

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

NO 8 - SEPTEMBER 2014

[nl](#) [fr](#) [en](#)

CONFERENCE SARAH VAN RUYSKENVELDE ON SECONDARY SCHOOLS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

How was the Second World War experienced at school? On Wednesday 10 September, we start our season of activities with a conference of historian Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde on Belgian secondary schools during the Second World War. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2754)

BRUSSELS 1914-1918: THE WAR YEARS IN REAL TIME

Follow the occupation of Brussels from day to day via the Facebook page of Paul Max. As an unemployed journalist he relates the hope, fear and uncertainty which marked daily life in the capital.

[\[MORE INFO\]](https://www.facebook.com/paulmax19141918)

HERITAGE DAY AT SQUARE DE L'AVIATION 29

Together with the Directorate-General War Victims, we throw our doors wide open on Sunday 21 September during the Brussels Heritage Day. Guided tours will take place throughout the day. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2751)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2751

RACHEL, JACOB, PAUL ET LES AUTRES. UNE HISTOIRE DES JUIFS À BRUXELLES/ONWILLIG BRUSSEL: A NEW PUBLICATION BY LIEVEN SAERENS

After his work on Antwerp, Lieven Saerens has studied the history of Brussels and its Jewish population. His new book Rachel, Jacob, Paul et les autres. Une histoire des Juifs à Bruxelles/Onwillig Brussel is a gripping account of migration, persecution, resistance and memory. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2760)

[/cms/index_en.php?article=2760](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2760)

SHOCK!1914: AN EXHIBITION ON WAR AND THE MASS MEDIA

How reliable were the media in 1914? In the exhibition Shock!1914, the State Archives, Cegesoma and the Royal Library reconstruct the chaotic weeks of the summer and autumn of 1914. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2763)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2763

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION: WHAT DO OUR COLLECTIONS HOLD?

If you are looking for documentation on the Liberation of Belgium, you must pay a look to our reading room! The Liberation, now 70 years ago, is one of the main subjects of our archive collection. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2766)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2766

A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE JBH ON WWI

The next issue of the JBH, to be published in September, is a special issue on tensions in Belgium during the First World War. Seven articles shed light on less known aspects of life at the front and in occupied Belgium. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2769)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2769

EXHIBITION ALBERT & ELISABETH EXTENDED AT THE BELVUE MUSEUM

Good news! For those who have not visited the Albert&Elisabeth, filming the Life of a Royal Couple exhibition, it will be possible to see it at the BelVue Museum (<http://www.belvue.be/>). The exhibition will be there from 15 September until 30 November, which makes it also accessible to schools. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2772)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2772

Schools at War. Secondary Education During the Second World War

Conference with Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde

On **Wednesday 10 September 2014**, **Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde** (*KU Leuven*), former researcher at CEGESOMA will present the results of her Ph. D research which she defended recently.

In recent years, Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde studied the educational policies of the German military administration in Belgium between 1940 and 1944. She paid particular attention to the Catholic secondary school network. To which degree was education used as a political weapon to obtain acceptance of the occupation regime? How were the relations between the military rule and the Archdiocese of Mechlin? Van Ruyskensvelde also broadens the debate by shifting the emphasis toward teaching and the memory of the war. How did the war and the political situation penetrate into the classroom? To what extent do (did) pupils and teachers of the Catholic secondary schools remember war in everyday school life?

Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde is a historian. In 2008, she started a research project on secondary education during the Second World War at CEGESOMA. Since October 2009, she is research assistant in the *Centrum voor Historische Pedagogiek* of the *KU Leuven*. She successfully defended her Ph. D. thesis "*Education in Turmoil. A history of Catholic secondary education during the Second World War in Belgium*".



This event takes place in the conference room of CEGESOMA, Square de l'Aviation, 29, 1070 Brussels. It starts at **2.30 p.m.** Participation is free, but registration is required via 02/556.92.11 or cegesoma@cegesoma.be

◀ [Back](#) ▶

Heritage Days Brussels

Square de l'Aviation 29 Opens its Doors on 21 September

On 20 and 21 September 2014, the Brussels Region holds its annual Heritage Days. Central theme this year is 'History and Memory'. On **Sunday 21 September 2014**, the public can also visit the remarkable building where CEGESOMA is located.



