

# DIE? I THOUGHT I'D LAUGH!

A book of  
NICOLAS  
BENTLEY'S  
pictures




IN THIS BOOK OF HIS LATEST DRAWINGS, many of which are hitherto unpublished, Mr. Bentley sets about him with commendable and catholic savagery. His debunking of every asinine whim, of misplaced dignity and stale conventions is achieved by an economy of wit as severe as the line by which it is conveyed. Distinguished less by satire than by their inspired inconsequence, a number of these drawings might also be the envy of Groucho himself. It is a book full of sharp, hilarious laughs.

*"A certain winner as a Christmas gift. . . . I know of no other comic artist who can get quite the same degree of delicate idiocy into his work as Mr. Bentley."*—THE BYSTANDER





DIE ?  
I THOUGHT  
I'D LAUGH!



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pictures

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## DEDICATED

*with gratitude and some affection to those amiable  
everyday nitwits whose puddingness of head is a  
challenge to the comic draughtsman, and by whose  
existence this world is made a brighter place.*



## TO THOSE WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

*I would like to explain how deeply I am indebted, not only to my tailor, as usual, but also to the Editors of The Bystander and Men Only who have allowed me to reproduce in this book many drawings which have already appeared in those magazines.*

*Imagine also my feelings of gratitude towards the Editor and the Proprietors of Punch, by whose permission I include those gems on pages eight to fifteen inclusive.*

*To Mr. Chatto no less than to Mr. Windus, and to Mr. Victor Gollancz I can say but little to express the emotion that fills—forgive the word—my bosom, at their kindness in allowing me to reprint the pictures on pages sixteen, sixty and sixty-eight.*

*Nor, therefore, can I do less than take off my hat to Mr. R. J. Minney (“The Moocher”) of The Sunday Referee, who has kindly permitted me to make use of the clerical error on page sixty-two.*

*In a burst of generosity on the part of hatter Battersby I am given leave to include the sheriff who appears on page fifty-two, while the pictures on pages forty-four and forty-eight are there through the kindness of heart for which Davis the Dyers are so justly famous.*

*Finally, to Captain Robert Hartman, of all people, I protest my gratitude for permission to include that ripe one about the nuns.*

