Raymond Klibansky and the Warburg Library Network: Intellectual Peregrinations from Hamburg to London and Montreal

From the 1920s the Warburg Library owed its unique politics of publication to a close-knit network around Fritz Saxl and Gertrud Bing – a network of collaborators in which Raymond Klibansky (1905-2005) played a crucial role. The 10th anniversary of Klibansky’s death offered an occasion to reflect on his exceptional contribution to the great collective ventures of the Warburg Institute, which profoundly altered our perception of occidental intellectual history through publications like the Latin and Arabic Corpus Platonicum Medii Aevi (1940-1962) or the belated but all the more famous Saturn and Melancholy (1964). The volume proposed here highlights the output of a symposium on Klibansky and the Warburg Library network held at the Warburg Institute, London, in the summer of 2015.

Edited by Philippe Despoix and Jillian Tomm with the collaboration of Eric Méchoulan and Georges Leroux

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**Bibliography**

*Forthcoming at McGill-Queen's University Press*
A first volume of essays from this research group has been published: Raymond Klibansky, *Tradition antique et tolérance moderne* (Presses de l’Université de Montréal 2016). A second, collective volume is in preparation (see next page): *Raymond Klibansky and the Warburg Library Network* (McGill-Queen’s University Press), as well as a new edition of the famous *Saturn and Melancholy*.

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**The Warburg Library Network: An Open Collaborative Project**

G. Bing, E. Cassirer, R. Klibansky, E. Panofsky, F. Saxl, E. Wind (1930-1968)

*In the 1920s, a group of scholars gravitating around the Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek Warburg developed a distinct set of methods for inquiring into the place and conditions of image circulation within the history of cultures.*

The writings of the library’s prestigious founder, Aby Warburg, are widely studied, but little attention has been paid to his network of collaborators who, nonetheless, participated directly in the production of this institution. Yet, it is this exceptional constellation of researchers—amongst others, Ernst Cassirer, Fritz Saxl, Gertrud Bing, Erwin Panofsky, Edgar Wind, and Raymond Klibansky—who, throughout the group’s dispersion and exile to England, the US and Canada, kept safe, and further developed, the Warburg Library heritage.

This open collaborative project concerns itself with the Warburg Library Network and with its wide-ranging role in the implementation of editorial enterprises and interdisciplinary methods. A central aim, then, is to lay the foundation for a series of collaborations across the main institutions that hold material pertinent to the reconstruction of this circle. In particular, this includes sizable archival holdings for the network’s scattered members, for instance at the Warburg Institute London, the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach, the McGill University Library in Montreal etc.

Ultimately, the project seeks to develop a digital platform tailored to this scholarly network that will bring together for the first time the correspondence and documents pertaining to the methods developed within the Warburg Library Network, as well as facilitate new online research on the Warburg Institute’s large-scale editorial undertakings: Bibliography of the Survival of the Classics, Corpus Platonicum Medii Aevi, Mediaeval and Renaissance Studies, and collective monographs such as *Saturn and Melancholy*.

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