

Andrew (Arjan) Dasselaar

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EDUCATION

- 2017-current** **MFA candidate (Creative Writing); University of British Columbia, Canada**
- 2017** **Instructional Skills Workshop; University of British Columbia, Canada**
- 2016** **Screenwriting: Write Your First Draft Fast (certificate); University of Wisconsin, USA**
- 2014** **CELTA (Certificate of English Language Teaching to Adults); CPIT, New Zealand**
- 2005-2006** **Master of Arts in Dutch language and culture (specialisation journalism, graduated cum laude); Leiden University, the Netherlands**
Thesis: [The Fifth Estate - On the Journalistic Aspects of the Dutch Blogosphere](#)
- 1994-1997** **Bachelor of Arts in journalism; Fontys University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1992-1997;** **Freelance journalist**
- 2002-current** I've written thousands of articles for publications such as Elsevier (the largest current affairs weekly in the Netherlands), NU.nl (the largest news website), Het Financieele Dagblad (the Dutch equivalent of the Financial Times), NRC Handelsblad (widely considered one of the best newspapers in the country), AD (Holland's second-largest newspaper) and Business Insider. I also made items for Dutch PBS which I produced and filmed on my own, and I was a weekly contributor to a nationally broadcasted consumer TV show. For a brief overview of my clients and publications, please refer to page 4 and onwards of this resume.
- 2003-current** **Author**
I wrote a total of eight books (revised editions/reprints not included). A full list of my books can be found on page 3 of this resume.
- 2009-2011** **GURU books, series editor**
I was the series editor for these books, which intended to quickly introduce the reader to a new subject. A total of six books appeared in the GURU series, one of which I wrote myself.
- 1998-2002** **Elsevier (current affairs weekly), staff reporter and department head**
After a traineeship in 1997 and six months of freelancing, Elsevier hired me in January 1998 as a domestic affairs reporter. In the years thereafter, I established Elsevier's online presence and headed up the internet department, supervising three colleagues. I also contributed to Elsevier as a foreign correspondent in Dublin, Ireland; and I worked as a senior reporter for the economics desk. After I became a fulltime freelancer in 2002, I continued working for Elsevier, writing articles about science, technology, health, and, recently, spirituality.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION (INCLUDING VOLUNTEER WORK)

- 2012-2014** **VOJN**
Together with Paul Vereijken, I founded the Vereniging Online Journalisten Nederland (VOJN, or Dutch Association of Online Journalists). I was also its chairman for the first two years.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION (INCLUDING VOLUNTEER WORK) (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

- 2013-2014** **De Tegel**
“De Tegel” is the name for Holland’s most prestigious journalism prizes. I was a jury member for two years.
- 2002-2009** **VVOJ**
For seven years, I volunteered at the Dutch Association of Investigative Journalists. I sat on the CAR (Computer-Assisted Research) committee and gave lectures on research techniques.
- 2008** **Dutch Bloggies**
I was a jury member for the Dutch Bloggies; Holland’s premier awards for blogging excellence.

AWARDS

- 2005** **Dutch Bloggie: “Best Company Weblog”**
Together with my colleagues, we won a Dutch Bloggie for our work at Quotenet.nl in the category “Best Company Weblog”.
- 2000** **Golden Fountain Pen: honorary mention**
The Golden Fountain Pen (“Gouden Pennetje”) was a prize given to the most talented Dutch journalist under the age of 30. I came second in this competition.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017-current** **University of British Columbia**
Teaching assistant for CRWR 213 and CRWR 205. New Shoots writing mentor.
- 2001-2013** **Independent trainer**
I gave hundreds of workshops at over 80 newsrooms in the Netherlands, including virtually all national news publishers. Main subjects were: online writing skills; search engine optimization; internet research methods and other forms of computer-assisted reporting; how to convert from an analogue to a digital newsroom; and fundamental multimedia production skills such as photo and video editing, creating infographics, producing audio slideshows and elementary HTML.
- 2010-2011** **Rotterdam School of Management, part of Erasmus University Rotterdam**
Seasonal lecturer on interview skills and research methods.
- 2010** **PDOJ (Postgraduate Journalism Training), part of Erasmus University Rotterdam**
Seasonal lecturer, teaching a one week “boot camp” style workshop on multimedia journalism.
- 2007-2009** **Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (University of Groningen)**
Lecturer, taught multimedia production skills and research methods to graduate students, also responsible for organising a three week “boot camp” style practical workshop during which students would create innovative journalistic products using all genres at their disposal (text, audio, video, infographics and database-driven online applications). During academic year 2008-2009, the university teamed up with current affairs weekly Elsevier providing students both with a national platform and an opportunity to build their resumes.
- 2005-2007** **Universiteit Leiden (Leiden University)**
Lecturer, taught multimedia production skills and research to undergraduate students, also responsible for organising a one week “boot camp” style practical workshop during which students would produce articles for a news website provided by the university.