NICOLAS BENTLEY





NICOLAS  
BENTLEY

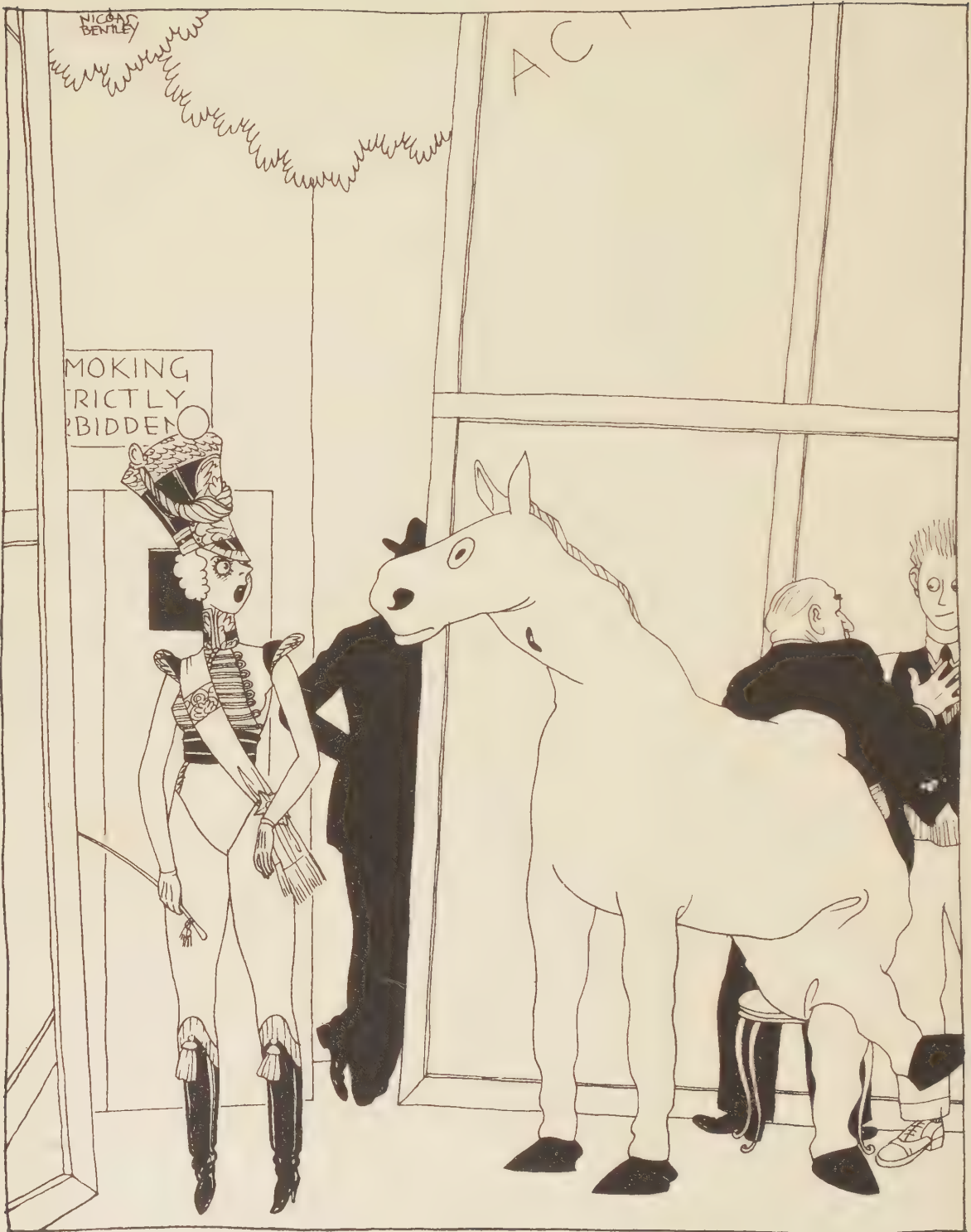
*'Die? I thought I'd laugh!'*



*' . . . and this little pig stayed at home!'*



*'You 'ave it over, Larry, and see what I'll give you!'*



*'Well, I'll thank you and Mr. Blake to stay out of my dressing-room in future, see?'*





*'How's this for size?'*



NICOLAS BENTLEY

E

BEER IS BEST

LYC  
THEA



TWICE  
DAILY

at 6<sup>o</sup>30  
and 9<sup>o</sup>



FOR  
AN  
AI NA

'Blimey—so I 'ave!'



