

CEGESOMA - State Archives

NEWSLETTER

No 75 - May 2022



News

BELGIUM WWII

We focus on the resistance with new contributions and 6 videos answering key questions on this topic.

► [Read more and watch the videos](#)



YOUNG HISTORIAN DAYS

You can now access all the abstracts of the master's theses presented during these days.

► [Read more](#)



CALL FOR PAPERS

A CfP for a symposium at CegeSoma on 7-8 November 2022 on media and cultural life in occupied Western Europe (1940-1945). Proposals for contributions are due by 1 July.

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RESEARCH

'From San Francisco to Anderlecht, on the trail of my uncle the pilot', or how to do research about a family past when an ocean separates you from the place where the events occurred ?

► [Read more](#)

AGENDA

PUBLIC HISTORY MEETING



The ASBL/VZW 'Friends of CegeSoma' is organising a conference-debate on 8 June entitled 'Ukraine: the shock of nationalism during WWII' with Alain Colignon in conversation with Chantal Kesteloot.



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COLLOQUIUM 'BELGIUM AND THE COLD WAR'

75 years after the Truman Doctrine on the containment of Soviet influence, CegeSoma invites you on June 17 for an overview of the Belgian dimensions of the Cold War.

► Read more

INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

From 23 to 25 June 2022, CegeSoma and the 'Laboratoire de recherches historiques' (LaRHis)/UCLouvain invites you to 'The Great(er) War of Military Occupations in Europe. Antecedents, experiences and legacies' colloquium.



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FOCUS ON THE COLLECTIONS



COMMUNISM IN THE CEGESOMA LIBRARY

Overview of works and articles about Communism in our library.

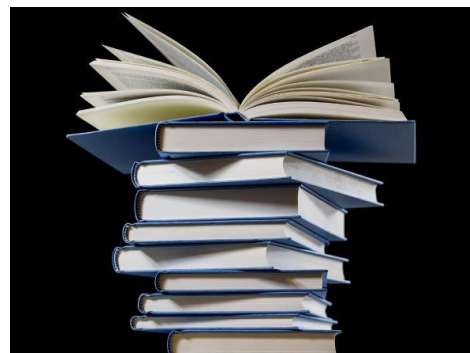
► Read more and watch the video

PUBLICATIONS

ASSOCIATED RESEARCHERS

Take a look at some of the recent publications by CegeSoma's associated researchers.

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Belgium WWII, focus on the Resistance



Via the website Belgium WWII, CegeSoma intends to highlight the findings of the research into the Second World War and thereby contribute to a better understanding of this period of history. Among the latest articles published online, the Resistance is put to the foreground in particular, including its less prominent aspects, as illustrated by the articles about the [Légion nationale](#) and its leader, [Paul Hoornaert](#). But the latest additions do not only bear on the Resistance.

Governors: individual perspectives and summarised approach

Indeed, step by step, the topics complement one another. We have already mentioned a couple of months ago the online publication of the biographies of a number of governors. In the meantime, others were added, including [Georges Doyen](#), [Jacques Dewez](#) and [Emmanuel de Croÿ](#), and a new article about the [governors](#) explains these important cogs in the machine, how they were kept up and running in a war context and the decisive influence of the nomination policy at this level.

Special life stories

Some of the latest articles posted online tell the stories of special destinies. They have in common that they have somewhat sunk into oblivion despite the exceptional feats that were accomplished. For example, [Marina Chafroff](#),

first woman sentenced to death and decapitated by the occupant on 31 January 1942 for acts committed in occupied Belgium. While [Victor Martin](#) may certainly be slightly better known, his commitment has not left a lasting trace in the collective memory. But there are also resistance fighters who themselves wished to rather stay under the radar. This is the case of [Hector Demarque](#), alias Clarence, a very active member of the intelligence and action networks, whose individual journey is difficult to retrace however, not least because he has donated his archives to the Imperial War Museum.

Special days

While special life stories make it possible to recount particular commitments and feats, the same is true for special days in the history of the occupation that are remembered in the form of anniversaries. Of course, they alone cannot provide a full understanding of the key issues at hand, but they serve as snapshots revealing changing relations and tipping points in the course of the struggles. [On 10 March 1942](#), when a contingent of Walloon volunteers was deployed, an operation with three objectives was carried out by Communist resisters at a time when armed actions multiplied. People from the same Communist circles carried out an action at Bois-du-Cazier [on 27 April 1942](#) where they succeeded in getting hold of 300 kilos of dynamite and 2000 detonators. These were all signs of intensifying resistance actions...

Five key issues... of the Resistance

Belgium WWII was complemented with six new videos about the Resistance. In the beginning, the website predominantly featured articles about collaboration and repression on the one hand and about justice on the other hand. These issues were chosen because of the weight of the myths and representations they convey. But soon we found that the Resistance also needed a place on the website. So, step by step, this was implemented. The six videos provide an excellent first overview of [what the Resistance was](#) all about – [its regional roots](#), [the commitment of women](#) among the ranks and [their absence from the collective memory, its legacy in Belgium](#), and [the diversity of sources](#) that allow us to study the Resistance. In addition to the six videos, some two hundred notes are directly or indirectly linked to the history of the Resistance. In short, a subject likely to be expanded upon.



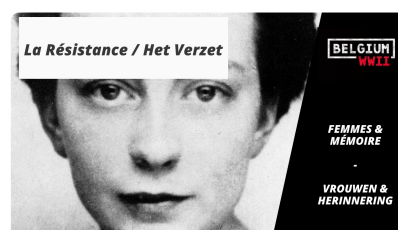
Who, what, where, how much?



In Flanders



Women and commitment



Women and Remembrance



What legacy?



The sources

Other news

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Review of study day 'Young Historians' - Promotions of 2020- 2021



On 5 and 6 May 2022, over thirty recently graduated students from all Belgian universities and selected for the quality of their dissertations have presented the fruit of their research. Colleagues specialised in the two World Wars and the Cold War, Michèle Corthals, Fabrice Maerten, Alain Colignon, Andreas Stynen, Chantal Kesteloot, Nico Wouters, Geneviève Warland and Michael Auwers have hosted the debates following the presentations and organised these two study days.

This year we were particularly impressed by the quality of the presentations, the ability to summarise and the great fluency in the communications of these fresh graduates.

Rather than drawing up an incomplete abstract of these two particularly enriching days, we propose here [the full program](#) and the abstracts of the papers.

Thursday 5 May was dedicated to the following topics: 'Networks at the heart of the Resistance', 'Women and engagement', 'Occupations, societies and identities'.

