

June 3, 1970

TO: Chairman, Sub-Committee on Lectures

FROM: Walter H. Capps, Department of Religious Studies

It has come to my attention that two outstanding European thinker-scholars will be visiting the USA during the 1970-71 academic year. Both of these, I think, should be considered for lectureships.

The first is Dr. E. H. Gombrich, distinguished art historian, author of The Story of Art, Art and Illusion, Meditations on a Hobby Horse and other outstanding books in the field of art theory and criticism, and Director of The Warburg Institute, University of London.

I became acquainted with Professor Gombrich during the 1968-69 academic year while I was doing research at The Warburg Institute. He is an exceptionally fine scholar, a very able lecturer, and a stimulating person. I have been told that he will be giving a series of lectures in one of the eastern universities in this country in late October and early November. It would be a pleasure to have him come to UCSB as well.

(On July 1, 1970 I will become Director of the Institute of Religious Studies on this campus; despite the fact that the Institute operates on a very limited budget, I would be willing to have this agency co-sponsor such an event.)

The second person is Professor Jacques Ellul, distinguished French political philosopher. Professor Ellul (of Bourdeaux University) has been engaged in analyses of and commentaries on the fate of human values in the technological society; indeed, one of his many books is entitled Technology in Society. In addition, and as a kind of lay theologian, he has addressed himself particularly to questions regarding the affect of social and cultural change on religious aspiration.

The Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions thinks so highly of Professor Ellul that it has invited him to Montecito for an extended period of time during the coming academic year. Perhaps in cooperation with the Center he might also be considered as a Regents' Lecturer or Professor.

At any rate, I suggest the above names because the interests of them both cross a variety of academic fields and disciplines.

Ellison Hall 1837

June 24, 1970

Dr. E. H. Gombrich
Director, The Warburg Institute
University of London
Woburn Square
London, W.C.1, England

Dear Professor Gombrich:

Thank you for your prompt reply to my recent inquiry.

I feel somewhat like a pest, and yet I am unwilling to let a rich opportunity go by.

Trusting that your reply was influenced primarily by your hesitancy to deliver a lecture on religion, I have asked others on the campus if they might co-sponsor (with the Institute of Religious Studies) a lecture on a topic of your choice. (My own suggestion, of course, would be your lecture on Aby Warburg.) I have not been party to what the others have done, but I understand that a letter has gone out from the Arts and Lectures office. I hope that the alteration in framework on our part might lead to a reconsideration on your part. If not, however, we will certainly understand.

We also have a good working relationship with the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions here in Santa Barbara. I have authority from them to mention to you that they too would very much like a visit from you if you are able to come to our university. As you may know, the Center sponsors discussions, seminars, reading-of-papers, etc., throughout the year, and scholars, statesmen, and others from throughout the world are invited to contribute. In their own way, the fellows at the Center are very much interested in kulturwissenschaft. I simply list this as another possibility. If there is hope for pursuing it, I'll leave the details and further description to Mr. John Wilkinson, senior fellow at the Center.

Thank you also for information about your son. I am not sure yet what I should do with it, but we will give the matter thorough consideration.

Yours truly,

Walter H. Capps
Associate Professor of Religious
Studies, and Director of the
Institute of Religious Studies

WHC:hme

June 4, 1976

Dr. E. H. Gombrich
Director, The Warburg Institute
Woburn Square
London, W.C.1, England

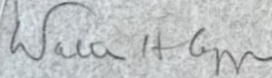
Dear Professor Gombrich:

I write this time in my capacity as chairman of the Committee on Arts and Lectures on our campus.

We understand that you are contemplating being in Chicago during the 1976-77 academic year. Would you be open to an invitation to come to the University of California, Santa Barbara, as a Regents Professor. This involves being on the campus for approximately three weeks, giving two public lectures, and being available (in moderation, of course) to consult with faculty, visit classes, etc. The stipend is \$3,000 out of which you must pay travel and personal accommodations expenses.

The formal invitation is issued by our chancellor. I am simply writing to explore what for us is a most intriguing and excellent possibility. As you know, I've been trying for years to lure you to this place. I hope we can be successful this time.

Sincerely yours,



Walter H. Capps
Professor of Religious
Studies