

# CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

## NO 64 - MARCH 2021

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### COLLECTIONS

CegeSoma acquires the library of Lydia Chagoll, an extraordinary personality. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

### INVITATION

An international conference on 6 and 7 May in Mons about a hot current theme : colonial memories and the issue of decolonization. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

### PUBLICATION

'De verdwenen boekenkast van Aloïs Goossens' : the new book of Frank Seberechts, associate researcher at CegeSoma, about the library of a convinced Flemish national socialist during WWII.

[\[MORE INFO\]](#)

### DIGITAL PRESS

The online catalog 'Abraham' (Vlaamse Erfgoedbibliotheken) offers a new gateway to the digitized press of the two world wars, complementary to the The Belgian War Press site. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

### READING ROOM

You are still welcome to visit the reading room by appointment, subject to strict compliance with safety regulations. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

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## A timely donation for CegeSoma: the Lydia Chagoll Library

A timely donation for CegeSoma: the Lydia Chagoll Library ... Under this title, we invite you to discover the fourth 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 fourth episode of our video series 'The Librarian's Talks: 4. The Lydia Chagoll Library joins the CegeSoma collections'.**



Thanks to the King Baudouin Foundation, CegeSoma had the good fortune to integrate the library of Mrs. Lydia Chagoll into its collections early this year.

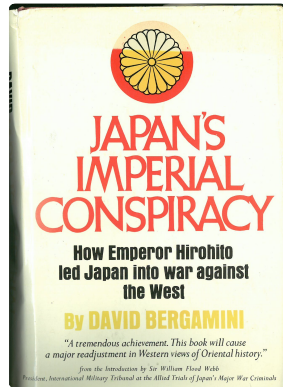
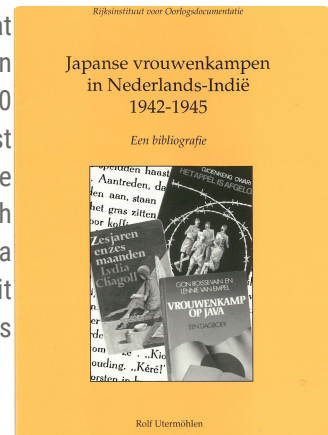


Her name is certainly well known to historical researchers who study World War II and more particularly the genocides of the 20th century, including the massacre of the Gypsies.

Didn't Lydia Chagoll (born in 1931 in Voorburg (Netherlands) - died in 2020 in Overijse) dedicate one of her last publications ( *Tsiganes sous la croix gammée*-2009) to their tragic fate, after writing down her own childhood experience in *Une enfance dans les camps japonais* (2002), certainly her best-known book, together with Hiro-Hito, empereur du Japon: *un criminel de guerre oublié?* (1983). But Lydia Chagoll did not limit herself to writing, on the contrary.



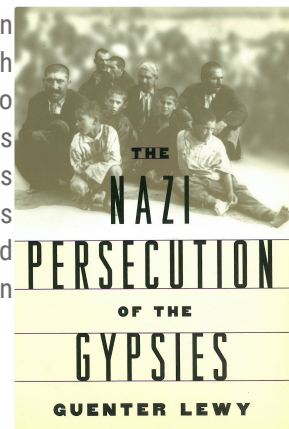
Born in the Netherlands into a Dutch-Jewish family that immigrated to Belgium very early on, this daughter of an anti-fascist journalist followed the tribulations of her family from May 1940 onwards, fleeing from one place of exile to another, all the way to the Dutch East Indies. Her parents hoped find there a welcoming haven, far from Europe under the boot of the Nazis. Unfortunately, a few months after their arrival, the rich Dutch colony was invaded by the Japanese Empire, and the family found itself sent to a Japanese concentration camp. Lydia was marked forever by this experience, but it gave her the strength to live, as well as her interest for all persecuted minorities and her dedication to unfortunate childhoods.



