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Our Annual Report gives a survey of our past activities in London and of the plans which we have laid for the coming year.

Contracts
with
English
Institutes
and
Libraries.

We have made contacts with the University of London, which has appointed three members of our Institute as lecturers; with the British Museum in London, whose younger Staff have become permanent readers and regular lecturers at our Institute; with the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, whose members figure in our annual lecture courses; with various learned societies and institutions, such as the British Academy, the Royal Historical Society, the Classical Association, the School of Oriental Studies, and others.

Among the libraries with which we work in close co-operation are: the National Central Library, the Libraries of the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, the London Library, the Witt Library, Dr. Williams' Library, and the Institute of Historical Research. Great interest has been taken in our type of work by the School of Librarianship, which is the only institution of this kind in England.

Lectures

A comprehensive programme of lectures has been carried out during the past year, and an even more comprehensive one has been prepared for the current year. Both programmes are appended. In addition to these courses, individual lectures

and classes by prominent scholars were arranged, the details of which are to be found in the Annual Report.

*Adaptation to
England*

We have carried out all these activities in strict continuation of the work we had begun in Hamburg. Our publications were known to English scholars long before the plan of transferring the Institute to London had ever been considered. Thus an important part of our English public were prepared for the type of material which we had to offer. It has been our task to strengthen and vivify our specific method of approach by absorbing some of the new material lying open to us in English libraries and collections; by perfecting the equipment of our Institute through systematic acquisitions, both of books and photographs; by attacking questions which the changing social and scientific situation have brought to the foreground; and by conferring with our English collaborators in laying the plans for future publications.

*Conditions
for future
Plans*

In making plans for a wider future, four aspects of our situation must be considered;

1. The strictly scientific demands which result from our past history and our present equipment.
2. The position we are beginning to assume as an

institute of mediation between American and European scholars.

3. The function we have been fulfilling in helping to provide for displaced Jewish scholars and students.
4. The financial possibilities.

*Scientific
situation*

1. The Institute was founded at a time when the study of history was completely in the hands of specialists. Historians of art, science, literature, religion, social customs, politics each worked in their separate fields and considered it a test of precision not to look beyond the borders of their subject. The official University curriculum supported this view of knowledge. Students who worked in Seminars would find specialised libraries, which would help them to become subtle technicians in a limited field. Any more universal method was abhorred as "unscientific".

Professor Warburg's aim was to disprove this view, not in theory, but practically by establishing a laboratory which would supply by the selection and co-ordination of its material a very accurate and scientific tool for those universal studies which had hitherto been regarded as vagaries.

The method of building up this laboratory was to combine a strictly universal problem and scope with a strictly limited

*General scope
of Institute:
Tradition of
Culture*

sphere of application. The general question to be investigated was the tradition of culture. How does that "social memory" function which utilises the achievements of past epochs in satisfying its present-day needs? In other words: what is the nature of historical ancestry and historical inheritance?

*Anthropological
Aspect*

The question leads back to the fundamentals of anthropology. Transmission and diffusion of culture is a problem familiar to ethnographic scholars, who make comparative studies of primitive rituals and myths, but the very same problem will haunt the historian also, who in a period of so-called enlightened history observes the recurrence of, or the return to, forms of social behaviour which originated in a far distant age. Warburg discovered that for studying the forms of historical revival the tools are to be found in those anthropological methods which had hitherto been applied chiefly to primitive cultures. And he made this discovery again not in general theory, but in the specific application to the one Revival which has proved of critical importance to the whole of modern European civilisation: the revival of Greek and Roman culture during the so-called Renaissance of the 15th and 16th centuries.

