

## Glossary of Historical People and Places

by Samantha Lepak

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**Allatini, Éric Moïse.** Born June 1, 1886 in Thessaloniki, Salonica, Greece; died in December of 1943 in Auschwitz, Poland. He was a Greek-born Italian man who is best known as a musician, a fairy tale author, and man of letters. After growing up in France and serving in the French military during World War I, he moved to Paris where he met and married Hélène Kann in 1916. They had four children. Allatini published several works including an opera and a book, *Contes de Mon Père le Jars* (1919), which was illustrated by Gerda Wegener. In 1942, Allatini and his wife were arrested for assisting refugees during World War II and were ultimately transferred to and died in Auschwitz concentration camp in 1943. Other names: Ernesto Rossini (fictional).

**Allatini, Hélène (née Kann).** Born December 08, 1887 (birthplace unknown); died December 31, 1943 in Auschwitz, Poland. She and her husband Éric were friends of the Wegeners in Paris, both with creative writerly interests. She authored *Mosaiques* in 1939, which contained a chapter entitled “Il et Elle” (“He and She”) about Lili Elbe. Allatini was arrested for assisting refugees during World War II in France and was ultimately transferred to and executed in Auschwitz Concentration camp in 1943. Other names: Hélène Kann (maiden), Elena Rossini (fictional).

**Beaugency,** a commune in Loiret, France. Einar Wegener painted a landscape entitled *Vue sur la Loire* of a location in Beaugency in 1923. Gerda Wegener captured the landscape in *Sur les bords de la Loire* (1926). Other names: Balgencie (fictional).

**Det Kongelige Danske Kunstakademi.** (The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts.) Founded March 31, 1754 by Frederik V. An institute in Copenhagen designed to teach and research fine arts. Both Einar and Gerda Wegener studied there (1902-1905). Other names: Kunstakademi (Danish), Kunstakademie (German), Art Academy (American/British English).

**Gohrbandt, Erwin.** Born September 20, 1890 in Schlawe, Pomerania, Poland; died January 3, 1965 in West Berlin, Germany. He was a surgeon and university professor. Along with Ludwig Levy-Lenz, Gohrbandt was one of the first surgeons to attempt a gender reassignment surgery via a vaginoplasty. Lili Elbe was one of his patients. Other names: Dr. Gebhard (fictional); Prof. Gebhard (fictional).

**Guyot, Charles.** Born March 22, 1892 in France; died July 7, 1963. His full name was Charles Louis Proper Guyot. He was a French man of letters, author, and poet who worked with Einar Wegener to publish *Le Livre des Vikings: d'après les anciennes sagas* in 1924. The collection was illustrated by Gerda Wegener. In the same year, he won the gold medal in the Olympic Games for his art piece “Jeux Olympiques.” Other names: Géo-Charles (pen name).

**Harthern, Ernst Ludwig (née Jacobson).** Born September 7, 1884 in Stade, Germany; died June 8, 1969 in Sigtuna, Sweden. He was best known under his pseudonym, Niels Hoyer, which he assumed from 1909 to 1945. He was a German journalist, writer, and translator who lived in exile in Denmark and Sweden after expatriation in 1933 due to his Jewish ancestry. He worked with themes relating to his Jewish-German ancestry and worked as a cultural ambassador of works from Scandinavian literature as well as work having to do with gender history and the search for

identity. He edited Lili Elbe/Einar Wegener's memoirs, published under the English title *Man into Woman*. Other names: Ernst Ludwig Jacobson (historical), Niels Hoyer (pseudonym), New friend (fictional), German friend (fictional).

**Harthern-Thaning, Ruth Hanna.** Born 1915; died 1993. Daughter of Ernst Harthern, who was the only identified author in the Danish version of Lili Elbe's narrative. He was the original editor of the memoirs. Ruth corresponded with Teit Ritzau about her memories of Lili from 1931 for his chapter on Lili Elbe in *Paradiset er ikke til salg: Trangen til at være begge køn* (1988). Other names: Ruth Hanna Harthern (historical, maiden), Ruth (fictional).

