

## CEGESOMA - State Archives

# NEWSLETTER

No 77 - September 2022



## NEWS

### CALL FOR INFORMATION/ARCHIVES

Do you have information or archives related to the role of the Belgian National Railway Company in the deportations during the Second World War? If so, please do not hesitate to contact us.

► [Read more](#)



### ANNUAL ARCHIVAL CONTROL

From 3 to 7 October 2022, the CegeSoma's collections at the Square de l'Aviation and the Cuvelier repository depot will not be accessible.

► [Read more](#)

## AGENDA

### STUDY DAY (in French)

On 17 October, CegeSoma and the State Archives in Liège invite you to discover new tools and approaches for studying the Resistance during the Second World War.

► [Read more](#)



### PUBLIC HISTORY MEETING

Join us on 19 October at CegeSoma for a conference-debate, in Dutch, with guest Guy Coppieters being interviewed by Dirk Luyten on the energy crisis of 1945 ... Do you have a feeling of *déjà vu*?

► [Read more](#)

## CONFERENCE

On 7 and 8 November, you are invited to the conference entitled 'Cultural life and media in occupied Western Europe (1940-1945)'. Discover the rich and varied programme.

► [Read more](#)



## RESEARCH

### THE RESISTANCE IN FLANDERS

The Independence Front in Flanders during the Second World War: a qualitative study in progress.

► [Read more](#)



## CONFERENCE REPORT

A report on the conference "The Great(er) War of Military Occupations in Europe" (CegeSoma, 23-25 June 2022), written by Nico Wouters, is now available on the Occupation Studies blog.

► [Read more](#)

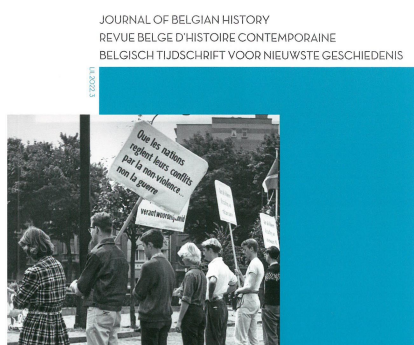


## PUBLICATION

### JOURNAL OF BELGIAN HISTORY

The latest issue (2022/3) of the Journal of Belgian History has just been published.

► [Read more](#)



[Je profiel aanpassen](#) - [Uitschrijven](#)

**Flexmail**

## Research: The SNCB/NMBS and deportations during WWII

Call for testimonies and private archives





At the request of the Belgian government, the Study and Documentation Centre for War and Society (CegeSoma, State Archives) is conducting an investigation into the role of the National Railway Company Belgium (SNCB) in the deportations of Jews, Roma and Sinti, political prisoners and forced labourers during the Second World War. The inquiry was commissioned by the President of the Senate, Stephanie D'Hose and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Mobility, Georges Gilkinet.

**The CegeSoma previously conducted research on the role of Belgian authorities in the deportation of Jews** between 2004 and 2006. The current study focuses on the role of the SNCB and can be considered a follow-up to this earlier research, in which the role of the SNCB in particular is explored further. This research is limited to the historical questions and, therefore, will not include policy recommendations. In the scientific tradition of CegeSoma and the State Archives, this study will be conducted in full autonomy with an emphasis on the complex historical context. The research will be conducted by **Florence Matteazzi** and **Nico Wouters**, who will also be responsible for editing the final report. The research is conducted in close collaboration with the SNCB and is supervised by a scientific advisory committee. The inquiry started on August 1, 2022 and should result in a final report that will be presented to the Senate in November 2023.

To this end, we are making extensive use of archival sources that were not accessible before. In this context, we are also looking for any testimonies or private archives that contain concrete information about the role of the SNCB in the various deportations. **If you have any information regarding the role of the SNCB in the deportations, please contact [nico.wouters@arch.be](mailto:nico.wouters@arch.be) or [cegesoma@arch.be](mailto:cegesoma@arch.be).**

Other news

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

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

[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](#)

[THREE QUESTIONS FOR ... Gertjan Desmet,](#)

[New catalogue for the CegeSoma library](#)

## The Resistance: New research tools, new approaches

### Study Day at the State Archives in Liège

World War II [Study day](#)



The CegeSoma/State Archives and the State Archives in Liège are pleased to welcome you to a study day in Liège on Monday 17 October to discover the numerous tools that have been developed over the past years to thoroughly update the history of the Resistance in Belgium during the Second World War. As this study day will show, these tools ([BelgiumWWII](#), [Wikibase Resistance](#), ['Papy était-il un héros?'](#), archives recently opened up for research, etc) have allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the commitment of thousands of men and women who did not hesitate to risk their lives in order to drive the occupiers out of the country. A number of papers to be presented will focus on Liège specifically, which is justly regarded as a stronghold of the Resistance, but for which no comprehensive synthesis yet exists.