BOOKS (ALL TITLES ARE IN DUTCH UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED)

- 2016 **Let Go (ISBN 9789081958431). (In English)**
17 autobiographical and 16 advice chapters on how I lost 160 lbs in 11 months.
- 2012 **Social Media Survival (ISBN 9789081958400)**
Book containing research techniques journalists should know when using social media.
- 2012 **Handboek Crossmediale Journalistiek en Redactie (2nd edition) (ISBN 9789081958417)**
- 2011 **Handboek voor de ZZP'er (3rd edition) (ISBN 9789059405141)**
- 2010 **Handboek Crossmediale Journalistiek en Redactie (ISBN 9789059404472)**
Textbook on multimedia journalism. A collaboration with Alexander Pleijter, PhD, who wrote 5 out of 24 chapters in the book.
- 2010 **Handboek Internetresearch (5th edition) (ISBN 9789059404809)**
- 2010 **Handboek voor de ZZP'er (2nd edition) (ISBN 9789059404366)**
- 2009 **Eigen Woning (GURU series) (ISBN 9789059403925)**
Tongue in cheek book on how to go about buying a house; part of a series of six books (which I produced and edited) intended to quickly introduce the reader to a new subject.
- 2009 **Handboek voor de ZZP'er (ISBN 9789059403741)**
Guide book for those wishing to become self-employed.
- 2008 **Handboek Digitale Criminaliteit (2nd edition) (ISBN 9789059403772)**
- 2008 **Handboek Internetresearch (4th edition) (ISBN 9789059403604)**
- 2006 **Handboek Internetresearch (3rd edition) (ISBN 9059402227)**
- 2005 **Handboek Digitale Criminaliteit (ISBN 9059401697)**
In-depth book about how to defend yourself against digital crime. Did well in general bookstores, but also was purchased in bulk by the Dutch national police academy.
- 2005 **Handboek Internetresearch (2nd edition) (ISBN 9059401158)**
- 2005 **Investigative Journalism in Europe (two chapters) (ISBN 9080804665). (In English)**
I wrote chapters on the United Kingdom and Ireland for this overview of investigative journalism practices in Europe.
- 2004 **Handboek Internetresearch (ISBN 9059401158)**
This text book on using the internet for research was intended for journalists, but found a much larger audience. The book became a bestseller by Dutch standards.
- 2003 **De Zaak Helpt – Online (ISBN 9075680422)**
Book on how to use the internet as a small business owner. Over 25,000 copies printed.

ARTICLES

From 1992 onwards, I published several thousand articles in many national Dutch news outlets. An incomplete archive of some of these articles, as available through LexisNexis, can be downloaded from <http://thetraveler.nl/LexisNexis-1997-2016-Andrew-Dasselaar.pdf>. (Warning: large file of 623 pages/609 articles and abstracts.) The vast majority of articles are missing from LexisNexis, including all those from 1997 or before. In many other cases, only an abstract is available, as most of my customers did not purchase the distribution rights. A full literary resume is available from <https://tinyurl.com/literarycv>. All articles are in Dutch unless explicitly stated otherwise.

