

Magic and Science at the Warburg Institute

Clare Lappin



THE WARBURG
INSTITUTE

SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

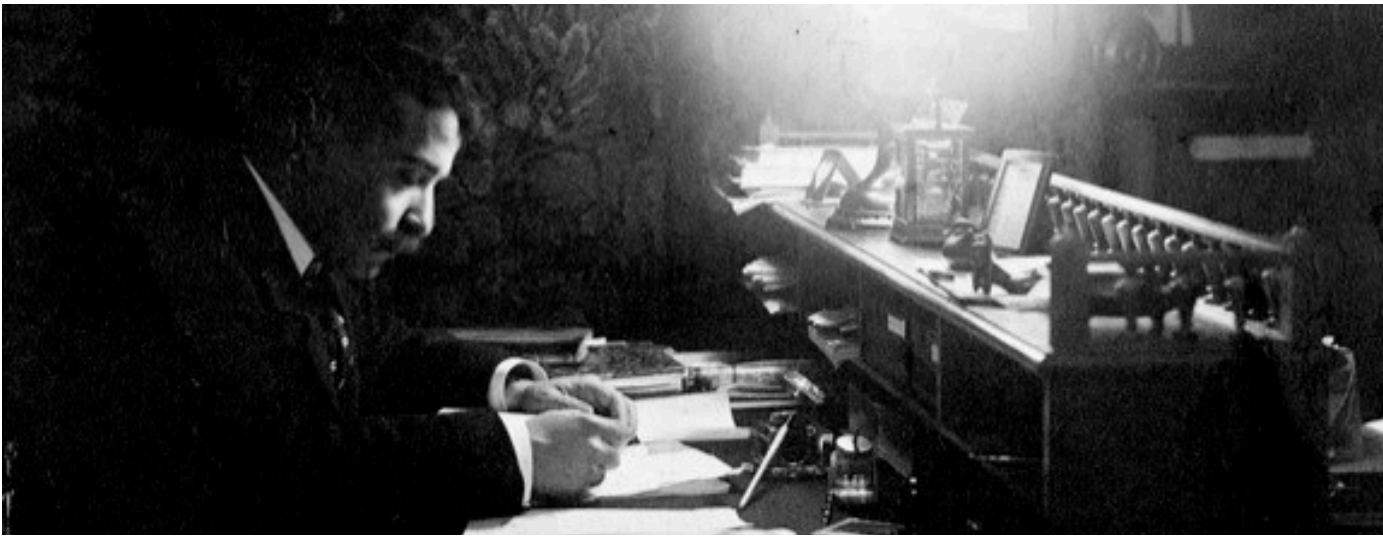
Eine Kurtze Eröffnung und Anweisung der dreyen Principien (1723).

The Warburg Institute

- National role as part of the School of Advanced Study at the University of London
- A leading centre for the interdisciplinary study of cultural history and the role of images in society
- Offering Postgraduate Certificates, MAs, PhDs and fellowships
- Library, Photographic Collection and Archive
- Soon to be a gallery and exhibition space

Aby Warburg (1866-1929)

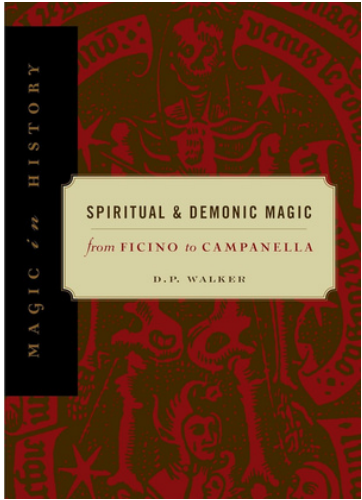
- “The world’s weirdest library”, The New Yorker (2015)
- Tracing the roots of the Renaissance in ancient civilisations; the history of myth, magic and ritual
- Bilderatlas Mnemosyne (1929) on the Warburg website
- Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek Warburg founded in Hamburg in 1926
- The Institute was exiled to London in 1933



