

FIEC 2009/Berlin proposed paper

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b) Preferred panel:

6, Turning points in the reception of classical antiquity

c) Proposed title:

Bringing *Nachleben* to Britain

d) Outline:

This paper is intended to look afresh at the impact in Britain of the Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek Warburg (KBW) after its emigration in 1933 and reconstitution in London as the Warburg Institute. The literature on Warburg, on the KBW during its time in Hamburg, and on the individuals associated with it then and afterwards is substantial; this has not however always paid sufficient attention to the operational circumstances affecting the Library in London and the attempts made to find support from Britain, both financial and intellectual, nor to the archival evidence that records these.

I propose to rectify this by looking at two publications in particular, on which the Director of the Institute, Fritz Saxl, placed great importance as introducing the work and philosophy of the KBW to a British public: the *Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliographie zum Nachleben der Antike/A bibliograpy on the survival of the classics* (published in 1934 in its German edition, and 1935/1938 in its English edition) and the Festschrift for the émigré philosopher Ernst Cassirer, published as *Philosophy and history* in 1936. Although neither has received due attention, both

publications mark a turning point in the history of the Institute: they form the final occasions on which the Hamburg circle associated with the KBW co-operated and, while reflecting the influence of Warburg in their interpretation of a 'classical tradition', point forward to the new directions taken by the Institute.

The paper will draw on the extensive evidence in the Warburg Institute Archives and other sources, including the correspondence of Saxl and Cassirer, to trace the complex history of these two publications, their reception in Germany and elsewhere, and their ultimate significance - and whether, finally, Saxl's hopes were realised.