

The Famous Actresses of Europe.

BY ARTHUR LEWIS.

**Mme.
Sarah
Bernhardt.**
FRANCE.

It is quite unnecessary to go into the career of one who has been justly described as the "Queen of the Stage, the Divine Sarah Bernhardt." Her great gifts are recognised throughout the civilized world, and she belongs, not to one nation, but to all. To enumerate her successes would mean to name almost every part she has played. She is an indefatigable worker, and surely if the word "genius" means "the faculty of taking infinite pains" this wonderful woman must indeed claim that title. The writer has seen her work for eighteen hours without rest day after day, and as an example of her energy it may here be stated that upon her last visit to England she played on one Monday at Islington, Tuesday at Croydon, Wednesday at Brighton, Thursday at the Comedy Theatre, London, *Hamlet* on Friday at Stratford-on-Avon, and appeared in the same play in Lyons, France, on the following Sunday afternoon! Perhaps the largest amount ever taken in a theatre for dramatic representations was realized in one week at the Tremont Theatre, Boston, U.S.A., where the receipts at the box-office for nine performances by Mme. Bernhardt amounted to the enormous sum of 53,000dols., or £10,600.

**Mme.
Réjane.**
FRANCE.

As Mme. Bernhardt may be called the chief tragic and emotional actress of our time, so Mme. Réjane may justly be termed the "Queen of Comedy," although her powers of compelling tears and laughter are almost equal. Her latest success, and one of her greatest, has been made as the heroine of M. Berton's "*Zaza*," in which she is absolutely without a rival. Unfortunately the English public will not be able to see her in that character for another year; but she will probably be seen at the Garrick Theatre during the present season, where she may possibly reproduce "*Mme. Sans Gêne*." Mme. Réjane is a woman of great personal charm and wonderful magnetism, and, as an instance of her generosity, it may be stated that on her last appearance in town she came all the way from Trouville to London to play at the Coronet Theatre for charity. Her hard work has been crowned with great pecuniary reward. This is shown by the fact that she was paid for a twenty minutes' recitation in a London drawing-room the sum of one hundred and fifty guineas.

**Señora
Guerrero.**
SPAIN.

Señora Guerrero is undoubtedly the greatest Spanish actress. Her repertoire consists of nearly all the parts sustained by Mme. Bernhardt, added to which she also plays the classic drama of Spain. She is a wonderful actress and possesses a marvellous voice, which she uses to the greatest advantage. She appeared in Paris for the first time last year during the Exhibition, and was received with enthusiasm, her performance in Racine's "*Phèdre*" evoking the greatest praise. An attempt was made by the writer to bring her to London; but as she had only one week available it was found impossible to make any arrangements. In private life she is a most charming and gracious woman and has a delightful personality.

**Signora
Lorenzo.**
ITALY.

An actress of consummate skill and charm, she is delightful in every part she undertakes, her method being absolutely natural and free from affectation. She is possessed of an agreeable presence, and is justly a favourite with the playgoing public of Italy.

**Signora
Eleonora
Duse.**
ITALY.

The great Italian actress, who has been called the Sarah Bernhardt of Italy. Signora Duse is so well known in London that it is scarcely necessary to mention her various triumphs in detail. She is equally at home in comedy and tragedy, and those who remember her performances in "*La Locandiera*" and "*Cavalleria Rusticana*" can readily appreciate her marvellous versatility. Her methods are simple and she scarcely ever uses any "make-up." She rarely plays a part twice alike, and alters the business of her scenes from night to night. Her productions are invariably good and show very careful stage management; unconventional and essentially natural. Signora Duse's last appearance in London was at the Lyceum during the spring of last year, when she presented, for the first time in England, Mr. A. W. Pinero's "*Second Mrs. Tanqueray*" under the title of "*La Seconda Moglie*."