On 21 September, CEGESOMA and the Directorate-General War Victims join forces to guide the visitors through the building. These tours will be organized between 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., in Dutch and in French.

They will start in the monumental entrance hall and take the visitors to the reading room, the beautiful first floor offices and conference room, the archives and the offices of the Directorate-General War Victims on the fifth and eight floors. The visit will highlight the art deco building while also presenting the institutions that are housed there.

In the conference room, images will be projected of the Liberation of Brussels after the Second World War, of which event the 70th anniversary will be commemorated in September.

Karel Strobbe

22 / 8 / 2014

◀ [Back](#) ▶

Rachel, Jacob, Paul et les autres. Une histoire des Juifs à Bruxelles

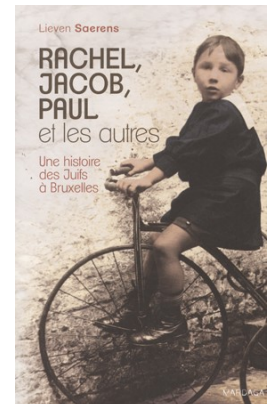
A New Publication by Lieven Saerens on Jews in the Capital

In September 2014, the new book of historian **Lieven Saerens** has been published: *Rachel, Jacob, Paul et les autres. Une histoire des Juifs à Bruxelles*. Via case studies, families, perpetrators, victims and bystanders, the reader is taken on a journey through a century of Jewish history in Brussels.

From the 1920s onward, thousands of Jews in search of a better life, established themselves in Brussels. The book follows their trajectory before, during, and after the Second World War. Thus, a penetrating but also subtle picture is created of a tragic period in the history of our capital.

Lieven Saerens is an expert on the subject of the persecution of the Jews during the Second World War. In the book, which is well researched and accessible to a wide public, he describes the Jewish migration in Brussels in times of crisis and war. A remarkable book on the past, which carries a message for today!

The book can be ordered at the CEGESOMA ([Lieve Maes](#) or 00 32 2 556 92 07) at the price of 19,50 EUR, postage not included, instead of 22 EUR (bookseller's price).



Childhood picture of Paul Halter, one of the characters in the book.

◀ [Back](#) ▶

The exhibition "Shock ! 1914...What if War Began Tomorrow?" prolonged until March 7

The German invasion of Belgium on 4 August 1914 caused a real shock. The country's neutrality, which guaranteed peace since 1839, was brutally violated.

The State Archives, Cegesoma and the Royal Library of Belgium reconstruct the chaotic weeks of the summer and autumn of 1914. Through official statements, written press and eye-witness accounts, the visitor is invited to relive the traumatic events day by day.

The exhibition is however more ambitious: with the outbreak of the First World War, the newly emerging media experienced an unprecedented boom. What were the distribution channels in 1914? Were they reliable? Three generations later, the distribution, shape and choice of the media have exploded. Radio, television, internet and the social media have radically changed war reporting. How were the events of 1914 retransmitted and perceived in such a media environment?

These themes lend the exhibition a contemporary and universal dimension that surpasses the purely historical approach.

The exhibition can be visited from **11 September 2014 to 7 March 2015**. Admission is free.

For more information, consult the exhibition website (www.shock1914.be/en).

To consult the opening speech of Patrick Lefèvre, Director-General of the Royal Library, at the inauguration of the exhibition on 10 September 2014, click [here](#).

Mélanie Bost

3 / 9 / 2014 & 19 / 9 / 2014

◀ [Back](#) ▶



70th Anniversary of the Liberation : what do our collections hold ?

Originally created as the Centre for Research and Studies on the History of the Second World War in 1969, Cegesoma has, in its 45-year existence, accumulated thousands of books and photographs and hundreds of archive funds related completely or in part to the liberation of the country in the autumn of 1944.

To highlight the main works on the subjects kept in our **library** would therefore amount to the construction of a critical bibliography of the near total of the publications that appeared on this theme since 1945 (only a few studies were published before 1969). Self-published authors and articles in local magazines will mostly not be included in this overview.