- Laurent De Coninck : [La Résistance en Belgique : Analyse sociologique du Groupe D du Service de Sabotage Hotton](#). ULB (P. Lagrou)
- Grégoire Gardin : [Boucle : un réseau oublié : étude des agents du réseau de renseignements Boucle et de son fonctionnement \(1942-1944\)](#). UCLouvain (E. Debruyne)
- Willem Konings : ["Verzetsnetwerken": structuur en contacten binnen het Belgisch verzet \(1940-1944\)](#). KULeuven (M. Kohlrausch)

- Tibo Minsart : [*De aristocratie van het verzet? Een sociaalhistorische studie van de Inlichtingen- en Actieagenten van Mortsel.*](#) UAntwerpen (M. Beyen)
- Manon Mortier : [*Les malheureux Juifs! Aandacht voor de Jodenvervolging in de Belgische verzetspers \(1940-1944\).*](#) UGent (K. Aerts)
- Clara Folie : [*« On ne se méfie guère d'une femme... » : Les questions de genre au sein des services de passage de Monge et Eude Magnée dans la Belgique occupée de la Première Guerre mondiale.*](#) UCLouvain (E. Debruyne)
- Léa Buchkremer : [*L'engagement féminin dans la Croix-Rouge de Belgique pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale \(1939-1945\). Une réelle contribution à l'émancipation?*](#) UCLouvain (E. Debruyne)
- Davina Beckers : [*Billy Bredohl. Itinéraires d'une militante germanophile dans la région d'Eupen \(1934-1951\).*](#) ULiège (C. Brüll)
- Florian Magrez : [*Les réquisitions allemandes en territoire occupé. Le cas du Tournais pendant la Première Guerre mondiale.*](#) ULB (P. Lagrou)
- Vincent Mazy : [*Entre occupation et libération. La prison secondaire de Liège \(Saint-Léonard\) entre 1914 et 1919.*](#) UCLouvain (X. Rousseaux)
- Jasper Snoeys : [*"Vlaanderen, dag en nacht denk ik aan u!" Emoties en nationalisme in Vlaamse interneringskampen na de Tweede Wereldoorlog.*](#) KULeuven (A. Stynen)
- Rosalie Verbist : [*Vergeeten of vergeven? De totstandkoming van een Joods-flamingante identiteit na de Tweede Wereldoorlog.*](#) KULeuven (A. Stynen)
- Brice Prince : [*L'Oeuvre de Secours pour les Victimes de la Guerre en Belgique: le Canada au service des victimes de la guerre \(1914-1921\).*](#) ULB (S. Jaumain)

On Friday 6 May, these topics were addressed: 'Representations and perceptions', 'Belgium beyond border' and 'The Cold War'.

- Luna de Kerchove d'Exaerde : [*Émotions et humanisation de l'ennemi : La perception des Allemands par les occupés à Gand et à Lille pendant la Première Guerre mondiale.*](#) UCLouvain (L. van Ypersele)
- Edward Van Sumere : [*"Notre Grand-Duché": de representatie van Luxemburg in de Belgisch-annexionistische propaganda tijdens de Eerste Wereldoorlog.*](#) KULeuven (L. Verpoest)
- Elise Huughe : [*"Régime d'un côté, nation de l'autre": het begrip populisme in de spiegel van de jaren dertig. Een kritische discoursanalyse van toespraken door kopmannen van de partijen BWP, KPB, Rex en VNV \(1933-1939\).*](#) UGent (G. Deneckere)
- Théo Materne : [*Étude comparative de trois séries télévisées européennes sur la Seconde Guerre mondiale : Island at War, Un village français et Unsere Mütter, unsere Väter.*](#) UCLouvain (G. Warland)
- Hadrian Nevzadi : [*La réception du film noir dans la "Belgique francophone" d'après-guerre.*](#) ULB (P. Van Den Dungen)
- Vincent Gabriel : [*Histoire et mémoire des réconciliations belgo-allemandes en Belgique.*](#) UCLouvain (V. Rosoux)
- Emilien De Smet : [*La Belgique et le sort de l'Empire ottoman: d'une guerre à l'autre. Entre intérêts économiques et enjeux politiques, une petite puissance parmi les grandes \(1914-1937\).*](#) ULB (J. Sfeir)
- Line Maes : [*Internationale hulpverlening van het Belgische Rode Kruis in het Interbellum: de missie in Polen, 1919-1921.*](#) VUB (N. De Mûelenaere)
- Gerard Roig I Calvo : [*Les exils du catalanisme en Belgique \(1926-1975\).*](#) ULB (V. Fernandez Soriano)
- Sacha Habibi : [*Un appel à tous les démocrates belges épris de paix et de liberté ». Les solidarités avec la Révolution iranienne en Belgique \(1976-1978\).*](#) ULiège (C. Lanneau)
- Jeffrey Boom : [*Jacques Némery : révélations et itinéraire d'un Agent de Renseignements au début de la Guerre*](#)

[froide](#). UCLouvain (E. Debruyne)

- Maxime Liesenborghs : [De lange weg naar Berlijn](#). KULeuven (L. Verpoest)
- Tom Bellens : [Antiamerikanisme in België: 1945-1968](#). VUB (W. De Ridder)
- Florent Kaddès : [Les commémorations de la révolution d'octobre en Belgique \(1944-1991\)](#). ULiège (C. Lanneau)
- Jonas Schalbroeck : [From the horse's mouth: de perceptie van de Belgische ambassade in Washington op de Vietnamoorlog onder LBJ \(1963-1968\)](#). KULeuven (I. Goddeeris)
- Bas Spliet : [De 'processie van Echternach' naar het 'voldongen feit': België en het NAVO-Dubbelbesluit, 1977-1979](#). UGent (R. Van Doorslaer)
- Robert Vanormelingen : [De laatste generaal van de Koude Oorlog. Werenfried Van Straaten, Oostpriesterhulp en de evolutie van hun anticommunisme](#). KULeuven (K. Christiaens)
- Maite Van Den Borre : [De nationalisatie van de Union Minière du Haut-Katanga : een breukmoment in de Belgocongolese relaties](#). UGent (R. Declercq)

Other news

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

Call for papers for a symposium in Brussels (7-8 November 2022)



During the Second World War Nazi Germany occupied the majority of Western Europe, but the mode of occupation differed substantially from place to place. Some areas were simply annexed to the *Reich*, while others were governed by German military authorities. Others still were administered by German and / or local civilian authorities. In all cases the Germans reauthorized local cultural production in order to create a semblance of normalcy for civilians and to further their own political and economic interests. Newspapers and radio broadcasts reappeared. Cinemas, theatres and concert halls reopened their doors. Media and cultural personnel resumed their activities under widely varying degrees of German control. While the press, radiobroadcasting and newsreel production were often embedded directly into the propaganda apparatus of the Third *Reich* - with the goal of normalizing occupation and cultivating sympathy for Germany - contact with local media personnel gave rise to various forms of negotiation, conflict, compromise, and even resistance. Meanwhile, operating primarily from Great Britain, the Allies mobilized film, radio, and print media (especially pamphlets) to influence Europe's occupied territories.

