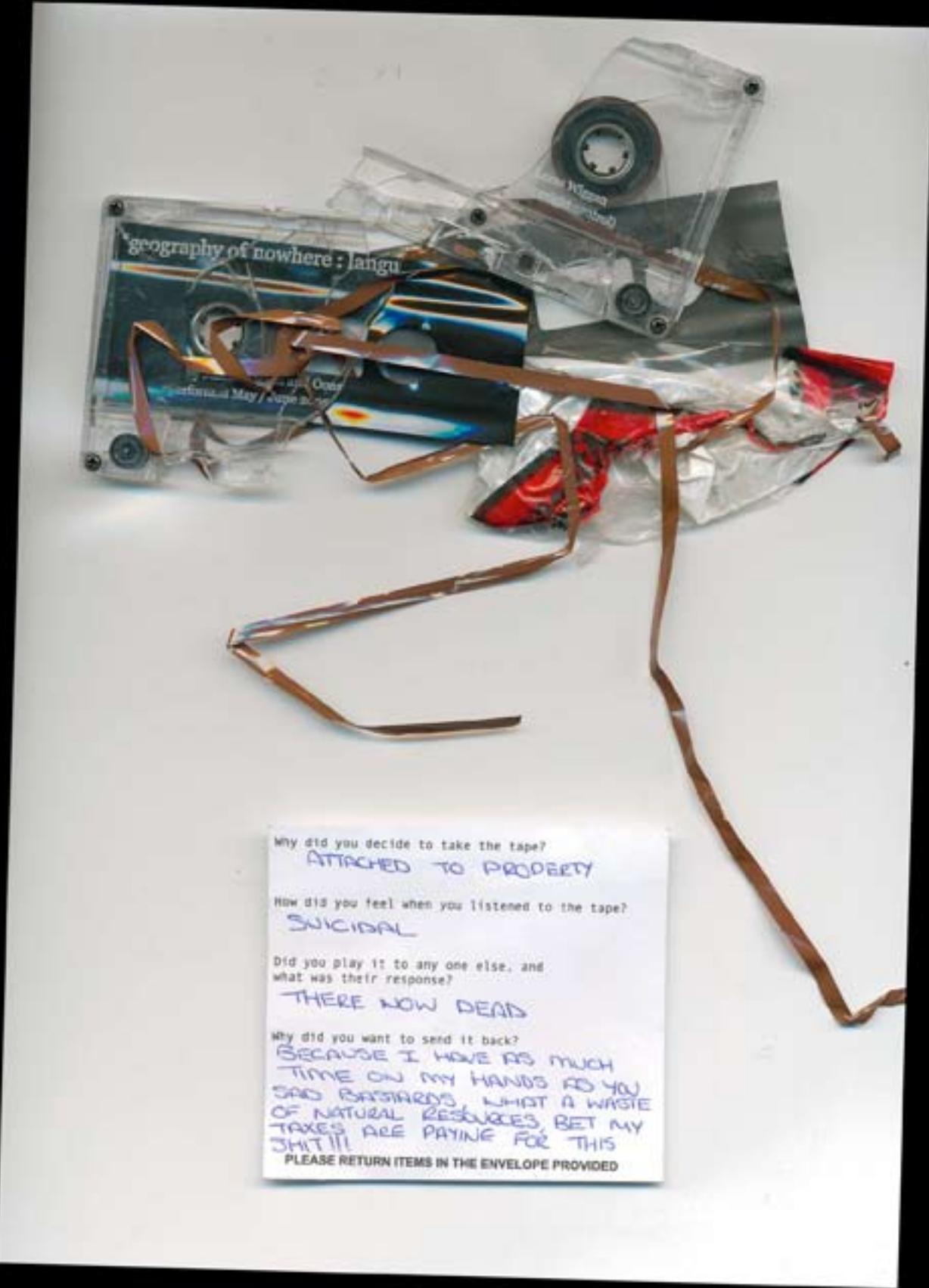


Fragrant
other good

— 1 —



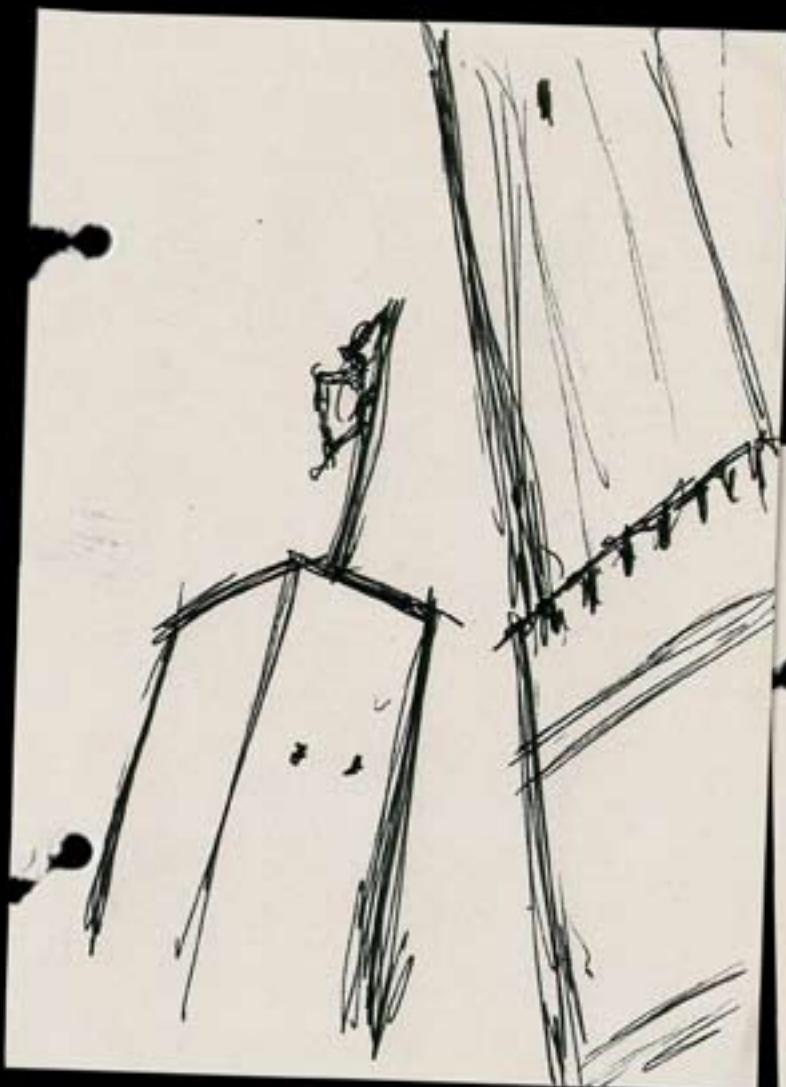
Other animal types



"let us cross a great modern capital with our ears more alert than our eyes, and we will get enjoyment from distinguishing the eddy of water, air and gas in metal pipes, the grumbling of noises that breath and pulse with indisputable animality" - Luigi Russolo







Waiting room



7
Leicester
Calling cities en route Leicester, Kettering, Northampton
14:23
14:22:01
Calls as
14:23
late

7

THOUGH IT HURTS TO GO AWAY, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STAY,
BUT THERE'S ONE THING I MUST SAY BEFORE I GO.

I LOVE YOU, YOU KNOW. I'LL BE THINKING OF YOU, IN
MOST EVERYTHING I DO.

NOW THE TIME IS MOVING ON AND I REALLY SHOULD