*'You won't let him worry you, will you?'*



*'Yes, that's the man, I'm positive.'*



*'Well, whatever will you rascals be up to next, eh?'*



NICOZAS  
BENTLEY

*'And how about one for little Mrs. What's-her-name?'*



*'Excuse me, what won the three-thirty?'*





*'And I suppose they're actually hard at work.'*



*'Now what made me think you said fancy dress.'*



*'Pretty writing, isn't it?'*



*'Jerusalem, my happy home!'*



*'Whereabouts can I wash?'*

*'All over.'*





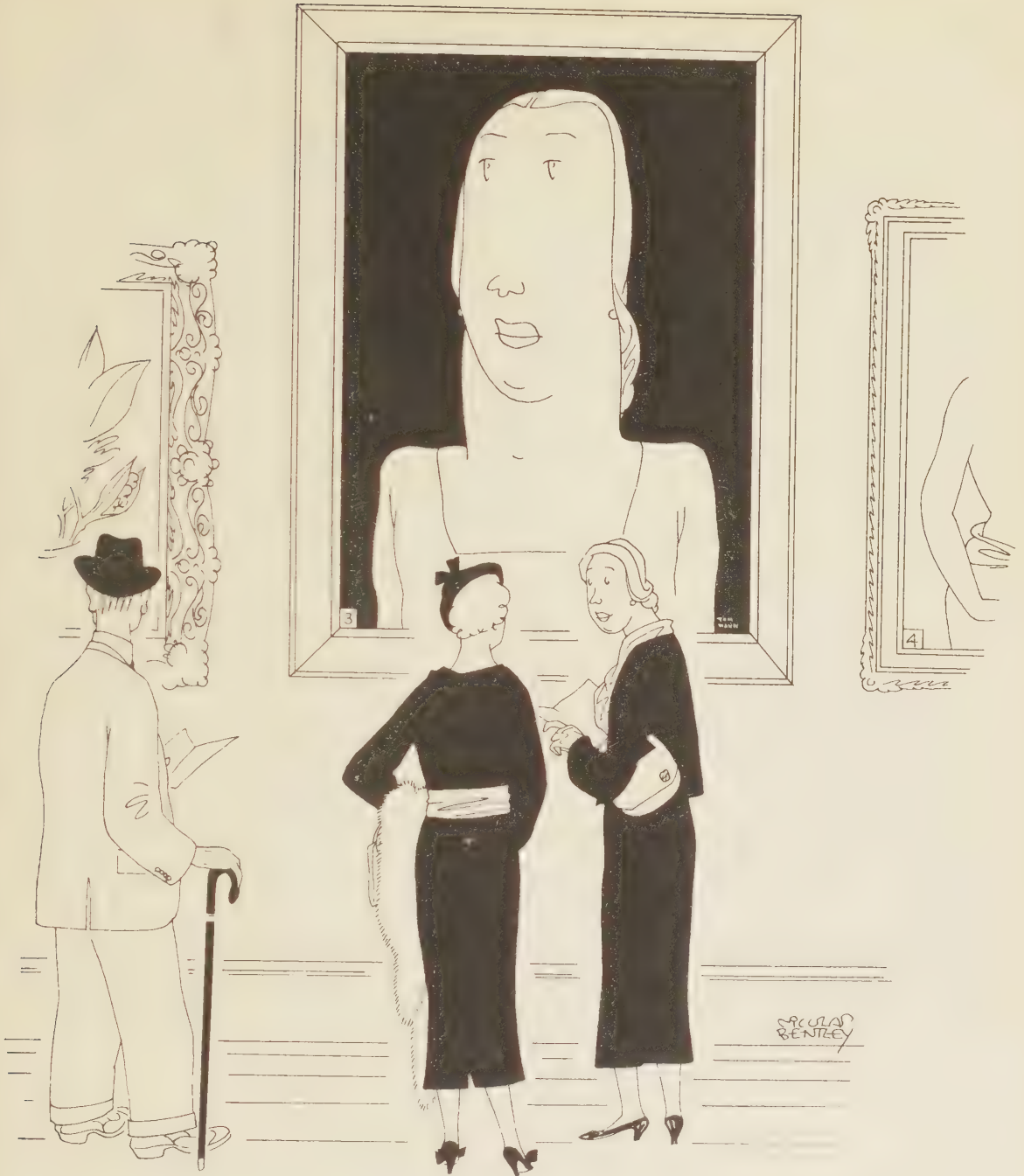
