

## CEGESOMA - State Archives

# NEWSLETTER

No 80 - December 2022



## NEWS

### BEST WISHES

After a richly filled 2022 full of various activities the CegeSoma-team expects you again from January 3, 2023.

► [Read more](#)



### WEBSITE

A new thematic section on the Cold War has been added to those on the First- and Second World Wars.

► [Read more](#)

### SURVEY

The survey 'Remembering, judgments and knowledge about WWII' in the framework of the FED-tWIN program 'People@War' has already been filled in by 550 people. Do not hesitate to participate as well: your contribution counts.

► [Read more](#)



## AGENDA



### 'OORLOGSCAFÉS'

Not to be missed : the next editions for the general public on collaboration and post-war repression in Hasselt on February 8, 2023 and Edegem on February 16, 2023.

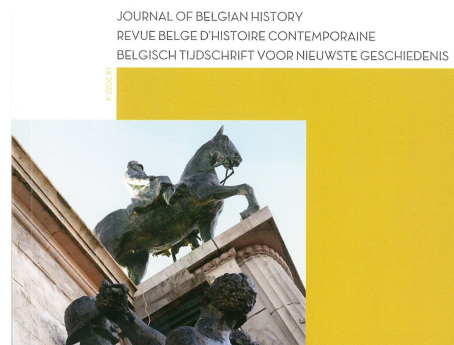
► [Read more](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

### JBH

The fourth issue for 2022 of the JBH has been published, including a debate section with seven contributions on the issue of decolonization in Belgium.

► [Read more](#)



## FOCUS ON THE COLLECTIONS



### PRESS CUTTINGS

An important source of information will soon be available again through the online library catalogue.

► [Read more](#)

### SPIROU DANS LA TOURMENTE DE LA SHOAH

An exhibition to which CegeSoma collaborated can be visited until the end of August 2023 at the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris.

► [Read more](#)



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**Flexmail**

## Best wishes !



Dear readers, Dear friends,

It seems like yesterday, but it was last year in fact, that we extended our best wishes for 2022 to you... without knowing what this new year would bring...

In spring, we were delighted to resume our activities and as if we wanted to 'make up for lost time', the pace was fast and you attended our activities in great numbers: thank you all very much!

They ranged from the Public History Meetings and study days dedicated to young historians to colloquia about the Resistance, about the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the new *RBHC*, and the presentation of the results of the Postwarx project, and conferences about the Cold War, occupation during the First World War, and about media and cultural life in general in occupied Western Europe (1940-1945)... It was a busy year indeed, with a lot of 'closed' events also that took place at our premises located Square de l'Aviation, such as the meeting of EHRI project partners or the different gatherings for the project "Résolution-Métis", and many more...

Also in 2022, the project 'Wikibase Résistance' was fast-tracked: Half a million data about intelligence officers and resistance activists involved in the resistance in Belgium are now accessible thanks to a highly motivated and ever-increasing team volunteers who fed the databases. Today, there are fifteen volunteers, and five people joined the

team this year alone.

Several researchers have joined us, studying the role of the national railway company SNCB/NMBS in the deportations of the Second World War or the Resistance in Flanders, or who work on the Belcowar project about Belgium and the Cold War within the framework of FED-tWIN (joint initiative by the State Archives and KULeuven).

Four issues of *Revue belge d'Histoire contemporaine* were published, one of which was dedicated to the Resistance.

Since a couple of months we also have a new and more up-to-date catalogue (Vubis) as a tool to access our library; our archives are now fully integrated in the catalogue of the State Archives (Search) and the first inventory in the new "CegeSoma" series has just been published ... many more will follow.

A few novelties for this end of the year...

First, a new concept of decentralised conferences geared towards the large public about collaboration and repression in Flanders: the 'Oorlogscafés', an initiative taken within the framework of FED-tWIN (State Archives/CegeSoma – Ghent University) and organised by the Davidsfonds, has already been a great success and will be continued in 2023.

Next, a new section on the website of CegeSoma is dedicated to research into the Cold War, in addition to the topics already presented, namely the First and Second World Wars.

But what would such a track record be without you all?

Every year, you place your trust in us, you turn to us in order to learn more about various aspects of history. You follow us on social networks, you 'like' our Facebook posts, you watch our videos, you sign up for our Newsletters and you increasingly visit our website Belgium WWII that was expanded by many papers in the past year (the site now has almost 750 entries). You also help enrich our collections by proposing donations.

