

Script for 8 pages Donald Duck story
"Donald the Archivist" – PAGE 1

Synopsis: Donald works as a caretaker in an archive where important documents are kept. While hunting a mouse, he creates chaos and accidentally changes the course of history.



1-1: Two important looking men are signing a treaty in solemn dignity. They are the heads of state of their respective countries. They both look like brutes who just happen to be in a friendly mood at the moment.

text frame: Sometimes, you see important people signing important documents. Such papers can rule over billions of dollars, affect the lives of millions of people, or decide between war and peace...

1-2: A courier collects the signed treaty, in the background the heads of state shake hands.

text frame: Have you ever wondered who looks after these papers afterwards?

1-3: The courier rides in a small car towards Duckburg.

text frame: All those important documents go to a special archive where they are carefully kept...

1-4: The courier stops in front of old building in Duckburg.

text frame: ... and that archive happens to be in our very own Duckburg!

sign: CORNELIUS COOT ARCHIVE

1-5: Inside the building: the courier gives the papers to Professor Pious. In the background are lots of cabinets with shelves full of papers

courier: There you go, mister Pious! The PEACE-TREATY between BOMBARIA AND SHELLVANIA!

Prof. Pious: Great! Thanks to this document, millions of people can live their lives in peace!

1-6: Professor Pious and two other dusty looking scientists are carefully examining papers.

text frame: A team of erudite paperologists, ink-inquirers and writonometrists protects the fragile papers against the torment of time...

Prof. Pious: Well well...

scientist 2: Yes yes...

scientist 3: Hum hum...

1-7: Donald Duck, wearing an impressive cap, takes a nap in a comfortable chair.

text frame: And a hard working CARETAKER sees to it that the premises are kept free of bookworm, woodbugs, inkroach and other vermin...

Donald: Zzz...

“Donald the Archivist” – PAGE 2

2-1: Professor Pious wakes Donald.

Prof. Pious: COUGH! COUGH! Caretaker Donald! Are you VERY busy at the moment?

Donald: Erm... incidentally, my coffee-break is almost over!

2-2: Professor Pious calls Donald to order.

Prof. Pious: That’s good! Because doctor Dustbun told me he saw a MOUSE in the department of legacies!

Donald: A MOUSE? Impossible! Perhaps he saw an INK LOUSE through his magnifying glass?

2-3: Professor Pious didactic.

Prof. Pious: Maybe you’re right... nevertheless, it is YOUR DUTY to keep the premises free of ALL vermin, caretaker Donald!

Donald: I do, I do! Just this morning I chased out a PAPERFLY that was fluttering in the facsimile-floor!

2-4: Pious and Donald look at a door. Silhouettes are visible through the glass pane.

Prof. Pious: I expect an IMPORTANT DELEGATION! Can I trust they will not be bothered by an assault of mice... or even lice?

Donald: They’re here...

2-5: (Wide Panel) Donald and Professor Pious watch four politicians enter the room. They are a Prime Minister and three Ministers of his cabinet (one of them is ugly). The three are arguing among each other.

text frame: Whenever there is a disagreement about the details of a treaty, the concerning parties come to the Cornelius Coot Archive to check the original version...

Minister 1: The demands of the Minister of Finance will cost us lots of money!

Minister 2: And valuable time!

Ugly Minister: A deal is a deal!

PM: Gentlemen! I’m sure we’ll find the answer to our problems here!

Prof. Pious: (whispers to Donald) The Prime Minister of Smallerania and members of his cabinet!

Donald: I will make myself scarce!

2-6: The Prime Minister looks portentous.

PM: Professor Pious, we want to check the RULES we agreed upon for our afternoon meetings!

2-7: Professor Pious stands on a ladder to get papers from a shelf.

Prof. Pious: Here they are: the coalition-papers for the twelfth cabinet of his excellence Prime Minister Bubbles!



“Donald the Archivist” – PAGE 3

3-1: Prime Minister Bubbles solemnly reads and turns pages.

PM: “Procedures during and after the meeting”... hum... “Considering doing the dishes”... “Considering who gets which chair”...
“Considering the getting of the coffee”...

3-2: Prime Minister Bubbles reads aloud from the papers.

PM: Here: “Considering the playing of Monopoly if there is nothing else to discuss”...

PM: “We institute an extra rule: Any player who laughs aloud when the Minister of Finance turns the card ‘You won second prize in a beauty-contest’ etcetera, must pay a fine and goes directly to Jail until he throws doubles...”



3-3: The ugly minister beams, the two others are unhappy.

PM: That sounds clear to me!

Ugly Minister: I told you!

Minister 2: Bah!