**Haslund, Ole Georg.** Born October 21, 1877 in Copenhagen, Denmark; died March 13, 1962 in Hellerup, Denmark. He was the co-owner of Ole Haslunds Hus, with Svend Heyman, an art gallery in Copenhagen where the Wegeners showed their art in expeditions. Other names: Copenhagen art dealer (fictional).

**Hirschfeld, Magnus.** Born May 14, 1868 in Kolberg, Prussia; died May 14, 1935 in Nice, France. He was a German physician primarily based in Berlin, where he established an institute for homosexual and transgender individuals called *Institut für Sexualwissenschaft* (Institute for Sexual Science). He also ran the *Wissenschaftlich-humanitäres Komitee* (the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee), in which he worked toward tolerance and understanding for LGBT people. His work and research centered around sexology and research on homosexual and transgender individuals and it is commonly understood that his work changed the German perception of sexuality and gender. Lili was a patient at his *Institut* and was examined by Hirschfeld in 1930. In 1933, the *Institut* was attacked by Nazi soldiers who destroyed the building and burned the books and documents inside. Other names: Prof. Hardenfeld (fictional).

**Hôtel d'Alsace.** A five-star luxury hotel located in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Paris, France. A hotel most famously known as the hotel where Oscar Wilde spent his last days and died. It changed its name to *L'Hôtel*.

**Hvappe.** The Wegeners' Jack Russell terrier, also mentioned as the Sparres' dog by the same name in the Danish edition of Elbe's narrative, *Fra Mand til Kvinde* (1931). Other names: Våpe (nickname), Hvappe (fictional).

***Institut für Sexualwissenschaft.*** Established in Berlin, Germany in 1919, closed in 1933. Translates to "Institute of Sex Research," or "Institute for Sexual Science." Magnus Hirschfeld created the *Institut* as a place to conduct sexology research and create a tolerant space for early LGBT individuals in Berlin. In 1933, a brigade of Nazis destroyed the *Institut* in an effort to censor the records and research contained inside the building, effectively closing it down. Years later, in 1973, a new iteration of the *Institut* opened at the University of Frankfurt am Main in Frankfurt, Germany.

**Knudsen, Poul.** Born November 9, 1889 in Bedholm, Vendsyssel, Denmark; died April 30, 1974 in Denmark. He was a Danish lawyer and writer who was a friend of both Lili Elbe (previously Einar Wegener) and Gerda Wegener. They shared several correspondences and Lili wrote him into her narrative. Poul contributed to two ballet-pantomimes, *Scaramouche* and *Okon Fuoko*. His wife, Vibeke Knudsen, also appears in Lili's narrative as Inger Hvide. Other names: Niels Hvide (fictional).

**Knudsen, Vibeke (née Edmund).** Born 1894 in Copenhagen; died 1961 and buried in Copenhagen. Married to Poul Knudsen from 1925 to 1938. The Danish Biographical Encyclopedia of Women, in

an article about the first Danish female conductor, Grethe Kolbe, contains a reference to a singer named Vibeke Edmund who hired Kolbe in 1942 to conduct an opera ensemble in an opera by August Enna at Det Ny Teater (The New Theater), which was a break-through for Kolbe.

**Larssen, Anna (née Halberg).** Born September 12, 1875 in Copenhagen, Denmark; died March 6, 1855 in Vedbæk, Denmark. She was a Danish actress, married to former lieutenant Sigurd Bjørner. She was the one who suggested the name “Lili” when she saw Einar Wegener modeling for Gerda. Other names: Anna Larssen Bjørner (married), Anna Halberg (maiden), Danish Actress (fictional, Danish edition), Anna Larsen (fictional).

