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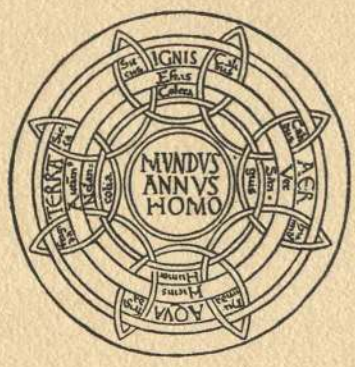
THE WARBURG INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 1934—1935



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THE WARBURG INSTITUTE

1934—1935

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Edward M.M. Warburg.

Erich M. Warburg.

Sir Robert C. Witt, C.B.E., F.S.A.

Our first Annual Report on the Institute since its establishment in London must begin with the expression of our gratitude to friends in England who invited us to come here and who have given their moral and material support to enable us to build up and maintain the Institute in London. First of all, thanks are due to our Advisory Board, and especially to its Chairman, Lord Lee of Fareham, to whom we have never applied in vain. It was Lord Lee who, in his own name and on behalf of a group of friends, extended the invitation to the Institute to come over from Hamburg. He received us warmly, showed a keen interest in our work, and devoted time and energy to helping us surmount the many inevitable difficulties which faced us at the beginning. Whenever a fresh obstacle presented itself, it was his support which helped us to remove it. His strong but justified optimism carried us through to a condition of normal activity.

In May, 1934, the Warburg Society was founded with the object of establishing the Warburg Institute in England. We are much indebted to Sir Robert Witt, who drew up the Constitution of the Society.

We have to thank the Academic Assistance Council, in particular Professor Gibson and Mr. Adams, with whose work we feel closely allied. From the outset, the University of London has through its Principal, Sir Edwin Deller, done all in its power to smooth the way for us, so that, although independent, the Institute is now linked through its Staff with the University. Both Dr. Mawer, the Provost of University College, and Mr. Halliday, the Principal of King's College, have taken an intense interest in our activity. This spirit of friendliness has proved a great encouragement in that it removed the danger of isolation with which an institute coming from abroad would naturally be threatened. The most active agency of this proof of goodwill has been the Courtauld Institute of Art, through the Director, Professor Constable. Professor Constable has successfully promoted collaboration between the two Institutes, and we are under a lasting obligation to him and his colleagues.

Other learned institutions in England have welcomed us kindly: the British Academy, the Royal Historical Society, the Classical Association, the School of Slavonic Studies and others. A former visit of Sir Denison Ross to our Institute in Hamburg proved an event of outstanding importance, as he afterwards became one of our ardent supporters in this country. In his capacity as Director of the School of Oriental Studies, he prevailed upon his Committee to admit to the School one of our young research students for the purpose of studying Arabic, after the completion of his education as an art historian. We hope that exchanges with these and other bodies may in course of time be fruitfully developed. In this connection the advice given by Mr. R. Fitzgibbon Young has been especially valuable.

ESTABLISHMENT IN ENGLAND

Donations and grants

We tender our thanks to all who have helped us by material gifts, and above all Mr. Samuel Courtauld, whose grant enabled us to establish the Institute in London for a period of three years. We are fully aware of the fact that without his prompt and most generous assistance we should have been unable to carry out the programme which is the subject of this report. Mr. Benjamin Guinness made our move into Thames House possible by paying a large part of the installation costs. To Mr. E. Kohn-Speyer we are indebted for two annual gifts; to Sir Bernard Cassell, Sir Percival David and Mr. von der Porten for their donations. These contributions have helped us, directly and indirectly, to support the work of younger students by allowing them small grants, sums required for the purchase of photographs, etc. We are greatly indebted to the Rockefeller Foundation for contributing one half of the salaries of Dr. Saxl and of Dr. Wind, to be paid to them as members of the Staff of the Courtauld Institute and of University College respectively.

Premises

Our activities have been greatly aided by the readiness with which the administration of Thames House, and its Chairman, Lord Melchett, put at our disposal the excellent accommodation which we now enjoy.