Liberated in October 1945 and back in Belgium, this passionate polyglot became successively, from 1948 to 1973, a ballerina, a choreographer (she studied the art of dance in Paris) and a classical dance teacher after founding her own ballet company in 1960 and obtaining a certificate in German language at the Dutch section of the Free University of Brussels (ULB). In the 1970s, under the influence of her companion, the film director Frans Buyens (1924-2004), she became a filmmaker and scriptwriter, making, among other films, the well-known documentary "In the Name of the Führer" in 1977. Later, when concerned about the forgotten genocide of the Roma, she was able to complete another fine documentary film, "Ma Bister" ("Remember"). And above all, she tirelessly focused on the unfortunate children, victims of wars or private violence, for which she received the 2014 Democracy Award.

As you can imagine, Lydia Chagoll's library is a reflection of her intellectual personality, but also of her cultural interests (dance, art and religions...) as well as of her personal journey.

Of particular interest to our institution are her books on Japanese atrocities in Southeast Asia and on the "Pacific War", a few on military history. Similarly, it is worth mentioning the important contribution of her library on the circumstances leading to the genocide of the Gypsies in Eastern Europe and in Germany, as well as new entries relating to Nazi biological racism, even if this literature from the 1980s and 1990s might now seem a bit "outdated". Finally, the quality of her books on painting as reflection of an epoch should be emphasized: the "Chagoll Library" kept a good number of titles on surrealism, the "avant-garde" and Soviet realism and, in general, on the art of the so-called "totalitarian" countries.



If you add to that the studies on the theme of 'The Child in War', you have an idea of the cultural value of this acquisition for our Centre.

And before concluding, we will take our hats off to Mrs. Chagoll and thank the King Baudouin Foundation, which facilitated the transmission of this precious legacy!



[Home](#) » [Event](#) » Colonisation/Decolonisation: multiple and multifaceted memories. The case of Mons.

## Colonisation/Decolonisation: multiple and multifaceted memories. The case of Mons.

International colloquium, Mons 6 & 7 May 2021

[CegeSoma in the spotlight](#) [Colloquium](#)



The issue of colonial and decolonial memory is currently at the heart of public debate and not a week goes by in which the topic does not make the headlines, be it with regard to demands about colonial monuments in public space, to the management of Congo by the Belgian government during the colonial period, or to the period of the Congo Free State and the role of king Leopold II.

The issue also touches on the question of multiple identities. How is the situation at local level? How do people living in Walloon towns and cities, be they former colonials, African descendants, or métis, perceive and react to these issues? These are some of the questions that shall be discussed at the colloquium in Mons on 6 and 7 May.

The colloquium is an initiative of the museum cluster of the city of Mons (Pôle Muséal de la Ville de Mons), more particularly the Mons Memorial Museum, in collaboration with the University of Mons, Saint-Louis University in Brussels, CEGESOMA, and the State Archives, that have teamed up to delve into the colonial issue in Belgium, and more specifically in Mons. The colloquium forms the first landmark in the preparations for an exhibition at the Mons Memorial Museum scheduled for May 2022.

The colloquium is centred around five main topics:

Topic 1: Colonial history and memory

Topic 2: Memories and stories. Bringing archives to life today. Which reparations?

Topic 3: Archives and testimonies about the colonial past

Topic 4: The decolonised city

Topic 5: Colonial traditions and memories in Hainaut, archives in today's context.

Illustration : Bust of Paul Panda Farnana, Collection of the City of Mons, MBA 556



06/05/2021 - 08:30 to 07/05/2021 - 16:30

#### Practical information:

**Place:** Academic Hall of UMONS at the polytechnic faculty, 31 boulevard Dolez, 7000 Mons

It is mandatory to wear a face mask and keep a physical distance. Limited number of seats available. (Depending on the public health situation, the colloquium shall take place on site or online).

**Info and registration:** via the website of the Mons Memorial Museum ([www.mmm.mons.be](http://www.mmm.mons.be)) or by e-mail to [corentin.rousman@ville.mons.be](mailto:corentin.rousman@ville.mons.be).

