

“La valise oubliée. Enfants de guerre (1940-1945)”™. Interview of the author of the book, Gerlinda Swillen by Alain Colignon.

Touchy, sometimes difficult and often unknown, such is the history of children born from romances between Belgian women and Wehrmacht soldiers.

The CegeSoma (State Archives) and the Auschwitz Foundation “ Remembrance of Auschwitz are pleased to invite you to the presentation of the latest book by Dr Gerlinda Swillen titled '*La valise oubliée. Enfants de guerre (1940-1945)*' * on the occasion of which the author will be interviewed by Alain Colignon.

In memoriam Jacques Wynants

Jacques Wynants “ our “œbig Jacques” as senior colleagues at CegeSoma recall him “ has passed away in a manner in which he desired: quietly, discretely!

He left us on Sunday 18 November 2018, in the wake of the First World War commemorations, which in recent years had taken a lot of his attention as a passionate researcher.

“Grenzeloos verzet”™ (Boundless Resistance), a unique case study on the cross-border resistance during the Second World War

On 16 October 2018, Paul De Jongh, who is an associated researcher of CegeSoma, will present his book '*Grenzeloos verzet. Over spionerende monniken, ontsnappingslijnen en het Hannibalspiel, 1940-1943*', Turnhout, Brepols, 2018, 344 p.

March 1943. The German secret police surrounded the abbey of Val-Dieu and two of its monks were arrested for participating in resistance activities: H. Jacobs of Antwerp and E. Muhren of Bergen op Zoom.

A short time later, 80 arrests were made in Belgium and in the Netherlands.

New criteria for the associated researchers of CegeSoma

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

Meeting the Associated Researchers

On 23 May, we invited our associated researchers to CegeSoma. During this internal study day, a majority of the (meanwhile fifteen) researchers presented their project to the academic staff. The subjects were as rich as they were diverse: the family memory and the collaboration (both subjects related to the Second World War), a biographical study of Hugo Claus, the volunteers from Belgium in the Spanish civil war, The Second World War is undoubtedly the dominant theme within this group of researchers.

Associated Researchers at Cegesoma

Scholarly research about 20th century conflicts has long ceased to be the exclusive domain of academic historians. Scholars from other disciplines, as well as non-academic researchers are now actively pulling their weight in the field. This yields results that are often as diverse as they are valuable. The status of associated researcher (read the criteria here) allows to integrate this research in the functioning of CegeSoma.

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