**Mme.
Odillon.**
AUSTRIA.

It is perhaps hardly necessary to describe the great merits of Mme. Odillon as an actress. Her appearances in London are of so recent a date, at Daly's Theatre in 1897, and the emphatic success she made of so pronounced a type, that playgoers need hardly be reminded of the fact. In Vienna Mme. Odillon's name is

a household word, and in her own particular way and method she is unrivalled. In private life she is a charming hostess and companion, and delights in all kinds of charitable work. She is a thorough sportswoman and a *persona grata* in Viennese society.

Mme. Sandrock.
AUSTRIA.

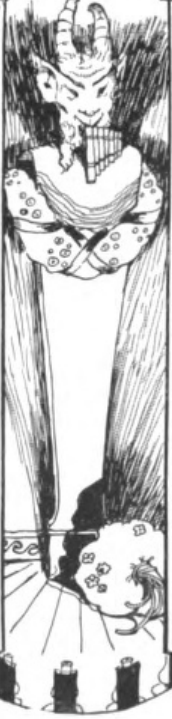
Mme. Sandrock is one of the most delightful artistes living; her performances are gems, and the distinct characterization she manages to impart to the various rôles she impersonates is a good reason for her enormous popularity.



Madame Rejane (FRANCE)
PHOTO BY REUTLINGER PARIS

MADAME SARAH BERNHARDT (FRANCE.)
PHOTO BY W. & D. DOWNEY EBURY ST

Signora Tina di Lorenzo (ITALY)
PHOTO BY GIACOMO BROGI FLORENCE



Señora Guerrero (SPAIN)
PHOTO BY AUDOUARD BARCELONA

Signora Eleanore Duse (ITALY)
PHOTO BY AIME DUPONT NEW YORK



Madame Odillon
(AUSTRIA)
PHOTO BY ADELE VIENNA

profession. She has succeeded in taking the parts formerly played by Charlotte Wotter, whose renown was world-wide. She is particularly fine as *Mary Stuart* in Schiller's grand tragedy of that name, and also as *Brunhilde* in "Siegfried"; but, above all, as *Adelheid* in "Goetz Von Berlichingen" she is unrivalled. Mme. Bleibtreu has become a great favourite of Viennese theatre-goers, and she in herself is a great attraction, being the happy possessor of a magnificent figure, and a face at once beautiful and intellectual. She revels in country life, is very enthusiastic when she



Madame Sandrock.
(AUSTRIA)
PHOTO BY ADELE VIENNA

Her admirers in Vienna are indeed numerous, and on all occasions she has been singled out for special marks of favour. Like Mme. Odillon, she is well known throughout Austria, is socially a great favourite, and is particularly fond of dumb animals.

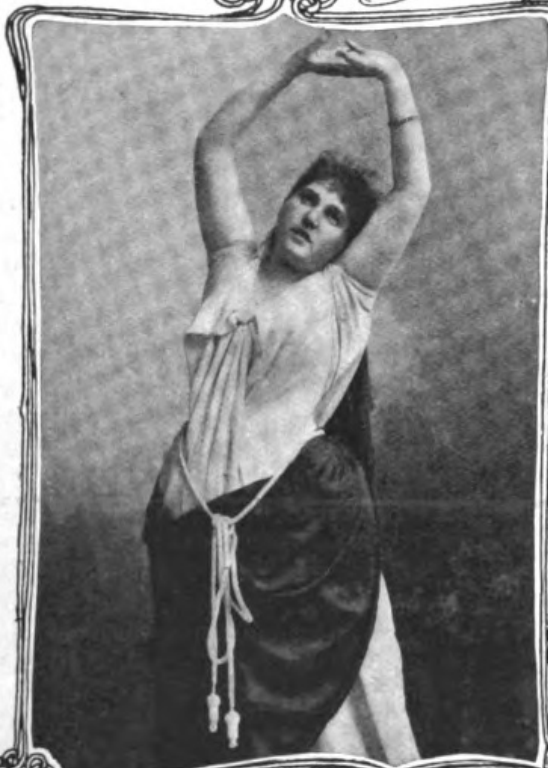
Mme. Hedwig Bleibtreu.
AUSTRIA.