BE GONE, BUT YOU KEEP ME HANGING ON FOR ONE
MORE SMILE. I LOVE YOU, ALL THE WHILE. WITH
YOUR CUTE LITTLE WAYS, WILL YOU PROMISE THAT
YOU'LL SAVE YOUR KISSES FOR ME, SAVE ALL YOUR
KISSES FOR ME, BYE BYE, BABY, BYE BYE. DON'T CRY
HONEY, DON'T CRY. GONNA WALK OUT THE DOOR, BUT
I'LL SOON BE BACK FOR MORE.

KISSES FOR ME, SAVE ALL YOUR KISSES FOR ME. SO LONG
HONEY, SO LONG. HANG ON BABY, HANG ON. DON'T
YOU DARE ME TO STAY, CUZ YOU KNOW I'LL HAVE TO SAY
THAT I'VE GOT TO WORK EACH DAY, AND THAT'S WHY I
GO AWAY. BUT I COUNT THE SECONDS TIL I'M HOME
~~WITH~~ YOU. I LOVE YOU, IT'S TRUE. YOU'RE SO CUTE
HONEY GEE. WON'T YOU SAVE THEM UP FOR ME, YOUR
KISSES FOR ME, SAVE ALL YOUR KISSES FOR ME. BYE BYE,
BABY, BYE BYE. DON'T CRY HONEY, DON'T CRY. GONNA
WALK OUT THE DOOR, BUT I'LL SOON BE BACK FOR
MORE.