Minister 3: Growl!

3-4: The Prime Minister returns the papers to Professor Pious.

PM: Thank you, Professor Pious! Again, the Cornelius Coot Archive has proven itself indispensable!

Prof. Pious: What we keep, is save for the ages, your excellence!

3-5: The visitors leave (bickering again), Professor Pious turns to Donald.

PM: Let's get on! Whose turn was it?

Minister 3: Mine!

Minister 2: No! Mine!

Minister 1: I'M holding the dice!

Prof. Pious: You see how important the work is we're doing, caretaker Donald?

3-6: Professor Pious lectures Donald.

Prof. Pious: What we keep here, is the FOUNDATION of our society! Animals nibbling those papers undermine civilization itself!

Donald: I get your drift!

3-7: Donald, carrying a broom, sets off, determined to catch that mouse.

Donald: I start looking for subversive vermin right away!

Prof. Pious: Start with that MOUSE, caretaker Duck!

3-8: Donald spies around the archive. There are rows of cabinets, all with shelves full of papers.

Donald: It's a miracle the critter isn't BORED to death between all this paper stuff...

“Donald the Archivist” – PAGE 4

4-1: Donald spies around the archive.

Donald: But it would be bad publicity if the Gooseville Census was eaten by a mouse... or the Secret Appendixes to the Marmylada Marriage Arrangement...

4-2: Donald watches a shelf full of papers, where an envelope is rustling.

Donald: Wait a minute... something is moving! THAT MUST BE THE MOUSE!

soundfx: RUSTLE...

4-3: Donald hits the shelf full force with his broom.

Donald: TAKE THIS!

soundfx: WHAMMO!

4-4: Looking through the shelves, Donald sees the tortured face of Professor Pious, with wrinkled papers in his bruised hand.

Donald: OOPS...

Prof. Pious: GNGN...

4-5: An elderly lady looks concerned, Professor Pious is in pain. An apologetic Donald offers to help.

Donald: I'm so sorry! Shall I get a band aid?

Prof. Pious: Move! Scrammo! Er... I mean: go and see if the incunabula are safe for bookworm!

4-6: Professor Pious – still in pain – talks to the elderly lady.

Prof. Pious: I'm sorry! Our caretaker is OVER ANXIOUS sometimes!

lady: But my WILL! It isn't damaged, is it?

4-7: Professor Pious shows the papers he took from the shelf to the lady.

Prof. Pious: A little wrinkled, but otherwise okay!

lady: Good! I wish to make a CHANGE in the text...

4-8: In the background the lady dictates and Professor Pious writes in the will. In the foreground Donald lies on the floor, where he sees a trail of paper scraps.

lady: My son will inherit nothing, unless he finds himself a useful job as an office boy or something...

Prof. Pious: Not so fast, my writing hand hurts...

Donald: What do I spy here? SCRAPS?



“Donald the Archivist” – PAGE 5

5-1: Donald is angry, he holds a piece of paper that has been nibbled by a mouse.

Donald: Somebody has eaten part of the treaty that settled the Elm Street-neighbourhood quarrel of '93, about the family Hoolihan pear-tree!

Donald: Darn mouse! It must have a NEST somewhere!

5-2: Donald tries to be inconspicuous between cabinets with shelves full of papers.

Donald: I can't hunt it down... but maybe I can AMBUSH it!

5-3: Donald climbs on top of one of the cabinets.

Donald: If I'm up there, I'll have a better view!

5-4: Donald lies on top of a cabinet. He uses some rolled up papers as a spying glass.

text frame: And soon...

Donald: THERE IT IS!

5-5: At the bottom of a cabinet with shelves full of papers, a tiny mouse peeks around the corner.

Donald: That little monster! I'll stop it undermining democracy!

