

ROGER-LOUIS DUPUY

R. DE LAVERERIE, PARIS



The readers of the French and American editions of "Vogue" and "Vanity Fair" are familiar with the small, elegant and witty illustrations signed with the initials "R.L.", which are the "trade mark" of R. de Lavererie. But it is not really necessary for the artist to sign his work. Everyone recognizes the drawings easily enough by the distinguished attitudes of the figures, slightly caricatured, the humor which never sins against the laws of good taste and a certain angularity in the drawing which invests the figures with something artificial, perhaps we should rather say, with something conventional, conventionalized as the figures themselves: the dandy, the sportsman, the artist, the society dame . . .

De Lavererie was one of the first to recognize how much past fashions have to give the art of today, and to put this discovery to excellent use. He knows how to reproduce out-of-date figures with a certain modern touch. On the other hand he sketches in the wittiest fashion the trifles which fail to make the fashion of to-day and will be old-fashioned to-morrow, but old-fashioned in a way which is both refined and distinguished.

De Lavererie always invests his figures with some typical detail, some characteristic line which is proper to their age and position. It is not only the dress or the suit which is the determinant, but the whole pose: the form of the gesture, the position of the head, the way of walking.

De Lavererie is particularly well-known as a black-and-white artist, but his colored illustrations also betray the same unerring good taste. The very choice of his color-scale suffices to create the atmosphere of a certain historical epoch or a particular milieu.

His illustrations, whether monotone or in colors are a true rendering of the text. They become one with it, they are not a burden upon it, but serve to underline it in the discreetest fashion. In their clarity of line, they are easy to reproduce and typographic reproduction does them no violence.

To sum up: we have here a man obviously ready to tackle anything that comes along: an artist of ability, taste and talent.

Trans. by E. T. Scheffauer.



The Vignettes are Illustrations from "Vogue" Condé-Nast Editions