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| *B.T.* 29 november 1931  **Fra Mand til Kvinde.**  ***Lili Elbes Bog, som udkommer paa Onsdag.***  Paa onsdag udkommer hos Hage og Clausen under Titlen “Fra Mand til Kvinde” en Række Optegnelser, som Lili Elbe har skrevet i de sidste Maaneder før sin Død i September i Aar, og hvori hun har søgt psykologisk at gøre Rede for den ejendommelige og tragiske Menneskeskæbne, der begynde som Ejnar Wegener og afsluttedes som Lili Elbe.  Det er “Berliner Lokalanzeiger”s herværende Redaktør Ernst Harthern, som besørger Bogens Udgivelse, og vi har spurgt Red. Harthern, hvilken Tilknytning han havde til Lili Elbe. –  – Maleren Ejnar Wegener kendte jeg kun ganske flygtigt – men da Lili Elbe efter den store Operation, som Professor Warnekros i Dresden havde foretaget, kom til København, henvendte hun sig til mig og bad mig hjælpe hende med at udarbejde sine Optegnelser. Professor Warnekros havde opfordret hende til at nedskrive den ægtest mulige Skildring af sit indre Liv under alle de mærkelige Omskiftelser, men hun nærede Ængstelse for, at hun ikke kunne gøre det sandt nok.  Jeg hjalp hende, og en stor del af Bogen blev til under lange, natlige Samtaler. Gennem stadige Spørgsmaal og Svar søgte vi at naa ind til hendes Sjælelivs dybeste Sandhed, mens min Sekretær stenograferede hvert Ord ned …  – De nærede ingen Betænkeligheder for, at Bogens Hensigt skal blive misforstaaet?  – I Begyndelsen var jeg ikke fri for det. Men efterhaanden som Bogen blev til, svandt min Angst. Den er, som Professor Warnekros har udtalt, Beretningen om en rystende, menneskelig Tragedie, men sandt og ægte fortalt af et Menneske paa et højt kulturelt og etisk Stade. Bogen er et Udtryk af Lili Elbes evige Kamp for at faa Fred. Hun følte en enestaaende Befrielse og en Trang til at hjælpe og være god mod alle, men hun var samtidig uhyre menneskesky. Hendes største Rædsel var Sensation og Opsigt ….  Hun var undergaaet en saa fuldstændig Forandring, som tænkes kan. Mens Ejnar Wegener var en kompliceret og selvbevidst Natur, var Lili Elbe ganske usammensat og yderst beskeden, og nærede ingen Trang til at male.  …. Men har jeg ikke gjort andet godt her i Verden, har jeg i hvert Fald gjort Lili Elbe Døden lettere. Hun bad mig indstændigt om at udgive den.  Hun var begejstret for at kunne hjælpe Videnskaben, og hendes sidste Tanker drejede sig om Bogen. Hendes Hensigt med den var at takke alle dem, der havde været god imod hende og forklare Menneskeheden, at man ikke for ubetænksomt skal dømme et andet Menneske.  *Leo.*  Billedtekst:  To Dedikationer fra en fransk Bog, den øverste skrevet af Maleren Ejnar Wegener, den nederste af Lili Elbe. | *B.T.* 29 November 1931  **From Man into Woman.**  ***Lili Elbe’s book that is to be published on Wednesday.***  On Wednesday, a number of notes will be published under the title “From Man into Woman” at Hage and Clausen, written by Lili Elbe during the last months before her death in September this year, and wherein she has tried psychologically to account for the remarkable and tragic fate that began as Ejnar Wegener and ended as Lili Elbe.  It is the local editor of “Berliner Lokalanzeiger” Ernst Harthern who is in charge of the publication of the book and we have asked Ed. Harthern what connection he had to Lili Elbe. –  – The painter Einar Wegener I only knew quite superficially – but when Lili Elbe, after the surgery that Professor Warnekros had performed in Dresden, came to Copenhagen, she approached me and asked me to help her compile her notes. Professor Warnekros had encouraged her to write down the truest possible account of her inner life during all the extraordinary changes, but she was anxious that she could not make it true enough.  I helped her, and a large part of the book came about during long nightly conversations. Through continual questions and answers we tried to reach the deepest truth of her mental life while my secretary took down every word in shorthand …  – You did not have any concerns that the intention of the book will be misunderstood?  – In the beginning, I was not free from them. But as the book materialised, my fear decreased. It is, as Prof. Warnekros has stated, the narrative of a shocking human tragedy, but truly and genuinely told by a highly cultured and ethical person. The book is an expression of Lili Elbe’s endless struggle to find peace. She felt an extraordinary liberation and an urge to help and be good to everyone, but at the same time she was extremely shy. Her greatest horror was sensation and attention ….  She had undergone so complete a transformation as can be imagined. While Einar Wegener was a complex and self-conscious character, Lili Elbe was quite uncomplicated and extremely modest, and felt no desire to paint.  …. But if I have done nothing else good in this world, I have at least made death easier for Lili Elbe. She implored me to publish it.  She was enthusiastic about being able to help science, and her last thoughts concerned the book. Her intention with it was to thank all those who had been good to her and to explain to humanity that you should not judge another human being too thoughtlessly.  *Leo.*  Caption:  Two dedications from a French book, the top one written by the painter Einar Wegener, the bottom one by Lili Elbe. |