Though research on the cultural, political, social, and economic dimensions of propaganda in Nazi-occupied territories has a rich academic tradition, it is far from exhausted. There is still much research to be done in local,

national, and especially transnational perspectives. There is also still significant potential for interdisciplinary investigation. This symposium will contribute to the development of new interdisciplinary and transnational research on media and cultural life in German-occupied Europe. Specific attention will be paid to the opportunities and challenges offered by the digitisation of archival collections, printed newspapers and audio-visual sources.

Building on the symposium "Cultures of Spectacle in German-occupied Belgium" held in Brussels in March 2020, this new symposium has a broader geographical scope (Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) and invites contributions from faculty and PhD students working on media policy and cultures in German-occupied countries during the Second World War (1939-1945). Contributions on Allied propaganda targeting occupied territories are also welcome.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The symposium will take place on **November 7 and 8, 2022**. The symposium will be hosted in Brussels by the CegeSoma, the fourth operational direction of the State Archives and the Belgian centre of expertise for the history of 20th century conflicts. (The conference venue is within walking distance of Brussels South Train Station.) Registration will be free; foods and drinks will also be provided but participants must cover their own lodging costs and make their own arrangements.

The working languages are English, French, German and Dutch.

If interested, kindly use [this online form](#) to submit an abstract and a short biography. Kindly submit your proposal **no later than July 1**. The advisory committee will review the abstracts, select a number of proposals and make a draft programme. All selected researchers will be notified before August 1.

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 Irhis (*Université de Lille*). The Research Foundation *FWO* is providing additional support.

Local Arrangements Committee: Roel Vande Winkel (*KULeuven*), Louis Fortemps (*KULeuven – Université de Lille*) and Chantal Kesteloot (CegeSoma/State Archives).

Advisory Committee: Bruno De Wever (*UGent*), Stéphane Michonneau (*Université de Lille*), Emmanuel Debruyne (*Université Catholique de Louvain*), Stefan Goebel (Kent University), Brett Bowles (Indiana University Bloomington).

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From San Francisco to Anderlecht, tracing the path of an uncle, a B-17 navigator

How to research a relative's experience during World War 2, when an ocean and 78 years separate a family from the time and place where it all happened? This is the story of how – with the help of CegeSoma - two brothers, Steve and Rick Katz, learned how their uncle, Monroe Gordon, was saved by Belgian resistance fighters in 1944.

February 4, 1944. Monroe A. Gordon, 27, is a flight navigator for the Dollie Madison, a US Army Air Force B-17 bomber. He joins nine other crew members on a mission over Frankfurt.



Monroe Gordon (far left rear) in front of the Dollie Madison, February 1944
(Katz family private collection)

November 2020, San Francisco. Steve Katz is shocked to discover swastika flyers plastered on the walls of his town by a neo-Nazi punk. It reminds him of a piece of hazy family history: that of his uncle, who joined the US Army Air Force to fight the Nazi domination of Europe during World War II. Steve realizes that he and his family should know what really happened to their uncle, to put names, dates, and faces on the story. Who were these people who saved him and protected him from the German army? What is the story of this young man who fought Nazism in Europe? The investigation begins.

February 4, 1944. The bomber turns back toward its base in southeast England after completing its mission over Frankfurt. Over western Belgium, the plane develops engine trouble, forcing the pilot to bring the B-17 down from a cruising altitude of 9,000 meters to 900 meters, and then ordering the crew to jump and deploy their parachutes.

December 2020. Steve and Rick Katz only know that their late uncle was on a bomber that crashed "somewhere in Europe on some day" during World War II, and that he was rescued by unknown people. All they have to go on is a portrait of their uncle in uniform, and a service number. The hunt begins, identifying their uncle's insignia, establishing contacts, searching for sources and gradually understanding the context...



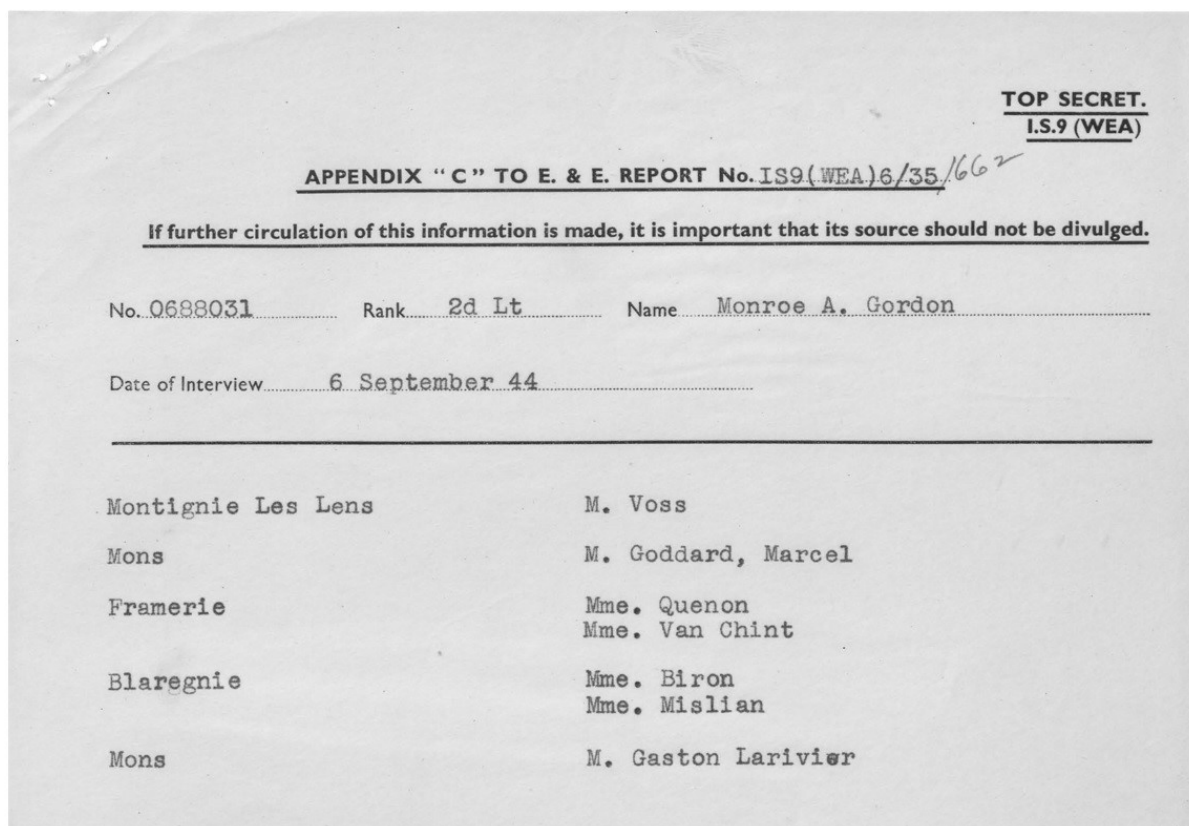
Portrait of Monroe Gordon (1943)
found in the Katz family archives