Mme. Hedwig Bleibtreu, of the Imperial Burgtheater in Vienna, is to-day at the very head of her



Madame Bleibtreu
(AUSTRIA)
SZÉKELY VIENNA

becomes interested in any subject, a great lover of dogs and horses, and has a disposition both amiable and generous—her friends are legion and her admirers universal.



MADAME SZILAGGI.
(HUNGARY)

PHOTO BY KOLLER TANAR BUDAPEST.

Mme. Szilaggi.
HUNGARY.

One of Hungary's favourite actresses, accomplished in the highest sense of the word, well known in Budapest and all the important cities of the kingdom, playing equally well in comedy and the drama. Mme. Szilaggi has a most charming voice, "la voix de velour." She is a gifted woman in many ways, is very fond of books, and a lover of dumb animals.

Mme. Blaha.
HUNGARY.

This charming and popular actress is a member of the Budapest Royal Theatre, and is perhaps the most accomplished



MADAME BLAHA.
(HUNGARY)

PHOTO BY STRELISKY BUDAPEST.



MADAME HEGYESI
(HUNGARY)

PHOTO BY KOLLER TANAR BUDAPEST.

artiste in Hungary. She seems to excel in almost every rôle either in comedy, tragedy, or farce. She has a very sympathetic voice of great power and compass, which, however, is always under complete control. Mme. Blaha is a great favourite throughout her native country, and her appearances in other towns of the kingdom

always insure crowded houses. The costume in which she has been photographed represents a Hungarian peasant woman.

Mme. Hegyesi.
HUNGARY.

Mme. Hegyesi is one of Hungary's brightest stars, and is an actress of much power. Clever and versatile, she has played throughout Austria's great dependency with unvarying success. She prefers strong drama, but is equally at home in lighter parts. Of a helpful disposition, Mme. Hegyesi is very charitable, and no appeal for her services goes unanswered, while her purse-strings are constantly opened to the poor.

Señora Yievrá.
PORTUGAL. A vivacious and charming creature, and one of the best of Portuguese actresses. An enormous favourite in Lisbon, Señora Yievrá has acted her way into the hearts of her audiences of the Southern kingdom. Although she excels in all branches of her art, she prefers plays of a light character. She is very studious and is an excellent linguist, and will very probably appear in Paris during the coming season.

Mme. Aristiza.
ROUMANIA. Of all actresses of talent to whom Roumania has given birth the most eminent is Mme. Aristiza, the favourite of Bucharest, whose efforts have been crowned with success and whose application to her art in all its branches has gained for her the esteem and well-earned plaudits of all who have witnessed her performances. A more charming woman, both on and off the stage, does not exist, nor one who works more conscientiously.



Fräulein Agnes Sorma.
GERMANY. "An ideal Ophelia" was the verdict passed

by the German critics on Agnes Sorma, whose photograph we print in that character, and in every way has she merited the praise that has been lavished upon her. She commenced her stage career when quite a little child, and some few years later, when she appeared at the Deutsches Theater, as the

ingénue in "Jugendliebe," she took Berlin by storm. By her extreme naturalness and simplicity of style she created an impression that was deep and lasting. She has a most extensive repertoire, and in tragedy as in comedy she has no equal on the German stage. In modern plays her favourite rôle is *Nora* in "A Doll's House," but she is eminently suited to the classic drama. A beautiful woman, of a particularly sunny disposition, she is greatly loved by all who know her.



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Fraulein Lotte Witt.
Fraulein Jenny Gross.
GERMANY.

Quite in the same rank with Fraulein Agnes Sorma, and upon the highest rung of the ladder of theatrical fame, may be found Fraulein Lotte Witt and Fraulein Jenny Gross, the former a bright particular star of the Hofburg Theater, and the latter shining with equal lustre in the Lessing Theater, Berlin. These ladies are, without question, among the very best artistes that Germany has produced in the last part of the nineteenth century, and may be classed as leading actresses in their respective theatres, playing the standard dramas and comedies of their country. They are equally dominant in their art, equally successful, and capable of playing any rôle compatible with their powers and temperaments. In private life these ladies are much esteemed for their culture and refined tastes, and they move in high social circles in the land of their birth.

