

# So This is "Fish"

## The Art of an International Illustrator



"FISH"

The young English artist who has become one of the most notable of international pen-and-ink satirists of today

WHEN, early in 1914, certain remarkable drawings of social life by a new hand began to appear, first in *Vanity Fair* in New York, and in *The Tatler* in London, and later, from time to time, in *La Vie Parisienne*, people all over the world stared at them, amazed, amused, admiring. Then they stared at each other, demanding, with one voice, "Who, under the sun, is Fish."

Meantime, in England, down on the Suffolk coast, a tall, slender young girl of twenty-two, was drawing the pictures that were helping to keep laughter alive during those dark years—and troubling very little as to whether fame's searchlight would ever find her out.

That English girl was "Fish," who is today one of the most popular and highly paid illustrators in three great countries.

This most cosmopolitan of living black-and-white satirists has never stirred from England in all her days. She has never especially extended herself as a spectator of the London life which she so amusingly depicts. She has never gazed on Fifth Avenue.

Her creative imagination is wholly responsible for the people she draws, people whom the great capitals of the universe recognize and laugh over. And she visualizes the characters of her very sophisticated stage in a country environ-

ment, wholly detached from the worldly scenes she loves so well to picture for us.

One advantage of the imaginative faculty being that the artist who possesses it doesn't have to lead the life she limns, Miss Fish leads the life she likes. She has a strong preference for her cottage on the East Coast. In London the world that interests her most is that gallimaufry of types which races across her drawing board. Followers of *Vanity Fair* know these individuals, to their delight; the old young matrons, the mature young girls, the "cats," the play-actresses, the Victorian lady-remnants. And the men, ah, the men! Bridge-playing bishops, lean curates, younger sons, petering-out peers, vapid knuts, wasters, lovers, Guardsmen, bookies, empty-headed horsemen, poets, profiteers and playwrights. What a crew!

For the past five years, in America, there have been two pages by Fish in every issue of *Vanity Fair*, the magazine which introduced her work to the American public. For the coming three years Miss Fish's drawings, both abroad and in this country, will be seen only in this magazine and in *Vogue*. The artist's present concentration on the American scene is arousing her curiosity; she is going to America shortly to see if the people there really look like Fish's portraits of them.