Edito

Dear friends and colleagues,

The summer of 2019 has been very fruitful for Militrakonto. At the end of June, we took part in the Cultural History Conference in Tallinn. Under the title “Beyond the national institutions and imperial visions of World War II”, we presented a panel in which the following lectures were delivered: Javier Alcalde “Esperantists against fascism in the Spanish Civil War”, Joseph Essertier “The Esperanto movement during Japan’s “total war” of 1931–1945”, Roberto Pigro “Fascism and Esperantism in the years of the Second World War: a ‘journey’ through the written sources of the time (Italy, 1939–1945)”, and Pascal Dubourg Glatigny “Recalling the war in Esperanto literature: a post-memorial approach beyond nations”. About 20 researchers attended the panel. Our participation was made possible thanks to the financial support of Esperantic Studies Foundation, Nagoya Institute of Technology and Centre Alexandre Koyré (CNRS-EHESS, Paris).

Thanks to the generous support of the Hamburger Stiftung zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Kultur, we will be able to save and digitalize important documents for our research. From the private collection of Ulrich Lins, we have just received the file of a long interview conducted in London by Eleanor Higginbottom in Esperanto in 1969 with Nikolaj Rytkov, a Soviet actor who had been imprisoned and banned for Esperantist activism and finally defected to the West in 1965. With the help of Georgi Kokoli in Moscow, we have also been able to save an interview made in Russian in 1984 with Gregor Demidjuk (1895-1985), who had been the editor of important Workers’ Esperanto literature journals until he was arrested in 1938. We are currently working on the digitization of more interviews with Russian veterans, among others Fëdor Jakovlevič Kulagin who learned Esperanto in 1915.

We’ll attend and give presentations at the Symposium on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the Esperanto Museum of the National Library of Austria (24-25/10/2019).
Please don’t hesitate to collaborate and submit your proposals for Militrakonto! We are a growing collaborative research community!

You can now follow us on Instagram, so that you won’t miss any new contribution and news from Militrakonto: https://instagram.com/militrakonto/

Pascal Dubourg Glatigny

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### Latest articles

- **Infanaĝo dum faŝisma periodo**
  Pascal Dubourg Glatigny and Javier Alcalde interviewed Carlo Minnaja about his Esperanto family during the fascist and wartime Rome and about the situation in post-conflict Italy.

- **Rezisto kaj Eskapo**
  Ulrich Lins presents the history of the brothers Ernő and Tibor Kővári, two native Esperanto speakers from Bratislava, who fled to New York in 1940.

- **Propagandi la Respublikon**
  Ester Boquera relates the action and role of the Commissariat de Propaganda of the Spanish Republic and its intense activity in the language Esperanto.

- **Ekzile en Afriko**
  Javier Alcalde tells the story of Mario Botella, an Esperantist anarchist who was evacuated on the Stanbrook ship and spent a large part of the war in North Africa.

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### The following people have recently joined our research community!

#### Ester Boquera (Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona)

Ester received her Ph.D. in social sciences with a thesis on the Comissariat de Propaganda, the official Propaganda organization that the government of the Generalitat de Catalunya created upon the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). She is active in the field of institutional communication and teaches at the University Ramon Llull (URL) and at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC). She is the author of a blog about propaganda and memorial history: https://comissariatdepropaganda.cat

#### Kadoya Hidenori (National Institute of Technology, Tsuyama College)

Hidenori is an Associate Professor in the Department of General Education at the National Institute of Technology. His research has focused on the early medieval history of Scandinavia and parallel to that, he has done work investigating Esperanto from the perspective of language rights. His latest contribution in this field is entitled: “Sociolingvistika lokigo de Esperanto – de lingva rajto al informogarantio”, En la mondon venis nova lingvo, Festlibro por la 75-jariĝo de Ulrich Lins, Gotoo Hitosi, José Antonio Vergara, Kimura Goro Christoph (red.), Mondial, 2018, New York, p. 573-579. He is at present re-considering the Esperanto movement in Japan during the period 1920 to 1945. His approach especially focuses on Esperantist cooperation with fascism and the postwar peace movement, and how that related to the
continuation or discontinuation of the Esperanto movement.

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**Latest news**

- **Claudio Magris en Esperanto**
  The novel *Blameless (Non luogo a procedere)*, Garzanti, 2016) by Claudio Magris has been translated into Esperanto (Muzeo de la milito, FEL, Antwerpen, 2019). A novel about oblivion and memory, centred on the events in Risiera di San Sabba, the Nazi extermination camp in Italy.

- **La Revuo Orienta pri militrakonto**
  In its summer issue (2019, 07), the Japanese Esperanto journal created in 1920 reports on the research of the Militrakonto group and our website.

- **Pri la hispana milito en Barcelono (08/2019)**
  On the occasion of its yearly congress this year in Barcelona, SAT, the Workers' Esperanto organisation, offered an extensive programme on the Spanish civil war with many lectures, book presentations, workshops, exhibitions, films and excursions.

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