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| *Socialdemokraten* 29 november 1931  **Manden, der blev Kvinde**  ***Redaktør Harthern fortæller om Bogen om Maleren Ejnar Wegener, som blev til fru Lili Elbe.***  En af de sidse Aars mest opsigtsvækkende lægevidenskabelige Begivenheder har været Dresdener-Professoren Dr. *Kurt Warnekros*’ Operation, der forvandlede den danske Maler *Ejnar Wegener* til Kvinden *Lili Elbe*. For knapt et Par Maaneder siden afgik Lili Elbe ved Døden, men forinden havde hun forfattet en Bog, der skildrede hendes Tilværelses to Perioder, og som tidligere omtalt vil Bogen om kort Tid udkomme paa *Hage & Clausens* Forlag. Det er den tyske Forfatter og Journalist, Redaktør *Harthern;* bedre kendt un-  der sit Pseudonym *Niels Hoyer*, der efter den Afdødes Ønske har foretaget Udgivelsen. Vi havde i Gaar en Samtale med Redaktør Harthern, der fortalte om den ejendommelige Bogs Tilblivelseshistorie og Ejnar Wegener-Lili Elbes Tragedie.  **Lili Elbes Bekendelser.**  **−** Bogen, der er paa ca. 200 Sider, faar Titlen “Fra Mand til Kvinde” og Undertitlen “Lili Elbes Bekendelser”, og den er en Selvbiografi, forsynet med et Forord og et Afslutningskapitel af mig, som jeg har udarbejdet paa Grundlag af Lili Elbes Breve, da hun ved sin Død manglede et Kapitel i Bogens Fuldendelse. Forfatterindens Formål med sit Arbejde har været at give en for alle Sensationer befriet Fremstilling af sit Tilfælde, og Bogen er blevet til paa Prof. Warnekros Foranledning, idet Fru Elbe dog allerede før operationen havde skrevet 20−30 Ark om sit Liv til privat Brug, som danner Bogens første del. Skildringen er en Selvbiografi, hvori kun Navnet Lili Elbe, der er dannet efter Floden, der løber gennem Dresden, er bevaret uforandret, medens alle andre Personer af Diskretionshensyn bærer fingerede Navne. Ejnar Wegener hedder saaledes *Andreas Sparre*. I øvrigt kaldte Lili Elbe sig tilsidst i Privatlivet for *Lili Ilse Elvenes*.  **Ejnar Wegeners tragiske Liv.**  − Hvem var Ejnar Wegener?  − Maleren Wegener var, da han blev opereret, en Mand i 40’ne. Hans Historie betegner ifølge de videnskabelige Autoriteter, der har undersøgt ham, noget enestaaende. I sin ungdom var han udpræget maskulin og indgik da ægteskab med *Gerda Wegener*, men i Tidens Løb ændredes hans Køns Karakter i stedse voksende Grad i kvindelig Retning, indtil det feminine helt tog Overhaand, uden at han dog blot i det mindste blev homoseksuel. I hans splittede Sind udkæmpedes frygtelige Kampe, der gjorde ham fortvivlet og tilsidst bragte ham på Selvmordets Rand, da han i Paris lærte Prof. Warnekros at kende, og denne vovede Operationen, der foretoges paa Statens Kvindeklinik i Dresden. Det første Indgreb foretoges i Marts 1930 og det næste i Juni, og efter det sidste var Forvandlingen saa fuldstændig, at Lili Elbe helt og fuldt kunde føre en Normal Kvindes sædvanlige Liv, da Døden rev hende bort.  **Den fuldstændige Forvandling.**  − Hvordan følte hun Forandringen?  − Ejnar Wegener var en elegant, intellektuel Mand, en forfinet Københavner med et vist Parisersnit, men at se til et Mandfolk. Jeg husker tydeligt hans intelligente faste Blik. Lili Elbe var af Ydre en kraftig Kvinde i 30,erne med store smukke brune Øjne af ægte kvindelig Karakter, blide og lidt hjælpeløse. Skikkelsen var udpræget feminin. Jeg hu-  sker, at jeg var uhyggelig til mode ved at skulle træffe hende, men hun var saa naturlig, at al Uhygge svandt væk – dog var hun ofte noget uligevægtig, ja næsten tøseagtig, hvad der skyldtes, at hun ligesom manglede den naturlige kvindelige Udviklings Forudsætninger, der ligger i Barndommens og Ungdommens Oplevelser. Hun saa paa Ejnar Wegener som en afdød Broder, men hun ville ikke beskæftige sig med noget, der kunde minde hende om Fortiden. Hun opgav saaledes at male. Det pinte hende at blive opfattet som en Sensation og hun følte sig lykkeligst, hvor hun var ukendt.  **Arbejdet er ikke Spekulation.**  − Vil Bogen ikke blive opfattet som grim Spekulation?  − Det er mig ganske utænkeligt og i alt Fald ganske uberettiget! Lili Elbes Tilfælde er saa enestaaende i Menneskehedens Historie, at det ville være forkasteligt at hemmeligholde det. Prof. Warnekros erklærer, at mens tvekønnede Dyr ofte er observeret, saa er det første gang et 100 Procents tvekønnet Menneske har været undersøgt. Kort før Operationen, konstaterede Seksualforskeren Prof. *Magnus Hirschfeld* 80 pCt.s Kvindepræg i Manden Ejnar Wegeners Blod.  − Hvordan blev de Udgiver af Bogen?  − Efter Operationen bragte Kunsthandler *Ole Haslund* mig i forbindelse med Fru Wegener, der bad mig foretage Udgivelsen. Bogen, der nu kommer paa Fransk, Tysk og Engelsk, er gennemset af Prof Warnekros, der paa 200 Sider højst har foretaget et halvt Hundrede Rettelser. Han betegner Værket som en Guldgrube for enhver Psykiatriker.  *Rex.*  **Billedtekster**  Maleren Ejnar Wegener før Operationen gjorde ham til Kvinde.  