ELSEVIER (LARGEST DUTCH CURRENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY): 1997-NOW

I have worked for Elsevier for over 20 years. Starting out as an intern in 1997, I became a freelancer later that year, and was hired in 1998 as a domestic news reporter. Shortly thereafter I was put in charge of creating Elsevier's first online presence. I headed up the internet department, managing three colleagues. I also contributed to Elsevier as a foreign correspondent in Dublin, Ireland; and I worked as a senior reporter for the economics desk. After I became a freelancer in 2002, I mainly contributed to the economics, health, technology and science sections of the weekly. An extensive, but incomplete, list of articles can be downloaded from <https://thetraveler.nl/Elsevier-1999-2013-Andrew-Dasselaar.pdf>. Warning: large file (326 pages/419 articles and abstracts). All articles pre-1999, and many others post-1999, are missing.

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|-------------|--|
| Summer 2018 | <u>Earn, pray, love</u>
(To be published.) Article about Bali's spiritual industry. |
| 10-30-2013 | <u>Praten in plaats van pillen</u>
Report on using cognitive-behavioural therapy to treat depression in lieu of drugs. |
| 06-02-2012 | <u>Vuilnisman in de ruimte</u>
Article on the dangers of space junk floating around Earth. |
| 12-31-2011 | <u>'s Nachts bijna stikken</u>
Article on sleep apnea becoming a hidden epidemic due to increasing obesity rates. |
| 09-28-2011 | <u>Naar een nieuwe aarde</u>
Report on the search for Earth-like planets elsewhere in the Milky Way. |
| 10-09-2010 | <u>De laatste astronaut</u>
Article lamenting the general lack of interest of the Dutch government in spaceflight. |
| 08-07-2010 | <u>Populair buitenbeentje</u>
Report on how geek culture is slowly becoming accepted by Dutch society. |
| 01-02-2010 | <u>Nieuwe missies naar de Maan</u>
Critical article about NASA's plans for missions to the Moon and Mars. |
| 11-21-2009 | <u>Help, de robots komen!</u>
Article on the emergence of robotic aids in factories, hospitals and nursing homes. |
| 10-18-2008 | <u>Gezocht: mensen met lef</u>
Report on the nascent personal genomics industry, which allows consumers to have part of their DNA sequenced and analysed. |
| 08-06-2008 | <u>De baas van internet</u>
Article about the mostly unknown entities that govern and control the internet. |

ELSEVIER (LARGEST DUTCH CURRENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY): 1997-CURRENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

- 12-09-2006 [Internet: de macht aan het publiek](#)
Cover article, describing how internet has empowered citizens, and arguing this is a beneficial and desirable thing.
- 09-17-2005 [Irak: Vanaf het slagveld](#)
Article about Danjel Bout, an American soldier of Dutch descent, who blogged about his war experiences at [365 and a Wakeup](#), which was voted the “2005 Military Blog of the Year”.
- 03-20-2004 [Ondernemen: Miljardair het heelel in](#)
Report on Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen and his attempts to build a spaceplane.
- 10-23-2003 [Innovatie: Microsoft kleunt mis](#)
Critical article about the troubles at Microsoft’s innovation centres, after a visit to the Microsoft campus in Seattle.
- 01-05-2002 [Adviezen: Machtige denktank](#)
Report on the Dutch office of RAND, the controversial American think tank.
- 11-01-2001 [Belofte biotechnologie](#)
Report on Dutch attempts to bootstrap its fledgling biotechnology sector.
- 05-15-1999 [Een dagje met lijn 50](#)
Article on Amsterdam metro Route 50, which was notorious when it had just opened because of frequent brawls, vandalism and petty theft. Co-authored with two colleagues.

BUSINESS INSIDER / THIS IS INSIDER (LARGEST BUSINESS NEWS WEBSITE IN THE USA): 2016

- 10/13/2016 [I lost 154 pounds in 11 months and now I’m running ultramarathons – here are 5 things I learned](#) (republished [on Business Insider Australia on Oct 21, 2016](#); also published [in Dutch on Business Insider, the Netherlands](#)). *English*.

DE NIEUWE REPORTER (OPINIONATED WEBSITE ON JOURNALISM): 2006-2016

The columns I wrote for this site can be found at <http://denieuwereporter.nl/author/arjan-dasselaar/>.