Aby Warburg



The Bilderatlas Mnemosyne exhibition



D.P. Walker



Frances Yates



The Picatrix



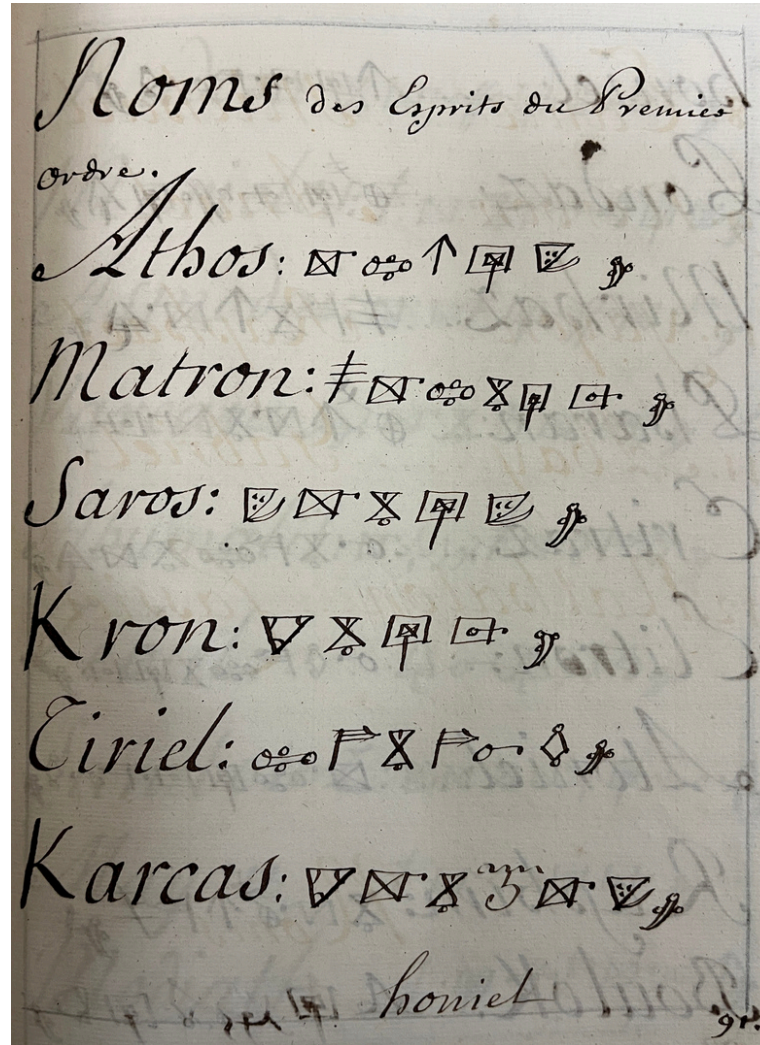
Charles Burnett

Researching the history of magic at the Warburg Institute

- D.P. Walker, Spiritual and Demonic Magic from Ficino to Campanella (1958)
- Frances Yates, Giordano Bruno and the Hermetic Tradition (1964)
- Three editions of Ghāyat al-Hakīm, or The Picatrix, a key 11th century Arabic text on magic and astrology (Arabic 1933; German 1962; Latin 1986)
- Charles Burnett on the transmission of knowledge through the medieval Islamic world, including magic, astrology and divination



Libellus Veneris nigro sacer (c.1600), attributed to John Dee



La clavicule magique et cabalistique du sage Roy Salomon (1632), partly attributed to Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa

Renaissance magic

- Emerges from the study of philosophy, medicine, astrology
- Hidden knowledge: Neoplatonic philosophy, Kabbalah, Hermetic texts
- 15th century: Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499), Giovanni Pico della Mirandola (1463-1494)
- 16th century: John Dee (1527-c.1608); Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa (1486-1535)

Bibliotheca Bruniana online



The Warburg Institute & the Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici,
Centro Internazionale di Studi Bruniani "Giovanni Aquilecchia" (CISB)

BIBLIOTHECA BRUNIANA ELECTRONICA

- Giordano Bruno (1548-1600): philosopher, scientist and poet who wrote on magic and the art of memory
- Aby Warburg purchased a collection of c.350 books on Bruno
- Frances Yates, Giordano Bruno and the Hermetic Tradition (1964) and The Art of Memory (1966)
- Key primary and secondary texts digitised and available online
- Browse the Bibliotheca Bruniana Electronica: The complete works of Giordano Bruno