The transfer of the Library was accomplished in the beginning of May, 1934, and a reception to celebrate the occasion was held on Thursday, 28th June. Although the premises which the Institute occupied in Hamburg had been specially designed to meet its purpose, the present accommodation is in many respects more practical. The reader has the easiest possible access to the shelves. He need not therefore refer in the first instance to the systematic catalogue — he can consult the books themselves, which are arranged in "subject" order. The rooms of the Staff adjoin the reading room, so that the contact between reader and staff is established: a desirable feature in a library which serves both educational purposes and purposes of research. As the reading room is large enough to be used as a lecture room, every reasonable requirement has been satisfied.

Attendance

The total attendance during the period 1st July 1934 to 30th June 1935 was 2700, there being 60% English, 30% German und 10% other nationalities. In this first year, we have had a variety of types of "readers". From the many who came, especially in the beginning, to inspect the Institute, there emerged slowly a smaller number of serious readers; they use the Library regularly and have become collaborators in our research. Upon them depends the future development of the Institute. Fortunately there is a steady increase in their numbers.

Relations with other libraries

Contact with other London libraries has been established: with the National Central Library, the Libraries of the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, Dr. Williams' Library, the Institute of Historical Research, etc. We have supplied the National Central Library with one of our card indices, so that other institutions in this country are given the opportunity of borrowing our books through

the National Central Library. Great kindness has been shown to us by the School of Librarianship and its Director, Mr. Cowley, who has sent some of his pupils as voluntary assistants. Two articles on the Institute's equipment and arrangement by Dr. Bing and Dr. Wind respectively have appeared in the "Library Association Record".

LECTURES AND COURSES

Courses

The Library is our first link with the public, the second is the series of our lectures. In the initial months, we gave some informal lectures in German, which were in consequence mostly attended by Germans. One of these lectures was followed by a discussion concerning the possibility of collaboration between the historian and the student of economics. On that occasion we had the pleasure of welcoming several members of the School of Economics.

In the autumn we issued the following programme of courses to be given by English, German and French scholars:

Mr. R. P. Hinks — "Allegorical Representations in Ancient Art" (three lectures)
Dr. R. E. W. Flower — "Methods of Research in Mediaeval Manuscripts" (four lectures)
M. J. Seznec — "Renaissance Mythography in Humanism and Art" (two lectures)
Dr. F. Saxl — "Humanism in Venetian Art" (three lectures)
Professor E. Cassirer — "The New Ideal of Truth in the Seventeenth Century" (three lectures)
Dr. E. Wind — "Doctrines of Wit and Enthusiasm in Eighteenth Century English Art and Philosophy" (four lectures).

The courses were attended by more or less equal numbers of English and Germans, the average attendance being about forty. The lectures were followed by discussions; after Prof. Cassirer's last lecture Prof. Sir Grafton Elliot Smith gave a comprehensive view of his objections against Cartesianism as an influence in anthropology. We are very glad that nearly all the lectures given will be published. Those of Mr. Hinks and Dr. Wind will appear in our own collection.

Professor R. Salomon of Hamburg gave a three weeks' course on palaeography, classes being held five times weekly.

Single lectures

Besides these courses, two single lectures were delivered, one by Father Gabriel Théry, O. P., President of the "Institutum Historicum Dominicanum", Santa Sabina, Rome, on the subject of the activities of the Greek monks in Paris in the 9th century ("Les Byzantins en France à l'Époque de Louis le Pieux"); the other by Dr. Adolph Goldschmidt, Emeritus Professor of the University of Berlin, on "The Influence of English Art on the Continent in the Middle Ages". Both lectures had a distinguished audience of about 100 persons.