- 03/24/2011 [Freelancers, stop met klagen](#) (“Freelance journalists, stop complaining”)
Column asking fellow freelancers to take a more business-like approach to journalism.
- 02/08/2011 [Sterven voor de NVJ](#) (“Dying for the Dutch Union of Journalists”)
Article telling the Dutch Union of Journalists not to mollycoddle war reporters.
- 01/26/2010 [Weg met cargo cult journalism](#) (“No more cargo cult journalism”)
Column about the difference between using new media, and understanding them.

AD (SECOND-LARGEST DUTCH NATIONAL NEWSPAPER): 2004-2016

I was a freelance health reporter for this newspaper. A longer, but incomplete, list of articles can be downloaded from https://thetraveler.nl/Algemeen_Dagblad-2004-2016.pdf.

- 10-08-2016 [70 kilo lichter in elf maanden](#)
1,600 word article promoting my book on losing over 70 kg/160 lbs. It was printed in the weekend magazine of AD, which is also bundled with 2/3rds of all regional newspapers in the Netherlands (estimated readership 3.5 million).

AD (SECOND-LARGEST DUTCH NATIONAL NEWSPAPER): 2004-2016 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

- 05-17-2005 [In therapie met ecstasy; Therapeuten gebruiken partydrug bij behandelingen](#)
Scoop on how therapists illicitly use MDMA (“Molly”) to treat PTSD. This approach has now become the subject of clinical trials in the United States and Canada, but was (and is) illegal in the Netherlands.
- 16-02-2005 [Knuffelen is gezond; Aanraken heeft heilzame effecten](#)
Science article describing the effect of cuddling on emotional health via the activation of so-called C tactile afferent nerve fibres.

FINANCIEELE DAGBLAD (DUTCH EQUIVALENT OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES): 2010-2013

I mainly reviewed technology for the weekend magazine included with this newspaper. Occasionally, I also wrote about healthcare. A longer, but incomplete, list of articles can be downloaded from https://thetraveler.nl/Financieele_Dagblad-2010-2013.pdf.

- 04-23-2011 [Goedgekeurd](#)
Report on the pros and cons of preventative medical care.
- 10-13-2010 [Uw auto denkt met u mee](#)
Article on cars with early self-driving technology.
- 05-22-2010 [De nieuwe bezorgchinesees](#)
Report on how to successfully do business with Chinese vendors online.

NU.NL (LARGEST NEWS WEBSITE IN THE NETHERLANDS): 2008-2012

For nearly five years, I wrote a biweekly (2008-2010), and later weekly (2010-2012), column for NU.nl, the largest news website in the Netherlands. This ended when all six columnists for NU.nl were dismissed after its editor-in-chief, Laurens Verhagen, was replaced by a “more commercially” oriented editor. Most of these columns are still online at <http://www.nu.nl/tag/arjan%20dasselaar> (press “Laad meer artikelen” to scroll further down). Alternatively, these articles can be found [through this link](#).

DE VOLKSKRANT (LEFT-LEANING DUTCH NEWSPAPER): 2012

I was a biweekly science columnist for the website of this newspaper. I stopped after the events described in the first chapter of my latest book, “Let Go”. All columns and their URLs are listed here.

- 11/29/2012 [‘Het EPD is een op afstand bestuurd auto zonder stuur met geblindeerde ramen’](#)
Column highly critical of the Dutch centralised medical database EPD (Electronic Patient Dossier) because of its lack of safeguards for patient privacy.
- 11/15/2012 [‘Ons onderwijs is dapper op weg naar de middelmaat’](#)
Article lambasting the way Dutch higher education is funded: universities only get paid if a student obtains a degree, which discourages professors to fail mediocre students, and compels ambitious students to obtain a second degree to distinguish themselves.
- 11/01/2012 [‘Criminelen die virussen kunnen printen stop je niet met overhaaste wetten’](#)
Column criticising the Dutch government for wanting to adopt laws against 3D printers which wouldn’t stop criminals from abusing these machines, but would seriously impede scientific research into 3D printers that can work on the nanoscale, like viral printers.
- 10/18/2012 [‘Vitaminepil werkt niet/wel: het spektakel van medisch onderzoek’](#)
Essay on why health reporting is often sensationalist and inaccurate: because medical research often deals with statistical likelihoods rather than certainties.

