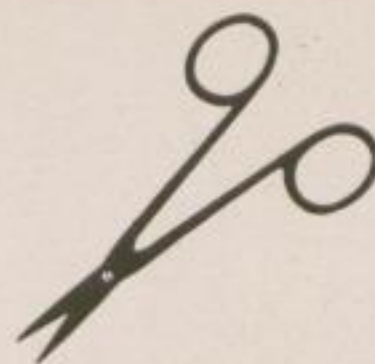
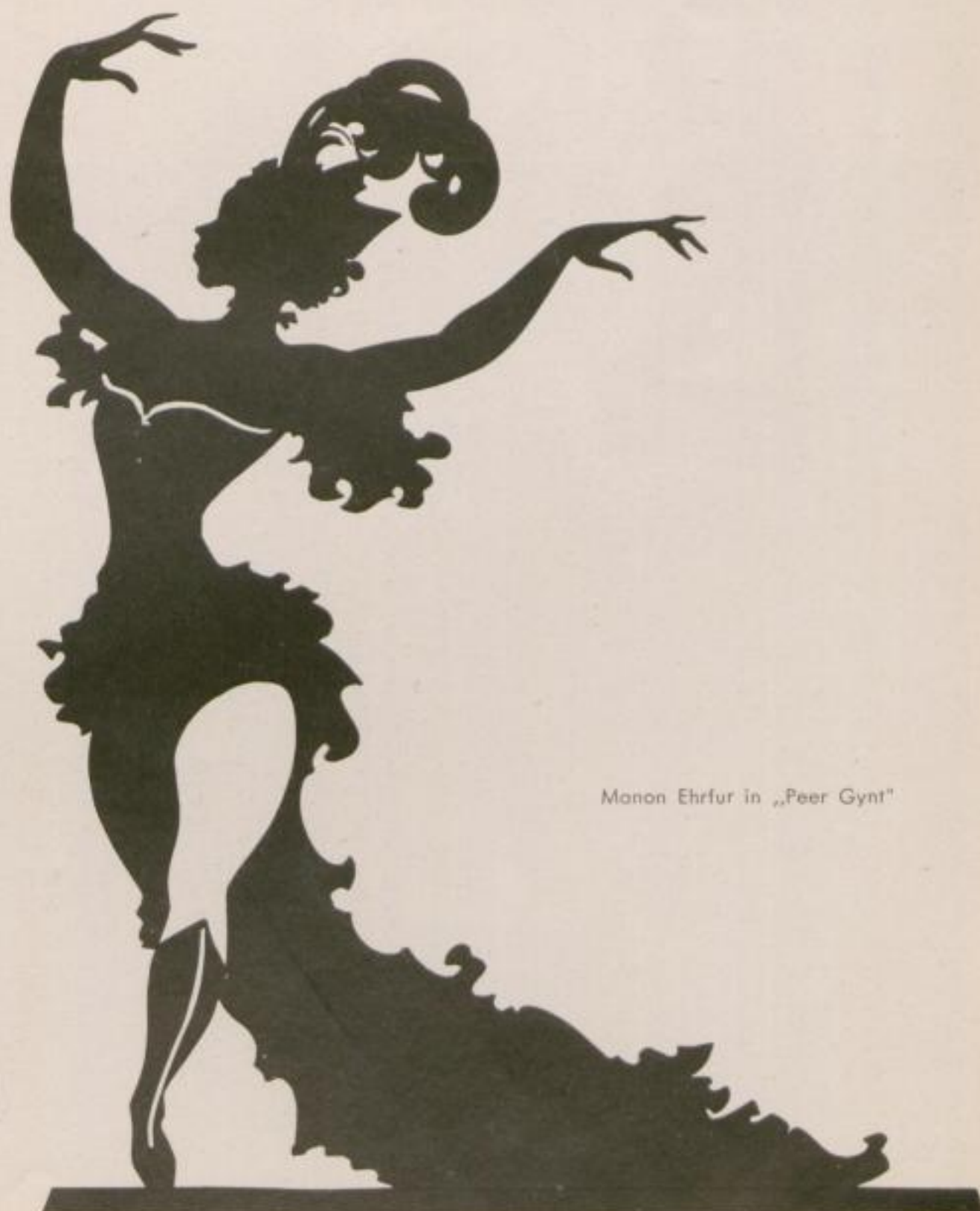


SILHOUETTES



Despite its French name the art of cutting silhouettes is actually of German origin, and only Germany has produced notable experts in this charming domain of art. Ernst Moritz Engert is one of those artists, now so rare, who appreciate the value of this technique which is so seldom cultivated to-day, and have mastered it with a view to its use in graphic work. He was born in Japan and grew up in the artistic atmosphere of this land in which the tradition of handicrafts and strict discipline with regard to graphic work, which at times was carried to the point of artistry, had from time immemorial formed the natural foundations of creative work. It may be that certain traces of this influence are to be found in Engert's work. For his silhouettes, however light, graceful and buoyant they may be, are after all the well-prepared results of careful and conscientious draughtsmanship. Engert's clever and humorous silhouettes of actors or stage scenes are notable for the vigour and vitality they express and seem to reveal the plastic nature of the body behind the bare outlines. In a hundred years' time perhaps, they will be looked upon as illu-



Monon Ehrfur in „Peer Gynt“