**Fee:** Attendance fees are the same on site and online.

10 € per day

15 € for both days

5 € per day for students, 'article 27', job seekers

15 € catering/day (lunch at Mons Memorial Museum, boulevard Dolez 51, 7000 Mons)

For reservation and payment click [here](#).

For the free session (only via ZOOM) click [here](#).

For each online session, an individual ZOOM link will be sent by e-mail. You will be welcomed by a moderator who will provide further assistance if needed and whom you can address during question time.

#### Main language

English

French

#### RELATED LINKS

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[The full programme](#)

#### TAGS

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[Colony](#) [Colonialism](#) [Decolonisation](#) [Colonist](#)

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[Home](#) » [Publication](#) » De verdwenen boekenkast van Aloïs Goossens.

## De verdwenen boekenkast van Aloïs Goossens.

The political education of a Flemish national socialist before May 1940.

World War II [Book](#)



In May 1940, Flemish National Socialist agitator Aloïs Goossens was arrested together with thousands of other suspects by Belgian authorities and deported to France. His library was confiscated by the court of Antwerp. Upon his return in August 1940, this collection seemed to have disappeared. In the damages file that Goossens put together, Frank Seberechts found a list of books and journals supposedly lost. This enables us to have a look at the bookcase of a convinced Flemish national socialist and to find out more about the person in question.

### De verdwenen boekenkast van Aloïs Goossens

De politieke vorming van een Vlaamse nationaalsocialist voor mei 1940

Frank Seberechts

 Storia

Putte

2021

Frank Seberechts managed to find back copies of most of these books, brochures and journals in various libraries and archives, and on the Internet. He provides a short summary of their content and where possible describes the context in which these works originated, their background, the authors and publishers. These data can in turn reveal information about the owners of the books. In his article, he tries to find out from where Goossens – at least partly – got his political and philosophical opinions and which was his outlook onto the world. Which books and brochures did he own precisely and which use did he make of them in practice? Frank Seberechts also investigates the manner in which he read and why he read.



In *De verdwenen boekenkast van Aloïs Goossens*, Frank Seberechts goes on a quest for books that laid the foundation for the political opinions of a Flemish national socialist.

## PRODUCT DETAILS

**Binding:** paperback

**Number of pages:** 110 p.

**Format:** 21 x 29,7 cm

**Publishing date:** March 2021

**EAN/ ISBN:** /

**Editor:** Putte, La Storia

Order : [frankseberechts@telenet.be](mailto:frankseberechts@telenet.be)

## AUTHOR(S)

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[Frank Seberechts](#)

## PRICE

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20,00 € (postage not included)

## TAGS

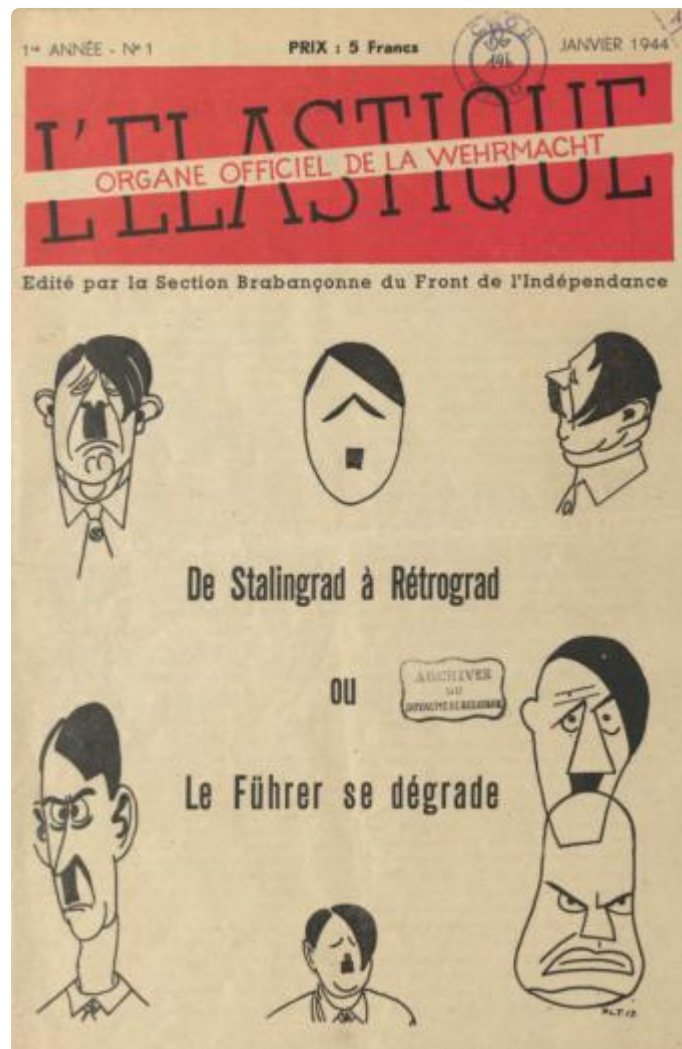
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[Interwar period](#) [Ideology](#) [Propaganda](#) [National socialism](#)