February 4, 1944. Monroe Gordon must parachute out of his plane. He lands a few kilometers from Mons, in the province of Hainaut, near the village of Montignies-lez-Lens.



Montigies-lez-Lens (Hainaut, Belgium), where the airman Monroe Gordon landed in emergency on February 4, 1944

January 2020. From a U.S. Army Air Force "Escape and Evasion" military intelligence report obtained from the US National Archive, Steve discovers a list of people who sheltered and protected his uncle during the eight months following his forced landing. But it's just a list of names, with no further detail.



Excerpt from "Escape and Evasion" report, list of people who rescued Monroe Gordon in Belgium (U.S. National Archives Catalog <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5556283>)

April 2021. Through [the Museum of the Resistance](#), Rick and Steve Katz learn about CegeSoma, and soon order a copy of the Resistance fighters' personnel files that mention Allied Airman Gordon (through the Center's science team and [reproduction department](#)). The people behind the names begin to emerge: it seems clear that a family by the name of Vos rescued and sheltered the airman on the day of the crash. It also appears that their uncle only spent a very short time with the Vos family.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ALLIED AVIATORS HELPED:

| NAME AND A.S.N. | USA CRASHED OR DATE & RAF PLACE | LODGED DATE & NO DAYS | RECEIVED FROM | PASSED ON TO: |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| M.A. GORDON | USA 4 Feb 44 LENS | 4 Feb 44 1 day | Picked up by Son, wife & BETE | M. BRIPPOUIL LENS |

The State Security personal file of Maurice Vos (related to the recognition of resistance activities) indicates that the Vos family saved Monroe Gordon and hid him for only a short period (CegeSoma collections).

February 5, 1944. After his parachute landing on Belgian soil, Monroe Gordon, suffering from rib and leg injuries, is rescued by the family of Maurice and Louisa Vos. Dressed in civilian clothes, he takes refuge on the Vos family farm, and is then hidden in their barn under bales of hay when German soldiers arrive, searching for him.



Louisa Vos and Monroe Gordon, February 5, 1944
(Private collection Isabelle Pain)

September 2021. Rick Katz finds a folder that their uncle had kept including the photograph of Monroe and Louisa Vos, dated February 5, 1944 - the day after the crash - and a packet of letters. One of them, signed Nan Keen, enables the Katz brothers to take the next step in their research. They discover that the Vos family had arranged for 15 members of the family of this young Jewish girl - then known as Nan Miliband - to be hidden throughout the village of Montignies-lez-Lens. Nan (along with her mother Renée) was also in hiding on the Vos family farm; she later provided first-hand confirmation of what happened to their uncle: *"In the barn, we climbed the ladder and [I] covered him with hay before hiding near him. After a while, the barn door opened. Armed Germans entered and began to stir up the haystacks scattered on the first floor of the barn. We hid, almost not daring to breathe. Fortunately, they decided to leave after a few minutes, saying that there was no one in the barn.* [Source: [The Telegraph](#)]



The Miliband and Vos women: from left to right:
Nan Miliband, Renée Miliband, Renée Vos,
Louisa Vos 1943 (Private collection Isabelle Pain)

With this information about the Miliband and Vos families, Steve and Rick connect with Vincent Vagman, author of "La Famille Miliband: Un demi-siècle dans les tumultes de l'Europe." Vagman introduces Steve to Isabelle Pain, the daughter of Renee Vos and granddaughter of Maurice and Louisa Vos. The circle has been closed. The connection has been made. Steve and Rick also learn that their uncle Monroe's stay continued further south near the French border, in the village of Blaregnies.

February 1944. A few days after being rescued by the Vos family, Monroe Gordon, with a false passport, finds refuge at the home of two Belgian resistance fighters in the village of Blaregnies.

September 28, 2021. Steve Katz asks CegeSoma for more information about the two women who may have helped his uncle. The only clues he has are some photos kept by his uncle and two names - Mrs. Biron and Mrs. Mislaine - listed in the Escape and Evasion report.

9/28/21, 2:26 p.m., Steve Katz: "So far, I have been unable to find any information about them, despite the fact that our uncle spent months hiding in their home. Is there any way to determine if Cegesoma might have records on them?"

9/28/21, 3:02 PM, Fabrice Maerten (CegeSoma): "I found Ms. Biron's and Ms. Mislian's personnel files in the State

Security personnel file series for intelligence and action officers (AA1333). In reality, Mrs. Biron's name is Julie Alterman, widow Biron, born on 20.03.1881; and Mrs. Mislian is Adilie Alterman, widow Mislian, born on 30.05.1874. So they are both sisters!"

February 1944. Besides Monroe Gordon, the Alterman sisters shelter three of his fellow crew members who escaped from German soldiers: Robert Walther, Lester Smith and Don Dahlin. Monroe Gordon will remain at the Alterman sisters for 8 months, until Liberation in September 1944.



The Alterman sisters with their dog Flicka, and airmen Lester Smith, Bob Walther, Don Dahlin, Gerald Miller, Monroe Gordon and Paul Herring, September 1944 (Katz family private collection)

September 1944. After months of no news, Monroe's parents and sister (Steve and Rick's mother) receive a telegram from the U.S. Army Air Force. The airman is alive, in London!

October 2021. Armed with new information about Julie and Adilie Alterman, Steve and Rick Katz make contact (via the MaquiStory museum in Silly, Belgium) with Sylvie Dujardin. With her students from the local school in Blaregnies, this teacher has created a remarkable local history project about the Alterman sisters and the role of the Belgian resistance in Blaregnies. Through Sylvie, Steve and Rick are put in touch with members of the Quévy history circle - *Le Cercle des 10 Clochers* - who have done extensive research on this history.

