

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

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READING ROOM – CHANGES IN THE TIME TABLE

From November 2016, our reading room will be open without interruption from Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. This new time table corresponds with the one applied by our colleagues of the State Archives 2 in Brussels. This (small) diminution of our weekly opening times is also in line with the future policy of the State Archives with regard to the accessibility of its reading rooms. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3260&pag0nbr=27&pagofs=0

CONFERENCES - WHEN THE ECONOMY GUIDES OUR THOUGHTS

The two autumn conferences in CegeSoma will focus on the economic history of Belgium. On 16 November, Luis Angel Bernardo y Garcia (AGR) will shed light on the role of the Belgian state in the economic recovery of Belgium after the Second World War, in particular on the food policy. On 14 December, Kristof Smeyers (University College London) will talk about Belgium's economic history since the First World War from a totally new perspective: was there a recovery in Belgium after the First World War or did the Belgian economy remain static from then on? [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/conferences_en.php?article=3257&pagnbr=2&pagofs=0

ARCHIVES - FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF THE DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS: THE ADOCHS PROJECT

On November 1st 2016 the CegeSoma launches the ADOCHS project (Auditing Digitalization Outputs in the Cultural Heritage Sector) in collaboration with the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR), VUB and ULB. This project is dedicated to the improvement of the quality control process concerning the digitized heritage collections. On the basis of written and iconographic sources, the team will develop methodological and technical tools needed to guarantee a control of the quality of the technical aspects and of the quality of the metadata. Anne Chardonens is in charge of this project at the CegeSoma.

[\[MORE INFO\]](#) http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3266&pag0nbr=27&pagofs=0

COMING SOON – A NEW UNIQUE SOURCE EDITION ON OCCUPATION AND DAILY LIFE IN EUROPE DURING WWII

The project 'Societies under German Occupation – Experiences and Everyday Life in World War II' wants to publish source editions that make the impact of the occupation on daily life for the different levels of the population, from Norway to Greece, and from France to the Soviet Union more tangible. This source edition offers a unique transnational perspective on a little studied topic. The hundreds of sources of the first series dedicated to supply and shortage have now been collected and commented in view of an imminent publication. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3263

Reading Room – Changes in the Time Table

From **November 2016**, our reading room will be open **without interruption** from **Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.** This new time table corresponds with the one applied by our colleagues of the State Archives 2 in Brussels. This (small) diminution of our weekly opening times is also in line with the future policy of the State Archives with regard to the accessibility of its reading rooms.

A Quality Service which Needs to Adapt

In a recent note, General Archivist Karel Velle underlines the awareness of the State Archives of its crucial role in the accessibility of information and archival documents. For many years, it has tried to offer a good public service meeting the specific needs.

In the coming months, the Archives will have to adapt its public service. This is a result of further budget cuts but also of an evolution in the needs of the public.

This reorganization will also affect the opening times of the reading room and will be elaborated over the next few weeks

Our Rich Collections Accessible in our Reading Room

All our collections are described online (see heading [Catalogues](#)). But only some of those are online accessible: most of the photographs, the censored and clandestine press of the First World War, the clandestine press of the Second World War, the tracts, the publications of CegeSoma, part of the posters and some archive funds (see the section [Digitised documents](#) + links to [Anciens Cahiers](#), [CHTP](#), [Bulletin](#) and [Newsletter](#) on our website; the section [Journals JBH](#) on the JBH website).

Thus, the majority of the many thousands of interviews, LP's and videotapes, the 90,000 books, 4,000 periodicals, 2,500 archive funds and 2,700 diaries and manuscripts can only be consulted in our reading room. The books and periodicals mostly concern the political and cultural history of Belgium and the world during the short 20th century (1914-1991). The archives generally concern the history of Belgium from the eve of the Second World War to its conclusion, but also the memory of 40-45, the First World War, the perception of the Cold War, the (de)colonisation and the human rights movements

[Fabrice Maerten](#)

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A conference by Luis Angel Bernardo y Garcia

Le Ventre des Belges. Grandeur et misères d'un petit État nourricier en temps d'occupation et de sortie de guerre (1914-1948)

On **Wednesday 16 November 2016** (2.30 p.m.), CegeSoma will give the floor to **Luis Angel Bernardo y Garcia** (State Archives). He will address the role of the Belgian state in the economic recovery of post-war Belgium, in particular with regard to its food policy.