#### PROGRAMME

- 09.00 - 09.20 am: Welcome
- 09.20 - 09.30 am: Presentation of the programme
- 09.30 - 10.00 am: La Résistance en Belgique et ses sources (Fabrice Maerten, CegeSoma)
- 10.00 - 10.20 am: Le site Belgium WWII et sa section « Résistance » (Chantal Kesteloot, CegeSoma)
- 10.20 - 10.50 am: Question time
- 10.50 - 11.10 am: Coffee break

- 11.10 - 11.20 am: La mémoire de la Résistance en province de Liège : les archives des associations patriotiques (Anne Jacquemin, AEL)
- 11.20 - 11.40 am: Destins de résistants dans les enquêtes du Parquet de Verviers sur les personnes présumées décédées pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale (Bernard Wilkin, AEL)
- 11.40 am – 12 pm: Question time
- 12 pm - 1.00 pm: Lunch break
- 1.00 - 1.20 pm: Les archives de la Résistance, un fondement des collections de l'Institut d'histoire ouvrière, économique et sociale. Aperçu de quelques fonds remarquables (Micheline Zanatta, IHOES)
- 1.20 - 1.40 pm: Le projet Wikibase Résistance (Anne Chardonnes, CegeSoma)
- 1.40 - 2.00 pm: Question time
- 2.00 - 2.20 pm: Coffee break
- 2.20 - 3.00 pm: Parallel sessions:
  - Comment s'y prendre pour retracer l'histoire de la Résistance dans sa commune ? (Fabrice Maerten, CegeSoma)
  - Comment enrichir et valoriser l'histoire et la mémoire de la Résistance aujourd'hui ? Les exemples des collectes de témoignages de l'IHOES et de la démarche d'éducation à la Résistance et à la citoyenneté des Territoires de la Mémoire (Lionel Vanvelthem, IHOES - Benjamin Blaise & Julien Paulus, Territoires de la Mémoire)
  - Comment mettre en œuvre des projets concrets d'exploitation des résultats engrangés via des publications, des expositions... ? (Chantal Kesteloot, CegeSoma)
  - Comment s'y prendre pour retracer l'histoire de la Résistance dans sa famille ? (Vincent Vagman, Projet-Histoire)
- 3.00 - 3.20 pm: Synthesis of the parallel sessions
- 3.20 - 3.30 pm: Conclusions
- 3.30 - 4.00 pm: Reception



17/10/2022 - 09:00 to 16:00

## PRATICAL INFORMATION

- ▶ **Where?:** State Archives in Liège, rue du Chéra, 79, 4000 Liège
- ▶ **Access:** From Liège Guillemins railway station, take the no. 20 bus to the Place du Batty, which is a 5 minute walk from the venue. Alternatively, the venue is a 20 minute *uphill* walk from Liège Guillemins. Free parking is available on site.
- ▶ **When?:** Monday 17 October 2022 (9.00 am – 4.00 pm)
- ▶ **Working language:** French
- ▶ **Registration** is mandatory and the deadline is Wednesday 12 October 2022. Contact: [isabelle.ponteville@arch.be](mailto:isabelle.ponteville@arch.be) or 02.556.92.11.
- ▶ **Attendance fee including lunch: € 15.00.** Please transfer the correct amount to the bank account of the State Archives in Liège before the study day: IBAN: BE20 6792 0046 5856 - B.I.C.: PCHQBEBB (+ communication : 17/10 LAST NAME + first name). You will be automatically registered for the study day upon payment.

**Feel free to spread the word!**

TAGS

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Local history   Public history   Everyday life   Archives   Digital humanities   Resistance

Collective Memories

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## The energy crisis: a sense of 'd  ja vu'?