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## The censored and underground press of the two world wars now accessible via the Abraham online catalog



[The Belgian War Press](#) website, developed and managed by CegeSoma, provides online access to the clandestine press published in Belgium during the two world wars as well as to the censored press published in the country in 1914-1918. The press tolerated by the occupiers in 1940-1944 can be consulted in our reading room.

Access to this site is now made easier thanks to the online catalog [Abraham](#) of the *Vlaamse Erfgoedbibliotheeken*. This tool lists in a freely searchable database the Belgian newspapers published between 1800 and 2020 and held in more than one hundred libraries and documentation centers in Flanders and Brussels. The database contains more than 11,000 newspaper titles. And 849 of these titles are now linked to The Belgian War Press.

This sub-directory, which lists all the newspapers available on The Belgian War Press website in alphabetical order, can be accessed [here](#). Its conception allows to enrich the research tools already present on the CegeSoma website (on the origin and the multiple functionalities of The Belgian War Press

website, see [here](#)). Each newspaper has a descriptive sheet containing some ten specific pieces of information. This information includes the different titles of the newspaper, the publishing organization, the place and dates of publication and its language. In addition, the record contains several keywords relating to the type of newspaper (e.g. communist press, underground press, etc.) and often the region where the newspaper is distributed. Finally, the "accessibility" category leads directly to the newspaper on The Belgian War Press site.

Perhaps most valuable of all, filters make it possible to pre-sort the 849 titles according to type of newspaper (more than thirty categories), language, place of preservation of the originals, year of publication and medium.

Abraham is therefore not only a new gateway to the press of the two world wars that can be consulted via The Belgian War Press, but also a complementary tool to the CegeSoma site.

Other news

[What's new on the Belgium WWII website](#)

[ADOCHS - Project progres](#)

[A statement from EHRI on the importance of academic freedom for research on the Holocaust](#)

[Les Enfants de la Collaboration or the Archives of the Collaboration?](#)

[A first workshop for the Postwarex project](#)

[CegeSoma in the media](#)

[Three questions to ... a new 'doctor', Anne Chardonnes, in charge of digital access to CegeSoma's collections](#)

[Les Transmissions. La guerre en héritage \(TheTransmissions. The Legacy of War\)](#)

[Lives turned topsy-turvy, forever](#)

[A new colleague reinforces CegeSoma's permanent scientific team](#)

[The historical truth and the perception of the Second World War in Belgium in these times of so-called 'post-truth'](#)

[Belgian Colonial History in the JBH](#)

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## You are welcome to visit our reading rooms

Our reading rooms reopen **on Tuesday 5 January 2021** and can be freely accessed upon appointment and under strict observance of the safety measures in force.

Reservation of workspace in the reading room must be made by e-mail to the State Archives in question at least 2 workdays before the visit. You can find the contact details of our repositories [here](#). (CegeSoma : [cegesoma@arch.be](mailto:cegesoma@arch.be)).

Please consult the [special preventive measures against Coronavirus/COVID-19](#) to best prepare your visit.

You can stay informed about further developments via our website and via [Facebook](#).

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