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***Nachlebende, Nachleben***

**Vehicles of Afterlife in (Some) Images and Words of the Warburg Library**

Tracing a general map of recurrences of the lemma *Nachleben* in documents of the Warburg Library may help in shedding some light on a peculiar lexical question within the intellectual dynamics of the so-called Warburg Kreis. As already underlined, the term is not attested in Aby Warburg's published works, except in very few cases, mainly as an adjective. The first occurrence of the noun in Warburg's letters corresponds, in fact, to an expression by the young Fritz Saxl, presenting his research interest: "My core question [...] is the *Nachleben* of Antiquity in the Middle Ages," (1913). In the early 1920s the Warburg Library, created as a private collection, was then turned into a research institute. In those years, the library was described by Fritz Saxl (1921) as a "question-library" (*Problem-Bibliothek*), with questions relating to the posthumous, or afterlife, of Antiquity (*Nachleben der Antike*) being at its centre. Saxl initiated as well the Library's two publication series: *Studies (Studien)* and *Lectures (Vorträge)*. Here within the Warburg Kreis we first find a discussion of the phenomenon of the *Nachleben* of forms. The term is again present in a later introductory text about the *Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek Warburg* by Warburg and Saxl (1927), and is then further documented in the original plan for the system of both the *Bücher-* and *Bildersammlung* of the KBW (1927-1930) later on reformulated in London after the move from Germany. By means of commenting some *loci* of this map, the paper re-discusses the dynamic meaning of the *Begriff Nachleben* in the context of the Warburg Library's 'intellectual biography'.