

# JACOB EPSTEIN: FIREBRAND OF ART

An Unknown New Yorker  
Becomes Famous in London

JACOB EPSTEIN was brought up in the city of New York, being one of a group of young men from the other side of the Bowery, some of whom have since become well known in the arts. His first exhibition consisted of a small group of paintings shown by the Educational Alliance. He illustrated a book on the East Side by Hutchins Hapgood, and was particularly happy in catching the characteristics of the actors in the Yiddish theatres. Before he left here he was not known to his acquaintances as a sculptor. He had not been long in London, however, before news came to America



*Romilly John. Owned by Mr. John Quinn*

that he had changed his medium. No doubt it was partly because he saw his opportunity, owing to the general low state of sculpture in Great Britain, and the great and constant demand for monuments there. At any rate, he soon made his mark and is now definitely classed as a leading figure in "the English school," whatever that may mean. He is now a citizen of Great Britain—and of the world.

It has been Epstein's good luck to cause a tremendous sensation every now and then. A figure of a woman—done for a London maternity hospital—was assailed by the prudish, and as vigorously defended, while his Oscar Wilde monument in Paris caused a memorable clash with the local French authorities.

The head of a child, here reproduced, is that of Romilly John, son of Augustus John.