Fru Lili Elbe paa Spadseretur i København efter Prof. Warnekros’ Behandling. | *Socialdemokraten* 29 November 1931  **The Man who Became a Woman**  ***Editor Harthern talks about the book about the painter Einar Wegener who became Mrs. Lili Elbe.***  One of the most sensational medical events of the last years has been the Dresden Professor Dr. *Kurt Warnekros’s* operation that transformed the Danish painter *Einar Wegener* to the woman *Lili Elbe*. Just a few months ago Lili Elbe passed away but by then she had written a book describing the two periods of her life and as previously mentioned, the book will be published by *Hage & Clausen* publishers in the near future. It is the German writer and Journalist, editor *Harthern*; better known under  his pseudonym *Niels Hoyer*, who at the request of the deceased has undertaken the publication. Yesterday, we had a conversation with editor Harthern who talked about the genesis of the extraordinary book and Einar Wegener-Lili Elbe’s tragedy.  **The Confessions of Lili Elbe.**  − The book, which is about 200 pages long, will have the title “From Man into Woman” and the subtitle “The Confessions of Lili Elbe”, and it is an autobiography with a prefatory note and a closing chapter by me, which I have compiled on the basis of Lili Elbe’s letters as she was one chapter short of completing the book at her death. The writer’s intention with her work has been to give an account of her case free of all sensation, and the book has come about at Prof. Warnekros’s request, though before the operation Mrs. Elbe had already written 20−30 sheets about her life that form the first part of the book. The depiction is an autobiography wherein only the name Lili Elbe, which is taken from the river that runs through Dresden, is kept unchanged while all other characters for reasons of discretion bear fictitious names. Einar Wegener for instance is called *Andreas Sparre*. Incidentally, at the end Lili Elbe called herself *Lili Ilse Elvenes* in her private life.  **Einar Wegener’s Tragic Life**  − Who was Einar Wegener?  − The painter Wegener was, when he had the operation, a man in his 40’s. According to the scientific authorities, who have examined him, his story constitutes something unique. In his youth he was distinctly masculine and then he married *Gerda Wegene*r, but over the years, his sexual character changed to an ever-increasing degree in a female direction, until the feminine prevailed completely, without him becoming even in the least homosexual. In his divided mind terrible struggles were fought that made him despair, and in the end brought him to the verge of suicide, when he met Prof. Warnekros in Paris who risked the operation that was performed at the Municipal Women’s Clinic in Dresden. The first procedure was performed in March 1930 and the next one in June, and after the last one the transformation was so complete that Lili Elbe could fully lead the usual life of a normal woman, when death snatched her way.  **The Complete Transformation.**  − How did she experience the transformation?  − Einar Wegener was an elegant intellectual man, a refined Copenhagener with a certain Parisian style, but a man by appearance. I clearly remember his firm intelligent look. In appearance Lili Elbe was a sturdy woman in her 30’s with big beautiful brown eyes of genuinely female character, gentle and a little helpless. Her figure was distinctly feminine. I  remember that I felt uneasy about meeting her, but she was so natural that all uneasiness faded away – though often she was a little unbalanced, yes almost silly, which was due to the fact that she kind of lacked the basis of the natural female development, which lies in the experiences of childhood and youth. She looked on Einar Wegener as a deceased brother, but she did not want to concern herself with anything that could remind her of the past. Therefore she gave up painting. It pained her to be regarded as a sensation and she felt happiest where she was unknown.  **The Work is Not Speculation.**  − Will the book not be seen as distasteful speculation?  − That is quite inconceivable to me and certainly quite unjustifiable! Lili Elbe’s case is so unique in the history of mankind that it would be unacceptable to keep it secret. Prof. Warnekros states that while hermaphrodite animals have often been observed, it is the first time that a 100 percent hermaphrodite human has been examined. Shortly before the surgery, the sexologist *Magnus Hirschfeld* established 80 percent female qualities in the man Einar Wegener’s blood.  − How did you become the publisher of the book?  − After the surgery, the art dealer *Ole Haslund* put me in touch with Mrs. Wegener, who asked me to undertake the publication. The book, which will now appear in French, German and English, has been reviewed by Prof. Warnekros who in 200 pages has made about fifty corrections at the most. He describes the work as a gold mine for any psychiatrist.  *Rex.*  **Captions**  The painter Einar Wegener before the operation made him a woman.  Mrs. Lili Elbe taking a walk in Copenhagen after Prof. Warnekros’s treatment. |