

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

NO 36 - MARCH 2018

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READING ROOM

The reading room of CegeSoma now has a new space dedicated to digital access to the collections!

[\[MORE INFO\]](#) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3682&pag0nbr=42&pagofs=0)

PUBLICATION

'Un maquis dans les cités. La Résistance à Watermael-Boitsfort, 1940-1945' by André Darteville. A work that traces the perilous journey of men and women in their fight against the occupier. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

(http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3683)

EVENT

The biannual Art Nouveau/Art Déco open days: a great opportunity to present the collections of CegeSoma and the Archives Service for War Victims to a wide public. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

(http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3687)

ASSOCIATED RESEARCHERS

New criteria for the associated researchers of CegeSoma [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

(http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3690)

YOUNG HISTORIANS DAY

Young historians with talent. Participate in the 11th edition of our study day dedicated to future historians (and their talented predecessors) on Thursday 19 April in CegeSoma!

On the programme the use of judicial archives produced in the context of the repression of the collaboration after the two world wars. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

(http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3693)

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!



online available from your home).

In the following months, our digital corner will be adapted to meet your needs. We would therefore like to read your suggestions via <mailto:info-cegesoma@arch.be>.

Florence Gillet
9.3.2018

In the new digital corner of the reading room at the Square de l'Aviation 29 are now provided:

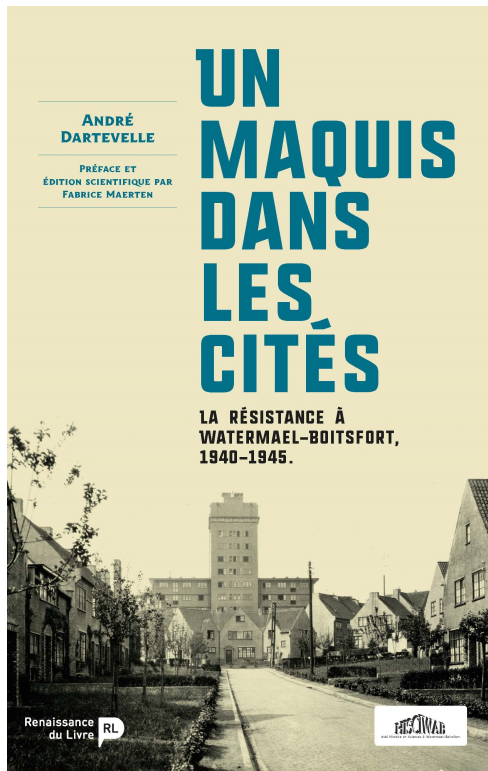
- Two additional computers (4 computers in total) and ergonomic headphones to consult the audio archives
- A device where your digital camera can be fixed to make copies of archives
- A display stand with guides and documents concerning the collections of Cegesoma: a guide for the use of the Pallas catalogue, a guide of the digitized sources, thematic cards to start a research, a report on the MADDLAIN project on digitization.
- A digital environment where the digitized collections can be consulted
- A digital order form for documents (also



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A resistance fighter in the garden cities of Watermael-Boitsfort, 1940-1945

The famous documentary maker André Darteville bestows us with a poignant posthumous publication. He put into practice all his talent as a historian and journalist in order to deliver the detailed and heartfelt story of the Resistance in the bucolic Brussels municipality of Watermael-Boitsfort at the edge of city and countryside.



Through his journey and thorough investigations he discovered the resistance activities of his father and friends, and delved into the midst of the resistance in this rural municipality, recorded in written sources and interviews. He took an intimate look into the individual history of people while also drawing the historical social and economic context of the time. Most of these women and men lived in the "Logis" and "Floréal" garden cities, which were the birthplace of the resistance movement in Watermael-Boitsfort called "*Front de l'Indépendance*".

The author describes the main factions of the movement and their activities, and also briefly presents the other resistance groups in the municipality, before getting to the armed resistance in the last months of the occupation and the liberation fights. He rounds up his investigations with a meticulous analysis of the deep and often sore marks that this commitment left in the hearts of those who engaged in resistance activities and their families.

This publication full of humanity largely exceeds the framework of local history and addresses a very topical message to the reader: the perilous fight led by these women and men driven by justice and freedom urgently reminds us to keep vigilant in the face of the dangers that threaten democracy today.

At his demise in 2015, the author had almost finished his manuscript; it was proofread by [Fabrice Maerten](#), historian at CegeSoma/State Archives of Belgium, who also penned the preface.

The 332-page publication also contains many illustrations and can be purchased in libraries across Watermael-Boitsfort or from the publisher '[Renaissance du Livre](#)'.

Fabrice Maerten
16.3.2018

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In honour of Social Welfare

On Saturday 17 March, the magnificent historic Social Welfare building was open to the public on the occasion of the biannual Art Nouveau/Art Deco open days, allowing anyone interested to visit these places usually closed to the public or subject to restricted access.



Over 250 people were led by guides through the exterior and interior of the premises.

They received information about the architecture of the building that was designed in 1911 by Richard Pringiers and renovated with attention to detail some twenty years later by architects Maxime and Fernand Brunfaut.

This open day allowed visitors to discover our activities and collections. Indeed, most participants had very scarce or no knowledge at all about the Study Center War and Society (CegeSoma) and the Archives Service for War Victims.

This was thus the perfect occasion for tracing back the history of both institutions and presenting their current missions within the State Archives of Belgium.

We presented the rich and exceptional document collections of the Archives Service for War Victims, which is interesting for, among others, research into resistance movements, political prisoners, and war victims.

This open day also gave us the opportunity to valorise our well-sorted library and paper/audiovisual archive holdings, as well as our websites "Belgian War Press" and "Belgium WWII".

As usual, we have also seized the occasion to call for donations of documents about war history.

Hopefully, our call will be heard!

Chantal Kesteloot
26.3.2018



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New criteria for the associated researchers of CegeSoma

The research on the history of the world wars is not the monopoly of professional historians. Other researchers who are not associated with a university or who are active in disciplines other than history have often made fundamental contributions. CegeSoma has long associated them with its activities, originally as correspondents, later as associated researchers. To better integrate them in the academic activities of CegeSoma, we have recently adapted their status.



Associated researchers are able to carry out independent academic research in one of the research fields of CegeSoma.

For more information on the status of the associated researcher, we refer to the [dedicated page](#) on our website.

In this section, you will also find the contact details and fields of expertise of the associated researchers.

It reflects the wide variety of areas in which they are active.

Each year, CegeSoma organizes a study day on their research results.

For the announcement of the next edition of this study day, we refer to our website.

Dirk Luyten
26.3.2018

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