December 2021. After reconstructing their uncle's itinerary in Belgium and mapping the constellation of people who rescued him, Steve and Rick Katz decide to take their research one more step. They ask CegeSoma to reproduce the personnel files of other resistance fighters connected to the Vos family and the Alterman sisters, and seek to learn more about the broader context of the resistance in the Borinage.

May 2022. Anderlecht. Steve and Rick Katz, accompanied by Rick's son Gary, visit the CegeSoma offices. It is an opportunity to physically hold in their hands the dossiers that allowed them to shed light on their uncle's story, and to continue to explore questions that are still open: what was the daily life like for a 27 year old man hidden for 8 months with two sisters in their 60s? Was the bravery of the Vos family, who hid Monroe but also more than fifteen Jews,

particular and exceptional or was it part of a larger trend? Why don't some of the women who played a key role have records of recognition in their names? What motivated an 18-year-old boy from a rural background to join a resistance movement and risk his life?

We tried to help them find some answers before they left to follow in the footsteps of their uncle in Montignies-lez-Lens and Blaregnies. We thank them warmly for sharing their story and the various documents illustrating this article.

You can also read Steve Katz' story on Twitter: https://twitter.com/steve_katz/status/1458821042617536514

Anne Chardonens, responsible for the digitalization sector



Steve Katz and his nephew Gary, in the CegeSoma reading room



Steve Katz with two members of the CegeSoma scientific team: Anne Chardonens and Fabrice Maerten (Richard Katz © 2022)



○ Are you doing research on a person who took part in the

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Ukraine : Clash of nationalisms during two world wars

Public History Meetings of CegeSoma (2022 - 3) - Invitation of the non-profit association 'The Friends of CegeSoma'

[CegeSoma in the spotlight](#) [World War I](#) [World War II](#) [Conference](#)



Conference-debate (in French) with Alain Colignon (CegeSoma/State Archives) as guest speaker

A discussion led by Chantal Kesteloot (CegeSoma/State Archives)

Both in the First and in the Second World War, Ukraine was the theatre of a fierce struggle between two major nationalisms, disguised in an imperial form: that represented by the German Reich - in two different versions - and that embodied by the Russian-Soviet state. Whoever controls these rich arable lands whose soils are abundant in resources of all kinds (coal, gas, bauxite, ...) and located in a key geopolitical area, would also have direct or indirect power over vast parts of the Black Sea and hold a valuable connection to the oilfields of Kuban and the Caucasus.

But in spite of these antagonistic ambitions, the Ukrainian peoples were able, by trial and error and often under a lot of hardship, to build the core of a nation, a state framework... and even to keep it alive through the vicissitudes of history from 1914 to 1945.

The non-profit association "The Friends of CegeSoma" invites you to discover this part of history in order to be able

to better understand the challenges of our times.



Alain Colignon is a historian from the University of Liège. He heads the library of CegeSoma/State Archives since many years.

Furthermore, he is the author of various works on the history of occupation and private life of the population in wartimes; he also specialises in the study of wartime collaboration and resistance, and currently works on a publication about Walloon society between 1930 and 1940.



Chantal Kesteloot is in charge of public history at CegeSoma/State Archives. She is particularly interested in the phenomenon of commemorations and the place of the past in public space, for example through street names (odonymy).

She coordinates the [Belgium WWII](#) website. She authored numerous publications, including 'Walloon Federalism or Belgian Nationalism? The Walloon Movement at the End of the First World War'.



08/06/2022 - 12:30 to 14:00

Practical information:

Where ?: Conference room of CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation/Luchtvaartsquare 29 – 1070 Brussels

When ?: Wednesday 8 June 2022 (12.30 pm – 2.00 pm)

Registration required: isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or by phone: 02.556.92.11

Feel free to ask other interested people to join in!

Attention! Measures to prevent COVID-19: A number of safety measures are in place at the building of CegeSoma. You must disinfect your hands when entering the building. The room will be aerated before and after the conference. We reserve the right to cancel this Third Public History Meeting in case new public health measures make it impossible to hold this kind of gathering at the planned date. We will of course keep you informed as soon as you have registered for the meeting. Thank you for your understanding and your cooperation!

Main language

French

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Belgium and the Cold War

Colloquium

CegeSoma in the spotlight [Colloquium](#)



On 12 March 1947, US president Harry S. Truman presented his *'containment'* doctrine to limit the expansion of the Soviet Union. This is traditionally considered as the starting point of the Cold War.

Today, 75 years later, there is much talk about the beginning of a second Cold War.

On 17 June, CegeSoma organises and is pleased to invite you to a conference about the Belgian dimension of the Cold War.

Program

- **09.00 am:** Welcome
- **09.20 am:** Opening message - **Nico Wouters** (CegeSoma/State Archives)
- **09.25 am:** *De Koude Oorlog in de Belgische historiografie* - **Michael Auwers** (CegeSoma/State Archives)
- **09.40 am:** *Keynote - Seeing like a Small State? Belgium in the Cold War* - **Giles Scott-Smith** (Universiteit Leiden-RIAS Middelburg)

10.20 am: Coffee break

First session (chair : **Geneviève Warland** (*Université catholique de Louvain*))

- **10.40 am**: *De roddelfabriek. Nieuwe dossiers in de archieven van de Poolse communistische inlichtingendiensten* - **Idesbald Goddeeris** (*KULeuven*)
- **11.10 am** : *Des espions de la Stasi en Belgique? Méthodes et enjeux du service de renseignement est-allemand en Belgique (1967-1989)* - **Marie Bouvry** (*UCLouvain*)
- **11.40 am** : *ITT and the Cold War and their leading role in creating a private security network* - **Marc Cools** (*BISC-UGent-VUB*)

12.10 pm : Lunch

Second session (chair : **Christoph Brüll** (*Université du Luxembourg*))

- **1.10 pm** : *Entre pragmatisme et idéologie : le PCB et le commerce avec la RDA pendant la Guerre froide* - **Thomas Briamont** (*ULiège*)
- **1.40 pm** : *Contested solidarity for the East: Opérations Villages roumains and the end of the Cold War* - **Manuel Herrera Crespo** (*KADOC-KULeuven*)
- **2.10 pm** : *Van het Belgische Bezettingsleger naar de Belgische Strijdkrachten in Duitsland: gewijzigde Belgisch-Duitse relaties, 1945-2004* - **Jan Van Der Fraenen** (*War Heritage Institute*)

2.40 pm : Coffee break

Third session (chair : **Kenneth Bertrams** (*Université Libre de Bruxelles*))

- **3.00 pm**: *Belgium as a site of transnational activism during the Cold War: reflections and perspectives from international archives, 1950s-1980s* - **Kim Christiaens** (*KADOC- KULeuven*)
- **3.30 pm**: *De FedTwin Belcowar: een nieuw onderzoek over de politiek-economische positie van België in de Pax Americana* - **Bart Kerremans** (*KULeuven*) and **Dirk Luyten** (*CegeSoma/State Archives*)

4.00 pm : Conclusions

4.10 pm : Reception



17/06/2022 - 09:00 to 17:30

Practical information:

Venue: Conference room of CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation 29 – 1070 Brussels

Date and time: Friday 17 June 2022 (9.00 am – 5.30 pm)

Registration: Mandatory. Until Tuesday 14 June 2022 at the latest: isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or **+32 (0)2.556.92.11**. – please indicate if you would like to have a small snack at noon.

