

Donation of the Witte Brigade (Fidelio) archives

The Witte Brigade (Fidelio) is of significant historical relevance, as it was the only armed resistance organisation headquartered in Flanders.

In 2017, we already reported on the donation of some twelve linear metres of archives from the more recently established non-profit organisation Witte Brigade (Fidelio) to CegeSoma.

FWO "Research Grant"™ for research about the civic purge

The Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) has given Dirk Luyten (CegeSoma) a research grant for research into the civic purge after the Second World War in the judicial district of Brussels.

The civic purge, better known as the 'list of the military prosecutor', was a key element of punishment of collaboration after the Second World War in Belgium. It was aimed at less grave and mainly political collaboration. Due to this measure, over 20,000 people lost their political and civil rights.

Inventorying days at CegeSoma!

From 8 to 18 January all CegeSoma staff will be busy carrying out a general and thorough inventorying of our collections held at the Square de l'Aviation/Luchtvaartsquare site.

The State Archives in Arlon win "archives"™ competition about First World War

On the occasion of the centenary of the First World War Armistice, several State Archives repositories (among which CegeSoma) have selected one document from that period of time that best symbolizes the transition from war to peace.

The public then was able to choose from these documents the one they liked most via an online form on the State Archives website and on the CegeSoma website.

Inventory of the collections in the CegeSoma depot

From Monday 7 January to Friday 18 January 2019, the CegeSoma will carry out a stock taking of its collections conserved at *Square de l'Aviation/Luchtvaartsquare*.

Decease of Jacques Lory, former member of the Scientific Committee of CegeSoma

Historian Jacques Lory, professor emeritus at the University of *Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL)* and the University of *Saint-Louis*, passed away on 13 August. He became a member of the Scientific Committee of our Centre in 1972, to which he participated assiduously until its cessation in 1999. With him an important part of the memory of our institution disappears, as well as a discreet but important contributor to the historiography of the Second World War in Belgium.

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Acquisition "Archives of the Fraternelle du service Hotton An valuable fonds for the history of the armed resistance in Wallonia at the eve of the Liberation

The service Hotton was a resistance organisation created in 1943 on the initiative of the Belgian and British authorities. Its mission: to harass the occupying forces militarily by attacking their communication channels and telecommunications. Operational from early 1944 onwards, the group made its mark on the forested area of Chimay-Couvin owing to the dynamism of its group D. Its archives, bequeathed in April 2018, document this remarkable activity.

A new digital corner!

As announced in the Newsletter of November, CegeSoma continues to improve the digital access to its collections. From now on, the reading room has a digital corner completely dedicated to the digital access to the collections. Come and see our new service!

The State Archives meet the Universities on the Theme of Digitisation!

Since 2015, the State Archives have begun a process of reflection on the digital access to their collections, among other things via the Brain project MADDLAIN carried out in collaboration with the Royal Library. Among the audiences that were studied, the university researchers are one of the priorities of our institution. It therefore seemed useful to reunite the heads of department of the State Archives with representatives of the different history departments of the Belgian universities to exchange ideas on their respective needs. Feedback on a study day with many debates organized on 5 February.

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The broadcasting programmes of Radio Bruxelles and Zender Brussel digitally accessible in the reading room!

Wartime radio was a particularly efficient means of communication. News of the front, official or clandestine speeches, encrypted messages and propaganda broadcasts were communicated to the Belgian citizens on a daily basis. Many families hold memories of evenings gathered around the radio. The radio was a real tool of information and persuasion, used by the allies as well as the occupier. CegeSoma proposes to discover or rediscover the German radio production in Brussels during the Second World War!

The commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The commemorations are ever-present in our society today. The centenary of the Great War, the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo, and of course the recent terrorist attacks were all themes for commemoration ceremonies. Commemorations are social perceptions that should be studied not only for their historical relevance, but for the way societies have behaved with respect to them. In other words, how and to which end does the present claim the past?

