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| *Politiken* 14 September 1931  **En tragisk Livsskæbne afsluttedes I Gaar**  *Lili Elvenes – tidligere Maleren Einar Wegener – er død paa Frauenklinik i Dresden.*  En ejendommelig Livsskæbne, der udviklede sig uden for alle tilvante Forestillinger, har i Gaar fundet sin Afslutning. *Lili Elvenes* – tidligere *Einar Wegener* – er i Gaar Formiddags efter flere Maaneders haarde Lidelser afgaaet ved Døden paa Fraunklinik i Dresden.  [Illustration]  Billedtekst:  Lili Elvenes, fotograferet i Sommer.  I et Interview med hende selv, fortalte vi i Sommer vore Læsere hendes Livs Historie, der falder i to skarpt adskilte Afsnit. Det første omfattede Maleren *Einar Wegener*, en ung, talentfuld og lovende Maler, der drog til Frankrig, hvor han bosatte og akklimatiserede sig og sammen med sin Kunstnerkamerat, Malerinden *Gerda Wegener* brød sig en Bane. Malerparret udstillede paa de franske Udstillinger, høstede megen Anerkendelse og skabte sig en smuk kunstnerisk Position. Med Aars Mellemrum udstillede Einar Wegener her i Byen og rundt om i mange københavnske Hjem hænger hans Landskaber, de fleste med Motiver fra Frankrig og Italien.  Men Medgangen gjorde ikke Einar Wegener lykkelig, efterhaanden som Aarene gik, følte han sig mere og mere forpint, baade aandeligt og legemligt, og det gik op for ham, at han var blevet forkert placeret her i Livet. Forgæves søgte han Hjælp hos en Række Læger, med først da han kom i Forbindelse med den berømte tyske Kvindelæge Professor *Warnekros*, Lederen af den ansete “Frauenklinik” i Dresden, fandt han den rette Forstaaelse. Prof. Warnekros konstaterede, at det drejede sig om et af de Tilfælde, hvor et Individ fødes med dobbelte Kønsanlæg. Ejnar Wegener var i Kirkebogen indskrevet som en Mand, men var i langt højere Grad en Kvinde, og i Aarenes Løb havde hans egentlig Natur udløst sig mere og mere. Gennem en Række dristige og teknisk set beundringsværdige Operationer skabte Prof. Warnekros sin Patient Betingelserne for at fortsætte Livet som Kvinde.  Det var en ung Dame, udpræget kvindeligt tænkende og følende, der i Fjor Efteraar kom hertil som Rekonvalescent, for at skaffe sig Borgerret i Samfundet. Hun var endnu stærkt nervøs og oprevet efter de alvorlige Indgreb og det lange Sygeleje, skræmt, usikker og famlende over for Tilværelsen, men efterhaanden som de praktiske Vanskeligheder ordnede sig, fik hun mere Mod til at tage Livet op, ud fra de nye Forudsætninger. Hun fik en ny Identitet, hendes Navn blev i Kirkebogen rettet til *Lili Elvenes* (over for Offentligheden kaldte hun sig for Lili Elbe) og Ægteskabet med *Gerda Wegener* blev ikke opløst, men erklæret for ugyldigt.  Der var i dette nye Afsnit af hendes Liv vistnok nogle Maaneder, hvor det tragiske i hendes Liv blev trængt tilbage af en lykkelig Tilfredshed, hun sagde selv, at hun havde Følelsen af at være sluppet ud af et Fængsel, og hun nød endelig at være sig selv, at faa Lov til at udfolde sin naturlige Personlighed.  Tillidsfuld og frejdig forlod hun i Begyndelsen af Juni København for efter et Besøg i Dresden at rejse til Paris og derfra videre til Marokko, hvor hun skulle besøge *Gerda Wegener* og hendes italienske Mand, Kapt. *Porta*. Det inderlige Venskabsforhold, der gennem de mange Arbejdsaar havde knyttet Ejnar og Gerda sammen, gav sig under de ændrede Forhold det smukkeste Udslag, og Gerda Wegener var Lili Elvenes en taalmodig, opofrende og kærlig Støtte.  Da Lili Elvenes ankom til Dresden, foretrak imidlertid Prof. Warnekros at beholde hende paa sin Klinik for at foretage en sidste og afsluttende Operation. Den gik godt, og en Tid saa det ud til, at hun skulde komme over det, men saa viste det sig, at hun var angrebet af en alvorlig Sygdom, vistnok en Kræftlidelse, som udviklede sig meget hurtigt. Hun led store Smerter, men var ved sin Bevidsthed lige til det sidste.  Medens Lili Elvenes stillede de største Forventninger til sin nye Tilværelse, Krav, som Livet aldrig vilde have kunnet indfri og derfor kun vilde have beredt hende store Skuffelser, fremgik det af de smukke og afklarede Afskedsbreve, hun har sendt sin Slægt og sine Venner, at hun havde fundet sig helt til Rette med Døden. Paa sit Dødsleje fuldførte hun en Selvbiografi, som hun ønskede skulde udkomme i Bogform.  Lili Elvenes’ Broder, der bor i Nærheden af Barndomshjemmet i Vejle, var for et Par Dage siden rejst ned til hende. Hendes Begravelse vil efter hendes eget Ønske finde Sted i Dresden.  *Fru Loulou.* | *Politiken* 14 September 1931  **A Tragic Life Story Was Ended Yesterday**  *Lili Elvenes – formerly the painter Einar Wegener – has died at Frauenklinik in Dresden.*  A singular life story that developed beyond all customary conceptions reached its conclusion yesterday. *Lili Elvenes –* formerly *Einar Wegener* – passed away yesterday morning at Frauenklinik in Dresden after several months of severe suffering.  [Illustration]  Caption:  Lili Elvenes, photographed this summer.  In an interview with her this summer, we told our readers her life’s story, which falls into two sharply separated parts. The first comprised the painter *Einar Wegener*, a young talented and promising painter who went to France where he settled and became acclimatised and with his fellow artist, the painter *Gerda Wegener*,blazed a trail for himself. The painter couple exhibited at the French exhibitions, gained much recognition and established a fine artistic position for themselves. Every few years Einar Wegener exhibited in this city and his landscapes hang in many homes around Copenhagen, most of them with subjects from France and Italy.  But the success did not make Einar Wegener happy, as the years passed by, he felt more and more tormented, both spiritually and physically, and he realised that he had been misplaced in this life. To no avail he sought help from a number of doctors but not until he came into contact with the famous German gynaecologist professor *Warnekros*, head of the distinguished “Frauenklinik” in Dresden, did he find the proper understanding. Professor Warnekros established that it was one of those cases where an individual is born with double gender predisposition. Ejnar Wegener had been listed as a man in the parish register but was to a much greater extent a woman, and over the years his true nature had released itself more and more. Through a number of bold and technically admirable operations professor Warnekros created the conditions for his patient to continue life as a woman.  It was a young lady, distinctly feminine in thought and feeling, who came here as a convalescent last autumn to obtain citizenship. She was still highly nervous and upset after the serious surgery and the long illness, frightened, insecure and hesitant in the face of life, but as the practical difficulties were settled, she gradually got more courage to take up life under new conditions. She had a new identity, her name was changed to *Lili Elvenes* in the parish register (to the public she called herself Lili Elbe), and the marriage to *Gerda Wegener* was not dissolved but declared invalid.  There were in this new chapter of her life probably some months where all that was tragic in her life was forced back by a happy contentment, she said herself that she had the feeling of having been let out of a prison and she enjoyed finally being herself, to be allowed to realise her natural personality.  Full of confidence and cheerful she left Copenhagen in the beginning of June to travel to Paris after a visit to Dresden and from there on to Morocco where she was to visit *Gerda Wegener* and her Italian husband, captain *Porta*. The deep friendship that had linked Ejnar and Gerda together through the many working years was most beautifully reflected under the changed circumstances, and Gerda Wegener was a patient, devoted and loving support to Lili Elvenes.  When Lili Elvenes arrived in Dresden, professor Warnekros however preferred to keep her at his clinic in order to perform one last and concluding operation. It went well and for a time it looked as if she would recover from it, but then it appeared that she was suffering from a serious illness, probably a cancer that developed very quickly. She suffered great pains but was conscious until the end.  While Lili Elvenes expected the greatest things of her new life, demands that life would never have fulfilled and therefore would only have caused her great disappointments, it appeared from the beautiful and serene farewell letters she has sent to her family and friends that she had completely come to terms with death. On her deathbed, she completed an autobiography that she wished to be published in book form.  Lili Elvenes’s brother who lives near the childhood home in Vejle had travelled down to her a couple of days ago. At her own request her funeral will take place in Dresden.  *Mrs. Loulou.*  Translated from Danish by Marianne Ølholm  24 February 2019 |