Thanks a lot for these encouragements and your unwavering support! They in turn encourage us to go on, to continue our research, to share history from above and below, and to write history with you...

We are looking forward to seeing you again in 2023 in our reading rooms or at our events, or to simply address your questions and requests for information in the best possible manner.

In the name of the entire team, Nico Wouters, Head of CegeSoma (State Archives)

#### Other news

[Fourth and last edition of the RBHC 2022 published.](#)

[Spirou in the torment of the Shoah](#)

[Launch of new calls for candidates for the EHRI-Conny Kristel scholarships - 2023](#)

[THREE QUESTIONS TO ... Léo Baudelet,](#)

[Belgium WWII – new content](#)

[News from the Wikibase Resistance project](#)

[Study Day on the Resistance at the State Archives in Liège](#)

[Take part in a scientific survey :](#)

[New issue of the JBH \(2022-3\)](#)

[The Great\(er\) War of Military Occupations in Europe](#)

[Research: The SNCB/NMBS and deportations during WWII](#)



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## Cold War

Since the end of 2020, the Cold War is one of CegeSoma's central thematic areas. In concrete terms, this means that the Center now wants to have a more structural presence in the field of 'The Cold War and Belgium'. This applies first of all to basic research, which in the coming years will focus mainly on the economic dimensions of the Cold War on the one hand and on anticommunism on the other. You will find below more information on projects, events and publications (**Type**) related to this period by performing a targeted search based on keywords (**Tags**). CegeSoma will also further develop its research on the Cold War in terms of acquisitions.

Type

- Any -

Tags

- Any -

APPLY

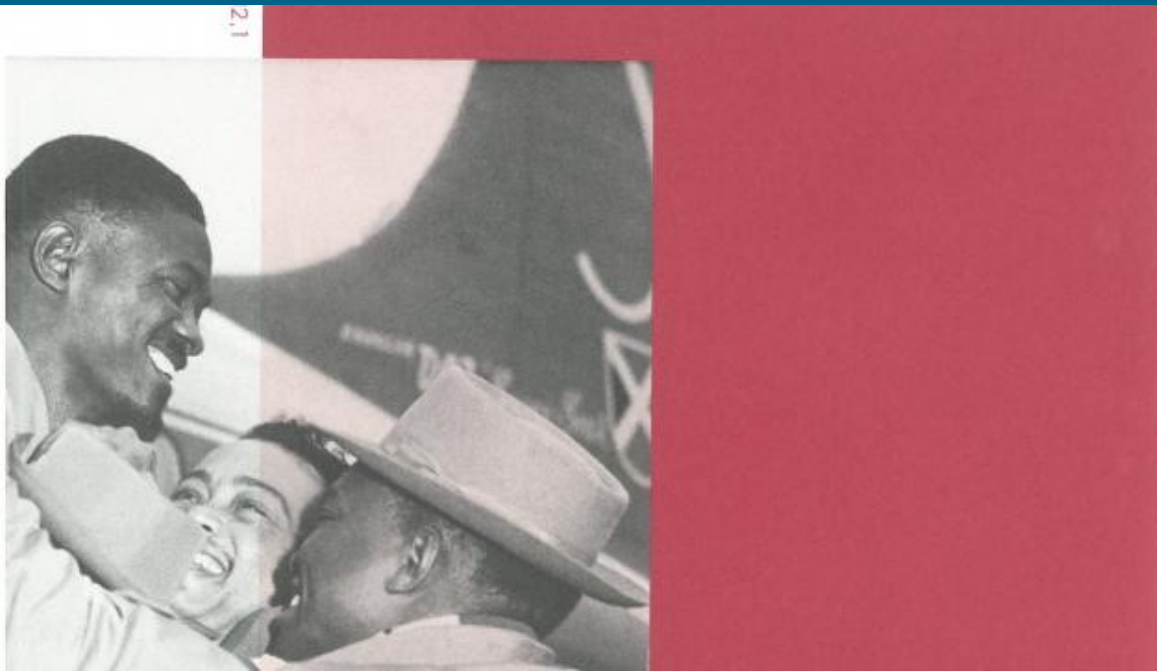


Event

**Overview of contributions related to the Cold War - Study day 'Young Historians' - Promotions of**

2020 – 2021

On 5 and 6 May 2022, over thirty recently graduated students from all...