Inventory of the Archives of the The Royal National Federation of Veterans of the Piron Brigade

The memory of a legendary Belgian military unit finally accessible
When the activities of certain military units ceased after the German capitulation of May 1945, their members often felt the need to continue to reunite and keep the memories of their sacrifices alive. The acquisition and inventorization of archives of associations such as The Royal National Federation of Veterans of the Piron Brigade, are therefore particularly important to CegeSoma.

CegeSoma Embraces the Wikipedia Adventure

On 18 December, CegeSoma organized its first 'Wikipedia marathon'.
As everyone knows, Wikipedia is a multilingual online encyclopedia that is available to anyone who wishes to use it and correct it. The project is part of a bigger project: Wikimedia. Apart from the encyclopedia, there is also Wikisource for original documents, Wikidata for databases, Wikimedia Commons for photographs, Wikinews, Wiktionnaire etc.

The collection of interviews of CegeSoma largely accessible

CegeSoma manages a large and varied collection of interviews carried out since the early 1970s, either by researchers of the Centre or in the context of external initiatives such as the programmes Jours de Guerre produced by the RTBF or also those by Maurice De Wilde by the VRT.

Submersion in the question of keywords

For more than 20 years, the online Pallas catalogue has allowed to search documents in the collections of CegeSoma. Pallas proposes different ways of navigating to the users, among others the search by keywords.

We have read your views and drawn our conclusions: CegeSoma facilitates the access to its collections!

The question of the access to our collections was one of the key points that was examined in the context of the MADDLAIN project. Although the tools and means of communication used by our readers have changed considerably in the digital age, the main reason for different publics to turn to an institution such as CegeSoma remains the consultation of our archives and our rich library which is made accessible to them.

Join our Team of Volunteers!

As you may have read in these pages, CegeSoma continuously acquires new archive funds, documentation and photographs.

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.

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.

ACQUISITION – Archives of the Witte Brigade An Essential Collection for the History of the Resistance in Flanders

The *Witte Brigade (Fidelio)* is the only resistance movement of a national dimension founded in Flanders. Its archives have recently been donated to our institution. They are all the more precious because they cover not only the post-war but also the occupation period. Furthermore, a detailed inventory has been made which greatly facilitates accessibility.

INVENTORY - The Air War in Western Europe (1939-1945) Unraveled

Basic Documentation on Thousands of Air Missions Now Available

Information on missions carried out by bomber aircraft and fighter bombers of all the belligerents of the Second World War in Western Europe is now available. It can be found in the mass of documents collected

on the subject and entrusted to CegeSoma by Georges Van Merode.

DISCOVERY - 20,000 new photographs of the Siphon news agency

No less than 20,000 new pictures of the news agency Siphon have recently been discovered. They will enrich the first part of the fund preserved at CegeSoma, which already includes 175,000 images relating to Belgian and foreign news of the period 1930-1944. Filed and accessible in digital format, these photographs enjoy a high visibility and are frequently used to illustrate publications.

ACQUISITION - Archives Les Enfants de la Patrie “ Kinderen van het Vaderland The key to information about the fate of children during and after the Second World War

Last June, the Operational Directorate 4 “ CegeSoma “ received a remarkable archive holding to be joined to the many archives of patriotic associations it keeps. In this case, the association was not one of the former parties involved in the conflict in a classical sense (war prisoners, resistance fighters, deported persons, etc.), as the *Oeuvre royale nationale Les Enfants de la Patrie* is dedicated to the collateral victims of the war, namely the war orphans.

Photographs of the period 1914-1918 at Cegesoma. A rich heritage

The year 2014 will mark the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Numerous commemorative events, historical retrospectives and projects aimed at promoting the tourist sites of the remnants of war are already planned. Whether you are a journalist, a researcher or just have a keen interest in history, you may be looking for iconographical documents on this subject. We would therefore like to present you with an overview of our First World War photo collection.