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www.stauer-publishing.dk
stauerpublishing@gmail.com | +45 40 59 22 83 (Jens Staubrand)

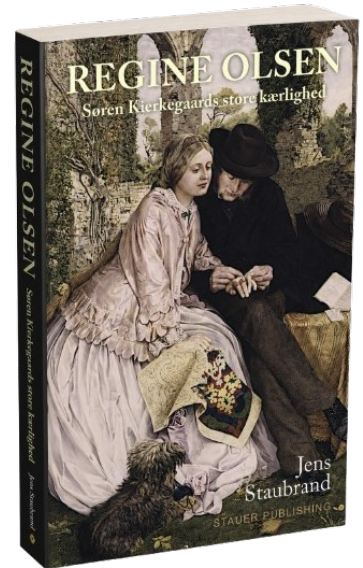
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PRESS RELEASE

New book gives Regine Olsen a clearer voice in the story of Søren Kierkegaard's great love

What really happened between Søren Kierkegaard and Regine Olsen? A new documentary publication brings together love letters, private notes, and Regine Olsen's own recollections, shedding new light on one of the most famous and painful relationships in Danish cultural history.

Søren Kierkegaard's engagement to Regine Olsen lasted only a little over a year, but the relationship left lasting traces in his life, writings, and philosophy. In the new book *Regine Olsen – Søren Kierkegaard's Great Love*, Mag.Art. Jens Staubrand has collected and edited the most important documents concerning their love story.



The book contains a number of the letters Kierkegaard wrote to Regine Olsen in 1840 and 1841. The letters reveal an enamoured, poetic, and longing side of the philosopher, in sharp contrast to the emotionally cold role he later assumed in order to make Regine accept the break-up.

The engagement was entered into in September 1840. Already the following day, Kierkegaard regretted it, and in October 1841 the relationship was finally broken off. Shortly afterwards, he travelled to Berlin, where he worked on parts of *The Seducer's Diary*, which was later published as part of the major work *Either/Or*.

Regine tells her own story

The publication does not present Regine Olsen solely through Kierkegaard's letters and posthumous papers. It also gives space to her own recollections of the relationship.

More than half a century after the break-up, Regine Schlegel told her version of the love story to the librarian and philologist Raphael Ludvig Meyer and later to the teacher and author Hanne Mourier. These accounts are included as a separate part of the book.

In this way, Regine emerges as more than the young woman Kierkegaard left. She becomes a historical witness with her own memory, interpretation, and voice.

Love, guilt, and conflict

The book's central conflict is Kierkegaard's division between his love for Regine and the belief that marriage was incompatible with his life's task.

He maintained the break-up despite Regine's pleas and attempts by both her father, friends, and family members to persuade him to change his decision. At the same time, his relationship with her continued to occupy him for the rest of his life.

In 1849, Kierkegaard again attempted to establish contact with Regine, who at that time was married to the civil servant Johan Frederik Schlegel. The book reproduces several drafts of the letter and thereby documents his difficulties in formulating himself. The final letter was sent through her husband but was returned unopened.

The last time Regine and Kierkegaard met was in March 1855, before she travelled to the Danish West Indies. As she passed him in the street, she said: "God bless you, may all go well with you!" They never saw each other again.

The documents behind a Danish love myth

Regine Olsen – Søren Kierkegaard's Great Love brings together:

- Kierkegaard's letters to Regine Olsen
- Letters and drafts addressed to Regine Schlegel
- Kierkegaard's posthumous notes about the relationship
- Regine Schlegel's own recollections of Kierkegaard
- Historical introductions and explanatory notes

The material is supplied with remarks and footnotes on people, places, literary references, and historical circumstances. The purpose is to make the original texts accessible and to place the love story in a biographical and cultural-historical context.

Book information (the book is in Danish)

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Press contact

Stauer Publishing

www.stauer-publishing.dk

Email: stauerpublishing@gmail.com

Jens Staubrand M +45 40 59 22 83 (SMS)

Kind regards,

Stauer Publishing