Such is the specific problem to which Warburg applied

his general method. By collecting all the relevant materials from the most divergent fields which overlapped in this one problem, he constructed an instrument which the Institute tried to amplify and extend without losing sight of the starting point. To-day we represent a sort of "model institute" for the study of Renaissance problems - the word "Renaissance" no longer being confined to the 15th and 16th centuries, but covering the whole of European civilisation in so far as it can be considered as a survival or revival of Greek and Roman culture. The Middle Ages on the one hand, the 17th and 18th centuries on the other, have become parts of our subject matter, and our scope is beginning to comprise also the Near East, not only as a limiting term, but as an integral section of our studies. An interesting convergence can be observed between this enlarged method of our research and the most recent trends in social and individual psychology. Psychologists have actually come to the point at which they find the pictorial material which we have collected of signal importance for their own studies; and their own materials in turn, especially those relating to the hypothesis of a "collective unconscious", the transmission and collapse of symbolic systems, are of great value to the interpretation of our own historical documents.

*Psychological
aspect.*

*European
civilisation
as central
problem.*

But with all this widening of scope, the point of gravity still lies with the historical study of those epochs which shaped that European civilisation of which we form a part, and which we try to preserve in a moment in which its survival is greatly endangered. It must therefore be recognised that the Institute's type of work is very closely connected with the soil of Europe. Its problem - the survival of the classics - is a strictly European one. Of course, this study can very well be pursued in America also, as has been proved by those excellent American scholars who have become our collaborators and friends. Yet, it must remain an exotic problem in a country which draws its main strength from a tradition in which the survival of the classics has formed no essential part. To study the classical survival in Europe may be a fascinating topic to an American student, but it cannot help being an "academic" topic, whereas in Europe it is a vital one. Should the Institute be transferred to America, it would prove absolutely necessary to transform its structure as an instrument in order to keep it really alive. A complete inversion of interests may have to be considered, which, with the equipment at hand, is quite feasible, though very dangerous. At present, the anthropological question is in the back of our minds and serves as a

regulative principle to direct specific historical studies. For these studies the use of the manuscript materials in European libraries and of the relicts in European museums and cities is indispensable. With the transference to America, these materials would be available only to a limited degree, and the practical work would probably have to shift to the anthropological side on which America is so rich in materials. The historical material which we have collected and on which we are working would be reduced to a "limiting case" - very interesting and useful to the student, but no longer central, and there is the very disconcerting prospect that with this transplantation the original root would shrivel.

*Collaboration
with America*

2. During our stay in England we have had the pleasure of seeing among our readers and collaborators quite a number of American students who have chosen a subject of study which forces them to travel or reside in Europe. Our method of approach appeals to them very strongly, and there has come the suggestion that we ought gradually to expand the Institute into a place of exchange, a sort of clearing-house of American and European scholarship. We should be delighted to carry out this idea. Again it seems to us that Europe, and particularly England, is the most appropriate place for this

purpose. We have found by experience that the most intelligent part of American students find their way very easily to Europe, whereas the best European students get only under great difficulties to America. The reasons are both psychological and financial. The American student is more adventurous. Moreover, America possesses great "foundations", which enable students to travel to Europe. The same does not hold good for the European student, whose chance to travel to foreign countries is mostly supplied by the State. Thus it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to sustain in America that proportion between European and American students and collaborators which has developed here almost automatically.

Activities on behalf of Jewish scholars 3. As regards the providing for displaced Jewish scholars and students, our work during the last two years has had so many good results that we should consider it a great pity if we had to relinquish it. We are in close co-operation with the Academic Assistance Council, one of whose chief directors, Professor Gibson, is a member of our own Board. Mr. Adams, the Acting Secretary, is one of our closest advisors and friends. What has been accomplished by this direct co-operation may best be seen from the Academic Assistance

Council's own printed report. We are glad to say that, through the Academic Assistance Council's agency, our own Institute has become the home of several scholars whom we should not have had the funds to employ.

If we left England, there would be no other Institute to replace us in this function of advising the Academic Assistance Council on the basis of our past German experience, and the considerable number of Jewish scholars outside of London who feel that our Institute serves as a connecting link would be very sensitive to our departure - not to mention the large number of those who daily apply to us for help or advice.

