

PREFACE

At first sight the theme of the 1972 Conference appears to have little in common with the intellectual orientation of *Eranos*. However, one glance at the titles of individual lectures will be sufficient to show how we defined the approach to this Conference. On the whole, emphasis was placed on the role of colour in the traditions of the major civilizations, on colour as the carrier of symbolic values, and as an expression of psychic experience. Even the contributions from the fields of physics and biology were primarily concerned with the mind's ability to grasp the colour phenomenon rather than with a mere discussion of the specifically scientific problems involved.

For unforeseen reasons Professor Gilbert Durand's lecture, announced on the preliminary programme, could not be delivered.

Publication of volume 41 of the *Eranos Yearbook* was delayed for the same reasons as those outlined in the prefaces to the two preceding volumes. We wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our special gratitude to the publishers, Messrs. E.J. Brill, for the speed with which they were able to close the gap in the programme of publication.

Basel and Ascona, December 1973.

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