Publication

### **The Cold War in the 'new' JBH**

The current Journal of Belgian History ( Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste...

d'histoire  
contemporaine  
**RBHC**

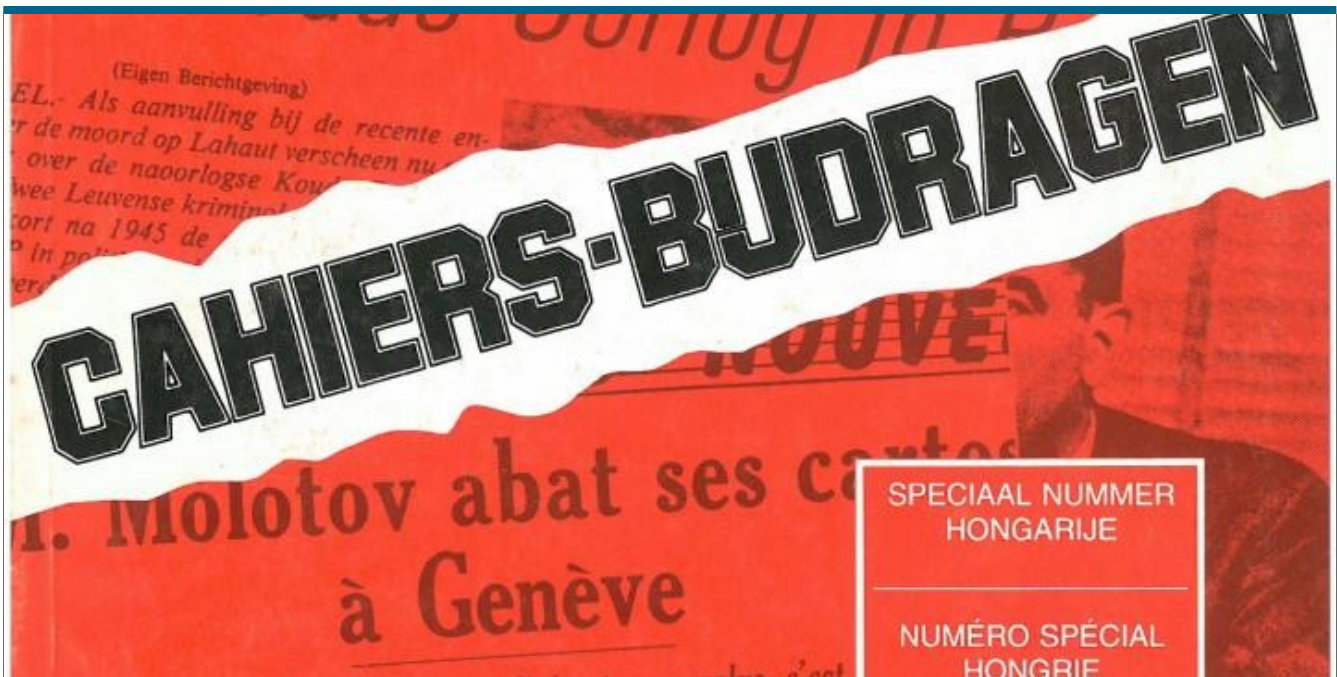
Belgisch  
Tijdschrift  
voor Nieuwste  
Geschiedenis