DE VOLKSKRANT (LEFT-LEANING DUTCH NEWSPAPER): 2012 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

- 10/04/2012 'Ruimtevaart is een verzekeringspolis voor uw verre nageslacht'
Article arguing government subsidies for spaceflight are both warranted and needed, because human civilisation will otherwise end (sooner or later).
- 09/20/2012 'Waarom zetten 's werelds beroemdste universiteiten hun colleges online, en Nederlandse niet?'
Column criticising the reticence of Dutch universities to participate in MOOCs.
- 09/06/2012 'Laten we bij wijze van proef eens wat bonobo's stemrecht geven voor 12 september'
Article jokingly proposing to extend the voting franchise to bonobos, because the latest findings in animal science show that human claims to exceptionalism in the cognitive realm may need revising.

QUOTE (REBELLIOUS NATIONAL GLOSSY ON BUSINESS AND WEALTH): 2003-2007

I wrote over a thousand blog articles for Quotenet.nl, the website for Quote, a controversial business glossy in the Netherlands which has the dubious honour of being the only publication in the country whose offices were ever shot at. Working for Quote made me one of the first paid bloggers in the Netherlands, back in 2003. Together with my colleagues, we won a so-called "Dutch Bloggie" for "Best Company Weblog" in 2005. All these blog articles can be found at <http://www.quotenet.nl/Redactie/Auteurs/Arjan-Dasselaar> or through this link.

c't (DUTCH COMPUTER MAGAZINE): 2008-2009

I wrote a monthly column for computer magazine c't. These articles are not available online.

PLANET INTERNET (LARGE DUTCH ISP WITH INDEPENDENT NEWS DESK): 2005-2007

In 2007, I wrote a daily column for Planet Internet, an internet service provider (ISP) which also funded one of the largest independent news sites in the Netherlands. On occasion, I also wrote investigative pieces. All these articles can be downloaded from <https://thetraveler.nl/planet-internet-columns-2007.zip>. (Compressed .zip file; 221 articles total; most articles in .txt format; text interspersed with HTML tags.) I also wrote a daily blog for Planet Internet between 2005 and 2007. A pdf of the archive of this blog can be downloaded from <https://thetraveler.nl/planet-internet-blogs-2005-2007.pdf>. (Warning: 1,557 pages; text interspersed with HTML tags.)

- 12-06-2007 Waarom ik van Michael Bay hou
Column explaining why director Michael Bay, Hollywood master of all that is loud and bombastic, deserves praise for smuggling in messages which are at odds with the politics of a large part of his audience, such as a scene referencing the Abu Ghraib torture scandal in the blockbuster movie "Transformers".
- 10-15-2007 Nederland, word wakker
Plea for a Dutch civil liberties union.
- 08-31-2007 Het manco van robots
Column arguing building social robots will only be useful if they become as capricious and wilful as human beings.
- 05-08-2006 En toen lag alles plat
Series of five articles exposing the vulnerabilities in the Dutch internet backbone,
until
05-12 2006 detailing how these weak spots could be exploited by attackers. This production forced Dutch authorities to launch an official enquiry.

NOVA (LATE-EVENING CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAM BY DUTCH PBS): 2005-2006

I contributed to research into the activities of the so-called Hofstad Network, a terrorist organization assumed to have been led by Mohammed Bouyeri, the murderer of Theo van Gogh, a well-known Dutch director and controversial pundit. This research resulted in several articles on the website of Planet Internet, which are unfortunately not available online anymore, as well as two extended television reports, where I was mentioned as a contributing reporter in the closing credits. Two members of the Hofstad Network served long prison sentences for their acts and have since been released. Bouyeri was convicted to life imprisonment, which in the Netherlands is always without the possibility of parole.

PCM (DUTCH COMPUTER MAGAZINE): 2003-2006

I wrote a monthly column for this computer magazine, which at the time was the most esteemed publication in its genre. These articles are not available online.

BOEMERANG (CONSUMER TV SHOW BY DUTCH PBS): 2006

I had a weekly segment on technology which I hosted and co-produced. I also wrote an accompanying article for the show's dedicated website, which has now disappeared from the web. For that reason, these articles are no longer available online. The footage itself is accessible through the online archive of Dutch PBS. All twelve episodes can be found at http://www.npo.nl/boemerang/POMS_S_KRO_098935.