CegeSoma Public History Meeting (2022-4)

[World War II](#)   [Conference](#)



[Conference-debate in Dutch with guest Guy Coppieters \(State Archives\).](#)

[An interview by Dirk Luyten \(CegeSoma/State Archives\).](#)

After the brief euphoria of the Liberation in September 1944, the war drags on and chaos reigns. Belgium runs out of coal reserves and experiences an unprecedented energy crisis coupled with a harsh winter. In this context, there is a call for a "strong" personality. On 12 February 1945, the Flemish socialist Achille Van Acker becomes Prime Minister. He sets himself up as the "saviour" of the nation. A skilled communicator, he is perceived as a very influential politician. He is remembered as the father of social security, but also as the architect of the "Battle for Coal". But what is it really? Recent research on the coal question challenges this perception. Economically speaking, "Achille Charbon" ("Achille Coal") is not such a great innovator, but rather a man who restores pre-war Belgium. The necessary structural reforms in the coal sector never materialize. The miners pay a heavy social price, while the mining bosses retain control of the sector through a strategy of self-regulation. The political world of that time turns out to be powerless and the energy question remains troublesome for many decades. CegeSoma invites you to this fourth Public History Meeting where you will delve into this complex period of history



that echoes the current difficulties our country is going through regarding energy.



**Guy Coppieters** holds a PhD in history. He defended his doctoral thesis at the *VUB* in 2017. His research focused on power relations in the Belgian coal industry during the first half of the 20th century. Since 2000, he has been an archivist at the State Archives in Brussels, where he works on the opening of political, economic and colonial archives. His current research focuses on the decision-making process at the federal level, especially through the archives of the Council of Ministers and the ministerial committees.



**Dirk Luyten** holds a PhD in history from the *VUB*. His research interests include social policy and industrial relations, legal history (in particular social and criminal law), the socio-economic history of World War II and the repression of collaboration after WWII. He coordinates the research sector at CegeSoma.



**19/10/2022 - 12:30 to 14:00**

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**Where:** CegeSoma conference room, Square de l'Aviation 29 - 1070 Brussels

**When:** Wednesday 19 October 2022 (12.30 - 14.00)

**Registration required:** [isabelle.ponteville@arch.be](mailto:isabelle.ponteville@arch.be) or by phone 02.556.92.11

**Please feel free to bring a friend!**

## Media and cultural life in occupied Western Europe (1940-1945)

### Colloquium

World War II [Colloquium](#)



Press, radio, cinema, literature, theatre, spectacles... In German-occupied Europe, all of these sectors are under strict control of the national-socialist apparatus. Their fate is thus linked. However, current research rarely addresses them as a whole. **The aim of this colloquium is to bring together researchers specialising in the study of media and cultural life under the occupation in an international approach.** The focus shall lie on the cases of Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, which will also allow us to compare these different systems of occupation, between military and civil administration, or pure and simple annexation.

This conference, to which we are pleased to invite you, will take place at CegeSoma on 7 and 8 November 2022 and will bring together specialists as well as early-career researchers. Presentations will be about 20 minutes long and held **in English or in French**, followed by a discussion at the end of each panel.

This symposium is sponsored by the Scientific Research Community 'Cultures of Spectacle' (FWO Research Foundation Flanders), in collaboration with the Study and Documentation Centre for War and Contemporary Society (CegeSoma), the Institute for Media Studies (*KULeuven*) and the *Institut de Recherches Historiques du Septentrion (IRHiS, UMR 8529 - Université de Lille)*. The Research Foundation *FWO* is providing additional support.



**07/11/2022 - 09:30 to 08/11/2022 - 17:00**

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Date:** from 7 to 8 November 2022 (9.30 am - 5.00 pm)

**Place:** CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation 29 in 1070 Brussels

**Participation fee:** 15.00 € per day (lunch and coffee break included) - (special student fee: 10.00 € per day)

**Registration:** mandatory, until 2 November 2022 at the latest: [isabelle.ponteville@arch.be](mailto:isabelle.ponteville@arch.be) or +32 (0) 2.556.92.11 - please indicate which day you want to attend (7 or 8 November or both days). Please pay in advance to the account of CegeSoma: IBAN: BE12 6792 0045 0092 - BIC: PCHQBEBB + communication : 7 and/or 8 November 2022 + Last name and first name. Your registration shall be effective upon payment.

## LINK TO PROGRAMME

### Organising team:

- Louis Fortemps (*Université de Lille – KULeuven*)
- Roel Vande Winkel (*KULeuven*)
- Chantal Kesteloot (*CegeSoma/State Archives*)

### Main language

English  
French

### Partners



# IRHiS

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## Resistance in Flanders (2022 - )

The Independence Front in Flanders during the Second World War. An Introduction to a qualitative study of the resistance movement in 7 medium-sized Flemish cities.