XXXVI, 2006, 1-2

Publication

### **The Cold War in the 'old' JBH**

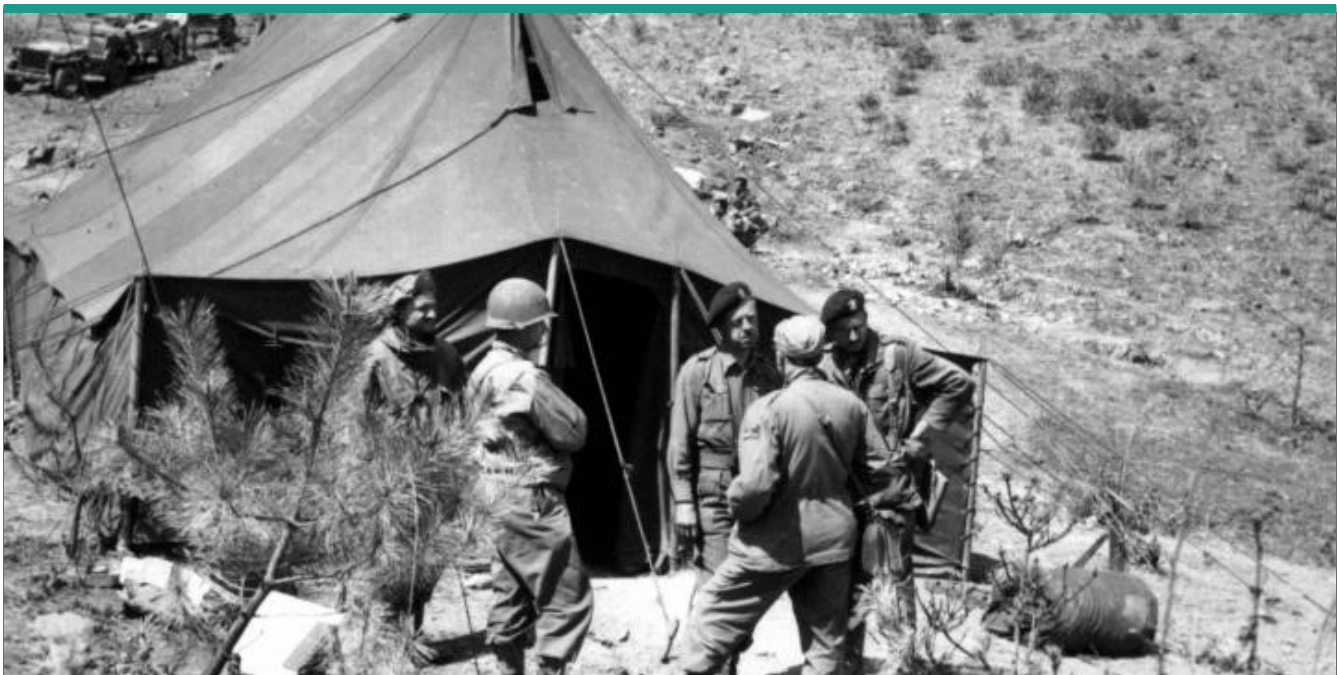
The current Journal of Belgian History ( Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste...



Publication

### **The Cold War in the BEG/CHTP (and its predecessor)**

The current Journal of Belgian History ( Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste...



Projet

### **Anti-communism in Belgium during the Cold War (2022 - )**

With the research programme about anti-communism in Belgium during the Cold...





Event

### **Minutes of the conference “The Cold War and Belgium”, CegeSoma (17 June 2022)**

When did the Cold War start precisely? There are diverging opinions among...



Publication

### **Belgian historians and the Cold War**

The Cold War is over since more than thirty years now. Yet, historical...







Projet

### **The assassination of Julien Lahaut (2011-2014)**

In 2011, CegeSoma began an investigation requested by the Senate into the...



Projet

### **Belcower : Belgium and the Cold War (2022 - )**

BELCOWAR. 'Belgium and the Cold War: Gaining or Losing Sovereignty through...