External lectures

Several of our collaborators were given an opportunity of lecturing also outside our Institute. Professor Cassirer gave a number of lectures at the Scottish Universities, Bed-

ford College, the Goethe Society etc., apart from his courses at All Souls' College in Oxford. Dr. Klibansky lectured in Manchester on "the Philosophy of Maimonides", and before the Aquinas Society on "Meister Eckart". Dr. Saxl delivered a course of six lectures at the Courtauld Institute on "Pagan Elements in the Art of the Italian Renaissance". He also lectured to the Mediaeval Group on "Astrology in the 12th century in England", and on "The Development of a Pictorial Type" (Mithra slaying the bull) before the Classical Association at their Annual Meeting in Southampton. Dr. Wittkower gave a course of six lectures on Michelangelo at the Courtauld Institute.

The Mediaeval Group

Attached not formally, but through personal interest in our Institute, is the "Mediaeval Group", under the chairmanship of Miss Beryl Smalley. We are glad to offer them the hospitality of our premises for their meetings, because the majority of their subjects falls within the circle of our own interests. Of their numerous meetings we mention only a few:

Mr. J. Armstrong: A Humanistic History of the Usurpation of Richard III
Mr. E. Birchenough: "The Prymer in English" and the Reformation
Miss D. Douie: John XXII and the Beatific Vision
Dr. R. Freyhan: Illuminated MSS. of Mediaeval Romances
Mr. A. Friend: Odo of Cheriton
Mr. Mozley: Nigel Wireker
Mr. W. A. Pantin: The Canterbury Monks at Oxford
Dr. H. Rosenau: Some Formative Influences in Architectural Design of the Middle Ages.

We hope that the collaboration between the Mediaeval Group and ourselves may continue, as this younger generation of mediaeval students promises a valuable contribution to research.

Anthropological Exhibition

On 28th July, 1934, members of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, then being held in London, visited an exhibition specially arranged by us for the occasion. The exhibition was intended to demonstrate the connection between anthropological and historical studies. It consisted of a series of photographs representing the diffusion and history of some prominent pictorial types in European and non-European art, e. g., "the animal killer", "the snake dancer", "the half-human, half-animal god", etc. As far as our means allow, we intend to complete this collection for our photographic department.

Forthcoming lectures and courses

The plans for our next year's work with regard to lectures and courses are nearing completion. There will be a series of single lectures, one each month, by scholars of different nationalities. They are intended to facilitate an international exchange of ideas within the limits of our problem. We are planning to combine specialised lectures on historical subjects with others of a more general character, representative of various attitudes to present-day intellectual questions. Thus on the one hand Professor Cornford will lecture on "Divine Reason and Necessity in Plato's Timaeus"; Dr. Lowe on "Roman Culture

before and after the Carolingian Reform, as reflected in Latin Manuscripts"; and Professor Constable on "Classical Anticipations of the Romantic View of Nature in England". On the other hand, M. Maritain will speak on "Science et Sagesse", Prof. Niels Bohr on "Some Humanistic Aspects of the Natural Sciences", and M. de Monzie, the editor of the new French encyclopaedia, on "The Encyclopaedic Idea of To-day".

Independent of the lectures, the courses are intended to fulfil a double purpose: of giving the student the chance of studying a subject through the interpretation of an expert; and of affording the lecturer at the same time an opportunity of discussing his ideas with a sympathetic audience. Mr. Mattingly will hold a class on Roman Coins, Dr. Mawer on the Position of Place-names in Linguistic Studies, Dr. Baltrušaitis on the Relation of Armenian to Gothic Architecture, Dr. Wind on the Religious Symbolism of Michelangelo, and Mr. Wormald on Mediaeval Calendars as Liturgical Documents. Dr. Klibansky and Father Théry O. P. will read Mediaeval Philosophical Texts.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications issued

Our third link with the public consists in the series of publications for which we are responsible. The more important publications made or completed by members of the Institute since it has settled in England are the following:

A Bibliography on the Survival of the Classics, edited by H. Meier, R. Newald, E. Wind (Vol. 1 — Publications of 1931)

Magistri Eckardi Opera latina. Auspiciis Instituti sanctae Sabinae in Urbe ad codicum fidem edita. Praesunt editioni curandae Gabriel Théry, O. P., Raymundus Klibansky. fasc. 1. 2.

Niccolò da Cusa (Cusano). By Raymond Klibansky. In: Enciclopedia Italiana., XXIV, pp. 761—63.

