

## Introduction to the Documentary Volumes on Wilhelm Reich, History of Orgonomy (1897-1952)

Discoveries such as the COSMIC LIFE ENERGY (ORGONE ENERGY) require on the part of the discoverer knowledge, cleanliness of emotions, economic disinterestedness, faithful adherence to painstaking work over decades, aloofness from what otherwise drives men and women toward accomplishment, such as early fame, or riches, or any kind of comfort. Once the discovery has been made and secured, it belongs to the world. It can do with it as it pleases; use it or abuse it; preserve it and develop it further; distort it and squelch it. The world may even choose to kill the discoverer or to bury the new knowledge for good. All this the world can do, and nobody is in any position to change the course once it is given in the social trends of the times.

However, the true historian has a quite different obligation to carry out: He must, if he shall deserve the name Historian, be faithful in preserving the historical facts. And preservation of the historical facts is not possible, unless the facts have been set down on documents, letters, manuscripts, etc., and have been deposited in such a manner that they be accessible to the true historian.

The DOCUMENTARY VOLUMES ABOUT WR's Life and Work, which were fully devoted to the discovery and elaboration of the Cosmic Life Energy, are presented to the public as a service in *securing the factual evidence* as against mere opinions, favorable or slanderous points of view which were rampant by the million over the decades which encompassed the actual process of discovery. And there is no better guarantee of objectivity and fair play than *letting the documents speak*. No comments or footnotes were added to the factual evidence during the period of the compilation and editorial arrangements. Where obscure matters required elucidation, it was accomplished in

the form of correspondence on the subject in question among the members of the editing staff of The Wilhelm Reich Foundation.

No *post hoc* or *ad hoc* interpretation was attempted. It would only have blurred the true picture of the emotional and social scene which formed the background and stage of the Discovery of the Life Energy in the twentieth century.

WR's personal views about himself have been separated under the title "*The Silent Observer*" in the last volume of the series.

Thus, the world of science, art and philosophy as well as other branches of human effort are, with respect to the factual historical and biographical evidence regarding orgonomy, entirely on their own as far as *responsibility* for the preservation of the true circumstances and involvements are concerned. It is from now on up to the public at large to decide, independent of private opinions and mere guesses, what was true and what was false, who cheated and who did not, who tried to kill orgonomy by slander and who tried to preserve the findings. Documents cannot lie. They came about as witnesses to actual processes of living Life as it runs its course. The only influence exerted by the discoverer of the Life Energy upon the historical material was his resolve to save, during the years of social catastrophes, as much authentic material as possible; to collect as much as he could and to keep the material in proper shape for future use. He succeeded in this undertaking to a rather complete extent, although many documents were lost during the first days of the Hitler regime, in 1933.

More has been done to secure the highest possible degree of historical truth: Original copies of many documents have been deposited with various people; the most important documents of the period 1919-1934, the so-called "Psycho-analytic Period," were deposited through the *Sigmund Freud Archives* with the *Library of Congress*, Washington, D. C., during 1952. Thus the chance that some political evildoer might succeed in destroying historical evidence or even falsify it, as was done in Imperialist Russia in the 1930's, was reduced to a great extent. And more will be done in this direction in future years.

Interest in the preservation of historical truth by "*letting only documents speak*" was one of several motives of the undertaking. Another motive was the grave concern with which anyone working within the realm of orgonomy was burdened, namely the concern over possible future slander and defamation of WR's clean name and work on the part of emotionally sick individuals, no matter of what sex, profession, age or nationality.

It was one of the foremost reasons to restrict these volumes to factual evidence only: To prevent, if possible, distortions, falsifications, interpretation without basis in facts, slander, maligning, etc. of the Discovery of the Life Energy. What other less exasperating findings have always provoked, namely, distortion and slander, orgonomy has provoked a thousand fold since its facts and tenets are much closer to man's heart and soul than any other teaching, with the exception of the great religions. And, being closer, the emotional reaction against these facts on the part of people who had lost their happiness and lives, past, present and future, was to be expected to be much graver, more severe and less conciliatory, than in other cases of burning disclosures. Therefore, restriction of the evidence to *documents only* was imperative.

A third major reason for the documentary policy in the presentation of the history of orgonomy was, last but not least, the extremely vivid character of the manuscripts, letters and other documents. They show that in the struggle for or against orgonomy, there were no neutrals; no quarters were given; the fight was merciless and unfair on the part of the foes, and it required the greatest of psychiatric skill on the part of the discoverer, lest the discovery were to have been killed on many occasions. The scientific presentations contain only very little of this burning struggle. The documents, such as the "Einstein Affair," the "Duval affair," the "Norwegian campaign," etc., are full of historical fire, and thus in themselves valuable to the historian and scientist alike.

The arrangement of the historical documentary material is as follows

THE PSYCHOANALYTIC PERIOD (Psychiatry)	1919-1934
THE MARXIST PERIOD (Sociology)	1927-1933
THE NORWEGIAN CAMPAIGN (Biogenesis)	1935-1940
THE AMERICAN PERIOD (Cosmic Engineering)	1940-1952
THE SILENT OBSERVER (WR—The Man)	1897-1952

*Orgonon, Rangeley, Maine  
December, 1952*

*The Wilhelm Reich Foundation*

### "Air Germs"

It is much easier to meet a new fact with an empty slogan than to try and understand the new. Orgonomy since its inception has been harassed by the same catch phrases which keep popping up no matter how often and thoroughly they have been refuted. Like the cat with nine lives, the slogans continue to recur, but the analogy stops here because the slogans seem to have no limit to their resurrective capacity. However, if the shallow and meaningless is continually repeated, the truth also must be constantly reiterated.