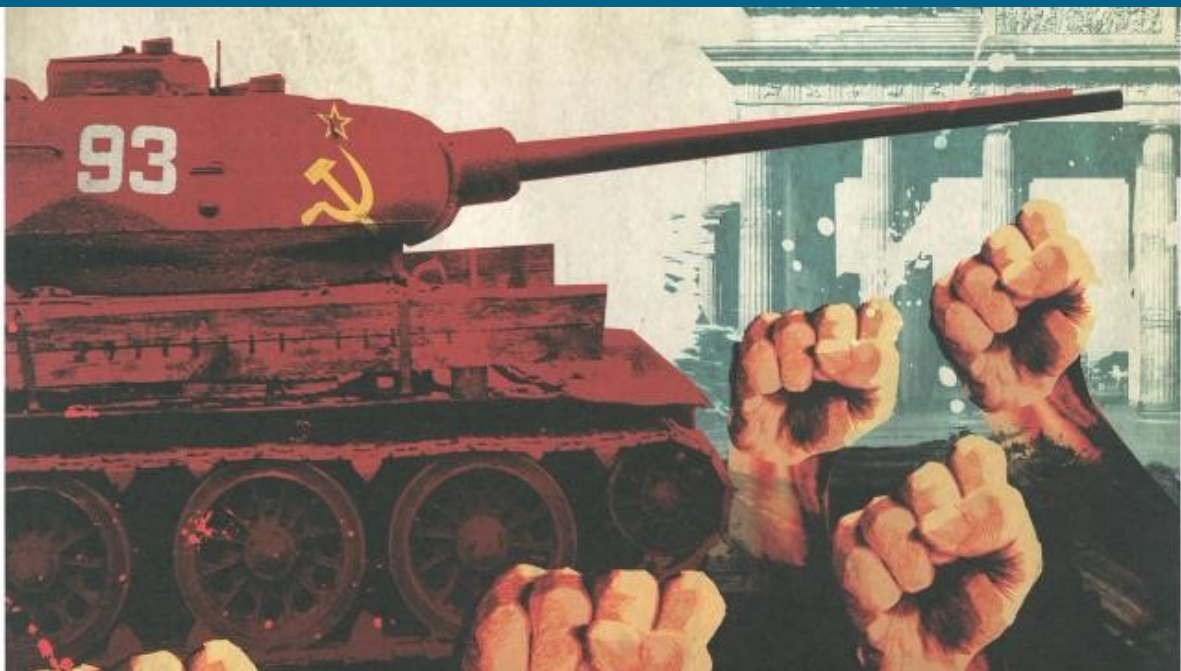


Publication

### **Qui a tué Julien Lahaut?**

A political murder

On August 11, 1950, the cry...



Publication

### **Journaux de Guerre 1939-1945 - Les débuts de la Guerre Froide (France)**

After the success of the series about both World Wars and the Interwar period, the series...

## Take part in a scientific survey :

### MEMORY, KNOWLEDGE AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.



The CegeSoma/State Archives in collaboration with Ghent University is currently carrying out a study about the social history and impact of the Second World War within the framework of the FED-tWIN project People@War. You can help us by filling out the questionnaire (approximately 15 minutes) which is part of a long-term research project. This study aims to, among others, compare the responses with previous public surveys (from the 1980s and 2000s) and help us, through content analysis, identify models that will allow us to better understand the manner in which our vision of the past is shaped, significantly or not, by all sorts of factors.

In practice, all topics should be considered, but if you do not wish to respond to particular questions or if they are not applicable or, conversely, if you would like to expand on your answers, this is not a problem. You only need to provide an e-mail address to participate.

At the end of the questionnaire, we also ask if you have any sources that could help expand and enrich research into the Second World War through the testimonies of people who experienced it. In particular, we are thinking of personal diaries, but other sources of interest include letters, photographs, memoirs and, potentially, other types of relevant documents.

Thank you in advance for your participation and cooperation! Please feel free to share this call for participation (+16-year-olds, family members, friends, acquaintances, colleagues etc.).

Link to the survey : <https://forms.gle/X49BRr5Mc3z1jKPE9>

#### Other news

Fourth and last edition of the RBHC 2022 published.

Best wishes !

Spirou in the torment of the Shoah

Launch of new calls for candidates for the EHRI-Conny Kristel scholarships - 2023

THREE QUESTIONS TO ... Léo Baudelet,

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Research: The SNCB/NMBS and deportations during WWII

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## “Oorlogscafés”: Collaboration and repression in Flanders

A new and more informal series of lectures for the large public

**World War II**   [Conference](#)



On 24 November, [Koen Aerts](#) (*UGent/State Archives-CegeSoma*) and [Bruno De Wever](#) (*UGent*) launched a new type of lectures in Gent titled “*Oorlogscafés*”. Partners are the Davidsfonds and the State Archives-CegeSoma. The goal is to share knowledge and findings from scientific research into collaboration and repression with the large public in an informal, café-like setting.

Upon registration, attendees will be given **access to some 20 webinars of maximum 10 minutes about topics related to collaboration and repression**. Once registered, you can also ask questions in advance that will be summarised and addressed at the event. “*Oorlogscafés*” are organised in every Flemish province.

