

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

NO 16 - SEPTEMBER 2015

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HERITAGE DAYS : VISIT OUR BUILDING !

The 2015 edition of the Heritage Days of the Brussels-Capital Region will take place on 19 and 20 September around the theme "Workshops, Factories and Offices". The programme offers an abundance of unusual places illustrating this theme that can be visited. Our building also opens its doors, but only on 20 September. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3004&pag0nbr=31&pagofs=0)

"WAR & FATHERLAND" COLLOQUIUM IN OCTOBER

On 14 and 15 October, outstanding Belgian and foreign historians will debate on nationalism and collective identities during and in the aftermath of WWI. Attend this exceptional inter-university event.

[\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3016&pag0nbr=34&pagofs=0)

THE FINAL DISILLUSION: THE UNMAKING OF KAISER WILHELM II IN WWI

Martin Kohlrausch will speak about the Kaiser's fail to live up to his role as Warlord and commander in the Great War, during a Historikerdialog session hosted by Laurence van Ypersele at UCL on Monday, 5 October at 6:30 pm. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3013&pag0nbr=34&pagofs=0)

Heritage Days : Visit Our Building !

The 2015 edition of the Heritage Days of the Brussels-Capital Region will take place on 19 and 20 September around the theme "Workshops, Factories and Offices". The programme offers an abundance of unusual places, illustrating this theme, that can be visited. Our building also opens its doors, but only on **20 September**.

We are located in a building in the *Art Nouveau* style, dating from 1912, which was the seat of *La Prévoyance Sociale*, an insurance company under the auspices of the Belgian Socialist Party. In the early 1930s, the building was redesigned in the Art Deco style by architects Fernand and Maxime Brunfaut. The 2004 renovation ensured the conservation of the many architecturally and stylistically interesting elements. The building houses our offices, reading room and collections, and we share it with the Directorate-General War Victims.

Open Days on Sunday 20 September

Our building (ground floor and lower floors) will be freely accessible from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and several guided tours (also free) will take place. These will take the visitors to the higher floors that are occupied by the offices of the Directorate-General War Victims and to the astonishing tower which holds their voluminous archive collections. We will give information about the collections and the research of CegeSoma. In our conference room, newsreels of the Second World War (from the Cinémathèque of the Brussels-Wallonia federation collection) will be shown continuously.

All in all, a unique opportunity to enrich your knowledge of the history and heritage of Brussels!

Practical details

Sunday **20 September 2015**

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (guided tours in French at 10.30 a.m., 2 and 4 p.m., in Dutch at 11.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.)

Square de l'Aviation 29

1070 Brussels

karel.strobb@cegesoma.be

28 / 8 / 2015



The facade of our building.

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“War & Fatherland” Conference: Last Registration Day 7 October

On **14 and 15 October**, outstanding Belgian and foreign historians will debate on nationalism and collective identities during and in the aftermath of WWI. Attend this exceptional inter-university event by subscribing before 7 October (included) on www.warandfatherland2015.org.

Unique inter-university project

“War & Fatherland” is also a project supported by all Belgian universities through a inter-university scientific committee. The committee also includes representatives of the Royal Military Academy, the State Archives and The Royal Library. CegeSoma acts as coordinator. The congress will be opened by Mrs. Elke Sleurs, State secretary for Science Policy.

Seven Outstanding Keynote Speakers

“War & Fatherland” is a colloquium with high scientific ambitions. The programme includes interventions from internationally renowned experts on WWI and nationalism. Seven keynote speakers will participate, namely John Horne (*Trinity College Dublin*), Daniel Laqua (*Northumbria University Newcastle*), John Breuilly (*London School of Economics and Political Science*), Peter Gatrell (*University of Manchester*), Elise Julien (*Institut d'Études politiques de Lille*), David Edgerton (*King's College London*) and Sophie De Schaepdrijver (*Penn State university*).

The Belgian experts will present the six thematic sessions. International experts will reflect on the keynote. This will be followed by questions and a debate.

Belgian and International Research Agendas

The congress will also give the floor to Belgian-based research on WWI. On the second day, ten young researchers will present their work during a poster session.

The seventh and final session uses a different format. The Keynote Lecture by Sophie De Schaepdrijver will be followed by a panel discussion, moderated by [Chantal Kesteloot](#) (CegeSoma). Two Belgian early stage researchers, two Belgian senior researchers and two conference Keynote speakers will reflect upon the impressive body of ongoing Belgian WW I-research and to place Belgium's war research agenda in its international context.

“War & Fatherland” practicalities

- When: **14 & 15 October 2015**
- Where: Egmont Palace Brussels
- Programme & registration : www.warandfatherland2015.org
- **Subscriptions are accepted until Wednesday 7 October**
- Different attendance fees

WAR & FATHERLAND

Nations, Identities and the First World War

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



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The Final Disillusion: The Unmaking of Kaiser Wilhelm II in WWI

Martin Kohlrausch will speak about the Kaiser's fail to live up to his role as Warlord and commander in the Great War, during a Historikerdialog session hosted by Laurence van Ypersele at UCL on Monday, 5 October at 6:30 pm.

This talk by Martin Kohlrausch (KU Leuven) will scrutinize the role of Kaiser Wilhelm II in the First World War. The talk will begin with highlighting the specifics of the rule of Wilhelm II. The Kaiser was, constitutionally, also Supreme Warlord and should have thus theoretically have played a decisive role in the war. Moreover, Wilhelm II had deliberately created an image for himself as a virile and assertive political leader of a new kind. When the war broke out it soon became clear that the Kaiser could not live up to the expectations in either of the two fields. He failed in coordinating the different branches of the military as well as the military high-command and the civil government. Moreover, Wilhelm II never succeeded to be seen as a military leader associated with the front. The talk will explain this development both for the inner sphere of the imperial head quarter and for the public sphere (propaganda and media). The talk will thus link the period before and after August 1914 and will finally ask for structural reasons in the failure of the monarchy of the Hohenzollern.

The talk will be followed by a discussion with Laurence van Ypersele (UCL) and with the public.

What: Historikerdialog: The Unmaking of Kaiser Wilhelm II
When: On Monday 5 October at 6:30 pm
Where: Auditorium Agora 11 Place Agora, 19 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve
By car : E411 exit 8a - follow UGC - Parking Grand Place
Language : English and French
More info and registration : www.historikerdialog.eu



*The Kaiser in Doorn (the Netherlands), January 1934.
(CegeSoma, N 139523)*

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