Fee: We ask for a participation fee of **5.00 Euros** to cover the expenses related to the colloquium. If you chose a small snack at noon (sandwichs, drinks), the fee is **15.00 Euros**. Please transfer the right amount beforehand to the account of CegeSoma: IBAN: BE12 6792 0045 0092 - BIC: PCHQBEBB + communication: 17 June 2022 + Last name and first name.
Upon payment, you are automatically registered for the colloquium.

Feel free to bring someone with you!

Attention! Public health measures: a number of safety measures remain applicable at the premises of CegeSoma. Please disinfect your hands when arriving at CegeSoma. Proper ventilation shall be ensured in the meeting room before and after the conference. We reserve the right to cancel this Meeting in case public health measures make it impossible to hold the conference at the scheduled date. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

Main language

Dutch
English
French

TAGS

[Cold War](#)

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THE GREAT(ER) WAR OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS IN EUROPE

Antecedents, experiences & legacies

[World War I](#) [Colloquium](#)

23-24-25
JUNE 2022

German officers conversing with women and child in rail yard (Wyn, 1918). DeCaeyer Library, Southern Methodist University

the GREAT(ER) WAR
of MILITARY OCCUPATIONS
in EUROPE

Antecedents, experiences & legacies

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REGISTER ON
upgg.hypotheses.org

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

fnfs UCLouvain iacchos 3 OLUZO ZMS

The aim of this conference is to understand the different forms taken by the occupations during the First World War and to develop better categories of analysis. We would like to connect and compare these occupations at the European or even global level, to question the transfers between them, and finally to consider them more comprehensively in the long run or in the broad perspective of imperial regimes of domination. We'll look beyond Central Powers occupations towards Entente military presences that may or may not be defined as occupations and beyond the traditional chronological limits towards the Greater War.

Our conference is an international conference for both early career and experienced researchers in History. We would like to initiate discussions on the subject of occupations and invite anyone who would like to participate to register. Presentations will be in English and each session will be followed by a panel discussion.

The Study and Documentation Centre for War and Contemporary Society (State Archives of Belgium) and the *Laboratoire de recherches historiques* (University of Louvain) are organising this conference in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, the *Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr*, the National Fund for Scientific Research of Belgium, the Institute for the

Analysis of Change in Contemporary and Historical Societies and the Department of History of the University of Louvain.

You can find the programme [here](#)



23/06/2022 - 09:30 to 25/06/2022 - 16:15

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

When ? : from 23 to 25 June 2022

Where ? : at the CegeSoma - Square de l'Aviation 29 - 1070 Brussels

Price : €15/day (Lunch and coffee breaks included)

Register : via [the form](#) on the website

Contact address : occupations2022@gmail.com

[Link to the programme](#)

The Organising Committee :

- Emmanuel Debruyne | Professor at the Université catholique de Louvain
- Pieter Lagrou | Professor at the Université libre de Bruxelles
- Gwendal Piégais | PhD in History of the Université de Bretagne occidentale
- Élise Rezsöhazy | PhD in History of the Université catholique de Louvain and scientific collaborator at the CegeSoma (State Archives)

Main language

English

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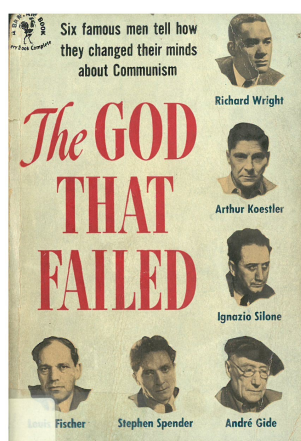


Communism in the Library of CegeSoma: a very present decedent.

"Communism in the Library of CegeSoma: a very present decedent". Under this title, we invite you to discover the eleventh theme of our series 'The Librarian's talks'. Each theme will be the occasion to dive into our collections and will be illustrated by a video and a text to complete the information contained therein.

Watch the eleventh episode of our video series 'The Librarian's Talks: 11. "Communism in the Library of CegeSoma: a very present decedent.".

Le communisme - Het communisme

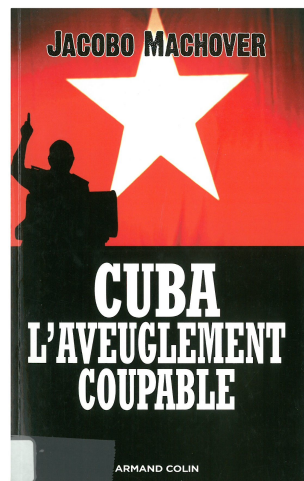


As everyone knows... or doesn't, Communism, whether as a pure ideology in all its variations, or incarnated by its partisans, has marked the 20th century. Historians have not hesitated to qualify the latter as the "*red century*" or even to reduce it to a "*short 20th century*", stuck between the political emergence (1917) and passing (1991) of Communism, in Europe at least.

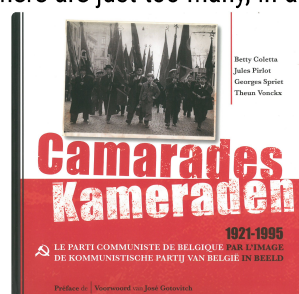
It was precisely this generation of historians – born between 1940 and 1945 – that laid the foundations for CegeSoma. Regardless of the rather contrasting (antagonistic?) views they held about the phenomenon and its political and social impact, they considered it to be a major part of history, indispensable



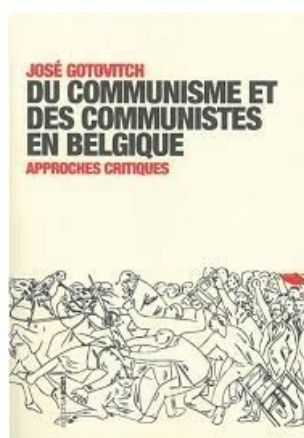
for a good understanding of our times. So inevitably, the library of our institution reflects this perception, accumulating tens, hundreds, thousands of works, which address these topics rather well; be they compact scientific encyclopaedia or tiny polemic leaflets, bleak philosophical essays or novels speaking to the imagination. This undertaking which started over half a century ago continues today, having kept its initial eclecticism as *modus operandi*, without exclusion or prejudice; from the most theorised Trotskyism to the most rigorous Stalinism, from the onset of the October Revolution to the “Fall of the Wall”, and with Communism as ideology, party-state, or opposition movement. The result is quite impressive.