Thus, to give a few examples, a search in the online Pallas catalogue gives 92 library references for the key word « Belgique—histoire—1944-1945 (libération) », 40 for « Belgique.armee.brigade d'infanterie liberation, 1ere » (brigade Piron) and 27 for « Belgique.armee—histoire—1944-1945 (libération) ». To these general references must be added hundreds related to the liberation of the provinces and even more so to the villages and towns. Thus, the key word « antwerpen (belgique) —histoire—1944 (libération) » counts 40 titles. The same keywords give 13 titles for Brussels, 12 for Bruges (via « Brugge »), 11 for Ghent (via « Gent »), 9 for Charleroi, as much for Liège and Mons, and 7 for Verviers, without mentioning the 110 other villages and towns that have at least one reference by introducing a key word with the word "libération" or "bevrijding" added to it.

In fact, the liberation of the country constitutes one of the major anchor points of the **archives** of Cegesoma. In nearly all the archive groups there are funds related to the period August-December 1944.

The archive group « Archives et documents des autorités alliées en Belgique à la Libération et dans l'immédiat après-guerre ainsi que des armées alliées » is almost exclusively dedicated to this period. For instance, the sub-part Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) refers to the reports of the SHAEF Mission to Belgium and Luxembourg (AA 1230 and mic PRO/WO). These documents give a very interesting overview of the situation in the country and of public opinion at the moment of the Liberation.

The Liberation is also the start of the repression of collaboration with the enemy. This item can be found in the sub-part « Archives et documents de la justice belge » (archive group « Archives et documents d'institutions et d'organisations officielles »).

The archive group 'Archives et documents des partis et groupes politiques' also contains interesting material. In the subpart 'Fonds créés par les partis et les mouvements', the archives of the only new Belgian political party that was created in the wake of the Liberation, the Union Démocratique Belge (AA 174), can be found. In the subpart 'Organisations d'utilité publique et unions privées', a lot of files concern the activities of the associations of former resistance fighters who, together with other patriotic associations would, from 1944, have considerable weight with civil society.

The archive group 'Collections de documents' also merits a closer look. One example is the fund on the controversial liberation of Antwerp (AA 1203). Finally, are also worth consulting, the person-related archives which include numerous funds on various aspects of the September days of 1944 and the following months.

When searching our online catalogue with the key words "bevrijding" and "libération", you will find all these documents, and many more!

Where the **audiovisual sector** is concerned, we must first of all observe that the photographic collections of Cegesoma related to the Liberation mainly concern popular celebrations. Numerous photographs originate from the press agency Siphos. Others were donated to the Centre by private persons. Several towns and villages in the north and south of the country are well represented: Brussels, Charleroi, Fosses-la-Ville, Ans, Oneux, Jamioulx, Cipay, De Panne, Verviers, Ghent, Branchon, Quaregnon, Antwerp, Bruges, etc. Other than popular street scenes, the collection reflects the many commemorative events. In the autumn of 1944, film maker André Cauvin made two documentaries on the funeral services for soldiers, the return of the Belgian government from London and the repression of collaborators in Antwerp.

In fact, only some fifteen posters concern the period of the Liberation. They announce commemorative ceremonies, many years after the war. The series "Jours de Guerre" (radio and television) and the programme "Inédits", which can be viewed (or heard) in our reading room, also focused on the end of the war by including interviews with eye witnesses and films of private persons. Also, several interviews carried out by researchers of the Centre touch upon questions concerning the Liberation. Thus, Auguste de Schryver, minister in the Pierlot government, has been interviewed by historians Alain Dantoing and Jean Vanwelkenhuyzen on the return of the Belgian authorities. Eric Laureys and Frédéric Dauphin have questioned Francis Cattoir of the Haut Commissariat pour la Sécurité de l'Etat on the events of 1944. The interview of Wouter Steenhaut with resistance fighter Eugène Colson describes in detail the liberation of the port of Antwerp. In total, about ten sound documents concern the end of the Second World War. Finally, we should mention the dozens of exchanges with witnesses on the liberation in the Brabant Wallon, registered in 1985 in the context of a seminar at the UCL under the direction of Jacques Lory.

Florence Gillet, Fabrice Maerten and Dirk Martin

4 / 9 / 2014

◀ [Back](#) ▶



English troops in Brussels in September 1944. (Cegesoma, no. 29146)

Journal of Belgian History - 2014, no. 2-3

The JBH thematic edition is available since early October under the title: "**1914-1918 : Une société sous tension/Een maatschappij onder spanning**". The theme is practically absent from the plethora of WWI-related works which appeared this year.