*'It says "Dear Sir or Madam" —'*



*'By Jove, William, he nearly got you to-day!'*

*'Yes, Sir, 'e nearly gets me every day.'*





*'It's not the real me though, is it?'*



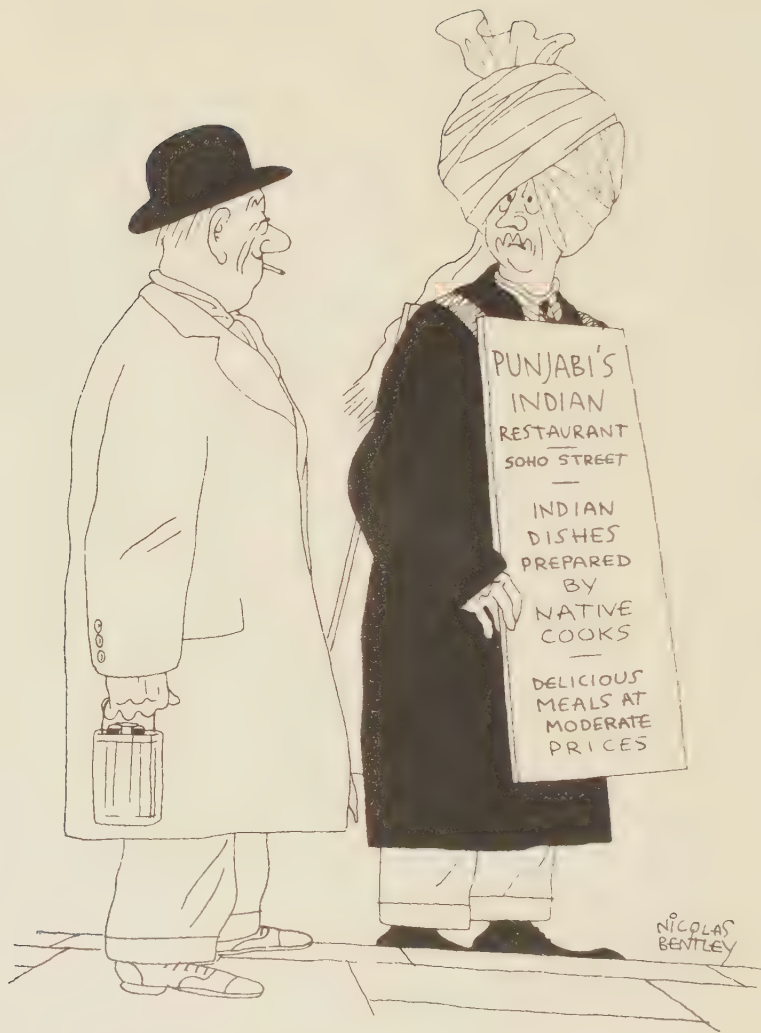
NICOLAS  
BENTLEY

*'And now a little number entitled "Paradise." O.K., boys, let her go!'*



NICOLAS  
BENTLEY

*'Play to me, gipsy!'*



*'Well, 'ow's things in the Bengal Lancers?'*

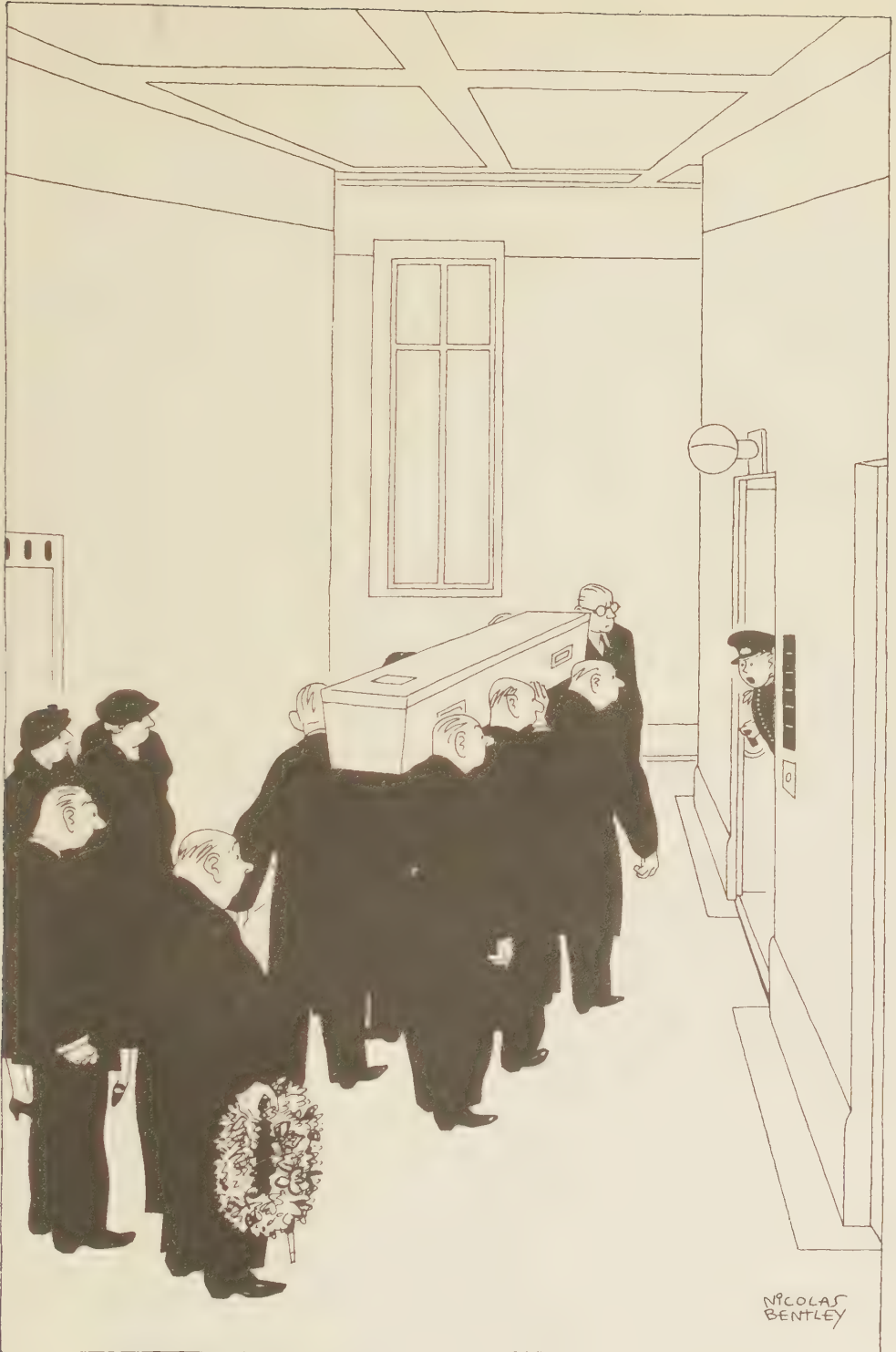


NICOLAS  
BENTLEY

*'I ran it up from a piece I got in the sales.'*



*'Drunk?'*



'Going down.'