At the end of the Second World War (1945-1948), as a result of the German occupation, there was still an acute food shortage in Belgium. To maintain food provisioning and the economic activity, the State was obliged to organize the national economy, a policy that was contradictory to the tradition of free market economy which was prevalent in pre-war Belgium. The consecutive post-war governments focused on the recovery of the labour market. Like the defense of a "strong franc", this recovery was necessary for the relaunching of economic activity, as well as for the maintenance of the order and the normalization of political life. On this level, Belgium pursued a different policy than its neighbours.

To understand the policy of the Belgian state, it is essential to bear in mind the food policies of the past. These questions will be addressed by Luis Angel Bernardo y Garcia, author of a recent PhD thesis on the food crises in Belgium.

Luis Angel Bernardo y Garcia is first assistant at the State Archives where he is in charge of the political archives. Since 2015, he coordinates the transfer of the "African archives" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. Also in 2015, he has defended his doctoral thesis at the *Université libre de Bruxelles* on the diachronic approach of the food crises in Belgium during occupation periods, the liberation and the immediate post-war period.

The conference takes place in the conference room of CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation 29, 1070 Brussels, and will start at 2.30 p.m. Participation is free, but registration necessary via 02/556.92.57 or isabelle.delvaux@cegesoma.be

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Loading of sacs of flour in a flour mill. Excerpt from a propaganda film "Où en est notre ravitaillement ?" made in 1946 by Gaston Vernailien for the department of Supply. (Cinémaèque Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles)

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ADOCHS - For a better quality of the digitized collections

On November 1st 2016 the CegeSoma launches the **ADOCHS project** (Auditing Digitalization Outputs in the Cultural Heritage Sector) in collaboration with the Royal Library of Belgium (*KBR*), *VUB* and *ULB*. This project is dedicated to the improvement of the quality control process concerning the digitized heritage collections. On the basis of written and iconographic sources, the team will develop methodological and technical tools needed to guarantee a control of the quality of the technical aspects and of the quality of the metadata. [Anne Chardonnes](#) is in charge of this project at the CegeSoma. Visit [the website](#) for further information.

Future More Deliberated Digitisation Projects

Since the mid-nineties, cultural institutions have undoubtedly entered the digital age. In Belgium, the government adopted in 2004 a first digitization plan for a ten years period which has led to the realisation of nine digitization projects in the federal scientific institutions. The website [The Belgian War Press](#) of CegeSoma is one of its concrete results. In 2014, a second phase has been launched, allowing institutions to continue the work done during the past decade. If the first projects are now completed, it was sometimes at the cost of many human and financial efforts in order to overcome the difficulties. The expertise accumulated during the first decade can help us to engage future projects in a more well-thought out manner. It is precisely in this context that the ADOCHS project was initiated.

Quality Control, a Key Step in the Digitisation Process

The issue of quality control was one of the major obstacles in the first phase of digitization. Indeed, it appeared that many projects had underestimated the extent of this step both in human and technical terms in the overall process of digitization. In most cases, teams were faced with a lack of methodological standardization and automation tools to perform the job. They therefore often had to work manually, without procedural guidelines adapted to their specific needs. However, it is clear that quality control is an essential component to every stage of a digitization project if you want to ensure the integrity and consistency of files and data produced, as well as their long-term conservation. This is true both for outsourced or internal digitizing project

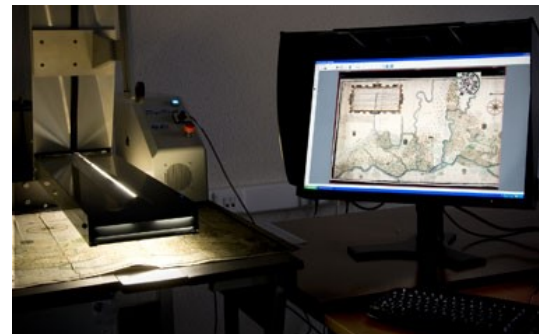


Photo SAB.

