

MAGNUS-HIRSCHFELD-GESELLSCHAFT E.V.
FORSCHUNGSSTELLE ZUR GESCHICHTE
DER SEXUALWISSENSCHAFT

MAGNUS-HIRSCHFELD-GESELLSCHAFT E.V. • CHODOWIECKISTR. 41 • D-10405 BERLIN

Press release

The Magnus Hirschfeld Society (Magnus-Hirschfeld-Gesellschaft e.V., hereafter MHG) is very excited about the founding of the "Bundesstiftung Magnus Hirschfeld" [Magnus Hirschfeld National Foundation] by the federal cabinet on August 31, 2011.

On this occasion, the Society states:

Finally – for the first time — there is a possibility for financing research studies and projects in memory of the homosexual women and men persecuted under National Socialism and studies on the life and work of Magnus Hirschfeld, his Institute for Sexual Research (1919-1933), and their effects on sexual research and sexual policies.

Given the large number of tasks for the foundation, the creation of the foundation with assets of 10 million euros can be only the beginning. Another 5 million euros is expected by the MHG to supplement the foundation assets; these additional funds have been authorized by the Department of Finance from any surpluses of the Ministry of Justice.

Since 1982 the MHG in Berlin has been involved in the historical legacy of Magnus Hirschfeld and his Institute for Sexual Research. The studies by its members and by the Research Center for the History of Sexual Research (founded in 1992), many of which have been done voluntarily without compensation, have established the bases and conditions for the "Bundesstiftung Magnus Hirschfeld," which has now been created. The Magnus Hirschfeld Society has persistently pointed out the uncompensated reparations for the destruction of the Institute for Sexual Research, and together with other organizations has demanded proper compensation. This has been done through publication of an appeal in 1985, through a series of lectures and readings, through exhibitions both at home and abroad, and through submissions to the German Bundestag. What is left of the estate of Magnus Hirschfeld is held by the archive of the MHG; these materials have recently been supplemented by purchases and gifts of valuable biographical documents and photographs and of sections of its library, donated in part by relatives living today in Australia and in the United States.

The MHG is represented on the scientific advisory board of the foundation.

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For more information about the work of the Magnus Hirschfeld Society:
www.magnus-hirschfeld.de