*'What is it, d'you think—a race?'*





*'Dis beef vhat dey give us here, I vunder is dat kosher?'*



*'Pardon my mirth, ladies and gents—!'*



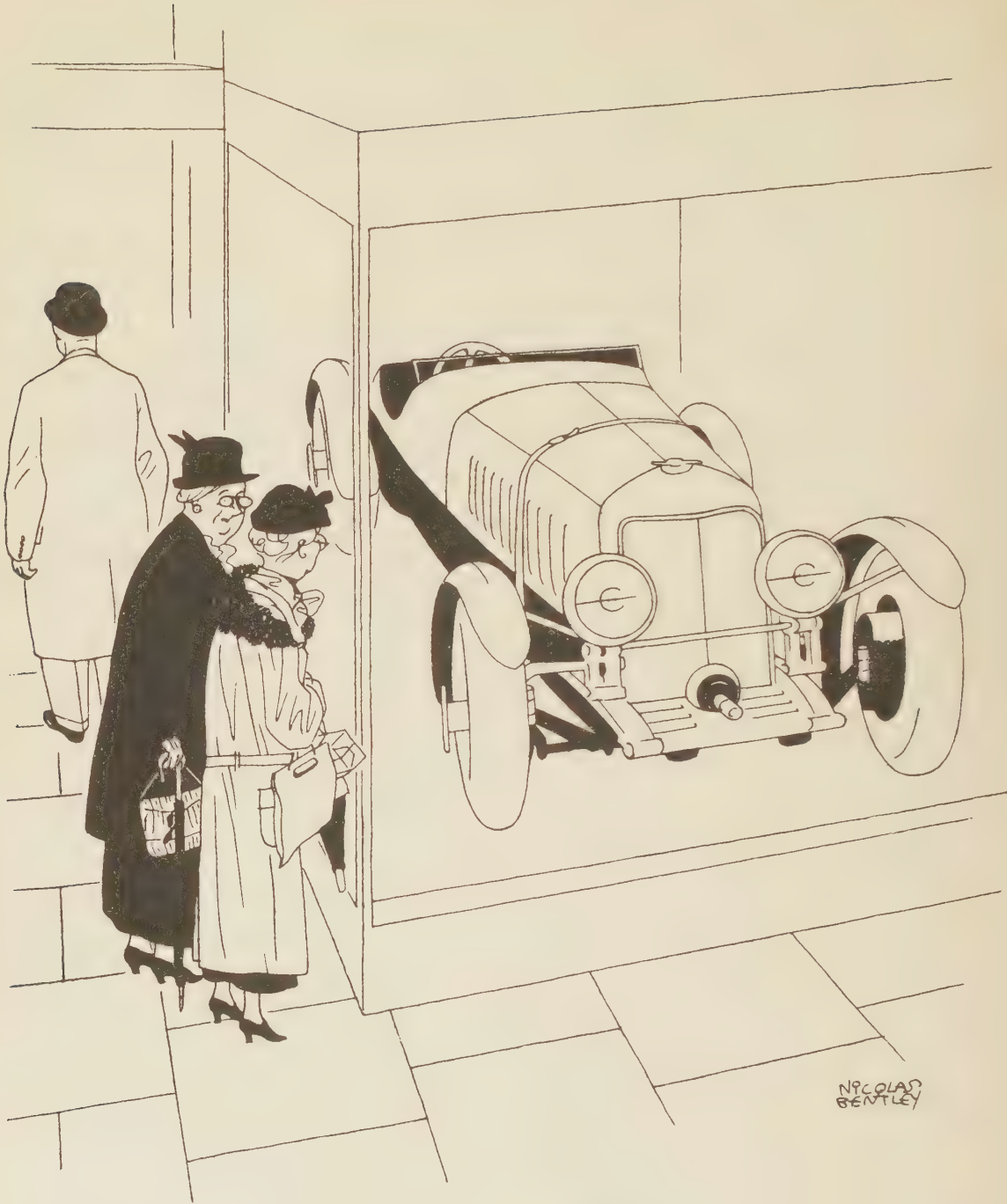
NICOLAS  
BENTLEY

‘Peep bo!’





*'You've got a button undone!'*



NICOLAS  
BENTLEY

*'By Gosh, Amy, she's a ripping bus!'*



*'And don't let those bags move from under your eyes.'*

*'Move, sir? Why, I've 'ad 'em twenty years.'*



*'Aesthete!'*



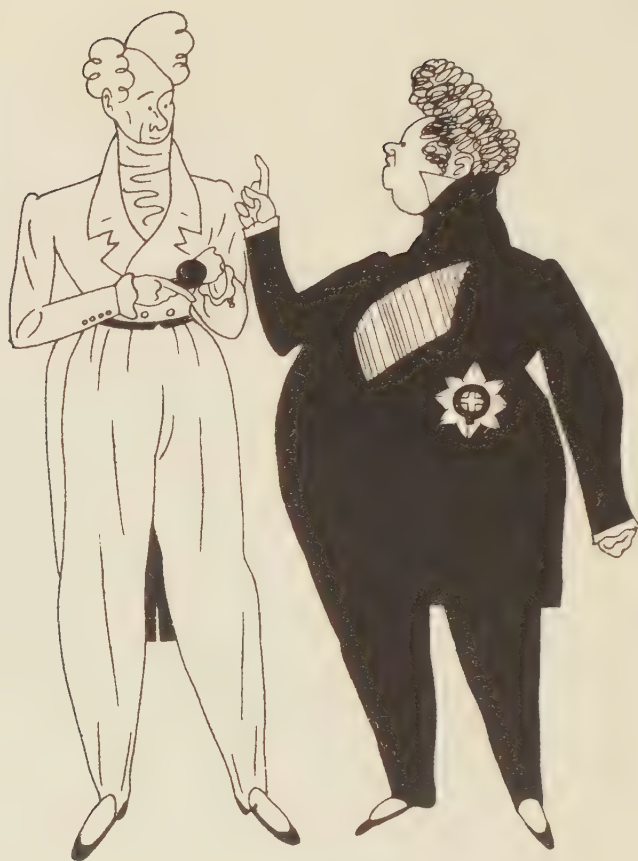


*'Hey, just a minute—I'm kneeling on something!'*





*'What's he trying to say? Sounds absolute Greek to me.'*





'Hullo—tumbled over?'