La Fede astrologica di Agostino Chigi. Interpretazione dei dipinti di Baldassare Peruzzi nella sala di Galatea della Farnesina. By Fritz Saxl.

Das Experiment und die Metaphysik. Zur Auflösung der kosmologischen Antinomien. By Edgar Wind.

Michelangelo's Biblioteca Laurenziana. By Rudolf Wittkower. In: The Art Bulletin 16, pp. 123—218.

Pietro da Cortonas Ergänzungsprojekt des Tempels in Palestrina. By Rudolf Wittkower. In: Adolph Goldschmidt zu seinem siebenzigsten Geburtstag, pp. 137—143.

Two works by Prof. E. Cassirer: "Die Philosophie der Aufklärung", in: Grundriß der philosophischen Wissenschaften, Tübingen 1932, and "Individuum und Kosmos in der Philosophie der Renaissance", Studien der Bibliothek Warburg, Bd. 10, Leipzig 1927, appeared in Italian translations.

With the exception of the Bibliography, which opened a new series of the Institute's publications, these works were all issued by publishers other than our own.

Studies to be completed

The continuation of our own series, on the other hand, has been ensured by a contract which we have concluded, through the mediation of Dr. Fleischer, with the well-known publishing firm of Cassell's of London. Dr. Fleischer, who previously published several books by members of the Institute, will in future conduct all our publishing enterprises. Before new English works are taken in hand, we are however faced with the task of completing those already begun in Germany. An essential piece of work of this kind we consider to be the edition of Professor Warburg's collected works, two volumes of which appeared earlier (Gesammelte Schriften, Band 1 und 2: Die Erneuerung der heidnischen Antike, Kulturwissenschaftliche Beiträge zur Geschichte der europäischen Renaissance; mit einem Anhang unveröffentlichter Zusätze unter Mitarbeit von Fritz Rougemont herausgegeben von Gertrud Bing; Berlin/Leipzig 1932). An "Atlas", which will contain his hitherto unpublished work on "the History of Expression and Gesture in the Renaissance", with special reference to the influence of classical sources, is being prepared by Dr. Bing. Dr. Wind is working on an edition of Warburg's studies of "Snake Dance and Ritual".

Other works are: Professor Gundel's book on the "decans" (δεκανοί), which will deal with a most interesting and complicated problem, the blending of Egyptian, Asiatic and Greek star-mythology at the end of the classical period, and its survival through the Middle Ages and the Renaissance; and Professor Salomon's work on Opicinus, the Avignonese cleric of the 14th century, containing the edition and a complete facsimile reproduction of his unpublished allegorical manuscript in the Vatican Library. Of the translation of the Arabic handbook on magic, "Picatrix", by H. Ritter and M. Plessner, four-fifths are printed, but owing to Dr. Plessner's having moved to Palestine the last fifth is not yet completed. We hope this will be accomplished next year. The second edition of the book on "Melencolia" by Panofsky and Saxl is in the press, as is also the Catalogue of Mythological and Astrological Manuscripts preserved in the libraries of London, Oxford and Cambridge, compiled by Saxl and Meier. The work on the second volume of the Bibliography, containing reviews of books issued in 1932 and 1933, is making satisfactory progress. The collaborators in the new volume will be more international than were those of the first.

New studies under preparation

Apart from these publications, mostly of long standing, we are preparing several new works. We are happy thus to be collaborating with the Courtauld Institute in the preparation of a number of publications. The first volume will be devoted to an edition by Mr. Shaw of English Royal Inventories from the time of Henry VIII to the time of George II, which are in the possession of the Record Office. The second will be a critical catalogue of the drawings of Nicolas Poussin, with 150 plates, prepared by Professor W. Friedlaender (already in print).