### World War II



“French-speaking Belgium resisted, Flanders collaborated”. This tenacious cliché about the Second World War still resonates today. The historical reality is, however, far more nuanced. In the past years, we have seen increased interest in the resistance that was active in Flanders and rightly so. Through various initiatives, CegeSoma has contributed to research on this subject.

Researcher An Rydant is currently investigating **the Independent Front (*Front de l'Indépendance/Onafhankelijkheidsfront*) in medium-sized Flemish cities**. She is studying the IF's origins and evolution; how it co-operated with different social groups and its recruitment process; the different forms of resistance it undertook; and the impact of the German repression on it. One of her key research questions concerns the local specificities of the resistance that become apparent when comparing these medium-sized cities. The results of her research will be published in a peer-reviewed article.

In April 2022, the *Journal of Belgian History* published [a special issue about the resistance](#), with Babette Weyns (*UGent*) and Michèle Corthals (*UAntwerpen*) as guest editors. This issue contains, among others, the first article to provide an overview of the resistance in Ghent (by Bruno De Wever and Caroline Steen) and a contribution by Marnix Beyen about the resistance in the municipality of Wijgmaal in Flemish Brabant.



Bruno de Wever (*UGent*) and [Nico Wouters](#) (CegeSoma) are currently working on a comprehensive synthesis of the resistance in Flanders, which should be completed in 2024. The research projects being carried out by An Rydant, Bruno De Wever and Nico Wouters have been made possible, in part, thanks to a generous donation from the non-profit organisation *Witte Brigade/Fidelio*.

**Project manager(s)**



**Project member(s)**



## Conference Report: The Great(er) War of Military Occupations

Nico Wouters, CegeSoma (State Archives, Belgium) and University of Ghent

The three-day Brussels conference 'The Great(er) War of Military Occupations in Europe: Antecedents, Experiences and Legacies' (24-26 June 2022) showed its potential through its bold speaker-selection and clever programme design. The organisers are to be applauded for their focus on some lesser-known cases of occupation in central, eastern and southern Europe, the high number of younger scholars presenting new results, the inclusion of cases after 1918, and a balanced set of thematic sessions.

As convener Emmanuel Debruyne pointed out in his opening talk, the study of the First World War (and the 'wars after the war') led to the gradual creation after 2000 of an international network of historians, in part around the *Historial de la Grande Guerre of Péronne*, and received a further boost during the centenary commemorative years (2014-18). This 'Greater(er) War occupations' conference in Brussels was therefore one further step in a longer continuum. The conference organisers were not aiming to devise any neat categorization for a model-based approach to occupation, but rather seeking to examine in depth different cases of occupation to find the cross-cutting points between them as part of an exercise in synchronic comparison. Sophie De Schaepdrijver would later reiterate this sentiment in her concluding remarks. She stressed that those contributing to the conference were looking to analyse recurrent mechanisms in occupations – such as mechanisms of claims-making, logistics, or the strength of local government. In studying these mechanisms, one can accept the 'messy contingencies' of occupations as an added value rather than as a nuisance disrupting a general theoretical model. She added that a conceptual 'toolbox' is more useful for scholars studying occupations than a fit-all model.

The conference's thematic sessions were designed around established topics (such as 'notables' or 'experiences') as well as newer themes picking up more recent historiographical concerns (such as 'environment', 'ethnic engineering' and 'biopolitics'). These themes made the discussions cohere, while at the same time allowing for a fruitful spill-over and connection to other themes over several days. One of the strongest points of this conference was the focus on lesser-known occupation cases, often presented by younger scholars, such as the Italian as well as Austro-Hungarian occupations of Albania, the allied occupation of Macedonia, the German occupation of northern Ober Ost (Latvia), and the Russian occupation of Ottoman territories. To many senior scholars, occupations such as the case of the Italian occupation of Epirus analysed by Christopher Kinley were completely new, indicating the relevance of integrating non-published work in conferences such as this.