Magic and Science in the Warburg classification

FF	Natural Sciences
FB	Magic
FC	Magical Objects
FD	Sorcery, Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism
FO	Zoology, Botany, Pharmacy
FG	Alchemy, Chemistry
FE	History of Medicine
FN	Mathematics
FM	Divination
FH	Prophecy
FA	Astrology and Astronomy
FI	Cosmology
FP	Geography

4	ACTION
D	Society and Culture
H	History
3	ORIENTATION
B	Western Religions
G	Eastern Religions
F	Magic and Science
A	Philosophy
2	WORD
E	Language and Literature
N	Transmission of Classical Texts
1	IMAGE
K	Ancient Art and Archaeology
C	Art History
G	READING ROOM
RR	Reference Works
B	PERIODICALS
P	Periodicals

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Ex Libris Aby Warburg: Magic and Science

Shareable URL for this collection: <https://wdl.warburg.sas.ac.uk/collection/THES1301>



Devils and evil spirits of Babylonia , The
Thompson, R. Campbell (Reginald Campbell) (1876-1941)

Date: 1903 Classmark: FBH 50



Disputatio inauguralis iuridica de coniugibus incantatis eorumque separatione, Germanice: Von bezauberten Ehe-Leuten und derselben Scheidung ...

Hartmann, Johann Zacharias (d. 1744)
Zielinski, Johann Helvigius (1700-)

Date: 1731 Classmark: FBH 635



Discours de la superstition
Du Rondel, Jacques (ca. 1630-1715)

Date: 1686 Classmark: FBH 570



Disques ou miroirs magiques de Tarente
Cumont, Franz Valery Marie (1868-1947)

Classmark: FCB 822

Magic and Science in the Warburg Digital Library

- 380 books from Aby Warburg's personal collection on Magic and Science
- Books covering a huge range of subjects, from Babylonian magic to a German title from 1915 on prophetic voices about the World War 1914/15 and other supernatural visions
- Browse Ex Libris Aby Warburg: Magic and Science