Mme. Kermisargeros Kaga.
RUSSIA.

There are many fine actresses in Russia but little known in England; among them Mme. Kermisargeros Kaga holds a justly high position. It is difficult to say in what

rôle she shows best, as her versatility is very great. She is well known in St. Petersburg, Moscow, and in other cities of the vast Eastern Empire; in many parts she has filled she is absolutely unrivalled, and she is as much at home in the modern as in the classic drama, not disdaining comedies of a light description. In private life she is chiefly known for her religious and charitable disposition, and is as much esteemed as an actress as she is as a woman.

Mme. Slavina.
RUSSIA.

Dainty is the most apt word to be applied to this artiste. Full of charm and grace, she is interesting in a marked degree, and her career has been watched with increasing appreciation by her many admirers. She is a great favourite in St. Petersburg, and news of her appearance is always looked for with intense pleasure.

Fröken Berg.
SWEDEN.

Fröken Berg is one of Sweden's most accomplished actresses, also equally at home in comedy and pathos, and a great and deserved favourite in the twin kingdoms. She has a charming personality and possesses a beautifully musical



**FRÖKEN
EMMA BERG**
(SWEDEN)
PHOTO BY A. DAHLÖF STOCKHOLM

voice. Her appearances are everywhere welcomed with the deepest pleasure, and what is more in the taste of the theatrical manager—crowded houses.

Fröken Julia Håkansson. Fröken Julia Håkansson is entitled to the first rank among Swedish actresses at present before the public. She made her *début* at the Royal Theatre, in Stockholm, as *Nora* in Ibsen's "Doll's House," and immediately captivated the critics and the public. Her charming appearance, her superb voice,

and great dramatic force showed her to be an actress of unusual tragic power. After some years in the provinces, where she gained fresh laurels, she again made several visits to the capital and played with such wonderful success

that the public began to insist, through the medium of the Press, that the leading Swedish tragedienne should be attached to the first theatre in Sweden. She therefore accepted an engagement at the Vasa Theatre and afterwards at the Svenska Theatre. Fröken Håkansson's repertoire is very large, but it is in the modern, realistic, problem drama, and in such parts as *Magda*, *Paula Tanqueray*, and notably in the title rôle of "Lady Windermere's Fan," that she has created her deepest impressions. As *Anna* in "King Midas" her portrayal of madness in the last act is veritably superb.

Fröken Signe Videll. Fröken Signe Videll is a comedienne *par excellence*, her rendition of Swedish peasant rôles being inimitable, but she possesses the gift of tears as well. She created the



FRÖKEN JULIA HAKANSSON
(SWEDEN)

PHOTO BY - A. JONASON. GOTHENBURG

part of *Mme. Sans Gêne* in the Swedish provinces, and her success was instantaneous. She is a very popular reciter and is a splendid linguist. Fröken Videll appeared in London last year at an entertainment in St. James's Hall in aid of the wounded in South Africa, and won the hearts of her hearers completely by the manner in which she recited some of Hans



FRÖKEN
SIGNE VIDELL
(SWEDEN)
COPENHAGEN
PHOTO BY A. JONASON

entered the Ballet School of the Royal Opera House in Stockholm. She then joined the Dramatic School belonging to the same institution, afterwards touring the provinces with different companies. Her first pronounced success was as *Hilda* in Ibsen's "Master Builder," in which she conquered Stockholm. For some years she has been attached to the Vasa Theatre in that city, where as the leading *soubrette* she has principally played in French



FRÖKEN HILDA BORGSTRÖM
(SWEDEN)

PHOTO BY G. FLORMAN STOCKHOLM

Christian Andersen's fairy tales, the applause with which she was received amply testifying to the appreciation of her audience.

Fröken Hilda Borgström.
SWEDEN.