-> Registration via this link: <https://www.davidsfonds.be/zoekresultaten?q=oorlogscaf%C3%A9>

-> Further information: [https://view.publitas.com/davidsfonds/het-accent\\_juli\\_2022/page/8-9](https://view.publitas.com/davidsfonds/het-accent_juli_2022/page/8-9)

**Please also note the scientific survey about the Second World War that underpins these lectures. Link to the**

survey: <https://forms.gle/X49BRr5Mc3z1jKPE9>



24/11/2022 - 19:30 to 24/04/2023 - 21:30

**Dates and locations of the Oorlogscafés:**

**Thursday 24 November 2022 from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm** - NTGent, Sint-Baafsplein 17, 9000 Ghent

**Tuesday 13 December 2022 from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm** - De Steenberg, Spechtenlaan 9, 3080 Tervuren

**Wednesday 8 February 2023 from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm** - Borrelhuis, Witte Nonnenstraat 28, 3500 Hasselt

**Thursday 16 February 2023 from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm** - De Basiliek, Trooststraat 22, 2650 Edegem

**Tuesday 9 March 2023 from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm** - ZoWe Vormingscentrum, Barrièrestraat 2 D, 8000 Brugge

**Monday 24 April 2023 from 1.15 pm to 4.00 pm** - National Archives 2 - Joseph Cuvelier repository, Hopstraat/Rue du Houblon 26-28, 1000 Brussels

**Main language**

Dutch

TAGS

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[collaboration](#)   [Repression of collaboration](#)

## Fourth and last edition of the RBHC 2022 published.



[The section 'debate' about the decolonisation is already online](#) and contains seven papers of historians and archivists who shed light on various aspects of this complex and very topical subject.

Three papers are also published in this edition. The first one is penned by Wendy Wiertz and has a close look at a very particular aspect of the development of international humanitarian aid, namely the backing of the handmade lacework sector in occupied Belgium during the First World War. The second, by Gaétan du Roy and Lionel Francou, is based on the conclusions of a research workshop and formulates recommendations for a more standardised interdisciplinary approach with regard to contemporary history. Finally, the last article is authored by Manon Mortier and scrutinises the underground in order to study the persecution of the Jews in Belgium during the Second World War. This fourth edition is rounded off with a series of summaries of doctoral theses and reviews of publications.

You can order a copy by e-mail to [cegesoma@arch.be](mailto:cegesoma@arch.be) or [hilde.keppens@arch.be](mailto:hilde.keppens@arch.be)

Other news

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## Press clippings, a discrete and somewhat forgotten source of information.

The “press clippings” section (hundreds of boxes) exists since the creation of our institution but has gotten somewhat forgotten nowadays, which is rather unfortunate, as they have been repackaged and made fit for today’s world and can prove useful to researchers and historians. They were initially subdivided into a series of topics which formed the sub-sections: Généralités (general course of the conflict), the specific productions of the Centre and what the press said about them (positive or negative), the bibliography “Seconde Guerre mondiale” published in the journals and the weeklies, and the series “Personalia” (containing the names of more or less illustrious people in alphabetical order). It goes without saying that some sections have aged less well. Indeed, the section about the global history was initially the most abundant and reflected, even among the main titles, the average views of journalists in of the generation 1970-2000, which were often avid of military history and, to a lesser extent, political history. With regard to local newspapers, anecdotes were often predominant or at best an accumulation of well-known facts of History with a capital H. It occurred that one or the other reflection stuck out of the common lot of this prose, but this was a rare if not extremely rare feat. In addition, the journalistic papers collated at the time for a potential historiography of the institution seem quite of no avail today, as this history has already been written indeed.



However, the section about the bibliographies of modern people involved in the conflict (over one hundred boxes) might turn out to be quite useful. When it comes to well-known people of this period of time, the selection of press clippings, which was collected in a systematic manner and on the basis of a broad sample via the company “Auxipress”, still offers a rather complete view of the opinion (or the journal’s opinion) about any given person. For “illustrious strangers” (people of importance at lower level, local resistance fighters or collaborators, locally famous people), the collection is also of interest for amateur historians or learned persons active in countless local historical and archaeological associations. Indeed, for those researchers, what matter is what happened at Hoût-Si-Ploû and Erembodegem from 1940 to 1944, and rather less so what happened in Stalingrad and El-Alamein... And those people will surely find one or the other bibliographical reference, be it merely in the form of an obituary, that they will not find elsewhere.

This is why a thorough and reasoned selection was carried out and the Press Clippings sections (“Coupures de presse”) shall again be open for research to the public via our VUBIS catalogue, in an adapted format in the course of the coming year.