### Common themes

Perhaps one of the most frequently mentioned points throughout the conference was the overarching importance of the temporal perspectives and objectives of an occupier for any historical analysis: whether an occupation was explicitly meant to be temporary or if more permanent objectives were dominant (such as outright annexation, the creation or maintenance of a sphere of influence or conscious empire-building). Political scientist Gilad Ben-Nun and historian Reinhold Zilch both presented very different general typologies of occupations, though they were both largely based on this basic insight on the significance of the occupier's perspective on the duration of an occupation. Ben-Nun for example, used the distinction between neighbouring military occupations (in adjacent territories) and remote military occupations, suggesting that the first type was more likely to work towards permanent conquest. He also made the point that for most of the twentieth century (1945-1967 excluded), occupations were mostly conquests under another name.

However, in-depth examination of historical cases opens up the many contradictory policies and dynamics that defy such typologies, certainly in the many fluid borderland regions of 1914. Certain cultural policies could be interpreted as intended to achieve permanent changes and long-term objectives but they could also be seen as propaganda designed to assist the war effort ('the civilizing war'). Similarly, building roads and infrastructure in an occupied territory might seem to be a longer-term investment but could also serve the short-term needs of a war economy. The many brutal forms of ethnic engineering on the other hand – repressive identity politics (for instance in the field of language, education, and religion) and massive deportations of population groups – were clearly meant to create some permanent change whatever the exact future status of the territory. It seemed clear that different occupying military bodies and/or political actors simultaneously held opposing views and that occupation objectives were in constant flux as contexts changed. Occupation policies could also be highly dynamic and reactive, as occupiers were confronted with opponents who invoked, aroused, and exploited national or regional movements in the occupied territories (e.g. by making promises for future independence). This in turn provoked stronger, and sometimes improvised counter policies from the occupiers. The agency of the occupied should not be underestimated here as well, as stressed by Jan Naert in his paper on mayors in occupied Belgium and France, and echoed in a session conclusion by Tamara Scheer. Markus Pöhlmann remarked pointedly that 'there was no German Schlieffen plan for the occupations', meaning of course that armies were not trained to manage occupied

territories. Most occupations during WWI happened rather unexpectedly and there was therefore by necessity considerable openness as to the final outcome. Having due regard for the dynamic nature of occupation perspectives should therefore prevent one from studying occupations in an ahistorical fashion, using retroactive categories. The long-term project for Italy, for example, was to become the dominant Mediterranean power after a future peace agreement, but the specific shape or form would have to depend on the unpredictable final fate of the Ottoman Empire. The Italian government itself could probably not have explained whether their occupation of Albania was meant to be a colony, a temporary safety buffer, a stepping stone towards some kind of mandate territory or preparation for full annexation: but then, as Vanda Wilcox pointed out, this very lack of definition and clear strategy was a characteristic feature of Italian imperialism.

A second recurring theme was the importance of studying the financial economy of occupation, and how it impacted the political, military or geopolitical rationale. As (amongst others) Vanda Wilcox and Christian Westerhoff pointed out: an occupation during this Great(er) War could easily cost more than the benefits it delivered to the occupier and therefore be counterproductive from a military point of view. The Italian occupation of Albania drained funds as well as military personnel while yielding little extra value in terms of production, foodstuff or raw materials and the same can be said of the German occupation of Russian territory in 1917-1918. Simple logic would dictate that any occupation in wartime needs to create stable order before exploiting the territory for 'resources', but Marco Mondini added a third rationale that motivated some occupiers: to exact radical punishment of enemies so as to permanently 'demodernize' them. Here one encounters violence under occupation in its different manifestations – instrumental violence, functional military violence, vengeance, ideological violence, escalation processes etc. – and its use by different actors (foremost but not only the occupier). The financial and economic cost-benefit analysis of any occupation when correlated to the different objectives – and the appropriate methods for such an analysis – remains an essential question for the study of all cases of occupation.

#### Concluding comments

In her concluding comments, Sophie De Schaepdrijver distinguished two main, non-mutually exclusive ways in which scholars approach the study of WWI occupations. The first is to study military occupations as a dimension of the Great (or Greater) War. The second is to study the military occupations of WWI Europe as an episode in imperial rule, a halfway house between 'new imperialism' and the mandate system. The first approach places occupied territories firmly in relation to the military front and the home front, as what she terms a 'third space' (for example in her earlier post on this blog on '[The Great War's Third Space](#)'). The second approach views occupations mainly as ways in which imperial regimes try to extend their power, an approach which inevitably leads to a comparison with colonial rule. To paraphrase De Schaepdrijver: 'we all do both, but we all tend to tilt towards one or the other' (she herself clearly tilts towards occupations within the framework of war). In a sweeping overview she connected the dots between all sessions, adding several underdiscussed but nevertheless essential topics. These included for instance the extent of the state monopoly on legal violence under occupation; the relevance of Karma Nabulsi's distinction between martial, Grotian or republican visions of war; and the theme of occupation and gender. I wholeheartedly agree with her final statement (which I paraphrase): 'We can study occupations in WWI Europe as a whole and as a subject on its own, not just as a series of side-effects of war that were unrelated among themselves'.

