

EVANS, Margiad (1909-1958), England

Turf or Stone (1934)

Nicht übersetzt

Der Bericht der Hauptperson Mary "Something like a telephone rings in my head, and then my neck seems to go numb, and though I always go on with what I'm doing, I haven't an idea what it is ... I have walked quite a long way and come to myself and wondered how I did it, for I couldn't remember a thing" ist offensichtlich Evans' erste Beschreibung ihrer damals noch unerkannten epileptischen Anfälle.

The Old And The Young (1948)

Nicht übersetzt

In mehreren der in diesem Band vereinigten Erzählungen tauchen gehäuft Oxymora auf, die laut Ray of Darkness (s.u.) Spuren isolierter Auren sind.

A Ray of Darkness (1952)

Das Werk ist nicht übersetzt

Zentrales Thema des autobiographischen Werks der hochsensiblen Dichterin ist die zu ihrem ersten Grand mal - Anfall hinführende biographische Entwicklung, die sie bis in feinste Details analysiert. Durch den großen Anfall werden auch die isolierten Auren diagnostiziert, die sie schon seit vielen Jahren bekam. Zahlreiche Umschreibungen der unbeschreiblichen Aura-Erlebnisse. Auch nächtliche tonische Anfälle sind dem ersten großen Krampfanfall vorausgegangen. Evans vermutet, dass die Vorstellung von Epilepsie als Besessenheit durch Dämonen von den Patienten selbst stammt, da man im Anfall das Gefühl hat, eine fremde Macht bemächte sich des eigenen Körpers.

The Nightingale Silenced (2020 aus dem Nachlass)

Nicht übersetzt

Unvollendeter Bericht über den weiteren Krankheitsverlauf mit der Schilderung einer mehrtägigen Serie fokaler Anfälle bzw eines non-convulsiven Status epilepticus u.a. mit einer Out-of-body-Erfahrung.

Der Band ist mit einem Vorwort von mir erschienen.

Zur Autorin (Wiki 28.3.25):

„**Margiad Evans** was the pseudonym of **Peggy Eileen Whistler** (17 March 1909 – 17 March 1958), an English poet, novelist and illustrator with a lifelong identification with the Welsh border country.

Evans was born Peggy Whistler in Uxbridge, Middlesex, the daughter of Godfrey James Whistler (1866–1936), an insurance clerk. Her affection for the Herefordshire countryside grew from visits she began to pay in 1918 to an aunt in Ross-on-Wye. The family moved to nearby Bridstow in 1921. She was educated in Ross and at Hereford School of Art.

She took her pen name from her father's mother, whose name was Evans. Her two most famous works are *Country*

Dance (1932) and her *Autobiography* (1943, 2nd edn, 1952). *Country Dance* (serialized on BBC radio in 2006) was followed by three further novels, *The Wooden Doctor* (1933), *Turf or Stone* (1934), and *Creed* (1936), all set in the countryside of the Welsh Marches. Some of her books were self-illustrated.

Whistler married George Michael Mendus Williams, a Welshman, on 28 October 1940, and they went to live on a farm at Llangarron, near Ross, where her husband worked. There a fifth novel was abandoned in favour of her autobiography. She also published *Poems from Obscurity* (1947) and a volume of stories, *The Old and the Young* (1948), written while her husband was serving in the army. They moved in 1950 to Elkstone near Gloucester, where her husband was training to be a teacher. Her discovery that she was **epileptic** led to another autobiographical account, ***A Ray of Darkness*** (1952).

The couple moved in 1953 with their daughter Cassandra (born 1951) to Hartfield in Sussex, where her husband began teaching. However, Evans's health declined and she suffered from homesickness for the Welsh marches. ***The Nightingale Silenced*** (1954) is a moving account of her life after she was diagnosed with a brain tumour. A second volume of poetry, *A Candle Ahead* (1956), won a prize from the Welsh committee of the Arts Council a few weeks before she died on 17 March 1958 in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Interest in Margiad Evans' work has revived, especially in Wales. There were new editions of *The Old and the Young* in 1998, of *Country Dance* and *The Wooden Doctor* in 2005, and of *Turf or Stone* in 2010. A centenary conference took place in Aberystwyth in 2009."

Der Artikel ist vermutlich von ihrem Neffen Jim Pratt verfasst, mit dem ich langjährig über sie korrespondiert habe.



Literatur

Wolf P. The epileptic aura in literature: Aesthetic and philosophical dimensions. An essay. *Epilepsia* 2013;54:415-424

Wolf P. Margiad Evans (1909–1958): A writer's epileptic experiences and their reflections in her work. *Epilepsy & Behavior* 2020; 102: 106677