

{...}

*Further notes toward the definition of the blockbuster (1987)*

— Vienna, 1913.

“Such ferment!” he exclaimed. “One can sense the decadent fin-de-siècle excitement in the mephitic air of the slums!” — “Yes! we linger in these cafes to escape our unheated apartments!” — “Look! Sigmund Freud, with Schoenberg and Karl Kraus!” — “Robert Musil waves from a passing carriage!” — “You must pardon my momentary giddiness! I felt the pervasive influence of Schopenhauer!”

Waltz. Mahler Lied.

— Oxford, 1940.

“Yes,” said Wisdom with a strangely focused dreamlike expression “But what do we *mean* when we say ‘Hitler’s armies are massed across the Channel’?”

Abruptly everyone left for Bletchley Park.