*'But Miss Kirkwood, it can't be a Siamese—where's the other half?'*

NICOLAS  
BENTLEY



*'Excuse me, I think we have each other's hats.'*

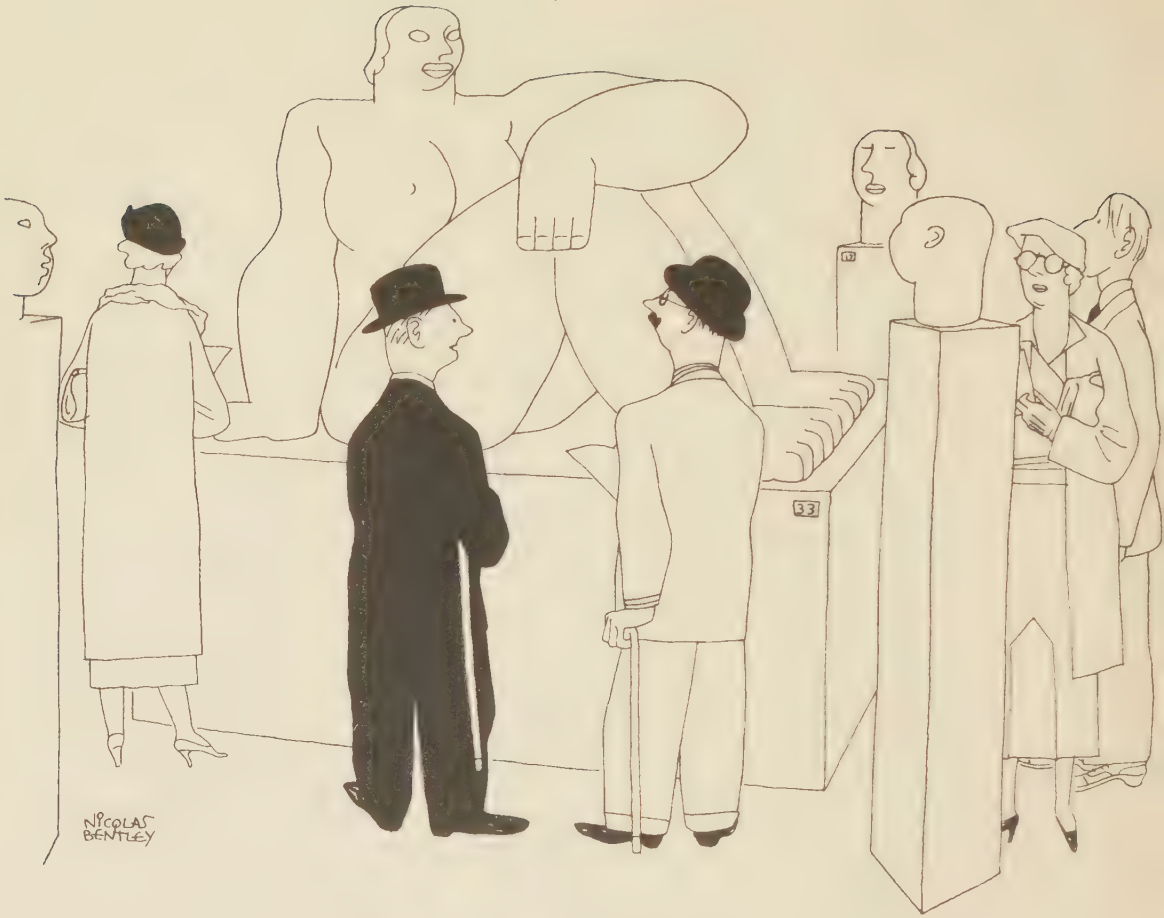


NB





*'That's my husband—over by the door.'*



*'My Aunt!'*

*'Not really?'*



NICOLAS  
BENTLEY

*'Now, Mr. Delarue, I'm sure you're fond of pansies.'*