KISSES FOR ME, SAVE ALL YOUR KISSES FOR ME. SO
LONG HONEY, SO LONG. HANG ON BABY, HANG ON.
DON'T YOU DARE ME TO STAY, CUZ YOU KNOW YOU'VE
GOT TO SAVE YOUR KISSES FOR ME, SAVE ALL
YOUR KISSES FOR ME. BYE BYE, BABY, BYE BYE.
DON'T CRY HONEY, DON'T CRY. WON'T YOU SAVE
THEM FOR ME, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ONLY
THREE.



Why sleeper-cell terrorists are hard to find

America has porous borders. One problem is that those borders are so large. Our northern border with Canada stretches more than 4,000 miles; our southern border with Mexico runs about half that length, some 2,000 miles. The second problem is that long stretches of both borders are unpopulated and not regularly patrolled, except possibly by aircraft from above.



Do terrorists have suitcase nuclear bombs?

On Sept. 7, 1997, former Russian National Security Adviser Alexander Lebed created a worldwide sensation when he was interviewed on CBS' "60 Minutes." He claimed that 100 of 250 suitcase-sized nuclear bombs were missing and no longer in the control of the Russian military. The suitcase bombs described by Lebed are small but powerful. Said to measure 24-by-16-by-8 inches, each suitcase bomb was capable of killing up to 100,000 people if detonated in a major U.S. city during business hours. The Russians predictably denied that the suitcase nukes existed. But if the suitcase nukes hypothetically existed, the Russians insisted they were all accounted for.

Then, on Jan. 24, 2000, Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., brought a mock-up of a suitcase nuclear bomb to a congressional hearing on Russian espionage. Burton displayed the suitcase bomb to the congressional committee and to the press. The startling photos of the prototype suitcase bomb made headlines around the globe. At the hearing, Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., elicited testimony from Stanislav Lunev, an ex-Soviet colonel who defected to the United States in 1992 after he had worked for more than 10 years in the United States as an intelligence operative. Lunev claimed he had collected information on the U.S. president and senior U.S. political and military leaders so they could be targeted for assassination in the event of war. As part of this mission, Lunev claimed to have brought from the Soviet Union several suitcase nuclear bombs that were stored in hiding places where

Sleeper Cell Tactics

Concerns over the safety of U.S. citizens are legitimate. Well-placed U.S. government counterterrorism sources have confirmed the presence of al Qaeda "sleeper cells" within the country. Although it is not known how many cells could be in place, intelligence indicates that militant operatives are in place, to be deployed for the next Sept. 11- or Madrid-style attacks. Analysis leads us to believe that a cell could be in place in Houston,

Sleeper cells are difficult to ferret out — with profiles that do not differ greatly from those of the rest of the public. Like the Sept. 11 attackers, militant operatives do not hesitate to violate Islamic custom by shaving, dressing and behaving so as to blend into their temporary communities. As a group, they are overwhelmingly male, they are typically physically fit, and they often practice martial arts — sometimes in formal school settings. Their identities may be false, but not always.

However, it is their actions — not their appearance, ethnicity or religion — that can expose sleeper cells and help intelligence and law enforcement agencies to disrupt attacks.

First, these militant units are not totally independent: Courier services are used to send money and orders to operatives, whose leaders frequently have had contact with members of other cells. If one operative is arrested, pocket liner and phone records can lead authorities to other cells.

And there certainly are opportunities for arrests. Sleeper cells fund some of their activities through credit card and financial fraud, and members often use false identification documents. Elements of these crimes are much easier than terrorism charges to prove in court, which gives police and federal officials some traction in disrupting attack planning. Other activities also provide clues: The premier example, of course, is that the Sept. 11 team had to learn how to fly airplanes — but more universally, virtually all terrorist attacks follow a period of eyes-on surveillance of the target.

At the tactical level, counterterrorism experts have observed that members of al Qaeda's sleeper cells carry out many duties within their units — which increases the chances that an arrest could throw off a planned attack. For example, analysis of past attacks has revealed that the same members tasked with carrying out preoperational surveillance for a strike also work on the logistics and attack teams. Operationally, this places them at greater risk than groups who use highly trained, specialized cells for each function.