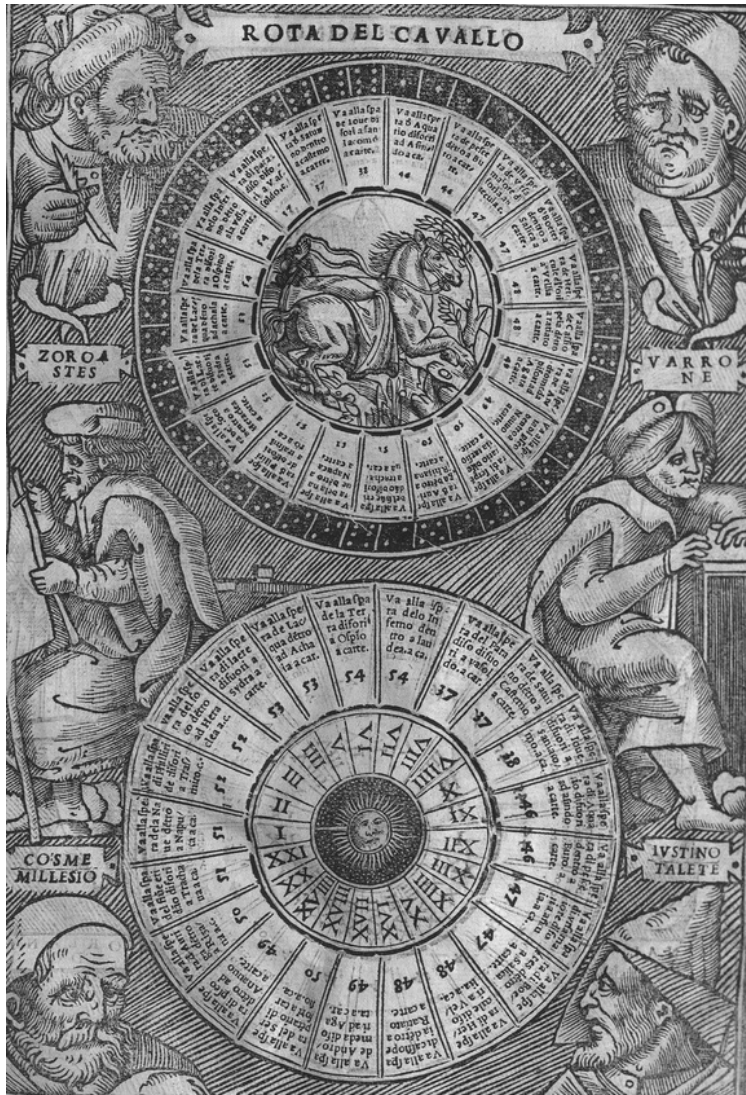


FM

DIVINATION

FMH	1–	Sources. General
	700–	Monsters
	1200–	Comets
	1875–	Divination from Involuntary Movements
	1890–	Palmistry
	2000–	Phrenology
	2320–	Dream Interpretation
	2610–	Crystal Gazing, Hydromancy
	2705–	Geomancy
	3010–	Fortune Telling Books
	3610–	Dice & Board Games
	3825–	Chess
	4110–	Card Games

Que c'est que comette (c.1587).



Sigismondo Fanti, Triompho di fortuna (Venice, 1526).



Lorenzo Spirito, Libro delle Sorti (Mantua, 1551).

Fortune-telling games

- Fortune-telling games and cartomancy as divinatory practices
- Original Thoth Tarot paintings devised by Aleister Crowley and painted by Frieda Harris held at the Warburg
- Exhibition on tarot planned for January 2025



Azoth, ou, Le moyen de faire l'or caché des philosophes (Paris, 1659), attributed to Basilus Valentinus

FG

ALCHEMY, CHEMISTRY

FGH

Sources

FGF

Studies. General

FGD

Asian

FGK

Greek & Roman

FGG

Arabic & Jewish

FGB

Middle Ages|

FGM

Modern Times

The Innes Collection

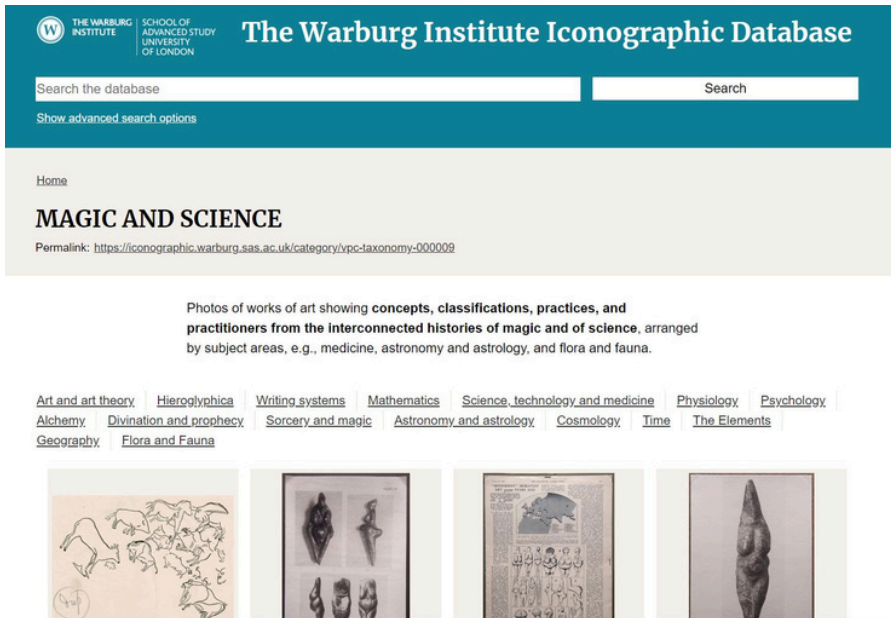
- Bequest from the estate of Michael Innes (1897-1980), received in 2012
- Over 600 early printed books and manuscripts
- Consolidates our already extensive holdings in the fields of Alchemy, Philosophy, Magic, Hermetism, Rosicrucianism, Kabbalah and related subjects

Cabala mineralis (c.1700), attributed to Simeon ben Cantara





Witches in Alessandro Bornaccini, Twenty-two Engravings (1818).