Fröken Hilda Borgström commenced her theatrical career at the age of nine years, when she



FRÖKEN REIMERS
(NORWAY)

PHOTO BY NYBLIN CHRISTIANIA

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farces of the Feydau and Bisson type. She has since created at the Royal Dramatic Theatre the part of *Zaza*, which she is particularly fond of, and also *Sophy Fullgarny* in the "Gay Lord Quex" with enormous success. Rossi gave her her first praise, and it is owing to his encouragement that she has risen to the position she now occupies.

Fröken Reimers and Dybaud.
NORWAY.

Norway may claim, with pardonable pride, the possession of some of the cleverest and most attractive actresses. Two in particular command special mention, Fröken Reimers and Fröken Dybaud, both artistes of exceptional talent. Fröken Reimers is a host in herself, and no one knows better how to hold an audience. The subtle manner in which she touches the hearts of her audiences proves she is a delightful acquisition to the profession she adorns so gracefully. She is immensely popular, and her chiefest pleasure lies in the culture and possession of flowers.

Fröken Dybaud is, in her way, as clever as her compatriot, although the characters she sustains are somewhat different. This clever lady's performances in the Ibsen plays have gained for her the unqualified praise of the Norwegian Press and public, and she is one of the brightest ornaments of the contemporary stage.



PHOTO BY K.A.SAND
CHRISTIANIA.

some remarkable successes as the heroines of Ibsen's plays, and, though devoted to her art, she is greatly sought after by society, her spirited conversation, natural gaiety, and abundant wit making her a most desirable companion; in fact, no gathering of artistes is considered complete unless graced by her presence.

Mme. Bettie Hennings.
DENMARK.

Denmark claims one of the greatest tragic actresses of the present day in Mme. Bettie Hennings. Possessed of wonderful grace and histrionic ability, she is unsurpassed in the parts of Ibsen's heroines, her greatest triumph being made as *Nora* in "A Doll's House." She made her first appearance as a ballet-dancer in Copenhagen, but shortly afterwards achieved dramatic success as *Agnes* in "L'Ecole





Van Gelde and Mme. Ollefen, who are bright lights of the stage, well known and esteemed in their own country. All Dutch artistes are well trained and play magnificently together, and the two ladies whose portraits appear in these pages are no exception to the rule. They have been very successful in their different characters, and have gained enviable reputations wherever they have appeared.

Mme. Raunay.
BELGIUM.

Mme. Raunay is without doubt one of the most beautiful women on the Belgian stage; her expression is most varied, and in her acting her transitions from grave to gay are marvellously depicted. With a *svette*, graceful figure, an exquisitely modulated voice, she at once satisfies the eye and ear. As an actress she holds a high position throughout Belgium, and in romantic drama she is a pronounced favourite.

Mme. Leblanc.
BELGIUM.

Mme. Leblanc is a remarkably handsome woman, and one who worthily upholds the traditions of the drama. Her experience has been great and varied, and while she is capable of expressing deep feeling, her vivacity is infectious and her charm undisputed. For

des Femmes." The King of Denmark, recognising her talent, honoured her with the title of "Royal Tragedienne"; and King Oscar of Sweden personally presented her with the gold medal, "Literis et Artibus." The photograph here reproduced of Mme. Hennings is in the character of *Hilda Wangel* in Ibsen's "Master Builder."

Mme. Nielsen.
DENMARK.

A fair, sweet face, a graceful figure, a voice of rare charm, and you have Mme. Nielsen, another Danish actress, who wins all hearts and is extremely popular. She is very studious, and the position she has attained is the result of hard work and careful training. She is passionately fond of music and is a most entertaining conversationalist.

Although but little is known in England of Dutch dramatic art—there was, by the way, a performance of a fine little play called "Annie Mie" given in London some twenty years ago by a company from Holland—yet the Low Countries contain some excellent performers, who compare favourably with those of many other nations. Among them may be mentioned Mme.





some time now she has been one of the most popular of the Belgian actresses. Her costumes are always in perfect accord with the character she portrays, and are alike the envy and admiration of the ladies, who

always flock to see her. In private life she is noted for her brilliant wit and great taste in dress. She is fond of her home life and is an ardent collector of bric-à-brac and curios.