The issue in question tackles various topics: spying for the enemy, protestants at the front, soldiers sentenced to death, the clergy and resistance, the evacuation of civilians... The five articles are preceded by a text by Antoon Vrints (*U Gent*), guest editor for this issue together with Axel Tixhon (*U Namur*). The journal closes with a contribution on one century of WWI-historiography in Belgium. As a whole, the issue comprises mostly contributions from early stage researchers.

The "Debate" section is also about WWI. Five articles written by historians and TV-producers shed light on the manner in which the Great War centenary is translated on television this year, be it through fiction or documentaries.

The thematic journal is at the same time a double issue. The usual PhD-section and the book reviews will also be included.

50€ (ca.300 pages)
Orders:
CEGESOMA
Square de l'Aviation 29
1070 Brussels
Tel 02 556 92 27
jbh-admin@cegesoma.be

Chantal Kesteloot

5 / 9 / 2014



◀ [Back](#) ▶

Journal of Belgian History - 2014, no. 2-3

The JBH thematic edition is available since early October under the title: "**1914-1918 : Une société sous tension/Een maatschappij onder spanning**". The theme is practically absent from the plethora of WWI-related works which appeared this year.

The issue in question tackles various topics: spying for the enemy, protestants at the front, soldiers sentenced to death, the clergy and resistance, the evacuation of civilians... The five articles are preceded by a text by Antoon Vrints (*U Gent*), guest editor for this issue together with Axel Tixhon (*U Namur*). The journal closes with a contribution on one century of WWI-historiography in Belgium. As a whole, the issue comprises mostly contributions from early stage researchers.

The "Debate" section is also about WWI. Five articles written by historians and TV-producers shed light on the manner in which the Great War centenary is translated on television this year, be it through fiction or documentaries.

The thematic journal is at the same time a double issue. The usual PhD-section and the book reviews will also be included.

50€ (ca.300 pages)
Orders:
CEGESOMA
Square de l'Aviation 29
1070 Brussels
Tel 02 556 92 27
jbh-admin@cegesoma.be

Chantal Kesteloot

5 / 9 / 2014



◀ [Back](#) ▶

Exhibition Albert & Elisabeth Extended at the Belvue Museum

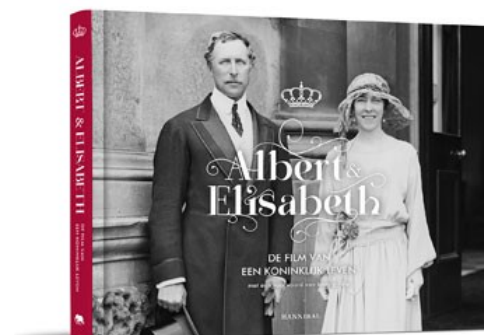
The exhibition *Albert and Elisabeth. Filming the Life of a Royal Couple*, has been extended at the BELVue museum (<http://www.belvue.be/fr>). Good news, not just for those who did not yet have the opportunity to visit it, but also in view of the organisation of school visits. The exhibition will be open from **15 September until 30 November**.

25 years of the lives of the sovereigns were portrayed through a selection of partly unseen footage. The visitor will discover a modern couple who came gladly in contact with the people, and how technological progress shed a new light on the reality of the royal function. The First World War is the hinge of the exhibition, but equally much attention is given to the many journeys of Albert and Elisabeth, the visits of foreign heads of state, and more intimate moments of the royal family.

Research, design and layout of the exhibition have been entrusted to historian Petra Gunst (*Tekst & Beeld*).

An exhibition accompanied by a catalogue

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue published by Mardaga for the French-language version and by Hannibal for the Dutch-language version. It can be ordered at CEGESOMA (Lieve Maes or 00 32 2 556 92 07) at the exceptional price of 20 EUR (plus postage) or purchased at the library of the BelVue museum.



Through the image, and also thanks to the scholarly contribution of the best experts in the field, this publication offers a synthetic overview of the monarchy in the private and public spheres. It explores different angles of the life of the sovereign and of the royal couple: his ceremonial functions, but also as head of the armed forces, promoter of science and cinema enthusiast.

This publication, under the direction of Chantal Kesteloot (Cegesoma) offers a fresh look at the Belgian monarchy and at one its most emblematic couples. It is amply illustrated with film extracts and photographs from the period.

8 / 9 / 2014

◀ [Back](#) ▶