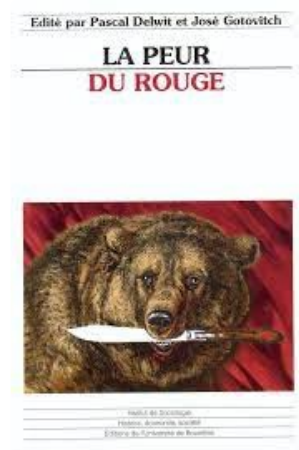
It would indeed be vain to quote all the titles in our library – there are just too many, in all major European languages. To give you an idea of the scope: a simple search for the keyword “*communisme*” (French and Dutch) with our library’s search engine yields some 328 results, and a mere 154 for the English “*communism*”. These are indeed a lot of results, but they are even less numerous than those for the noun or adjective “*soviétique*” (Soviet) which yields 618! Some nuances in formulations or practical applications of Marxist-Leninist ideology indeed seem to have been treated more favourably. Despite having been short-lived, “*Trotskyism*” is almost equally abundant, in terms of keywords, as “*Maoism*” – which has been a very substantial reality – and “*Cuba*” with its dozens of entries seems to have received more attention from researchers and journalists than “*North Korea*” ...



With regard to recent, and less recent historiography, our institution can boast the feat of possessing nearly the entirety of relevant works that address Communism in all its aspects, from its emergence to its downfall, ranging from “*Du rouge au Tricolore*” (“from red to tricolour”, phrase coined by José Gotovitch) to the more tragic – for some at least – *The God that Failed* (dixit Arthur Koestler...and others). Each nuance of this ideology is accompanied by a vast range of scientific references, and the same is true for many of its epigones that are more or less inspired and more or less in line with the period of time, from Joseph Jacquemotte to War Van Overstraeten and Ernest Mandel, and to Jacques Grippa and Marcel Liebman for example.



Any layperson wishing to get acquainted with this political family in its Belgian setting are invited to delve into the (bilingual) *Actes de la journée d'études de Bruxelles du 28 avril 1979* simply titled *Le Parti Communiste de Belgique (1921-1944)*; and edited in 1980 by Fondation Jacquemotte, or page through the more recent work of José Gotovitch, *Du communisme et des communistes en Belgique : approches critiques* (2012).



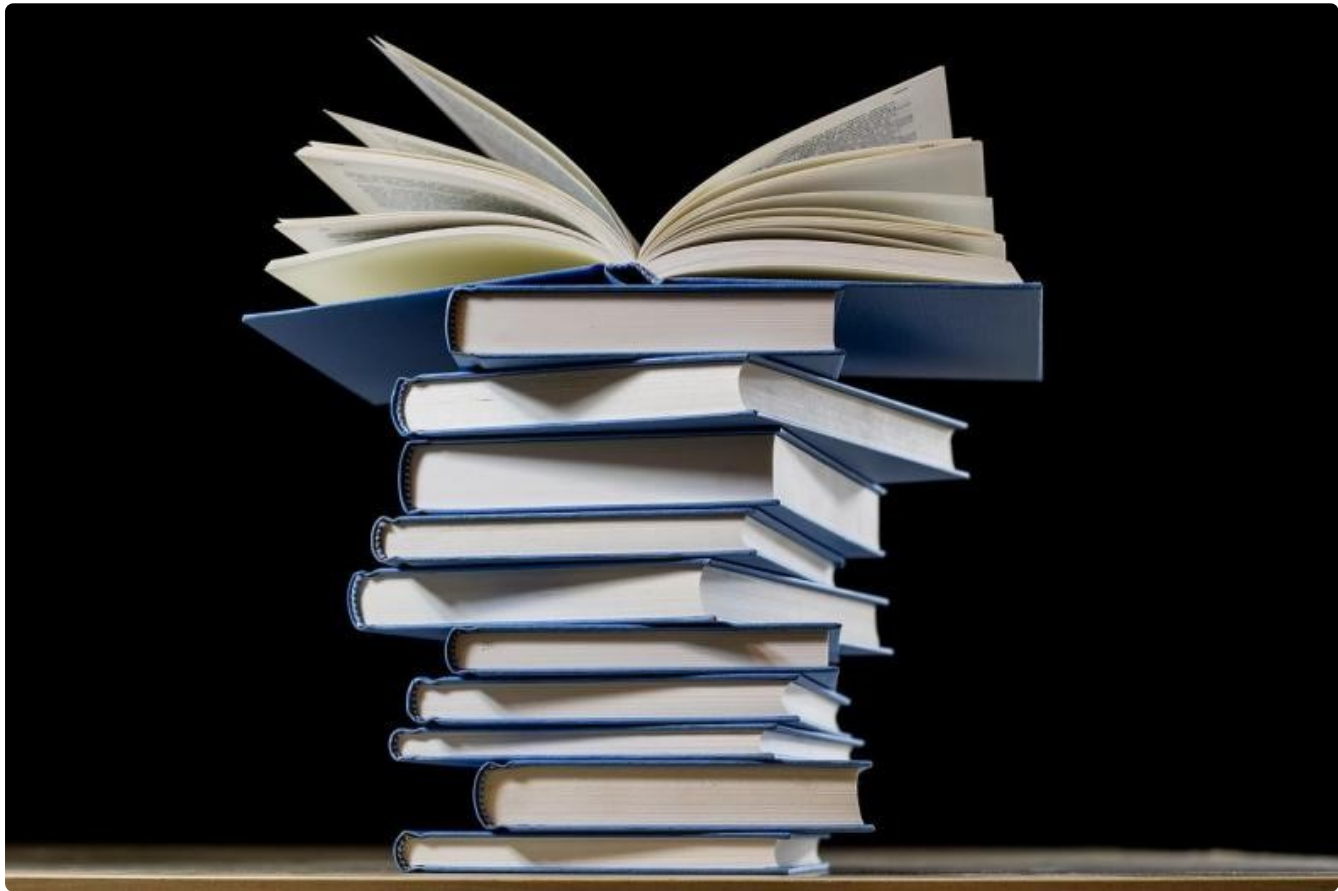
And to include a different perspective on the matter, readings can be complemented by *La peur du rouge* (under the direction of P. Delwit and J. Gotovitch), a joint publication edited under the auspices of ULB in 1996; because everyone knows, Communism has sparked

opposition beyond the merely rhetorical.