Surely, one will find a gem or two for research.



## Spirou in the torment of the Shoah



On 9 December 2022, an exhibition about *Spirou in the torment of the Shoah* opened at the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris. So how did our rascal bell-boy end up in the torment of the Second World War?

The exhibition bears on the four comic books by Émile Bravo titled “L’Espoir malgré tout”, published between 2018 and 2022. In these books, the author refers to the painter Felix Nussbaum and his wife Felka Platek who was an artist as well. As an exiled Jewish couple they took refuge in Brussels, where they hid in an attic located Rue Archimède until they were eventually denounced by a neighbour and arrested. They were deported with the last convoy that left the Dossin barracks on 31 July 1944. Both were murdered in Auschwitz.

### ***An exhibition with different approaches***



Through original plates, archive documents and works by Felix Nussbaum, the exhibition depicts Belgium under occupation, from the earliest hours of the invasion until the Liberation. It also addresses the history of the *Journal de Spirou*. This weekly magazine was launched in 1938 and owned by editor Jean Dupuis who fled to England at the beginning of the conflict. During the war, his two sons and his son-in-law took charge of the

enterprise. The magazine continued to be published until the occupant started to meddle with it a bit too intensively. Then came up the genius idea of letting the characters live on through a puppet theatre, the Théâtre du Farfadet, that toured the country as of December 1942 under the firm direction of André Moons. *Le Journal de Spirou* ceased to be published.

What is interesting about this exhibition is that it makes a difficult history accessible to a large public, including young people. Through the adventures of Spirou and his encounter with Felix Nussbaum and Felka Platek, readers are confronted with the reality of the occupation in Belgium: from collaboration to resistance, and from resignation to deportation, many aspects are presented both through the written rigorosity of documents and the artistic detachment of drawings. The exhibition also covers the more ambiguous personal path of Hergé and his character Tintin, a great rival of Spirou, and the state of the comic strip art in the post-war period.

### ***The key role of Jean Doisy***

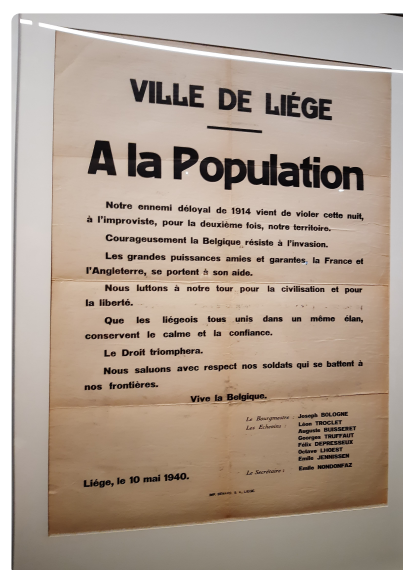
The creation of the Théâtre du Farfadet is largely due to one Georges Evrard, alias Jean Doisy. He joined the editorial staff of *Moustique* in 1932 and was both an author and scriptwriter. He became the editor in chief of the *Journal de Spirou* while also getting involved in politics. Among other things, he participated in the establishment of the (Belgian) League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism together with his friend Émile Hambresin who died in deportation in 1943. During the war, both were active in the Front de l'Indépendance. Hambresin is furthermore one of the co-founders of the Comité de Défense des Juifs. Among their acquaintances was also Victor Martin who led a secret exploration mission to Auschwitz in early 1943. Jean Doisy also recruited Suzanne Moons who helped save some 600 Jewish children and was the brother of André Moons, presenter of the Théâtre du Farfadet.

### ***Participation of CegeSoma***

Having been solicited by exhibition commissioner Didier Pasamonik, CegeSoma contributed to the exhibition through document loans and the writing of a number of captions and of the catalogue. It is richly illustrated and contains texts by Pascal Ory, Bernard Krouck, Tal Bruttman, Laurence Schram, Joël Kotek, Caroline François, Chantal Kesteloot, Romain Blandre, Didier Pasamonik, and Bertrand and Christelle Pissavy-Yvernault.

[This free exhibition is open until August 2023 at the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris.](#)

Didier Pasamonik (under the direction of), *Spirou dans la tourmente de la Shoah*, catalogue of the exhibition, Éditions Dupuis, 2022, 152 pages.



#### Other news

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