The iconography of magic and science in the Photographic Collection

- The Warburg Photographic Collection holds a huge number of photographs of works of art, organised iconographically by subject
- Visit in person: c.30,000 images across broad range of Magic and Science subjects
Check the Magic and Science index for subjects covered
- Search online: c.16,000 browsable images
Explore Magic and Science in the Iconographic Database



Join the Warburg Library

- Academic staff, fellows, postgraduate students: university ID card
- Undergraduates: student card and letter of recommendation
- GLAM professionals: staff card
- Independent researchers: photo ID, letter of recommendation and proof of address
- [Check membership information](#)

Check events at warburg.sas.ac.uk/whats-on

Events >

Two Hermetic Sciences: Magic and Alchemy in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance

Event type: Short Course

Address: ONLINE VIA ZOOM

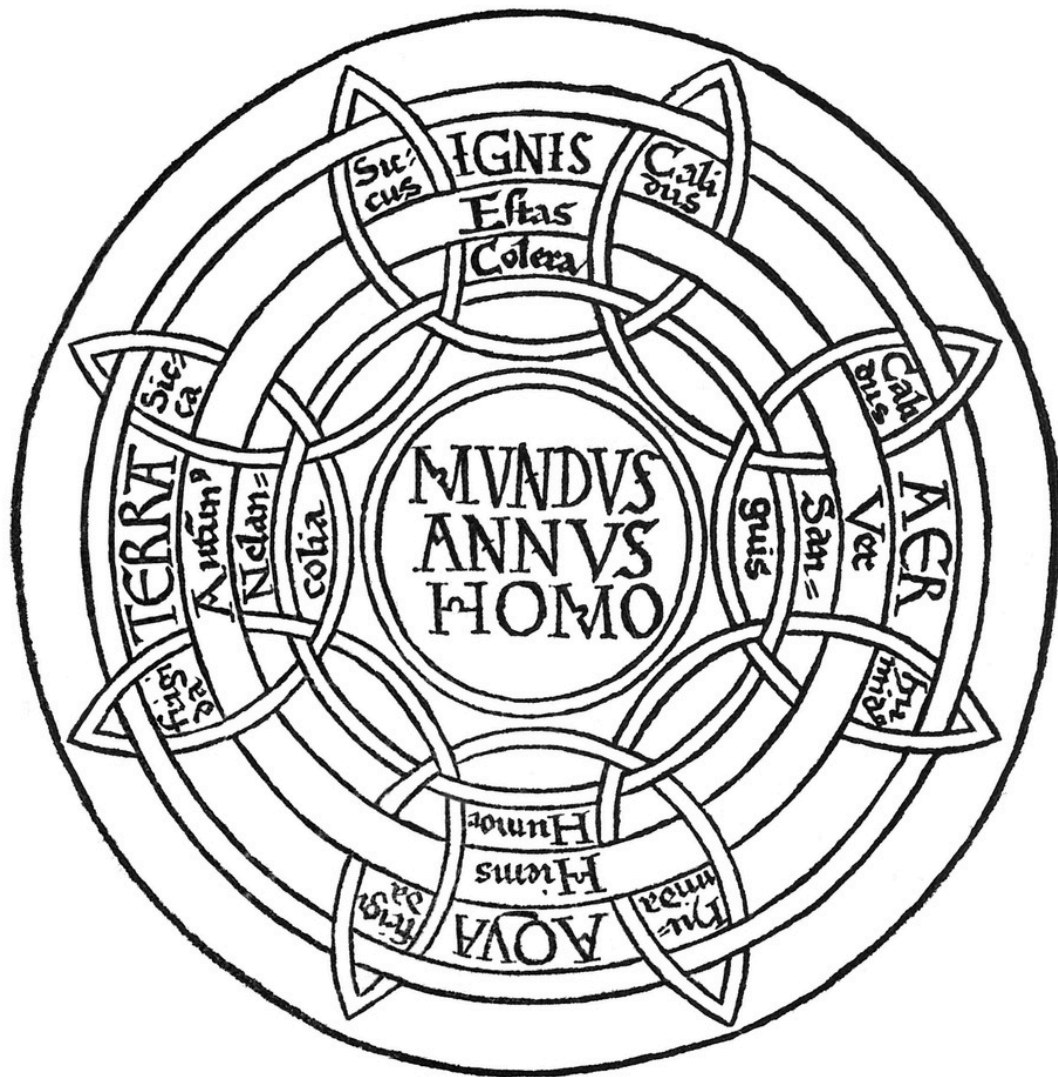
Event dates: 25 June 2024 - 4 July 2024, 11:00AM - 4:00PM

[Add to calendar](#)

Contact: warburg@sas.ac.uk
020 7862 8910

Fully Booked





The emblem of the Warburg Institute

Find out more

Email warburg.library@sas.ac.uk

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