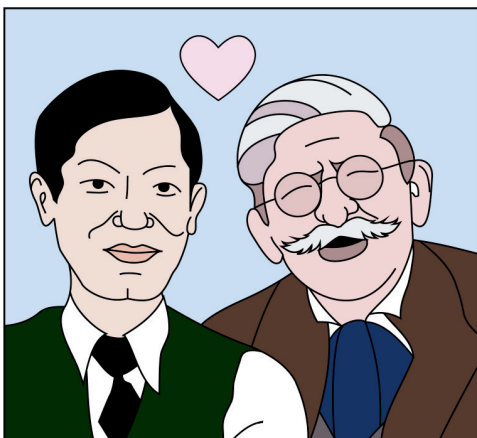


'Einstein of sex'

Hirschfeld's activities in the 1920s brought him international fame. He decided to use it to promote the idea of equality. To this end, in 1921 he put forward the idea of creating an international organization working to change attitudes toward human sexuality. Ultimately, Hirschfeld's efforts led to the establishment of the World League for Sexual Reform in Copenhagen on July 3, 1928, operating until 1935.

In the fall of 1930, Hirschfeld decided to travel around the world, during which he gave a series of lectures on various aspects of sexual life. From November 1930 to March 1932, he travelled the route through the US, Asia and the Middle East. His speeches attracted large audiences eager to meet the man dubbed by one American newspaper as 'the Einstein of sex.'

While in China, Hirschfeld met 24-year-old student Li Shiu Tong, with whom he began a relationship that lasted until Magnus' death.



Emigration

When Hirschfeld returned to Europe in the summer of 1932, the political situation in Germany was very tense, so he decided to temporarily stay abroad. How right this decision was turned out on January 30, 1933, when the Nazis seized power in Germany. There was no place for Hirschfeld's activities in this new reality - on May 6, 1933, SA members entered the institute's headquarters and ransacked it. All property was requisitioned by the authorities, and on May 10 there was a public burning of the book collection.

Hirschfeld chose France as his place of emigration. He initially lived in Paris, where he and Li were joined by Giese. Despite initial jealousy, both of Hirschfeld's partners accepted each other and the love triangle in which they lived. Soon, however, Giese was arrested for 'insulting morals' and deported. Shortly thereafter, Hirschfeld and Li moved to Nice, where they lived until May 14, 1935. On his 67th birthday, Hirschfeld died of a heart attack.