Reich has subsumed all irrational nuisance criticisms under the general heading "*Air Germs*." The expression is derived from the pithiest of word explanations, the slogan "only air germs" which was misapplied to the discovery of the bions and the natural organization of protozoa. More figuratively, the expression is apt because these phrases it refers to are, as it were, snatched out of the air, and used as a kind of fog to keep the earthy, sharp-edged facts from penetrating. The tenacity of this fog, the way it is usually accepted indifferently, are problems which go to the roots of the human structure of today.

But if that problem of structure itself is tackled, then there is an "air germ" ready to block access to the basis of "air germs" in general. This takes us to perhaps the first and certainly one of the most repeated slogans in orgonomy's history. The problem of human irrationality was first grasped in a basic way when Reich formulated the concepts of "orgastic potency" and "orgastic impotence." The countering catch phrase was, put crudely, "sex isn't everything." In its more sophisticated form, as expressed recently again by Lewis Mumford in his *THE CONDUCT OF LIFE*, it goes as follows: Reich's concept of "orgastic potency" is put forward as a "universal panacea." And that—mind you—is the "fallacy of one-dimensional salvation." We shall answer this, and other "air germs" in the future, by quoting directly from orgonomic literature.

Reich, *CHARACTER ANALYSIS*, pp. 274-275:

"We agree with the adversary: It is perfectly true that sexuality is not everything in life. We can even add the further fact that in healthy individuals sexuality is not a subject for talk and not in the center of thinking.

Why, then, we must ask, does sexuality—in spite of these facts—assume the central spot in the life and the thinking of people? Let us illustrate by an example:

"It goes without saying that the circulation of the steam in a factory is the prerequisite of its functioning. Yet, the workers in this factory never give a thought to the circulation of the steam; they are completely concentrated on the manufacture of their product. The steam energy is indeed not 'everything'; there are other, more important interests, such as the making of machines, etc. But let us assume that suddenly some valves in the circulation system get stuck: the circulation of the energy ceases, the machines stop, and with that, the work. Now, the workers' attention becomes centered exclusively on the disturbance of energy circulation, and on how it could be remedied. But what if some workers were to argue as follows: 'This silly heat theory exaggerates the role of the steam. Yes, it is true that the steam is necessary, but, by golly, that is not everything. Don't you see that we have other interests, that there are economic factors to be considered?' In this case, these 'wise guys' would simply be laughed at and one would first try to eliminate the disturbance in steam circulation before one would 'think of other things.'

"... The tremendous effort of sex-economy consists precisely in trying to help these so-called 'other' things *get their proper due*. That today everything revolves around sexuality is the surest indication of a severe disturbance in the flow of sexual energy in man, and with that in his biosocial functioning. Sex-economy strives to unlock the valves of the biological energy flow so that, as a result, 'other' important things, such as clear thinking, natural decency, and joyful work, can function, so that, in other words, sexuality, in its prevailing pornographic form, ceases to comprise *all* thinking as it does today."

## Projeto Arte Org Redescobrimo e reinterpretando W. Reich

Caro Leitor

Infelizmente, no que se refere a orgonomia, seguir os passos de Wilhelm Reich e de sua equipe de investigadores é uma questão bastante difícil, polêmica e contraditória, cheia de diferentes interpretações que mais confundem do que ajudam.

Por isto, nós decidimos trabalhar com o material bibliográfico presente nos microfilmes (Wilhelm Reich Collected Works Microfilms) em forma de PDF, disponibilizados por Eva Reich que já se encontra circulado pela internet, e que abarca o desenvolvimento da orgonomia de 1941 a 1957.

Dividimos este “material” de acordo com as revistas publicadas pelo instituto de orgonomia do qual o Reich era o diretor.

01- International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research (1942-1945).

02- Orgone Energy Bulletin (1949-1953)

03- CORE Cosmic Orgone Engineering (1954-1956)

E logo dividimos estas revistas de acordo com seus artigos, apresentando-os de forma separada (em PDF), o que facilita a organizá-los por assunto ou temas.

Assim, cada qual pode seguir o rumo de suas leituras de acordo com os temas de seu interesse.

Todo o material estará disponível em inglês na nuvem e poderá ser acessado a partir de nossas páginas Web.

Sendo que nosso intuito aqui é simplesmente divulgar a orgonomia, e as questões que a ela se refere, de acordo com o próprio Reich e seus colaboradores diretos relativos e restritos ao tempo e momento do próprio Reich.

Quanto ao caminho e as postulações de cada um destes colaboradores depois da morte de Reich, já é uma questão que extrapola nossas possibilidades e nossos interesses. Sendo que aqui somente podemos ser responsáveis por nós mesmos e com muitas restrições.

Alguns destes artigos, de acordo com nossas possibilidades e interesse, já estamos traduzindo.

Não somos tradutores especializados e, portanto, pedimos a sua compreensão para possíveis erros que venham a encontrar.

Em nome da comunidade Arte Org.

Sobre o Instituto Wilhelm Reich e Bibliografia  
About the Wilhelm Reich Institute and Bibliography

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