

Welcome to CEGESOMA/State Archives of Belgium

CEGESOMA, Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Society, is the Belgian centre of excellence for the history of 20th century conflicts. It carries out research, organises public events and holds document collections. It is since 1 January 2016 the fourth Operational Directory of the State Archives. It is a platform for academic and public activities in Belgium and abroad, in particular with regard to the two World Wars.

Important notice

On Thursday 25 May 2017 (Ascension Day) and on Friday 26 May 2017, and on Monday 5 June 2017 (Whitsun Monday), the Centre will be closed.

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CegeSoma recruits

CegeSoma recruits a Data Import Manager for EHRI-II. Å

CegeSoma is currently recruiting a Data Import Manager for the EHRI-II project (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure). Diplomas in the Humanities are eligible, but nevertheless technical- and communication skills are essential. The deadline for all applications is 5 July 2017. You can find all information on the profile and the procedure in this description.

NEW MANAGEMENT for CegeSoma

On 1 May, Nico Wouters was appointed as the new head of CegeSoma (the fourth operational division of the Belgian State Archives). His appointment marks the end of a long transition period in which CegeSoma was headed by interim directors. From now onwards, the institution will be able to fully develop its mission as a centre of expertise in public history, research, and valorization regarding the history of the two world wars and other twentieth-century conflicts.

NEW RESEARCH PROJECT – The transition from war to peace in Brussels, 1918

In the coming months, CegeSoma will investigate one of the most turbulent periods in Belgian history: the transition from war to peace at the end of the First World War. For the purpose of an exhibition for the BELvue Museum (2018), we will focus on the last months of the German occupation in Brussels, as well as on the troubled societal context of the months surrounding the liberation. Furthermore, we want to retrace how the Belgian polity underwent crucial democratic reforms during this period. The daily life of the inhabitants of the Belgian capital - which was characterized by a peculiar combination of joy and grief - will be a prominent theme in the upcoming exhibition.

TRANSMEMO: New Research on the Memory of Collaboration and Resistance during the Second World War

In September 2017, the new research project TRANSMEMO will be launched. The project will examine the way in which memories of resistance and collaboration during the Second World War in Belgium were passed on from parents to children and grandchildren. For this purpose, CegeSoma will engage a new researcher for a two-year period (the deadline for submission of applications is 2 June 2017, download the profile here).

ARCHIVES – UGESCO project : High-quality Spatial-temporal Metadata for the Digitised Collections

On 1 April, CegeSoma, in coordination with a multidisciplinary team (Ghent University, Universit  Libre de Bruxelles, and KU Leuven), launched the UGESCO project (Upscaling the Geo-temporal Enrichment, Exploration and Exploitation of Scientific Collections). UGESCO is dedicated to improving the quality of geo-temporal metadata of digitized audiovisual collections.

BELGIUM WWII – A virtual platform on the Second World War

At a time when reliable information on sensitive subjects seems more important than ever, CegeSoma is developing a virtual platform on Belgium and its inhabitants during the Second World War. The website *Belgium WWII* will be launched at the end of September 2017.

We offer a glimpse of the first themes.

Open WORKSHOP – Scope and Limits of Reconciliation™

On 29 May, CegeSoma and CECRI will organize an open workshop on the scope and limits of reconciliation ('Scope and Limits of Reconciliation'). Sandra M. Rios Oyola and Björn Krondorfer will exchange views on the subject.

ARCHIVES - Join our Team of Volunteers!

Are you retired and passionate by the history of Belgium? Or are you a student or recently graduate looking for useful experience to strengthen your cv? Do you have a heart for volunteering? The CegeSoma is looking for new volunteers to complement the existing team and offers you the opportunity to explore archives that are often closed to the public and to strengthen your archival competencies. Please contact: cegesoma@cegesoma.be or 02/556 92 11.

IVth Conference of the International Federation for Public History

From 5 to 9 June 2017, the fourth conference of the International Federation for Public History (FIHP/IFPH) will be held in Ravenna. In just five days, some fifty international panels will discuss key questions with regard to public history.

DIGITAL CATALOGUES - 3 tips to find more sources and references

The consultation of the digital catalogues of institutions such as the Royal Library, the State Archives and CegeSoma* is one of the first steps researchers take to reach an understanding of our history. Therefore, we give you three tips to find more references and digital sources in the catalogues of these institutions.

SYMPOSIUM - Violence In 20th-Century European History: Commemorating, Documenting, Educating

From 6 to 8 June 2017, the 6th symposium organised by the European network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS) will be held in Brussels. It will be dedicated to violence in 20th century European history. Three major aspects will be considered: the commemorative, the documentary, and finally, the education perspective.

COMING SOON: a Clear and Accessible Guide on the Sources of the Post-War Purges

Archives providing information on the post-war purges (the so-called 'repression') and its aftermath are not always very accessible to a layperson. In early June, a guide will be presented to the press, giving an overview of the archives that allow to reconstruct the individual trajectory of those who were confronted with the purges. The guide is an initiative of Ghent University, the ULB, the State Archives and CegeSoma and explains in a clear language how the different sources can be used.

IAP Project – Murders during the Liberation and the Belgian Judiciary: the Case of Brussels™

Multiform violence against collaborators

Everywhere in Europe, governments and citizens dealt with collaborators after the liberation in 1944-1945. This was done through legal institutional means by courts, but also in a more spontaneous and violent ways by members of resistance groups and citizens. In Belgium as well, real and alleged collaborators were taken prisoner, molested and in some cases murdered. There was also more symbolic violence: household goods were destroyed and homes were plastered with slogans. This street violence was a reaction against the many years of occupation, but it is today, and in some cases also at the time, considered unjust (and illegal).

NEW - Few changes made on our website to help you access our catalogues in an easier way

Dear users, the MADDLAIN research project is still being finalised but the CegeSoma is already applying a few of its outcomes to better meet your digital needs. A few changes were made to help you access our catalogues in an easier way.

Les "Journaux de Guerre" - Promotions

This Series on the Second World War now at Reduced Prices

This weekly periodical is unique in that it relates the history of the two World Wars and the interwar period through the press of these periods. Since December, the complete series or individual issues on the First World War and the interwar period can be purchased at a discount price. This price reduction now also applies to the series on the Second World War. They can be ordered via Isabelle Delvaux.

Journal of Belgian History " 14-18 takes centre stage in the "Debate" section

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The new double issue of the JBH has been published. It contains six articles on a variation of subjects as well as a 'debate' section which, halfway through the period of the centenary commemorations of 14-18, proposes a critical view on the commemorative phenomenon, but also on the new fields of research and distribution of knowledge with regard to the First World War.

To order (50,- - postage not included), see the website of the journal: www.journalbelgianhistory.be

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The Cahiers d'histoire du temps présent and numerous other publications of CegeSoma at give-away prices

For a modest sum, it is still possible to acquire the majority of the *CHTP-BEG* as well as several studies and work instruments on Belgian 20th century history.

A Number of Periodicals Temporarily Unavailable

A number of periodicals published between 1940 and 1944 is momentarily being digitised by an outside firm and therefore momentarily unaccessible. If you wish to consult a periodical published between 1940 and 1944, it is advisable to contact Kathleen Vandenberghe beforehand to make sure it is available.