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| Berlingske Tidende (14 September 1931)  **Lili Elvenæs, alias Ejnar Wegener, er afgaaet ved Døden.**  ***En tragisk Afslutning paa en fantastisk Livsskæbne.***  Det vakte for et lille Aars tid siden Opsigt Verden over, baade i videnskabelige Kredse og der, hvor man søger Sensation, at Maleren Ejnar Wegener paa en Klinik i Dresden var blevet underkastet en Operation, der havde forvandlet ham fra Mand til Kvinde.  Oprindelig troede man i alt Fald herhjemme, at det var et af disse fantastiske Rygter, der opstaar, uden at nogen véd hvordan – men en skønne Dag kom den mærkelige Bekræftelse paa Rygtet: Lili Elvenæs, en meget smuk og livlig Dame, dukkede op i København og udstillede sit tidligere Jegs, Ejnar Wegeners, Billeder i “Ole Haslunds Hus”.  Operationen, der havde fundet Sted i Dresden, var Udgangen paa mange Aars Lidelser og Kampe.  Alle Københavnere af den ældre Aargang husker jo den unge *Ejnar Wegener*, en lys, veg køn Fyr, der snarere lignede  et kønt Pigebarn i Herreklæder end et Mandfolk.  Som hans Ydre var ogsaa hans Talent, vegt og kvindeligt, men Talent var der, hvad navnlig hans mange Bybilleder fra hans elskede Paris bærer Vidne om.  Ejnar Wegeners Lykke var, at han traf sin Hustru, den berømte Malerinde *Gerda Wegener*. Han fik her en ven for Livet, et Menneske, der forstod ham og hans ulykkelige Natur. De rejste til Paris sammen, de kom til at høre til Montparnasse’s kendte Kunstnere, de tjente Penge, og navnlig Gerda Wegener fik efterhaanden meget store Indtægter baade gennem sine Malerier og sine glimrende Reklametegninger.  Trods Medgangen var Ejnar Wegener et dybt ulykkeligt Menneske. Han var Mand af Skikkelse og Navn, men han følte sig helt som Kvinde, og efterhaanden som Aarene gik, drev hans særlige Kompleks ham næsten til Vanvidets og Selvmordets Rand.  I Aarenes Løb søgte han Raad og Hjælp mange Steder, men ingen kunne hjælpe ham, indtil den berømte tyske Kirurg, Professor Warnekros i Dresden gav ham et Haab. Han paatog sig den vanskelige Operation – for at hjælpe et ulykkeligt Menneske men vel ogsaa for at gøre et videnskabeligt Eksperiment der aldrig før var forsøgt. Her var Tale om en slags Vivisektion, hvor Ofret meldte sig frivilligt.  Det hele kunne dog ikke ordnes med een Operation. Efter sit korte Ophold i København maatte Lili Elvenæs vende tilbage til Klinikken for at underkaste  sig endnu et Par Operationer. Disse syntes at være forløbet heldigt, men saa viste det sig, at den Opererede led af en indvendig Lidelse, vistnok Kræft, der udviklede sig med forfærdende Hast – og nu er Lili Elvenæs altsaa død. Naturen lod sig alligevel ikke trodse.  Tilfældet Ejnar Wegener‒Lili Elvenæs vil sikkert i Fremtiden staa som en psykologisk-fysiologisk Gaade – og vil utvivlsom mange, mange Gange blive gjort til genstand for videnskabelig Drøftelse. Heri vil utvivlsom en Selvbiografi, som Lili Elvenæs havde afsluttet umiddelbart før sin Død, komme til at spille en stor Rolle. Det mærkeligste Afsnit af den er bygget over Dagbogsoptegnelser fra Opholdet paa Klinikken, saaledes at Dagbogen først er ført af Ejnar Wegener, derefter af det neutrale Væsen, der eksisterede, men Operationen blev foretaget og endelig af en ny Kvinde Lili Elvenæs.  Det psykologisk mest ejendommelige er det, at Lili Elvenæs slet ikke har nogen fornemmelse af Ejnar Wegeners Eksistens, men regner ham for et afdødt Væsen.  Under sit Ophold i København sagde Lili Elvenæs:  – Ejnar Wegener kunne male. Jeg har desværre ingen Talenter. Jeg vil helst sy.  Hun var slet ikke klar over det tragikomiske i en replik som denne:  – Ejnar Wegener var en underlig Fyr. Han gik baade i Teatret og paa Caféer lige før jeg blev opereret.  Det var i fuld Overensstemmelse med sin Hustru, Fru Gerda Wegener, at han lod sig underkaste Operationen – men der opstod efter den et ganske mærkeligt juridisk Problem: Hvordan skulle ægteskabet opløses? Sagen blev indbragt for det  danske Justitsministerium, men man gennemsøgte forgæves samtlige mærkelige ægteskabeligt-juridiske Problemer i Verden uden at finde noget Tilfælde, der mindede om dette. Det endte da med, at man ganske simpelt erklærede Ægteskabet for ugyldigt.  Det trofaste Venskab mellem Lili Elvenæs og Gerda Wegener vedvarer til det sidste – og havde Lili Elvenæs rejst sig fra Sygelejet, skulde hun være rejst til Marokko for at besøge Gerda Wegener, der lever dèr i lykkeligt Ægteskab med en italiensk officer.  Naar man har kendt Ejnar Wegener i de yngre Aar, staar man underligt forvirret ved hans Død. Skal man sørge over, at der er sat Punktum for en umulig Livsskæbne? Skal man mindes Ejnar Wegener med det blide, vemodige Væsen, eller den temperamentsfulde Lili Elvenæs? Det er slet ikke til at sige. Dette underlige væsens Gaade rækker ud over Døden.  *Jørgen Bast.* | Berlingske Tidende (14 September 1931)  **Lili Elvenes, alias Einar Wegener, has passed away.**  ***A Tragic End to a Fantastic Life.***  Just under a year ago, it created a sensation across the world, both in scientific circles and in places where sensation is sought, that the painter Einar Wegener had undergone an operation at a clinic in Dresden that had transformed him from a man into a woman.  Originally it was believed, at least in this country, that it was one of these wild rumours that spring up without anybody knowing how – but one day the extraordinary confirmation of the rumour came: Lili Elvenes, a very beautiful and lively lady, appeared in Copenhagen and exhibited the paintings by her former self, Einar Wegener, in “Ole Haslund’s House”.  The operation that had taken place in Dresden was the outcome of many years of suffering and struggling.  All Copenhageners of the older years remember the young *Einar Wegener*, a blond, soft pretty fellow who looked like  a pretty girl in men’s clothes rather than a man.  As his appearance was also his talent, passive and feminine, but talent there was, as particularly his many city scenes from his beloved Paris bear witness to.  It was Einar Wegener’s good fortune that he met his wife, the famous painter *Gerda Wegener*. Here he acquired a friend for life, a person who understood him and his unfortunate nature. They travelled to Paris together, they got to be among the famous artists of Montparnasse, they made money, and particularly Gerda Wegener eventually had very large earnings, both from her paintings and her excellent commercial art.  In spite of his success Einar Wegener was a deeply unhappy person. He was a man by physical stature and name but he felt entirely like a woman and as the years passed, his particular complex almost drove him to the verge of madness and suicide.  Over the years, he sought advice and help in many places, but no one could help him until the famous German surgeon Professor Warnekros in Dresden gave him a hope. He took on the difficult operation – to help an unhappy person but probably also to do a scientific experiment that had never been attempted before. This was a kind of vivisection where the victim volunteered.  Everything could not be taken care of in one operation however. After her short stay in Copenhagen, Lili Elvenes had to return to the clinic in order to undergo  several further operations. These seem to have been successful but then it turned out that the patient suffered from an internal disorder, probably cancer, that developed at a terrifying speed – and now Lili Elvenes is dead. Nature was not to be defied after all.  The case of Einar Wegener‒Lili Elvenes will probably stand as a psychological-physiological mystery in the future – and no doubt it will be made the subject of scientific discussion many, many times. In these, an autobiography that Lili Elvenes had finished immediately before her death will no doubt play an important role. The most extraordinary part of it is based on diary entries from the stay at the clinic so that at first, the diary is kept by Einar Wegener, then by the neutral being, and finally by a new woman Lili Elvenes.  Most psychologically remarkable is that Lili Elvenes has no sense at all of Einar Wegener’s existence but regards him as a deceased being.  During her stay in Copenhagen, Lili Elvenes said:  − Einar Wegener could paint. Unfortunately, I have no talents. I would rather sew.  She was completely unaware of the tragicomical in a remark like this:  − Einar Wegener was a strange guy. He both went to the theatre and to cafés just before I had surgery.  It was in complete agreement with his wife, Mrs. Gerda Wegener, that he underwent the operation – but afterwards a quite extraordinary legal problem arose: how was the marriage to be dissolved? The case was brought before the  Danish Ministry of Justice but all extraordinary problems of marriage law in the world were searched through without finding any case resembling this. Eventually the marriage was quite simply declared invalid.  The faithful friendship between Lili Elvenes and Gerda Wegener lasted to the end – and had Lili Elvenes risen from her sickbed, she would have travelled to Morocco to visit Gerda Wegener, who lives there in a happy marriage to an Italian officer.  Having known Einar Wegener in his younger years, one is strangely confused at his death. Is one to mourn that an impossible fate is terminated? Is one to remember Einar Wegener with the gentle melancholy nature or the temperamental Lili Elvenes? No one can say. The mystery of this extraordinary being extends beyond death,  *Jørgen Bast.* |