As a specialist in Second, rather than First World War occupations, trying to understand the relevance of insights gained from the Great(er) War of Military Occupations for the study of the occupations of 1937-1951 (and to help provide a wider view on modern occupations more generally), I ended up with a three-level analytical framework. De Schaepdrijver's remarks, calling for conscious heuristic awareness of one's main entry point to the study of occupation (e.g. war or imperial rule) could provide the highest level. The middle level can then comprise empirical categorizations of occupations, as a toolbox to gather key characteristics of occupations to make them more understandable and, as a consequence, enable diachronic comparisons (e.g. the perspectives and objectives of the occupier, the financial economy of occupation, or the level and nature of violence). On the third and 'lowest' level, cross-cutting yet specific themes could help determine the practical selection of cases for further study. There are many possibilities of course, and one of my personal choices would be the theme of forced or coerced labour in its many different iterations in the first half of the twentieth century and beyond. Finally, this short review does not do this superb conference justice and I hope to see some of the results published in the near future.

Photo credits:

Cover picture: German Empire, State Loan Bank in Kowno (Kaunas), 1000 Mark (1918) circulated from 1918 to 1922 in Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland.

Source: Wikimedia Commons. Image by Godot 13

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:GER-R134-Darlehnkassenschein-1000\\_Mark\\_\(1918\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:GER-R134-Darlehnkassenschein-1000_Mark_(1918).jpg)

[National Numismatic Collection](#), [National Museum of American History](#).



Nico Wouters is head of CegeSoma (State Archives, Belgium) and Associated Professor at the University of Ghent.

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Conference Report: The Great(er) War of Military Occupations

Japanese (Un)preparedness for the Occupation of Malaya

Ukrainian Historical Memories of Resistance to Occupation

The Prospects for a Russian Occupation of Ukraine: How will it go and how will it end?

### Recent Comments

Peter James Howson on The Lived Experience: Personal Memories of Occupation in the British Zone of Germany after the Second World War

Christopher Knowles on The Changing Face of 'Occupation Studies'

Rev Dr Peter Howson on Military Government as a System of Rule: Peculiarities and Paradoxes

Félix Streicher contributes to Occupation Studies Research Network | FASoS Weekly on Second-class Occupiers?

Colin Robinson on Second-class Occupiers?

### Archives

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## New issue of the JBH (2022-3)



After a double issue devoted to the Resistance, this new issue includes four articles on diverse themes.

In the first article, Christoph De Spiegeleer (senior researcher at the Liberas Center in Ghent and visiting professor at the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*), examines the case of the historian Jules Bosmans (1851-1928) to study anticlericalism, in the broad sense of the term, at the beginning of the 20th century in Belgium. A defrocked priest, Bosmans was the author of anticlerical publications that caused controversy at the time. De Spiegeleer analyzes the impact and scope of these writings.

The second article is by Michael Auwers (historian at CegeSoma/State Archives). On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Cold War, he proposes, in the form of a review article, to analyse the way historians have researched and published on the Belgian dimensions of the history of the Cold War. His historiographical overview concludes with suggestions for future research.

Serena Pacchiani (University of Florence and *Université Libre de Bruxelles*) presents the results of her doctoral research, focusing on iconic architecture as ideological representation. Her case study analyses the Italian section of the Brussels International Exposition of 1935 and, more precisely, the attitude of its general commissioner, Giuseppe Volpi di Misurata. The question Pacchiani wishes to answer is if and to what extent this exhibition was a showcase for the fascist regime or a display of Italian industrial power.



Dries Goedertier (PhD student at the *Universiteit Gent*), author of the fourth contribution, analyses the struggle between trade unions and employers' organisations over the control of 'cadres' between 1945 and 1974. This new group of professional technicians and managers played an essential role in the organization of social labor relations in the 1950s and 1960s.

Would you like to purchase a copy of this issue? Send an email to [cegesoma@arch.be](mailto:cegesoma@arch.be) or [hilde.keppens@arch.be](mailto:hilde.keppens@arch.be)

#### Other news

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

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

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