

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

NO 38 - JUNE 2018

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PUBLICATION

Du café liégeois au soldat inconnu. La Belgique et la Grande Guerre. A richly illustrated book that invites you to discover the traces of the First World War in our society. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) ([http://www.cegesoma.be](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3727&pag0nbr=50&pagofs=0)

[/cms/index_en.php?article=3727&pag0nbr=50&pagofs=0](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3727&pag0nbr=50&pagofs=0))

CONFERENCE

22 – 25 August 2018 : comparative views by a panel of international experts on the consequences of the new geopolitical order created after the First World War and on how this war has been commemorated since.

[\[MORE INFO\]](#) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3726)

READING ROOM

Free entry to the reading rooms of the State Archives and new rates for research services and copies.

[\[MORE INFO\]](#) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3721)

VOLUNTEERS AT CEGESOMA

Almost 10 years of a successful partnership between young German volunteers (ASF) and CegeSoma!

[\[MORE INFO\]](#) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3731)

RESEARCH

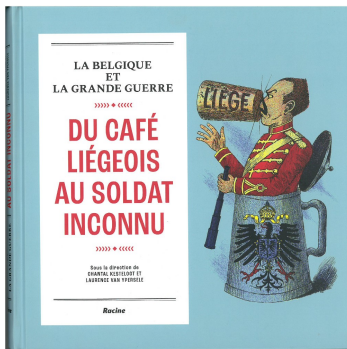
A video of the TRANSMEMO research project on the intergenerational transmission of memories related to resistance activities as well as collaboration during the Second World War. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

(http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/rech_encours_en.php?article=3484)

Du café liégeois au Soldat inconnu. La Belgique et la Grande Guerre.

Looking at a past that has forever marked our history

The authors of this book have wanted to describe a certain number of events of the First World War, but also the traces that the conflict left on Belgian society. The aim was not to be exhaustive, or several volumes would not have sufficed.



A journey that begins ...

The approach is reminiscent of the madeleine de Proust. Places, objects and symbols connect the events through some fifty richly illustrated notes based on the most recent historiographical sources.

Like every book, this one has a beginning (the invasion of Belgium) and an end (the First World War today), but, like every tourist guide, the journey could start anywhere: on the pontoon bridge in Antwerp or in the Belgian town halls where the citizens must for the first time collect their identity cards in 1915.

Chantal Kesteloot & Laurence van Ypersele (ed.), *Du café liégeois au Soldat inconnu. La Belgique et la Grande Guerre*, Brussels, Editions Racine, 2018, 176 p.

The book is for sale at the price of 29,95 € (postage not included) and can be ordered via cegesoma@arch.be.

It can also be bought in our reading room (open from Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.).

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‘To End All Wars?’ International Conference at the End of the Memorial Year 2018

The In Flanders Fields Museum and Cegesoma organize the four-day international conference To End All Wars? – Geopolitical Aftermath and Commemorative Legacies of the First World War.

This international (English-language) conference will take place in Ypres, 22 - 25 August 2018.



This prestigious conference will bring together an internationally renowned team of experts, who will endeavour to take a look as broad and diverse as possible on this subject. Jay Winter, Nicolas Offenstadt, Carole Fink, Stefan Berger, Bruce Scates, Pieter Lagrou, Piet Chielens, Bruno De Wever, Chantal Kesteloot, Laurence van Ypersele, Nico Wouters and many others, will discuss and reflect on the consequences of the new geopolitical order that was created after the First World War and on how the war and its legacies are commemorated today.

The detailed programme and registration form can be found on the conference webpage (www.teaw.be).

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The Readers Card becomes Free of Charge

From 1 June 2018, access to the 19 reading rooms of the Belgian State Archives (including the Cegesoma reading room) becomes free of charge.

This new measure aims to make the Belgian archives accessible to all citizens. Prices for research-services and costs for 'reproductions on demand' however increase substantially.



The new prices for all public services by the Belgian State Archives have been approved by the minister for Science Policy on 25 May 2018 (and will be published soon in the Belgian 'Moniteur/Staatsblad').

