

**Symposium :**

**« Between Secrecy and  
Transparency »**

A partnership between the International  
Peace Bureau (IPB), the University of Mons  
(UMONS), the Henri La Fontaine Foundation  
and the Mundaneum Archives Centre.

**23 & 24.05.13**

**UMONS- Van Gogh auditorium**

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1st Day 23.05.13

## Between Secrecy and Transparency : War, Peace and Democracy

(Organised by the philosophy Department of the University of Mons)

This day will address the theme from history, political science and philosophy perspectives, especially by returning to explore the roots of these concepts in the history of our societies. To permit a deeper reflection on these topics, four specialists will develop their points of view.

### Themes

Since the advent of democracy and the end of the ancien regime, it is generally considered that secrecy has no purpose and is an obstacle to democracy, which should advocate transparency. But secrecy and concealment are also important factors in the functioning of our democracies, as we see for example in the secret ballot. During this study day we shall ask what place democratic societies, advocating respect for human rights, must give to both secrecy and transparency, and whether there are areas that require preferentially or exclusively one or the other. Must the right to privacy be regarded as a fundamental right? Can democratic societies work by keeping secret certain practices? The issue can be addressed from the point of view of history, of politics, or of philosophy, and different positions will be defended.

### Intervenants

- ❖ **Verdiana Grossi**, University of Geneva
- ❖ **Nadine Bernard**, Free University of Brussels; **Anne C. Kjelling**, Honorary Librarian Chief at the Nobel Institute, Oslo
- ❖ **Thomas Berns**, Free University of Brussels
- ❖ **Jean-Pierre Cavallé**, High School of Social Sciences (EHES), Paris
- ❖ **Vincent de Coorebyter**, Free University of Brussels and Director of the Centre for Research and Socio-Political Information

### Programme

9:00 Opening by **Calogero Conti** (Rector of UMONS, Mons), **Jean-Paul Deplus** (President of the Mundaneum, Mons) and **Colin Archer** (Secretary-General, IPB, Geneva)

9:30 **Verdiana Grossi**, University of Geneva: *"Henri La Fontaine: a precursor of modern international relations."*

10:30 **Nadine Bernard**, Free University of Brussels and **Ann. C. Kjelling** (Honorary Librarian Chief at the Nobel Institute, Oslo): *"The history of the Nobel Prize to Henri La Fontaine."*

11:00 Coffee Break

11:15 **Thomas Berns**, Professor of Philosophy at the ULB: *"Secrecy as a way to theorise the difference between publicity and transparency"*

12:30 Lunch

14:00 **Jean-Pierre Cavallé** , Professor of Philosophy and History at High School of Social Sciences EHESS, Paris: “Democracy tested by the ideology of transparency”

15:00 **Vincent de Coorebyter**, Political scientist and philosopher (ULB), Director of the Centre for Research and Socio-political Information: “*Secrecy at the ballot box and transparency in elections.*”

16:30 Visite guidée de l'exposition du Mundaneum consacrée à Henri La Fontaine sur inscription

19:30 Lunch

**Languages : French & English**

2<sup>nd</sup> Day 24.05.13

## Information in War and Peace

(Organised by Mundaneum - IPB - Henri La Fontaine Foundation)

The reflections begun on the first day focussed essentially on the question of transparency and secrecy within a single state. The internal organization of states and the basic respect for the privacy of individuals becomes even more complex when one considers the relationships between states or international/diplomatic relations.

In the early twentieth century, when western societies were trying to match democracy with a wide representation of the peoples, states were competing to conquer new territories. Henri La Fontaine, Nobel laureate in 1913, was faced with this situation of democratic development in Belgium, and the need to extend this notion of democracy to other States for the establishment of a peaceful society. His thirst for justice and peace convinced him of the need for an international legal solution. In this particular case where transparency is an inseparable ingredient of democracy, we will see how advocating it was a way to serve his utopian ideal of a universal peace.

Today, in the twenty-first century, our democracy is the heir to reflections on the virtues of both transparency and secrecy, with the acceleration of information available to the citizen. The quest for transparency and secrecy within states sometimes facilitates or impairs the organization of our democratic societies. Private international organizations and NGOs are vigilant in defence of these concepts. We may wonder therefore in a broader context who decides on conflicts between them, and what is the role of information and information networks. Moreover, beyond the actual decisions and responsibility, what do we really know of military budgets and their economic reality, in contrast to the financing of peace and related programs?

### Intervenants

- ❖ **Ingeborg Breines**, Former Director of UNESCO Office, Geneva and Co-President, IPB
- ❖ **Jean Salmon**, Institute of International Law, Belgium
- ❖ **Stéphanie Manfroid**, Mundaneum, Mons
- ❖ **Christophe Béchet**, University of Liège
- ❖ **Peter Van Den Dungen**, University of Bradford, Department of Peace Studies, UK et **Keith Krause**, Graduate Institute of International and Security Studies, Geneva
- ❖ **Ann Wright**, US Army colonel and retired State Department official, anti-war activist
- ❖ **Crofton Black**, Reprieve UK
- ❖ **Luc Mampaey**, GRIP (Research and Information Group on Peace and Security), Brussels
- ❖ **Paul Quilès**, Former Minister of Defence, France
- ❖ **Colin Archer**, Secretary-General, IPB, Geneva
- ❖ **Henri Bartholomeeusen**, Henri La Fontaine Foundation

### Programme

**Part 1: The peace movement in the twentieth century: between transparency and dissemination of an ideology**

9:00 **Ingeborg Breines**, Former Director of UNESCO Office, Geneva. Co-President, IPB.:  
Introduction

9:15 **Jean Salmon** (Institute of International Law): *“Henri La Fontaine and the tradition of law and international arbitration, from the end of the 19th century to the inter-war period.”*

9:40 **Stéphanie Manfroid** (Mundaneum) : *“Efforts to promote peace education after the 2nd Hague Peace Conference, 1907”*

10:10 **Christophe Béchet** (University of Liège) : *“Peace education at primary level in Belgium in the inter-war period: between appeasement and stigmatisation.”*

10:35 **Peter Van Den Dungen** (Bradford University) et **Keith Krause** (Graduate Institute, Geneva): *“Disarmament: a thorny issue in the League of Nations and today in the United Nations. The views of the pacifist lobby and governments.”*

11:00 Coffee break

## **Part 2: The big decisions of war and peace**

11:15 **Ann Wright**, Former US Army colonel and retired State Department official, anti-war activist: *“The roles of citizens and media in Western democracies. Who decides to make war? And what is the reliability of information provided by the State and the mass media?”*

11:40 **Crofton Black** (Reprieve, UK): *“Uncovering fake companies, covert flights and contractual disputes: investigating the corporate network of the CIA’s secret prisons.”*

12:30 Lunch

## **Part 3: The Economics of War and Peace: What Transparency?**

14:00 **Luc Mampaey** (GRIP - Research and Information Group on Peace and Security, Brussels) : *“Military budgets and arms trade.”*

14:30 **Paul Quilès** (Former Minister of Defence, France) : *“How decision-makers talk about nuclear weapons in France.”*

15:00 **Colin Archer** (Secretary-General, IPB, Geneva): *« Citizen Action: Global Campaign on Military Spending »*

15:30 Coffee break

## **Conclusion**

15:45-17:00

**Henri Bartholomeeusen** (Henri La Fontaine Foundation)

**Stéphanie Manfroid** (Mundaneum)

**Languages : French & English**