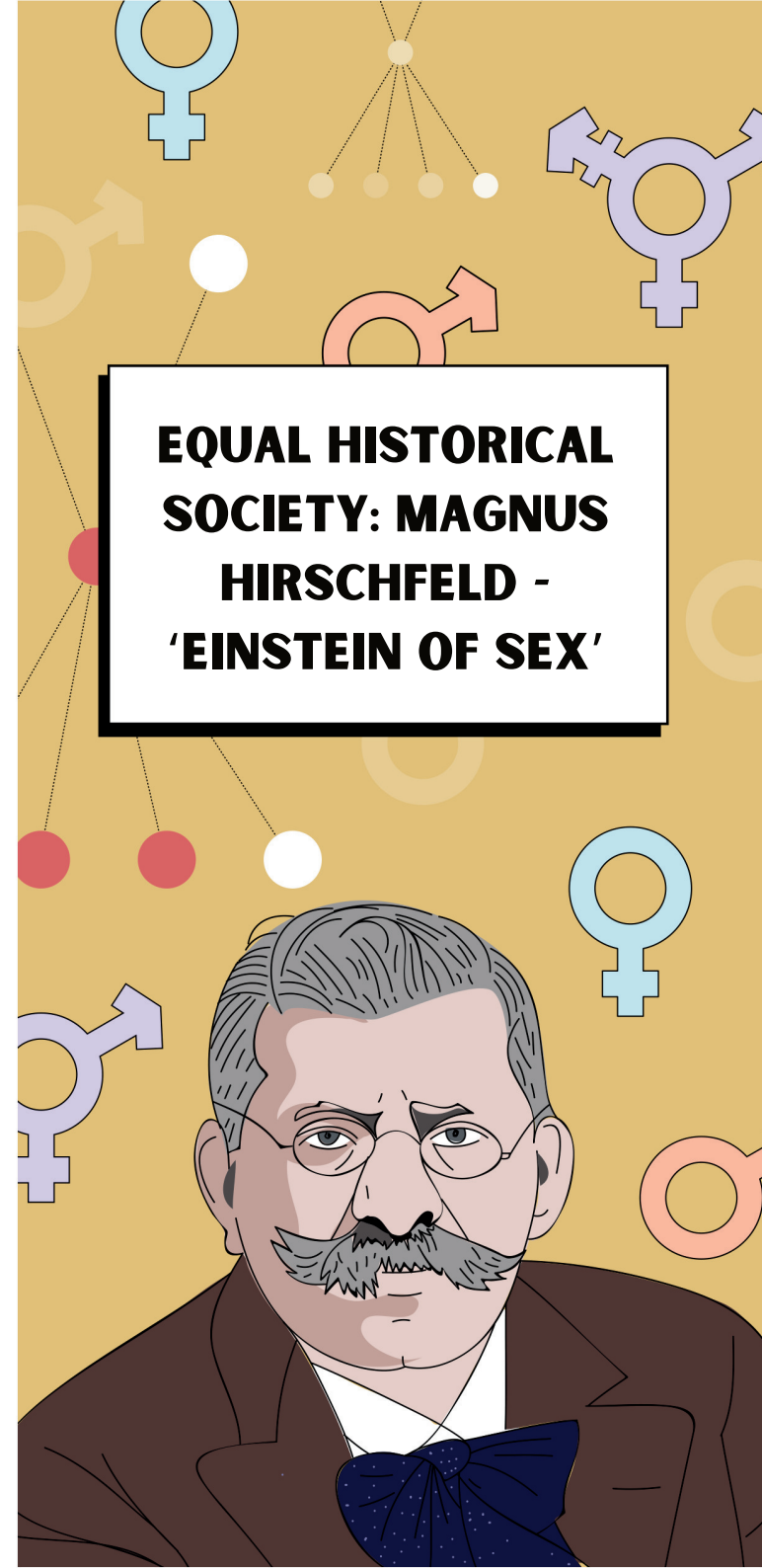


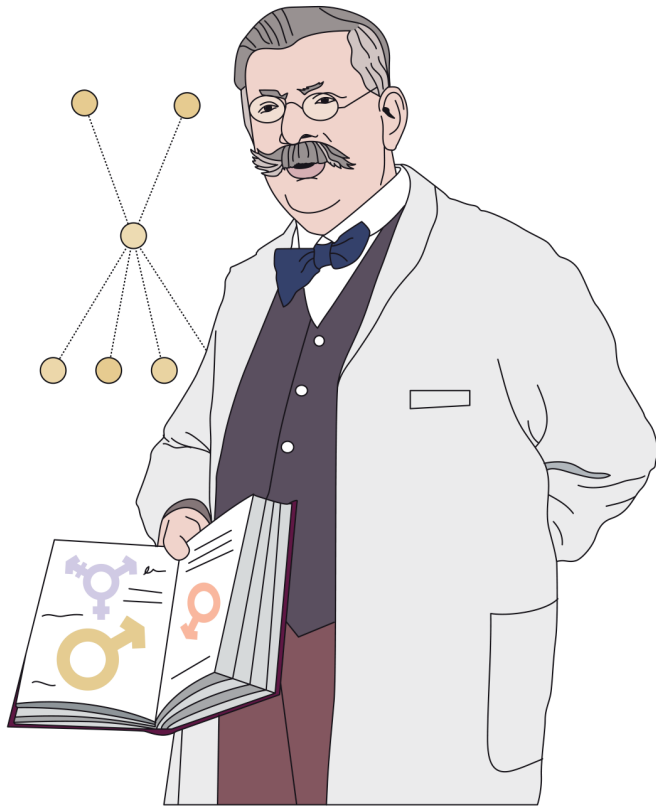
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The first step of the long march

Magnus Hirschfeld was born in Kołobrzeg, Poland, on May 14, 1868. After passing his high school diploma, he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and began studying medicine, graduating in 1892, and 4 years later opened his own practice in Berlin.

From the very beginning of his career, Hirschfeld became involved in the struggle for the rights of homosexuals. The means he used was science, through which he wanted to show that homosexuality was natural. 'Justice through science' was the slogan of the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, founded in 1897, of which Hirschfeld was among the founders.

As a physician, Hirschfeld specialized in psychiatry and sexology. The latter field was in its infancy, and Hirschfeld's work was fundamental to its development. He quickly became an authority on human sexuality. In 1910 he was the first to use the term transvestism, and in 1914 he published *Homosexuality of Men and Women*, which was the first scientific book devoted to a comprehensive presentation of homosexuality in humans.

The golden era of rainbow Berlin

After the end of the Great War, public sentiment in Germany liberalized greatly, allowing LGBT people to come out of the shadows. This was particularly evident in Berlin, which then became the European capital of the LGBT community. Hirschfeld also took advantage of this opportunity.



On July 6, 1919, on Hirschfeld's initiative, the Sexological Institute - the first scientific institution specializing in the study of sexual life - opened in Berlin. The institute became a centre of scientific as well as cultural life. Scientific publications on homosexuality and transgenderism were published, and the world's largest book collection on sexuality was amassed. Beginning in 1931, gender correction surgeries were performed at the Institute. Hirschfeld himself published further works, including the distinction between transgender and intersex people.



Hirschfeld was also involved in pop culture activism. His flat, located at the Institute's headquarters, was Berlin's 'rainbow' salon, and he was known in the community as 'Aunt Magnesia.' In 1919, Hirschfeld entered the film industry when he became co-producer and co-writer of the first LGBT-themed film, *Anders als die Andern*, in which he also played a role.



Thanks to Hirschfeld's involvement, the prospect of legalizing homosexual contact was becoming increasingly real. For the reform of the law, the support of more politicians was gained. In 1928, another bill to abolish Section 175 was submitted to the Reichstag and was supported by the justice committee, but the outbreak of the Great Depression in 1929 caused the project to be sidelined.

In 1918, Hirschfeld met Karl Giese, who was 30 years younger. He soon hired him as an archivist at the Institute, and in 1920 they began a relationship.