NRC HANDELSBLAD (DUTCH CENTRIST LIBERAL NEWSPAPER): 2004-2005

I contributed to NRC Handelsblad a national evening newspaper generally considered one of Holland's more elite publications, on medical and technological matters. I also reviewed strange consumer products. A more extensive, but incomplete, list of articles can be downloaded from https://thetraveler.nl/NRC_Handelsblad-2004-2005.pdf.

- 06-30-2005 Computerrebellen gaan in zaken
Report on the Dutch hacker scene on the occasion of hacker camp "What the Hack?", describing how many former techno-anarchists were making the switch from counterculture to the business world.
- 05-15-2005 Geteste zekerheid voor vaders
Article on internet paternity tests.
- 03-08-2005 Speelgoed voor sadisten
Very critical review of a new type of ant farm marketed as a toy, whose flawed design resulted in the slow death of any ants you would put in there.

VPRO GESCHIEDENIS 24 (DEDICATED HISTORY CHANNEL BY DUTCH PBS): 2005

As part of the requirements for my Master's degree in journalism, I produced two videos for Dutch PBS: an interview with businessman Roel Pieper, former CEO of Royal Philips, and an interview with ethical hacker Rop Gonggrijp, who co-founded hacker internet provider XS4ALL, and later got involved with WikiLeaks. Apart from the editing, during which I was assisted by an experienced editor, I operated independently throughout the process. This included arranging the interviews, preparing the questions, setting up an interview space, asking the questions, and recording the answers using a Sony PD-150 professional DVCAM camcorder. Both items were broadcast on the dedicated history channel of Dutch PBS, Geschiedenis 24 ("History 24"). Unfortunately, its website has been taken offline, and along with it, its archives.

SOFTWARE GIDS (NATIONAL COMPUTER GAMES MAGAZINE): 1992-1998

With a bimonthly circulation of 12,000 copies, this publication was both my smallest and first client. Software Gids started printing my games reviews when I was a senior in high school. I didn't get paid - sometimes I got freebies - but I didn't care. Fond memories, although they are not available online.

BRABANTS DAGBLAD (REGIONAL DUTCH NEWSPAPER): 1997

In the first three months of 1997 I contributed regularly to Brabants Dagblad, a regional newspaper in the south of the Netherlands. My relationship with Brabants Dagblad ended when current affairs weekly Elsevier asked me to stay on after a traineeship later that year. A list of articles can be downloaded from https://thetraveler.nl/Brabants_Dagblad-1997.pdf.

TROUW (LEFT OF CENTRE NATIONAL DUTCH NEWSPAPER): 1995

While an undergraduate journalism student, I wrote articles on religion for newspaper Trouw, which at the time was the only mainstream national newspaper to daily devote a full page to spiritual matters.

04-03-1995 Esoteriek als grootste religie met evangelische concurrentie
Article about a conference on trends in religion, where researchers predicted esoteric and evangelical movements would have the best chance of future growth.

02-02-1995 Orthodoxen mogen niet verketterd
A 1,700 word interview with reverend Ynte de Groot, the vice chairman (“assessor primus”) of the Dutch Reformed Church (DRC). De Groot, himself a gay man, suggested that the synod of the DRC should declare its unequivocal acceptance of gay people. The DRC changed its policy towards gay church members as a result of this interview.

DE TWENTSCHE COURANT (REGIONAL DUTCH NEWSPAPER): 1993-1995

Directly after finishing pre-university high school (“VWO”), I went to work for De Twentsche Courant, a regional newspaper in the east of the Netherlands. At that time, getting into journalism school was a simple matter of (a) passing a knowledge test (which I did), and (b) winning the lottery for a seat in the classroom (which I didn’t). As a result, I spent the academic year of 1993-1994 working 70 hours a week for De Twentsche Courant, writing articles on local politics, happy couples celebrating their 60th anniversary, and small-town crime. It was awesome. When I won the lottery for journalism school the year thereafter, I continued working for De Twentsche Courant during weekends and semester breaks. The articles I wrote for De Twentsche Courant, sometimes up to six a day, are not available online, but I’ve never had the heart to throw away my eleven scrapbooks full of clippings.