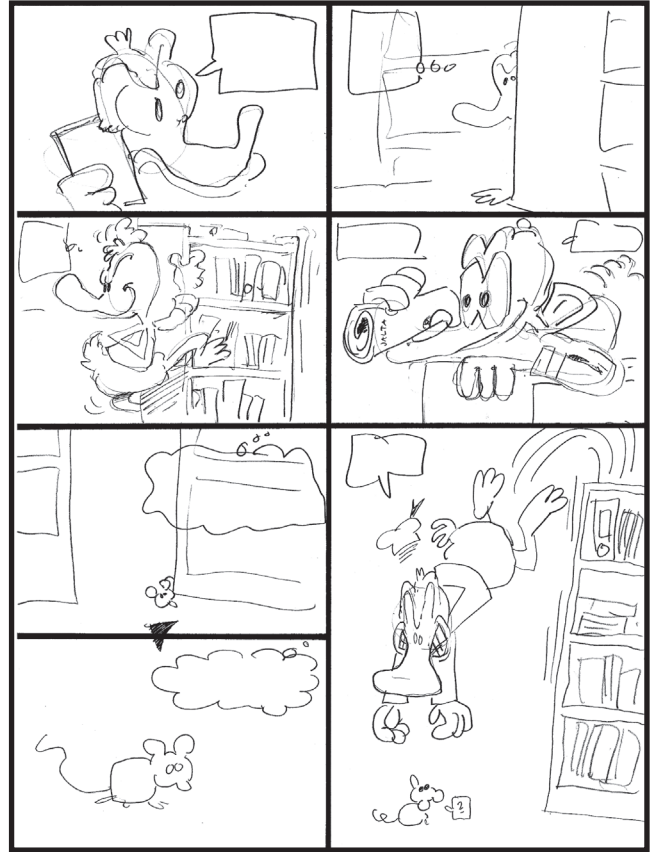
5-6: (Panel UNDER panel 5) Close up mouse. A thinking balloon from Donald comes from off panel.

Donald: Just a little closer, and I can jump it! Just a little closer...

5-7: (High panel) Donald jumps from the top of a cabinet (with shelves full of papers) on the mouse. The cabinet he leaps from, tips a bit back because of Donald's take off.

Donald: CHAAARGE!

mouse: ?



“Donald the Archivist” – PAGE 6

6-1: Donald has caught the mouse. He proudly holds it high and is about to put it in a little cage. Behind him, the cabinet he jumped from, tips back a bit more.

Donald: There! Now you can do no more harm!

6-2: Donald holds the little cage with the mouse in it. He looks a bit alarmed by what he hears behind him. In the background, you see the cabinet where Donald jumped from, tipping over against the next cabinet. Some papers fly from the shelves.

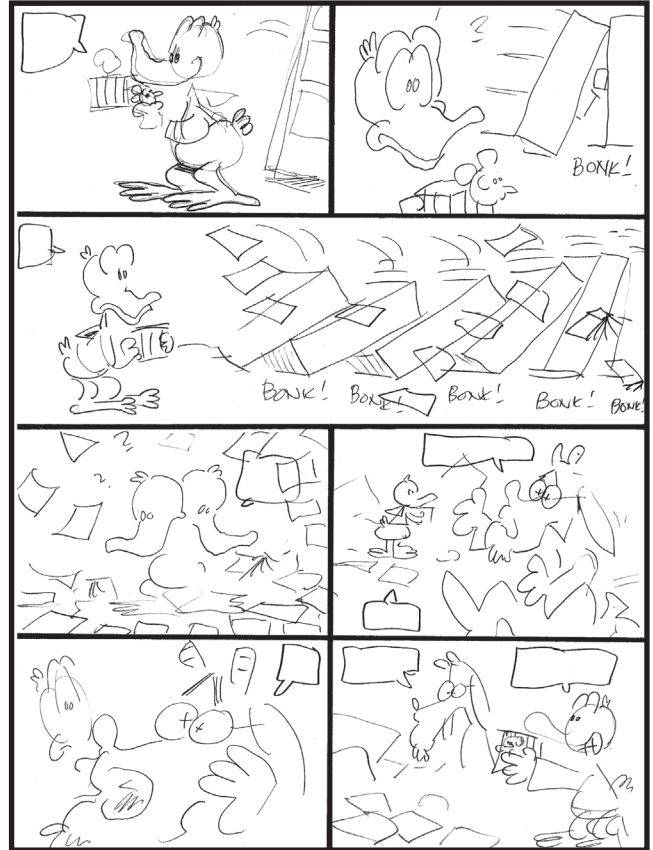
soundfx: BONK!

Donald: “Bonk”?

6-3: (Wide panel) Donald, holding the cage with the mouse, watches in horror how a long row of cabinets all tip over like domino tiles. A lot of paper is flying through the air.

soundfx: BONK! BONK! BONK!
BONK!

Donald: Oh dear...



6-4: The archive has transformed in a paper chaos as far as the eye can see. Paper is still flying through the air, and fluttering down to the ground like autumn leaves. Donald stands in the middle, holding the cage with the mouse. He realizes he might have done something bad.

Donald: I fear this means having to work overtime...

6-5: Donald looks guilty as Professor Pious enters the room. The Professor is already in panic and doesn't even notice the mess Donald has created.

Prof. Pious: OH NO! TIME TO PANIC, CARETAKER DUCK! PANIC ON A GLOBAL SCALE!

Donald: Well... gee... it's not THAT bad...

6-6: Professor Pious yells at Donald in blind panic.

