

A Voice from Denmark at the Brink of Transformation: Herman Bang and his Novel Tine

19.10.2023 – 19.00 @The Danish Institute at Athens



“Translating Bangs novel Tine into modern Greek was certainly not an easy task but the themes of the story are so surprisingly contemporary with its description of the fear of the approaching war 1864, the hopeless streams of refugees, and the lives and anxieties of people of all walks of life.” (Dimitrios Protopapas and Ulla Kjær Jørgensen Protopapa)

Denmark’s recent past is little known outside of the country. What it is today is in many ways the result of a profound and troublesome transformation which took place in the second part of the nineteenth century. It was a transformation from a country at war – at war with its powerful neighbor Prussia and at war with itself over the implementation of the basic principles of democracy and over how to deal with the new norms of a rapidly changing world. It was a transformation that marked a whole generation of politicians, intellectuals and artists who all strove to come to terms with the new realities and attempted to form them. Herman Bang (1857-1912) belonged to that generation.

Bang was a writer and is an important voice from that period. His novel Tine now appears in Greek for the first time and thus makes it possible for a Greek public to access this formative period of Denmark’s past. Bang was born on the small Danish Island of Als which became one of the main battle fields in the Danish-Prussian War in 1864.

Bang lived most of his life with his sister but spent some time living in Prague in 1885–86, with the German actor Max Einfeld (1863–1935). Bang was homosexual, and this contributed to his isolation in the cultural life of Denmark while some of his novels and short stories were banned for a period.

Bang’s works made him a leading European impressionist writer. He travelled all over Europe, and during a lecture tour in the United States he fell ill on the train and died in Ogden, of Utah.

Discussants:

Mogens Pelt, Director of The Danish Institute at Athens.

Dimitrios Protopapas, Translator of Herman Bangs “Tine”

Ulla Kjær Jørgensen Protopapa, Translator of Herman Bangs “Tine”

To join us online, please register via the following link:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJlpdOmhrjgvGd28lh-LifhWLh670BwHbqhQ>

