

The Original Darwin's Daybook

Fancy spring-cleaning the attic. That old trunk has been lying right in the way for ages. What will it hold? The hinges creak open and... wow! That's Darwin's daybook in the rough. Well... yes, it's full of splotches and worm-holes that make it something short of rubbish – but then the charm is all there.

You grab it with eagerness, hold it carefully and, “Damn, this is nothing but a phoney doc!”

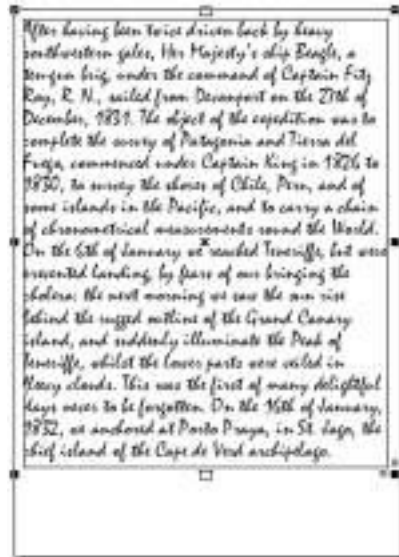
1. First of all, you'll need **CorelDraw**. Create a new doc, **150 dpi** of resolution and the size you like best, it doesn't. Select the **Text Tool** from the toolbar and draw a rectangle across the window, about **140 mm** wide. Copy the following text and paste it into the text box — or type it manually if you feel like typing.

After having been twice driven back by heavy southwestern gales, Her Majesty's ship Beagle, a ten-gun brig, under the command of Captain Fitz Roy, R. N., sailed from Devonport on the 27th of December, 1831. The object of the expedition was to complete the survey of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, commenced under Captain King in 1826 to 1830, to survey the shores of Chile, Peru, and of some islands in the Pacific, and to carry a chain of chronometrical measurements round the World. On the 6th of January we reached Teneriffe, but were prevented landing, by fears of our bringing the cholera: the next morning we saw the sun rise behind the rugged outline of the Grand Canary island, and suddenly illuminate the Peak of Teneriffe, whilst the lower parts were veiled in fleecy clouds. This was the first of many delightful days never to be forgotten. On the 16th of January, 1832, we anchored at Porto Praya, in St. Jago, the chief island of the Cape de Verd archipelago.

2. Don't mind if the text won't fit exactly in, we'll fix it later on. Now select **Mistral** (you find it in Corel's CD as **Staccato 222**) from the font list drop-down, and give it a **24 pts** size, **left alignment**, **without hyphenation**. Now you can resize the text box's height, if needed to fit the text in. Finally, click on the **Fill Color** button on the **Fill** flyout (see on the right) and give the text the following fill:

Red=61, Green=26, Blue=7.

Copy the text object to the clipboard (**Edit>Copy**).

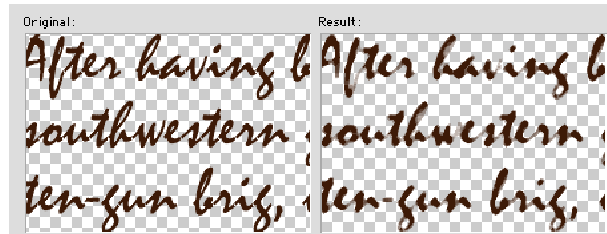


3. Create a new **PHOTO-PAINT** doc, 165 by 220 mm, 150 dpi, white background. Select **Edit>Paste>As New Object**.

Now that you have the text, create a sheet of paper (It is singularly odd that a writing comes in before the paper on which it is supposed to be written). Pick the **Rectangle** tool from the toolbar and draw a rectangle slightly wider and higher than the text box. A new object is automatically created above the text. Select it in the **Object** docker and drag it right below the text object. With the rectangle still selected, check the **Lock Transparency** checkbox in the **Object** docker and then go to **Edit>Fill...** In the dialog, select **Bitmap fill** and click **Edit...** A second dialog appears. Click **Load...** and locate the bitmap fill called **Paper 01** (note: **Windows-compatible** name is likely to be **paper_01**). Click **Open**, then **OK** twice.