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Publications from our associate researchers



The associate researchers of CegeSoma are active in a variety of fields and regularly publish on their favorite topics. This short overview gives an idea of the research in which they are involved.

Gerlinda Swillen is now mainly active in the field of health care history. In addition to the Brugmann Hospital during the occupation, she has published on masks and hospital beds. Nobody will fail to notice the connection with recent events... Gerlinda Swillen, 'Van ziekenhuisbedden en maskers,' in: C. Van Tilburg, & V. Van Roy (eds.), *Epidemieën, hun impact en hun bestrijding – Een historisch overzicht met actualiteitswaarde*, Cahiers GGG – Geschiedenis van de Geneeskunde en Gezondheidszorg, nr. 15, Antwerpen/Apeldoorn, Garant, 2021, p. 97-123. Gerlinda Swillen, 'L'Hôpital Brugmann à l'heure allemande (1940-1944)', in : [Cahiers Bruxellois – Brusselse Cahiers](#), 2019/1 (LI), p. 167 à 195, <https://www.cairn.info/revue-cahiers-bruxellois-2019-1-page-167.htm>

Also, Gerlinda Swillen reviewed for the *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Filologie en Geschiedenis* the book by M. Aalders, G. Puszati, O. Rethelyi (eds.), *De Hongaarse kindertreinen. Een levende brug tussen Hongarije, Nederland en België na de Eerste Wereldoorlog*. Budapest/Hilversum, L'Harmattan/Uitgeverij Verloren, 2020.

Etienne Verhoeyen, one of the most prominent specialists on the intelligence and action services reviewed for the *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis* the book by Kenneth Lasoen, *Geheim België, De geschiedenis van de inlichtingendiensten 1830-2022*, Tiel, 2020. But Etienne Verhoeyen is by no means a "niche player": this veteran researcher is very much at home in a wide variety of areas of WWII history. In *Brood en Rozen* he published an article on contacts between socialists in London and in occupied Belgium : Etienne Verhoeyen, 'De geheime contacten tussen 'Londen' en socialisten in bezet België (1941-1944)' in, *Brood en Rozen*, 2020, 2, p. 28-45.

Other associated researchers also focus on the history of the occupation, but some choose a more regional approach. **Heili Verstraeten**, for example, published an extensive contribution on the war burgomaster and the New

Order in Bissegem in the thematic issue Collaboration and Resistance in Kortrijk published by *De Leiegouw* : Heili Verstraeten, 'De Dietsche vesting: opgang en ondergang van de Nieuwe Orde en haar Bissegemse oorlogsburgemeester' in, *De Leiegouw*, 2021, 63, 1, p. 9-70.

Local history gets a lot of attention in the numerous publications of **Frank Seberechts** who writes about Putte as well as about Wommelgem. Listing all his publications would lead us too far, so we will just mention one of them because of its connection with colonial history: 'Twee Wommelgemnaars in het koloniale leger in Nederlands Indië in de negentiende eeuw', in *De Krijter*, April 2020, nr. 1, pp. 2-4. Frank Seberechts further published on the history of the Volksunie 'Net geen goud op de barrikaden. 47 years of the Volksunie (1954-2001)', in *ADV-Nedelingen*, 73, 2021, pp. 4-13. He is also active on the website *Antwerpen herdenkt*, with sometimes surprising themes such as the monument to the Beerschot Athletic Club 'Monument van de maand: Herdenkingsmonument van Beerschot Athletic Club', in: *Antwerpen herdenkt*, <https://www.antwerpenherdenkt.be/oorlogsgetuigen/monument-van-de-maand-herdenkingsmonument-van-beerschot-athletic-club>, 16.12.2021.

Other associated researchers, then, take more specific paths. **Anne-Catherine Pardon** published on Gerhard Kittel and anti-Semitism: Anne-Catherine Pardon, 'Gerhard Kittel and Judentum III. Judentum und Christentum (RGG2 1929): a Critical Discourse Analysis' in, Andrea Strübind (ed.), *Freedom Then, Freedom Now: An Interdisciplinary and Transnational Dialogue on the U.S.-American Civil Rights Movement*, *Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte*, 2020, 33:1, p. 140-167; Anne-Catherine Pardon 'Retour en force de l'antisémitisme non-éradiqué', in *Hokhma, Revue de réflexion théologique* 119, 2021.

Marc Verschooris just finished a book on the Viennese Jewish biologist Martha Geiringer, member of the illegal Revolutionäre Sozialisten, who emigrated to Belgium but was deported to Auschwitz in 1943 and murdered : Marc Verschooris, *Martha's labyrinth. Een uitzonderlijke vrouwengeschiedenis, 1938-1944*, Gorredijk, Sterck & Devreese, 2022.

Other associate researchers have publications in press or in preparation.

Paul De Jongh is currently publishing internationally about his research on the Val-Dieu friars and their role in the resistance. He submitted three English-language entries (on Hughes Jacobs, Stephen Muhren and Alberic Steiger) for *The Dictionary of Cistercian Saints* (DCS) and three longer contributions on their engagement in the Resistance for the *Analecta Cisterciensia*.

Derk Venema is finalizing his book on *Supreme Court under Nazi Occupation*, which is scheduled to be published by this summer in the *War, Conflict and Genocide* series from Amsterdam University Press. For the *Zeitschrift für neuere Rechtsgeschichte* he reviewed Hans Petter Graver, *Der Krieg der Richter. Die deutsche Besatzung 1940-1945 und der norwegische Rechtsstaat*, Baden-Baden: Nomos 2019.

Geert Sels writes regularly in De Standaard about Nazi looted art, though his book on the subject *Kunst voor Das Reich* is scheduled for October this year.

Marc Schaevers is continuing his research on Hugo Claus and hopes to have his book on the subject ready next year.

Other news

[The 2021 Secret Army Foundation and Gérard Willemot Foundation prizes .](#)

[The Battle of the Bulge: A different perspective](#)

[EHRI-PP General Partner Meeting Prague 17 May 2022](#)

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

[New catalogue for the CegeSoma library](#)

[Review of study day 'Young Historians' - Promotions of 2020- 2021](#)

[Belgium WWII, focus on the Resistance](#)

[Media and cultural life in German-occupied Western Europe \(1940-1945\)](#)

[Occupied Belgium](#)

[THREE QUESTIONS TO ... Élise Rezsöhazy,](#)

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