**Lassen, Louise Annette Emilie (née Marcussen).** Born September 20, 1876 in Frederiksberg, Denmark; died May 9, 1947 in Sveasvej, Denmark. She was a Danish journalist who interviewed the Wegeners and assisted Lili with an early draft of her memoirs. Other names: Loulou (nickname), Louise Marcussen (maiden), Louise Lassen (married), a friend on staff of a leading Copenhagen newspaper (fictional).

**Leifert, Margarete.** Dates unknown. She co-signed a letter on April 5th, 1930 to the Copenhagen Ministry of Justice requesting that Lili change her name to Lili Elben, that her gender be officially registered as female, and that her marriage to Gerda Wegener be annulled. Other names: Matron (fictional).

**Leyritz, Léon.** Born January 7, 1888 in Paris, France; died March 26, 1976 in Fréjus, France. He was French artist who specialized in multiple forms of art including painting, sculpting, and designing. In addition to his art, he is well known for having a close friendship with French composer Maurice Ravel. Lili Elbe and Gerda Wegener spent multiple summers staying with Leyritz at his home, named *Maison des Marmousets*, on the Loire river. The porcelain figure attributed to Einar Wegener in illustrations in the British and German editions of Elbe’s narrative is likely by Leyritz. Other names: Jean Tempête (fictional).

**Musse.** Born May 26, 1884; death date unknown. A nickname for Johanne Mathilde Amalie, the wife of Holger Wegener, Einar’s brother. Other names: Sister-in-law (fictional), Johanne Amalie (historical).

**Porta, Fernando.** Born 1897; death date unknown. He was an Italian officer and aviator whom Gerda Wegener married in 1931 after Lili Elbe’s death. The two divorced in 1936 after a messy ordeal during which time he took much of her money. Other names: Ridolfo Ferruzzi (fictional).

**Poulsen, Johannes.** Born November 17, 1881 in Copenhagen, Denmark; died October 14, 1938. He was a Danish actor and director who worked with the Royal Theatre from 1909 until the late 1930s. He was married to Ulla Poulsen Skou, a friend of both Lili and Gerda and a model for Gerda Wegener’s portraits. Other names: Danish actor (fictional, Danish edition); Iven Persen (fictional, German and English-language editions).

**Poulsen Skou, Ulla Britta (née Iversen).** Born February 5, 1905 in Copenhagen, Zealand, Denmark; died April 21, 2001 in Aalborg, North Jutland, Denmark. She was a Danish ballerina and actress married to Johannes Poulsen. She danced as a soloist for the Royal Danish Ballet and later became the subject of several portraits by Gerda Wegener. Other names: Danish ballerina (fictional, Danish edition); Ebba Persen (fictional, German and English-language editions).

**Prévost, Claude.** Dates unknown. A French artist whom Gerda Wegener painted in 1923. He and Lili were friends, and he was rumored to be one of Lili's lovers. Other names: Claude Lejeune (fictional).

**Staatliche Frauenklinik.** The Women's Clinic at which Dr. Kurt Warnekros worked in Dresden. Warnekros was the director of the Frauenklinik from 1925-1948. Lili was a patient of his in 1930. Other names: Municipal Women's Clinic (British and American editions).

**Steinach, Eugen.** Born January 28, 1861 in Hohenems, Vorarlberg, Austria; died May 14, 1944 near Montreux, Switzerland. Steinach was a prominent physiologist and hormone researcher who is recognized today as a pioneer in the field of endocrinology. He famously experimented with and developed early gonadal transplants, one of the first to theorize about the existence of hormones as secretions that affected sexuality.

**Thomsen, Christiane (née Wegener).** Born October 29, 1881 in Vejle, Denmark; died 1954. Einar's Wegener's sister. Other names: Sister (fictional).

**Thomsen, Sigurd Wegener.** Born December 30th, 1904 in Kungsholm, Stockholm, Sweden; died December 3, 1953 in Rungsted Kyst, Zealand, Denmark. Lili Elbe/Einar Wegener's nephew, the son of Einar's sister, Christiane Wegener Thomsen. Other names: Nephew (fictional).