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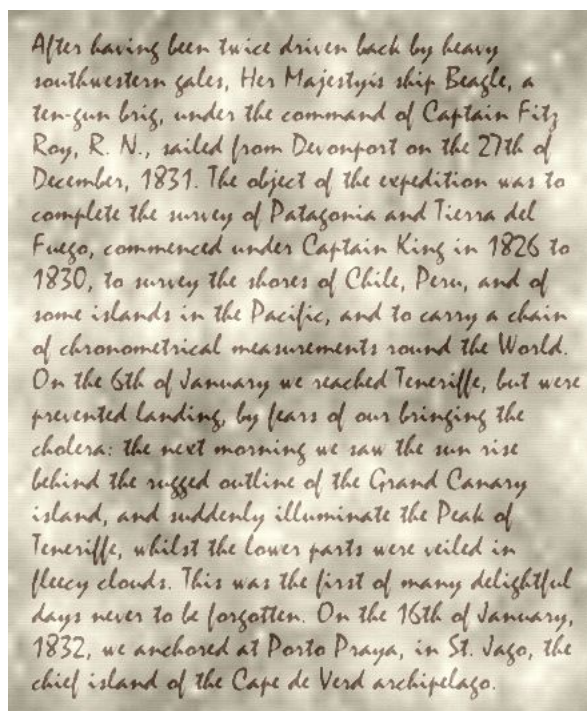
4. All very well, but we would expect the writing to be worn out after so long a time. We'll get this effect by adding a little of noise. Deselect **Lock Transparency**. Select the text object from the **Object** docker and apply **Noise>Median...** Adjust radius to **2** pixels and click **OK**. Repeat for the paper object, but with a radius of **1**. This will give text and paper a realistic worn-out look. See below the text before and after noise effect.



5. Make it plotchy. Select both text and paper object by **shift-clicking** on either name in the **Object** docker, and combine them by selecting **Object>Combine>Combine Objects Together** or **right-click** (Mac-users, **Ctrl-click**) and selecting **Combine>Combine Objects Together** from the drop-down list. Go to **Effects>Artistic>Canvas...** Click on **Load...** and pick **Cracks** from your canvas presets folder. Set the effect as follows:

Transparency: 60%; Emboss: 35%; X and Y Offset: 0%; Stretch to fit checkbox: on.

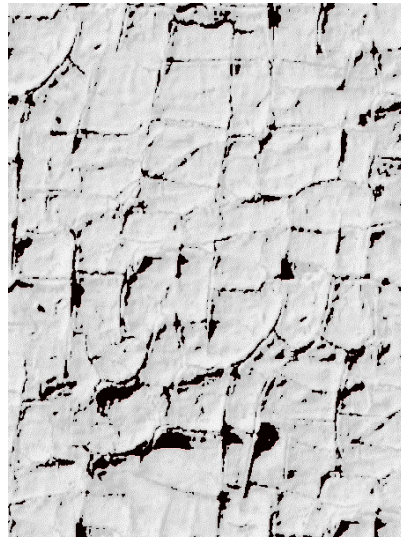
Click **OK**.



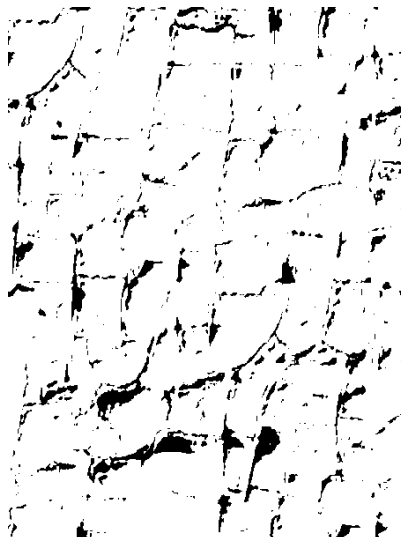
6. Select **Mask>Paint on Mask**. This will activate the **POM** mode, that is all you draw on the screen will be turned into a mask. Go to

Effects>Artistic>Canvas... and load **Bonedry** from the preset folder. Set **Transparency** to 50% and **Emboss** to 20% and leave the rest unvaried. Click **OK**.

7. Go to **Image>Transform>Threshold...** A dialog will appear. Click on **Reset** and set the **Threshold** limit to **190**. You may also activate the live-update button (the one with the eye in) and move the right triangle right below the histogram to see the effect for yourself. The huger the black areas the more worm-eaten the paper will be. Click **OK**.



8. Now go to **Image>Transform>Posterize...** and type **2** in the level field. This will reduce the gray levels to black and white only, as you can see if the eye icon is activated. Click **OK**.



9. Return from **POM** mode by selecting **Mask>Paint on Mask**. You should see a highly irregular mask now.



10. Select **Mask>Invert**. Select any mask tool in the toolbar and hit delete on the keyboard (or select **Edit>Clear**). Remove the mask (**Mask>Remove**). All of selected areas are now turned into random holes.



11. Go to **Image>Adjust>Brightness-Contrast-Intensity...** Set as follows:

Brightness: -8; Contrast: -10; Intensity: -2.

Click **OK**. Note: you can skip this passage, or set the filter otherwise, according to your taste.

12. Apply a shadow. Go to **Object>Drop Shadow...** The drop-shadow dialog appears. Set as follows:

Shadow type: Flat; Direction: 315; Offset: 1.4 mm; Opacity: 85; Feather Width: 4; Feather Direction: Inside; Feather Edges: Linear.

And that's all folks!

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1832, we anchored in the bay of St. Jago, the
chief island of the Cape de Verde archipelago.

A remark — I tried to curl up the sheet using the Paper Curl effect, but there's apparently no way to give it a less than glossy, resin-coated look. It was clearly meant for greeting cards or stuff like that, I take it.