In July, 1934, Professor Ernst Cassirer celebrated his sixtieth birthday. In realisation of a plan prepared by Dr. Klibansky, the Oxford Press will publish a volume in honour of the occasion. Professor Paton, who from the beginning took an active and helpful interest in this enterprise, will be joint editor with Dr. Klibansky. This volume of papers by an international group of collaborators which will be published in English, deals

with the philosophical aspects of history from various points of view. The translation of French, Italian, German and Dutch philosophical terms into English was a task which could only be achieved by the untiring zeal of all the English scholars concerned. The Institute is proud to have been of some use in an undertaking which was so thoroughly after its own heart. The volume will appear at the end of this year.

As a result of the lectures delivered in the course of last year, we are preparing a volume of Mr. R. Hinks' lectures on "Myth and Allegory in Ancient Art", and another volume of Dr. Wind's lectures on "The History of Wit and Enthusiasm in the 18th Century", with reference to painting and acting.

Dr. Saxl's lectures at the Courtauld Institute on "Pagan Elements in the Art of the Italian Renaissance" will be published together with his lectures on "Humanism in Venetian Art".

Dr. Meier's "Untersuchungen zum liber de scriptoribus ecclesiasticis des Johannes Tritemius" will appear in the "Archives d'histoire doctrinale et littéraire du moyen âge".

Plans for future publications

Our work in progress is manifold. We can only hope that our financial situation will allow us to carry it through in the near future. An enterprise, which will occupy us during the next two years, will be a book on the tondo — the circular form in art. It was the idea of Mr. Hinks and Professor Webster to bring together a few scholars to treat this subject from the beginning of Greek art to the end of the baroque period, and to publish a survey of its importance in a volume of about 250 pages, accompanied by illustrations showing its development throughout two thousand years.

The Catalogue of Astrological and Mythological Illuminated Manuscripts which comprises as yet the libraries of Rome (Vol. 1), Vienna (Vol. 2), London, Oxford and Cambridge (Vol. 3) will, we hope, continue so as to cover in succeeding volumes the libraries of France, Upper and Lower Italy, Spain etc.

A Study of the Religious Symbolism of Michelangelo is being completed by Dr. Wind.

The collaboration with Professor Panofsky in his new post at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton, U. S. A., will, we hope, be continued and lead to a closer contact between the Warburg Institute and American scholars and students.

Dr. Kris of Vienna is working on two books in which the Institute is especially interested, because they treat art-historical questions in their relation to individual and social psychology. The one in which Dr. Gombrich collaborates is concerned with an analysis of caricature. The book will demonstrate its historical growth from genre painting and physiognomics, satire and polemic illustration; at the same time it will elucidate the psychological function of caricature, comparing it with dreams and hallucinations. The other book, for which the collaboration of Dr. Kurz was secured through the generosity and interest of Mr. Edward Warburg, will analyse the social and religious bearings of the magic of effigies and the prohibition of images, with a view of explaining the general function of images and the magical roots of the fine arts.

In accordance with our intention to emphasise the Institute's activities in the history of religion and philosophy in the same measure as in that of the fine arts, Dr. Klibansky has elaborated plans for a series of publications which, under the general title of

"Organon", will comprise unpublished or rare texts, particularly those illustrating the relation of Mediaeval Christian, Jewish, and Arab writers to the Greek tradition. The first volume will contain the main texts relating to the two chief representatives of the School of Chartres, Bernard and Thierry. Dr. Klibansky is, moreover, about to prepare the plans for a corpus of texts which is to cover the "Plato Latinus". The extent and importance of the Platonic tradition from the end of the classical to the Renaissance period — which Dr. Klibansky tries to demonstrate in its continuity — can only be realised by a survey in its entirety of the manuscript material which has remained practically unknown to our day. A "Corpus Platonicum", that is, a complete collection of these documents, is therefore essential as a counterpart of the "Corpus Aristotelicum", which the Union Académique Internationale has been preparing during these last years. The programmes of the two series will be issued separately.

The Institute can undertake the Corpus Platonicum only in collaboration with other bodies and also hopes to secure the help of English scholars.