*'Canon—you're fired!'*



*'Come, you wouldn't wish me to use force?'*



*'I want to introduce my son.'*

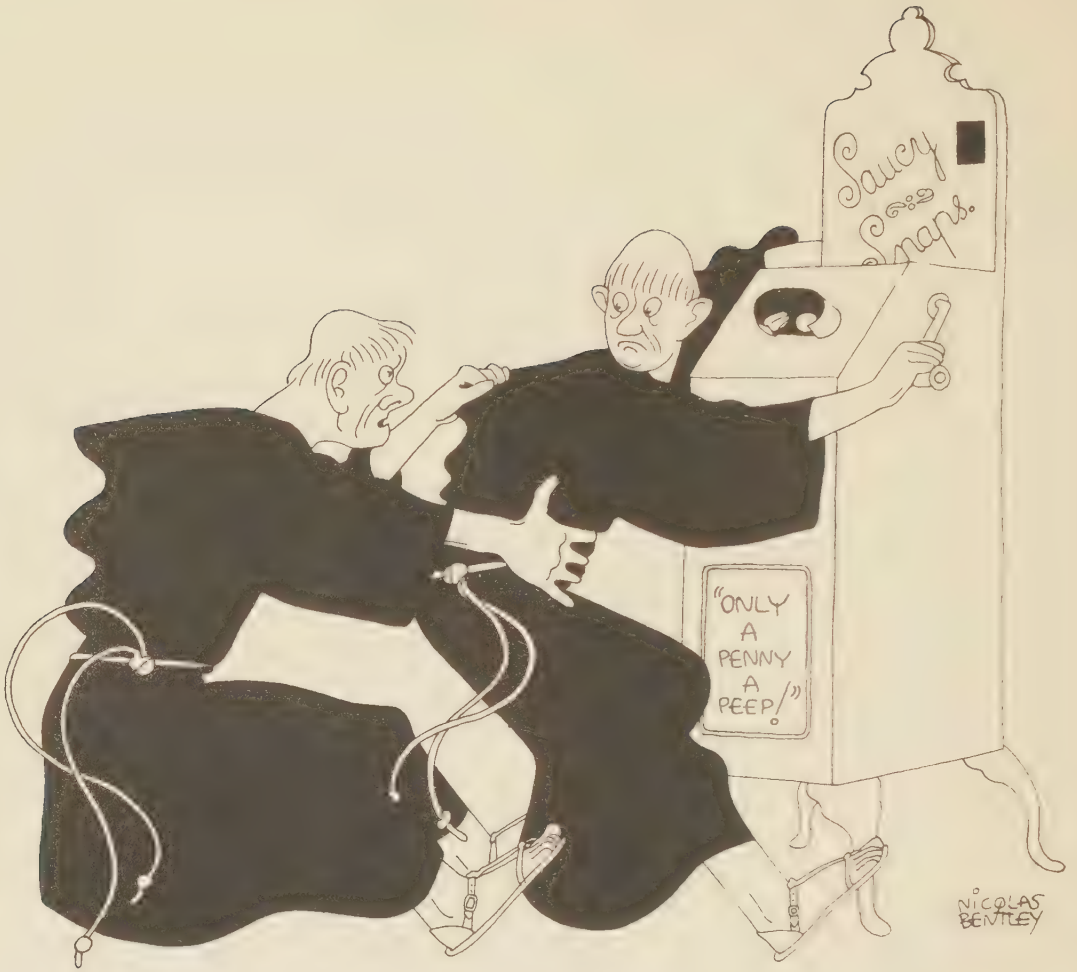
*'What on earth for?'*







*'Oi don't think Basil quoyte gets the oidea 'ow 'tis done.'*



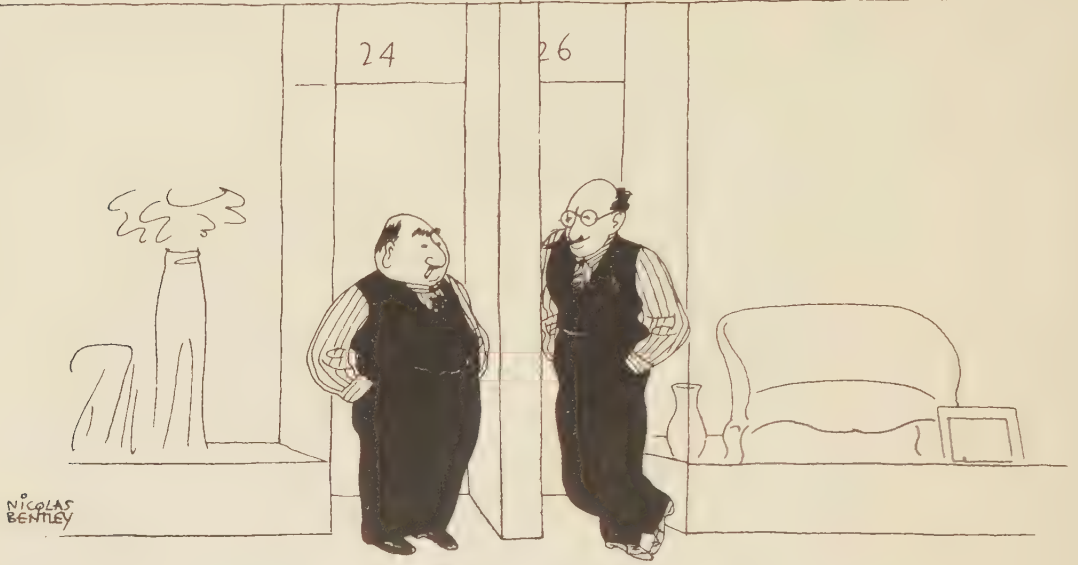
*'Come on, don't be a dog in the manger!'*