Prof. Pious: De leaders of Bombaria and Shellvania are having a BORDER DISPUTE! They're coming to check their PEACE TREATY! And both are willing to go TO WAR if they don't get their way!

6-7: Only now Professor Pious looks around and sees the chaos. Donald tries to make up for the mess he made by showing the caged mouse.

Prof. Pious: What... what happened HERE?

Donald: I... er... had a little accident! But never mind! Look what I caught!

“Donald the Archivist” – PAGE 7

7-1: Professor Pious looks in horror at the paper chaos. Donald considers the task before him.

Prof. Pious: But... what about the peace treaty?

Donald: I start cleaning up right away! If I come across it...

7-2: There is pounding at the door. Professor Pious is in a panic.

Prof. Pious: Too late! The two are HERE! And they can drink each others BLOOD!

soundfx: WHAM! WHAM!

7-3: Donald starts to pick up some papers from the floor. Professor Pious is desperate.

Donald: Can't they wait? Can't they come back another time? Tell them we're CLOSED for inventory...

Prof. Pious: It's no use! Even if we do find the treaty, it will anger one of them! **THE WORLD IS ON THE BRINK OF A HORRIBLE WAR!!!**



7-4: The door is forced open and the two strong men from page 1 panel 1 enter. They are very angry with each other and struggle to come in first.

strong man 1: NOW you'll see who is right, TYRANT!

strong man 2: NOW you're claims will be refuted, DICTATOR!

7-5: Strong man 1 shouts in the face of Professor Pious, who is scared. Donald still randomly picks papers from the floor.

strong man 1: Mister Pious! What does our treaty say about the Knobbly Hills? If they're not part of MY country, it means WAR!

Prof. Pious: GULP!

7-6: Strong man 2 shouts in the face of Professor Pious, who is not having a good time. Donald still picks up papers.

strong man 2: Mister Pious! If our treaty doesn't state that the Knobbly Hills are part of MY country, BLOOD WILL COLOUR THE EARTH!

Prof. Pious: TWEET!

7-7: Both strong men shout at the top of their voices, unified in fury. Professor Pious is suffering from too much tension, Donald walks by, picking up papers.

strong men: WHERE IS OUR PEACE TREATY?

Prof. Pious: Well...

7-8: One of the strong men grabs a bunch of papers from Donald's hands.

strong men: Is that it? Let's see!

Prof. Pious: But...

Donald: Hey! Those are not...

“Donald the Archivist” – PAGE 8

8-1: The two men read from four scraps of paper, looking grim.

strong man 1: Hum... zwzw... bla bla bla... ???
 strong man 2: Let's see... trala la... hum hum...
 ???

8-2: The two strong men look surprised after reading the papers.

strong man 1: Ahem! COUGH! COUGH!
 Who could have thought...
 strong man 2: Whaddayouknow... well... it really
 says so in black and white...

8-3: The strong men, with a look of nonchalance, return the papers to Donald. Donald and Professor Pious are incredulous.

strong man 1: Okeydokey! Thanks for helping
 out, guys!
 strong man 2: Have a nice day, y'all! Sorry if we
 interrupted!
 Prof. Pious: ?
 Donald: ?

8-4: The strong men go out, very polite to each other. Donald and Professor Pious still don't understand.

strong man 1: After you, my dear friend!
 strong man 2: No my good fellow! After you!
 Prof. Pious: ???
 Donald: ???

8-5: Anxious Professor Pious asks Donald.

Prof. Pious: WHAT was in the papers you gave them?
 Donald: I dunno! I was just picking up some sheets!

8-6: Professor and Donald read from the four scraps of paper. Please note when making the definitive copy: these texts are and must remain fragments from texts mentioned earlier in the story: the actual peace treaty, the treaty about the family Hoolihan pear-tree, the coalition-papers for the cabinet of Prime Minister Bubbles and the elderly lady's will.

Prof. Pious: “The Knobbly Hills are part of...”
 Donald: “... the front garden of the family Hoolihan, and who disagrees...”
 Prof. Pious: “... must pay a fine and goes directly to Jail...”
 Donald: “... unless he finds a useful job as an office boy or something!”

8-7: (Wide panel) the smiling staff happily cleans up the archive. They use pitchforks, shovels and wheelbarrows to move the paper (no sense being finicky after what Donald did). As a reward for saving world peace, Donald is allowed to lay about in a chair with his feet on a pile of important documents. Next to him is the cage with the mouse, planning its escape.

text frame: Oh yes! Our civilization is in safe hands with the trustworthy staff of the Cornelius Coot Archive...
 Donald: I say...



THE END