

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.

## **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.

## **READING ROOM - Exceptional closure on Wednesday 13 September & Wednesday 27 September**

1936 - © CegeSoma

The reading room will be closed exceptionally on Wednesday 13 September & Wednesday 27 September because of two press conferences on these days (the first about the booklaunch of Papy *Est-il un nazi ? / Was Opa een nazi ?*; the second about the launch of the virtual platform BELGIUM WWII).

## **International colloquium – In the Heart of the Great War – Au Coeur de la Grande Guerre**

From 26 to 28 October, the brand new Mons Memorial Museum will host the international colloquium *In the Heart of the Great War – Au Coeur de la Grande Guerre*, organized in cooperation with CegeSoma. The colloquium focuses on the interaction between citizens and the military during the First World War.

## **RESEARCH - A festive presentation of ten years of research on justice**

On Friday the 22nd of September, the Interuniversity Attraction Pool (IAP) *Justice & Populations* will present the final results of ten years of research on the history of the Belgian judiciary and justice system in the Palace of Academies in Brussels (by invitation only). CegeSoma is an active member of this IAP and has facilitated several projects, including Jan Julia Zurn's doctoral and postdoctoral research and the justice-themed branch of the virtual platform BELGIUM WWII, which will be online as from September the 28th.

## **EXHIBITION - Brussels, welcoming city?**

Starting October 13, the Jewish Museum of Belgium will host the exhibition *'Brussels: welcoming city?'*. Co-organised by the Jewish Museum and the Belgian State Archives, this exhibition recalls nearly two centuries (from 1830 until today) of migration history, focusing on the life stories of newcomers who either passed through the Belgian capital, or settled there forever. The historical narrative is complemented by a presentation of recent work by immigrant artists, devoted to the cultural diversity of present-day Brussels.

## **CONFERENCES - Public and Applied History on the Battlefield of Europe**

The first conference of the Jean Monnet network Applied Contemporary European History was held in November 2016. The network's scope is to deal with difficult or controversial issues of European history such as wars or experiences of violence. The objective is to contribute to the construction of a shared European history.

Conferences will be organized in the course of 2017-2019. The first will be held in Jena from 7 to 9 November 2017. More info.

### **EXHIBITION “ Exile in Belgium, of Past and Present**

On the occasion of World Refugee Day on 20 June, Katharina Austilat, a German ASF volunteer at CegeSoma has presented the result of her research on the experiences of refugees of past and present with 11 other volunteers. The young volunteers have presented these trajectories in an exhibition organized by the Jewish Museum of Belgium. Visitors were introduced to the intimate circumstances of the refugees and were able to discover the experience of their flight via a short film.

### **NEW PUBLICATION on Human Rights between 1914 and 1940**

In May 2017, Laurence Petrone published her book (in Dutch) 'Democratie in Crisis. Een anatomie van de buitengerechtigde vrijheidsberoving in West-Europa (1914-1940)'. The book compares Belgium, France and the Netherlands and analyses how states can drift towards non-democratic, repressive measures under pressure of crisis and war.

### **Violence In 20th-Century European History - European Conference ACCESSIBLE ONLINE**

Between 6 and 8 June 2017, the European Remembrance and Solidarity Network organized its eight conference in the Brussels Palace of the Academies. This conference, with CegeSoma as co-organizer, had 'Violence' as an umbrella theme. Almost the entire conference is now accessible online.

### **JOURNAL OF BELGIAN HISTORY “ The first 2017 issue is now available**

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The contributions in the first 2017 issue of the *Journal of Belgian History* “ of which two in French, and two in Dutch “ again bear testimony to the thematic variety of present-day research on Belgian history.

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### **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.

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

On 1 April, CegeSoma, in coordination with a multidisciplinary team (Ghent University, Université 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.

### **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](mailto:cegesoma@cegesoma.be) or 02/556 92 11.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 inaccessible. 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.