To consult the table with all new prices, please click [here](#).

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Yearly meeting of the ASF Volunteers at CegeSoma

On 19 June, the yearly meeting of the ASF volunteers and their project partners took place in the conference room of CegeSoma.

For 60 years, the ASF (*Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste*), an association founded by opponents of Nazism, sends each year some 170 young German volunteers to countries where the population has suffered from the crimes committed by the Nazis during the Second World War. The first ASF volunteers arrived in Belgium in 1963.



The goal of these young people's commitment is to cooperate for reconciliation and peace, and to fight racism, discrimination and social exclusion.

In Belgium, some fifteen volunteers are distributed over a number of structures that develop social, educational or historical projects, among which CegeSoma and the State Archives in Eupen.

CegeSoma et ASF ... an ongoing story ...

CegeSoma has collaborated with ASF since 2009, and has hosted some ten volunteers since then.

The objective of this collaboration has always been a 'win win' situation. The volunteer is completely integrated in the institution, more specifically in the Documentation sector (Archives, Library, Audiovisual, reading room and digitalization of documents). By participating in the different activities of this sector, the volunteer will have the opportunity to become familiar with period and current documents, to be in contact with the reading room visitors, and to see how a documentation centre functions.

Apart from these tasks, the volunteers have the opportunity to develop new skills, deepen their understanding of history and strengthen a critical mind by participating in the project "Exile in Belgium / *Das Andere Deutschland*". This project focusses on the immigration of German refugees to the National Archives. The result may take a different shape each year: small exhibition, presentation of a life story, interviews with families ...

To complete their programme, the volunteers attend language courses and spend one day a week with Convivial (non-profit organization that support refugees).

Apart from all these apprenticeships, there is the learning to live together in the workspace: the conversations with colleagues at lunchtime, being part of a team, to be confronted with difficulties ...

Summary of this collaboration

Year after year, CegeSoma has the pleasure to meet idealistic, positive and enterprising young people full of dedication.

It admires their ability of learning languages and carrying out the different tasks that are entrusted to them.

It also admires the association (ASF) that accompanies these young people in a remarkable and professional way.

Finally, CegeSoma has the pleasure to be able to contribute to a European citizen's project to which it can give a real message. Undoubtedly, this formula has a bright future at the State Archives.



Above a few pictures of the yearly meeting of ASF volunteers and their project partners (yearly meeting which took place at CegeSoma on 19.6.2018).

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

In September 2017, the new research project **TRANSMEMO** has been launched, a partnership between the CegeSoma (Nico Wouters), Ghent University (Bruno De Wever & Koen Aerts) and the UCL (Olivier Luminet & Valérie Rosoux). Three young researchers, Florence Rasmont (CegeSoma), Aline Cordonnier (UCL) and Pierre Bouchat (UCL) are in charge of the project.

Oral history serving the study of the memory of the collaboration and the resistance

TRANSMEMO is a two-year research project which seeks to analyse how memories of resistance and collaboration were passed in a family context (three generations). Oral history will be the principal methodological framework. Through interviews with three generations (children during the war, their children and grandchildren), we will attempt to uncover how representations on collaboration and resistance were shaped and maintained. The aim is to understand how certain collective memories can become such persistent factors within a society. The relevance of these findings are particularly relevant to understand the divergent perceptions of the Second World War in Francophone Belgium and in Flanders.

The project will use the valuable historical collection of oral sources preserved at CegeSoma. The interviews made during the course of the project will eventually be added to the collection.

A project with a social dimension

It is expected that the project will lead to a better understanding of the way Belgians came to terms with the Second World War. Moreover, we hope that the project will shed a light on the effects of unresolved collective traumas on the making of persistent social tensions within a society .

To consult the video of the project TRANSMEMO, please click [here](#).

[Nico Wouters](#)

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Répression et exécution de collaborateurs, 1944 – Photo A. Neufort. Coll. CegeSoma CA 553

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