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Note on the Text

The manuscript for ‘Religion of the Romans’ is a collection, written in ink and with marginal corrections in pencil, on 56 loose-leafed, lined, pages.¹ As an envelope serves another lined double page, bearing the title ‘Die Religion der Römer von Georg Wissowa’, to which was later added, in pencil, ‘für die “Kultur der Gegenwart”’ and below ‘Korrekturen erbeten am 1904’. The title page bears a stamp ‘Professor G Wissowa, Halle a. S. Mühlweg 20’, which is where he resided at the time this manuscript was written. The page also bears a note, on the top ‘Vgl. E. Samter, Rom I in Die Religion’, which was referred to in the literature at the end of the manuscript.

The manuscript is written in Wissowa’s neat handwriting and is, as other, comparable manuscripts show, a fair copy of an earlier hand-written manuscript, with only few corrections. The earlier text is now lost. However, the sometimes absurdly long sentences speak to how much the topic was clearly framed in his mind and only needed setting out on paper, with one thought quickly following another, making for dense, and highly structured sentences, in which all possible information is compiled. These long sentences were left untouched by later corrections. The corrections he did make were minor re-phrasings in the text. These were done, with a few exceptions, above the line.² In the following German text, we have attempted to indicate how the text was initially set onto the page and reworked by also including words and phrases that were later left out. However, the headings structuring the entry (twice underlined) as well as marginal notes were added later (though how much later cannot be said; the handwriting shows no development). Wissowa left blank lines to structure the text into which he later inserted the headings, numbered I through VI, with ‘Introduction’ and ‘Outlook’. That these headers were added later can be seen, for example, in that the author forgot to leave a line for the ‘Introduction’ – the text begins

1 Part of the estate of Wissowa at the University Library in Halle under the signature Wissowa Yi 20 Ia II.

2 Where they appear as marginalia, this is indicated in the following typescript of the German manuscript.

on the first line of the first page, with the header superscribed in the blank above the text.

Wissowa allowed for corrections and alterations to be made to the text by the simple move of folding each page down on the right hand side, thus creating a margin of ca. 7 cm. In these margins, he added the structuring elements here indicated as marginalia by an enclosure in double square brackets and some longer corrections or insertions. Each page bears text only on its front, the verso is left clear. Words and phrases that were to be in italics in the printed text are underlined with a wavy line in the manuscript. We have chosen here to italicise them, in the way Wissowa clearly meant them to be printed.

The literature Wissowa points to on the final five pages was set out on separate sheets (Ms. pp. 52–56), presumably from the start, though here, also, there is no hesitation in putting down the text, though some few items were later added.

The original manuscript was not numbered. The numbers on the pages were added when the manuscript became part of the collection of letters and writings left by Wissowa to the University of Halle. Page numbers are here indicated by a vertical bar and lowered number.