Better Access to the Collections

In addressing the issue of quality control, this project aims to speed up the whole digitizing process while minimizing the costs and also to increase the value of the data produced in the framework for future digitization projects. While federal scientific institutions will be the main beneficiaries, the purpose of this research addresses a much broader need that affects all heritage institutions in Belgium and abroad. Furthermore, the wide public will also benefit from a better access to the collections thanks to an optimisation of the available metadata and to the better digitization of images as compared to the original documents.

A Double Approach

The goal is to address the issue in two stages. First, by focusing on methodological aspects, proposing guidelines applicable in the treatment of heritage collections. Then, by developing technical tools that automate tasks related to quality control or support the manual check. Both technical aspects (image resolution, file integrity formats, etc.) and content metadata (descriptions of collections, compliance with XML schema's, etc..) will be taken into account. In this perspective, it is expected to work on two types of collections: the digitized collections of the Royal Library of Belgium that will address the problems with textual documents and the photographic collections of the CEegeSoma which provides a set of iconographic documents.

Research director : [Florence Gillet](#)

Researcher : [Anne Chardonnes](#)

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Coming Soon – A New Unique Source Edition on Occupation and Daily Life in Europe during WWII

The project "[Societies under German Occupation – Experiences and Everyday Life in World War II](#)" wants to publish source editions that make the impact of the occupation on daily life for the different levels of the population, from Norway to Greece, and from France to the Soviet Union more tangible. This source edition offers a unique transnational perspective on a little studied topic. The hundreds of sources of the first series dedicated to supply and shortage have now been collected and commented in view of an imminent publication.

A Multinational Team

The project is an initiative of Prof. Haslinger (*Herder-Institut-Marburg*) and Prof. Tönsmeier (*Bergische Universität Wuppertal*). They approached experts from the different European countries that had been annexed or occupied by Germany to collect, comment and contextualise the relevant sources for an international public. CegeSoma is the Belgian partner in the project. Dirk Luyten is in charge of the research.

The Collection of Sources

The collection of CegeSoma is well represented in the Belgian source edition, but also the other depots of the State Archives provide interesting material (archives of administrations, company archives, thesis of social workers), as well as the thematic archives in Flanders and Wallonia. The challenge consist in documenting different aspects of daily life in European societies and also to address different levels of the population. Thus, in the Belgian case, there are sources on artists. The perspective is bottom-up, which does not always facilitate the search for adequate material.

A First Volume on 'Supply and Shortage'

The sources are brought together in a chronological corpus. The corpus of the first theme 'Supply and Shortage' is almost completed and consists of more than 1,800 pages. It will be published in English by an international publisher. Each source will be accompanied by a brief comment and will be contextualized so as to be accessible to an international readership. An introduction provides a frame for the global problem.

The source edition is unique: it covers all of occupied Europe and offers a global perspective on the impact of the occupation on European societies. Thus comparison is made possible. Shortages are a key characteristic of the occupation, but the concrete impact and the way in which occupied societies react on it differed.

For the researchers in the different countries, the lacunas in the historiography have become clear. For Belgium for example, the history of agriculture is, for the most part, still a blind spot

Other Source Editions

In order to map other aspects, such as labour, the initiators have submitted, with the support of the partners, an application for further funding.

Who wishes to know more on the subject can consult the [new project website Societies under German Occupation – Experiences and Everyday Life in World War II](#).

Dirk Luyten

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*Young woman buys bread on the black market. Belgium, 1943.
(CegeSoma, n° 28437)*

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