**Trinitatisfriedhof.** Trinitatis Cemetery in Dresden. The cemetery near the Women's Clinic in Dresden, where Lili Elbe is buried. Other names: Cemetery near Frauenklinik (fictional).

**Vejle.** A town in the Jutland region of Denmark, where Einar Wegener was born.

**von Goldschmidt-Rothschild, Marie-Anne.** Born January 17, 1892 in Berlin; died November 30, 1973 in Paris. She was an heiress and daughter of German coal magnate Friedrich Victor von Friedlander-Fuld and, thus, grew up in German high society. She also exchanged letters with Swiss-Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke. While it is not confirmed, it is suspected that Marie-Anne had a relationship with Kurt Warnekros, the German gynecologist who performed three of Lili's surgeries. Other names: Baronin Schildt (fictional) Marie-Anne von Friedlaender-Fuld (birth), Marie-Anne Mitford (previous marriage), Marie-Anne von Kühlmann (married name).

**Warnekros, Kurt.** Born November 15, 1882 in Western Pomerania, Germany; died September 20 1949 in Ile-de-France, France. His father, Ludwig Warnekros, was a professor of medicine at the University of Berlin, and Kurt followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a doctor in 1908. He worked primarily in the Women's Hospital at the University of Berlin and was ultimately appointed as head of the hospital in 1924. He met Einar Wegener in Paris in 1930 and quickly took him on as a patient, then performed the operations necessary to reassign her gender as she "became" Lili Elbe. Warnekros performed three surgeries on Lili, in addition to the one conducted earlier at the Institute for Sexual Science in Berlin. Two of the surgeries were successful, but Elbe passed away after the third surgery in which Warnekros transplanted a womb into her body. Other names: Prof. Werner Kreutz (fictional).

**Wegener, Ane Marie (née Thomsen).** Born December 15, 1849 in Herlufmagle, Denmark; died August 6, 1922 in Moelholm, Denmark. Einar Wegener's mother, married to Vilhelm Wegener. Other names: Mother (fictional), Ane Marie Thomsen (maiden).

**Wegener, Einar Magnus Andreas.** Born December 28, 1882 in Vejle, Jutland, Denmark; died September 13, 1931 as Lili Elbe in Dresden, Germany. He was a Danish landscape painter who studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. He married Gerda Gottlieb in 1904 and they settled in Paris in 1912. Wegener modeled for Gerda's paintings of the modern girl and identified as Lili for many years before undergoing a series of surgeries beginning in March 1930. Other names: Andreas Sparre (fictional), Bé (historical), Lili Elbe (fictional and historical), Lili Elvenes (historical), Lili Ilse Elvenes (historical).

**Wegener, Gerda Maria Frederikke (née Gottlieb).** Born March 15th, 1885 in Hammelev, Denmark; died July 28, 1940 in Frederiksberg, Denmark. Her full name was Gerda Maria Fredrikke Gottlieb Wegener Porta. She studied art at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, where she met Einar Wegener (later named Lili Elbe). The two married in 1904 and then moved to Paris. She painted portraits of her partner as the "modern girl" and illustrations for Parisian magazines, including work considered to be lesbian erotica. Other names: Gerda Marie Fredrikke Gottlieb (maiden), Grete Sparre (fictional).

**Wegener, Henrik Carl Otto.** Born August 20, 1878 in Vejle, Denmark; died April 25, 1967 in Vejle, Denmark.. Einar Wegener's brother. Other names: Second brother (fictional).

**Wegener, Holger Christian Valdemar.** Born August 19, 1880 in Vejle, Denmark. Death date unknown. Einar Wegener's eldest brother. Other names: First brother (fictional).

**Wegener, Mogens Vilhelm.** Born August 31, 1849 in Vejle, Denmark; died June 25, 1927 in Moelholm, Denmark. Went by the name "Vilhelm". Einar Wegener's father, married to Ane Marie Wegener (née Thomsen). Other names: Father (fictional).