COLLECTIONS OF BOOKS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Purchases and gifts

For the purchase of books, we have made ample use of the facilities available in London. The number of old books essential for our collection which we have been able to buy for comparatively small sums is greater than in previous years. On several occasions series of periodicals have been purchased in Germany; valuable additions have also been made of smaller collections relating to our special subjects, such as "The History of Troy" and "The Classic Fable". We have greatly profited by the generosity of Mr. E. P. Goldschmidt, who gave us books as presents which we could not have acquired otherwise.

Mrs. O. Sickert gave us her unique collection of photographs of Japanese actors' masks and theatrical representations: a gift which has already proved valuable for our readers.

Loan collections

We have had two important additions to the Library through the kindness of Professor Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and of Mrs. Gundolf. Professor Mendelssohn-Bartholdy has given us on loan his collection of texts relating to theatrical and musical history in France, comprising about 750 volumes.

The late Professor Gundolf of Heidelberg, author of an outstanding book on Caesar's fame, left a collection of about five hundred volumes illustrating the tradition of Caesar. Mrs. Gundolf's keen interest in our Institute has prompted her to lend us this valuable library. We hope that our readers will make full use of the opportunities afforded by these loans.

Photographic department

The greatest improvement which has been effected in the organisation of the Institute is in the photographic section. It is due to its new administrator, Dr. Wittkower. Its systematic order has now been elaborated and the greater number of our photographs are classified. This new arrangement, supplemented by a number of card-indices with cross references, will not only simplify the technical handling, but will bring us nearer to

our ideal of making the photographic collection an adequate counterpart of the book collection. The arrangement of books and photographs alike is designed to set out our problem in the clearest possible manner. As the books give a picture of the history of classical tradition in religion, art, literature and science, seen through the medium of words, so the collection of photographs will give a complementary picture through the medium of imagery. For this purpose we have started upon the long task of completing as far and as systematically as possible our iconographical collection, beginning with graphic art and painting. We are most grateful to the authorities of the British Museum for their encouraging assistance in selecting and recording the relevant objects in the Print Room and Manuscript Department. Owing to our limited resources, we have not been able this year to take more than approximately 1500 photographs in the British Museum, which is only a fraction of what this collection offers for our purposes; but we hope to continue on a larger scale next year.

A second opportunity is afforded by the Witt Library. Our thanks go to Sir Robert Witt, who has given us permission to use his collection for our purposes and to index all the classical representations contained therein. Unfortunately our personnel has not proved large enough to attack at once the task of introducing so great a number of new items.

A third enlargment of our collection will some day have to include sculpture, for which again the Conway Library at the Courtauld Institute offers excellent facilities.

We have had many voluntary helpers. Their assistance, greatly appreciated, has made it possible to get the systematic arrangement of the material in hand so far established that we can hope in future to devote our time more fully to the collection of new material. It is our intention that our collection of photographs shall be of use not only to our readers, but to all, no matter where, who are working on problems similar to our own. Our photographic department has been of considerable help in establishing contact with English and foreign students.

We gladly put on record that the Head of the Photographic Department of the Courtauld Institute worked with us several weeks, in order to become acquainted with our system and with the materials we are collecting. We can only hope that both Institutes will profit from such interchanges.

Both Institutes have a combined interest in another enterprise. Dr. Scharf, of London, together with Dr. Burchard, of Berlin, began years ago to collect material to determine which of the classic works of sculpture were known to the artists of the Renaissance and how far they made use of them. Dr. Scharf is now proceeding with this work by systematically searching through the Print Room of the British Museum and other collections, making photographs of all the available prints and drawings after classic sculptures and arranging them in a card index, together with notes on their influence on Renaissance and baroque art. This index, which it will take Dr. Scharf several years to complete, will constitute a most valuable contribution to our knowledge of the quality and extent of the classical influence on the art of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

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This first year of our existence in England thus represents a period during which we have maintained most of our old activities and tried to feel our way towards new ones. Thus perhaps more has had to be said in this report about future plans than about actual achievements. What has been achieved has been due to the support of our English hosts; to the help given to our work by the Warburg family and their continued confidence and good will; and to the unlimited opportunities which London offers to anyone willing to grasp them.