Very much the same holds good for our relations with the Jewish Refugee Committee and its Director, Mr. Schiff, at Woburn House. In many cases, it is true, we have been the receiving party, in that through the Committee we have obtained the help of voluntary assistants in the library and photographic department. But on the other hand the Committee, as well as the Academic Assistance Council, clearly recognise that by transferring to England a tradition which is dying out in Germany we are trying to turn to positive value what otherwise would be nothing but a lamentable catastrophe. Dangerous as it may seem for emigrants to form a group which

carries on its old tradition, it is the only way in which they can really serve the country that receives them. Where German Jewish scholars are forced to adapt themselves individually to the new circumstances, they must tend to efface those traits which distinguish them from the community of scholars which is to absorb them. There is thus a great danger that whatever was important in the German methods of scholarship will die out, not only in Germany itself, but also among those who have left the country. To create a centre for these forces has been one of our chief aims from the beginning, and we are happy to record that our attempt has been successful. A good number of scholars, who otherwise would have completely lost their footing, are continuing their work, for the benefit of science, in the line for which they were trained. But there is no denying that the proximity of the "Hinterland" of the Continent has been a great factor in forming this community.

4. If we now think of the financial future of the Institute, we feel we ought to devise an annual budget which would combine the two virtues of being as modest as possible and yet sufficient to allow the Institute to carry on its activities on the present standard. Our former German budget of

*Financial
Basis, present
and future*

RM.200,000 was ample. We were able to keep a sufficiently large staff, which left the assistant staff free to carry out their individual researches. The Library was kept up-to-date with regard to new publications, and there were sufficient funds to cover the expenses of our own publications, which helped us to obtain the international standing which we now enjoy. We must not forget that it was on the strength of our publications that the interest of English scholars was first aroused. The reduction in Hamburg during the last two years to RM.92,000 already caused serious gaps on the three above-mentioned points. All the same, it was on this figure that the provisional budget of £6,000 was drafted when the removal of the Institute to London was first planned. It must, however, be stressed that in this figure no provision was made for rent, as we had lived rent-free in Hamburg. Since we have to pay an annual rent of £1,000 at Thames House, it needs no pointing out that the present budget ~~of £6,000~~ ~~£5,000~~ is liable to lead to considerable damage to both the material value and the scientific activities of the Institute. It must also be taken into account that in former years we were able to put aside certain sums for publications, so that in Hamburg there are still funds left, out of which we now pay for the printing of our present publications. But the work

actually in progress will exhaust these funds, so that if provision for a longer period is to be made we must again provide for a sufficient amount within our annual budget.

If thus a budget of £5,500 or even £6,000 proves absolutely insufficient to keep the Institute alive for any length of time, we think we can manage on a budget of £8,000 on the following basis: If the University of London could be induced to give us free accommodation for a number of years, £1,000 might be deducted from the sum of £9,000. This hope is not quite unfounded, as there have already been negotiations between our Committee and London University regarding the Institute's accommodation, and these might be renewed if an agreement about the establishment of the Institute in London for an appropriate length of time could be reached. There is also hope that if the Warburg family would consider lending the Institute for a considerable number of years, a group might be found in England who would be willing to guarantee an annual sum of £4,000 for the sake of the benefit which would accrue to London once the establishment of the Institute in this country for a considerable time were assured.

For the remaining £4,000 we wish to suggest the following agreement. On the understanding that the Institute remains the private property of the Warburg family and that

one member each of the New York branch and of the Hamburg branch should always be on the Board of the Institute, the New York contribution remains the same as it has been during the past two years, viz. ^{\$10,000}~~£10,000~~, the Hamburg branch of the family would continue to contribute RM.10,000 for the purchase of German books, and would try to secure another ~~£10,000~~, which might even come from different sources, but which would also be contributed regularly.