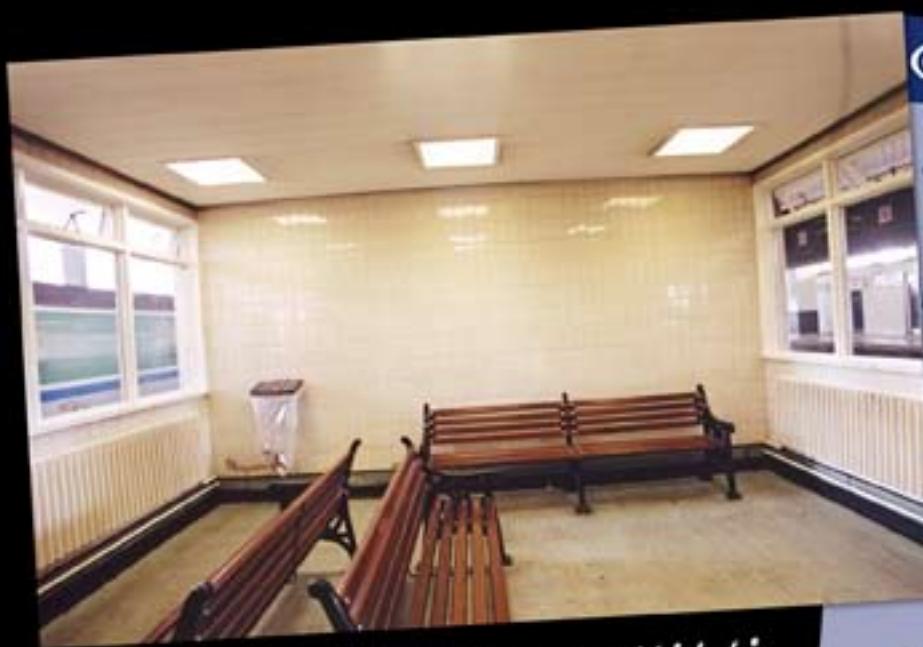
"To date, we have not identified any true 'sleeper cell' in the U.S." This comes after prosecutors said the seven men in a terror plot in Lackawanna, N.Y., in 2002, were a "sleeper cell."

FBI officials confirmed to FOX News the existence of the report and conclusions that it makes, saying, "we have found no evidence, but that's not to say that [sleeper cells] don't exist."

That same official told FOX News: "You always have to be concerned about what you don't know." The official insisted that the FBI is aggressively looking for sleeper cells, as it has been doing since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

The report contradicts statements made by intelligence and law enforcement officials regarding the terrorist threat here at home. FBI Director Robert Mueller is just one official who warned in the past that several sleeper cells were probably in place.

Jason Thomson is the kindest, bravest, warmest, most wonderful human being I've ever known in my life



This photograph was found in the rubbish bin. Under a banana skin and two empty cans of soft drink.

This photograph was found under the third tile in front of the right column, in an envelope with a stamp from the Isle of Wight, dated 1987.



This photograph was found behind the clock. The time when we found it was 10:32.





aas@clara.co.uk

www.aasinfo.net

A STRANGER DRIFTS INTO TOWN, OR SOMEONE GOES ON A JOURNEY

**21st September 2005
until
26th October 2005**

The City Gallery

90 Granby Street Leicester LE1 1DJ

Tel 0116 223 2060

Open Tues-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm

Curated by a.a.s.

Gallery Artists:

a.a.s., Arlene Burnett, FuncArt, S Mark Gubb,
Maria Malone, David Miller, Paul Newman, Paul
Ross, Jason Thomson, Justin Wiggan & Oona
Lurås Wiggan, and Neil Wiseman

Off-site Artists:

Richard Peel, David Roach,
and whatsthebigmistry



**Leicester
City Council**

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND





1 next working day
between 0800 and
1730

Carrier: TNT Express
Phone: 01827 303030

Coll. depot: 018
Sender A/c: 0180035843
Cons. No: 245119
Weight (kg): .475
Item No: 001 OF 1
Coll. Date: 2/1/2004

005

DELIVER TO:

~~OXFORD ROAD~~
~~BIRMINGHAM~~
~~WEST MIDLANDS~~

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Canocom reference: 245119

FOR DELIVERY TO
ADDRESSEE ONLY



245119

Big Thin Rabbits
With Mouths
Made of
Knives.





**STAFF
ONLY**