*'Pianissimo yourself!'*

MAISON  
YVONNE MODES

J. S. HYMAN LTD



*'Well, Yvonne, how's business?'*



*'Morning, Mrs. Roberts!'*

*'Yes, sir—my brother-in-law: 'e died Tuesday.'*



*'Ere y'are, lady—'ow about a funny little jumpin' monkey?'*



NICHOLAS  
BENTLEY

*'Now, don't lose your head.'*



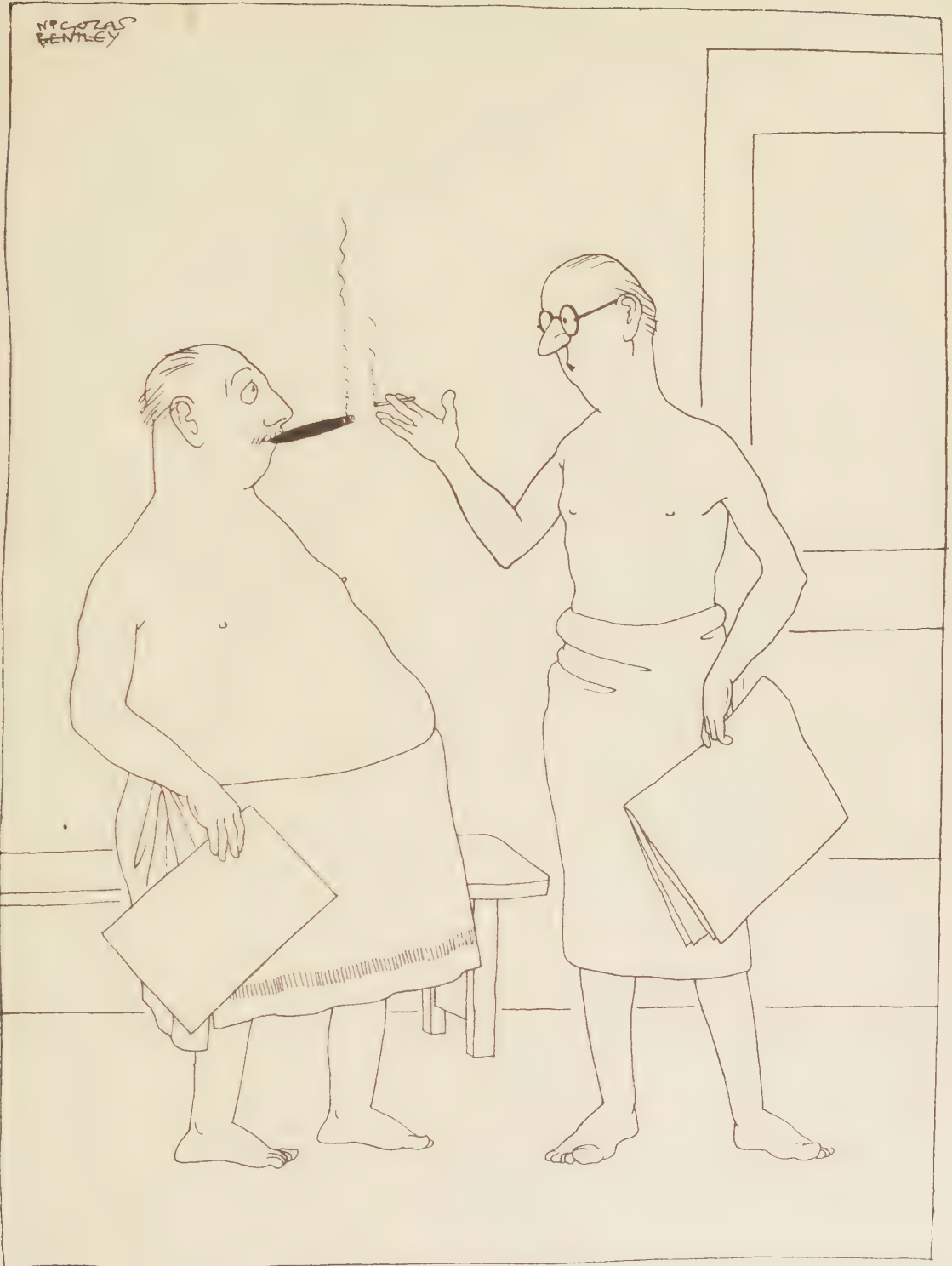




*'Come, de Havilland, d'you want to be taken for a cissy?'*



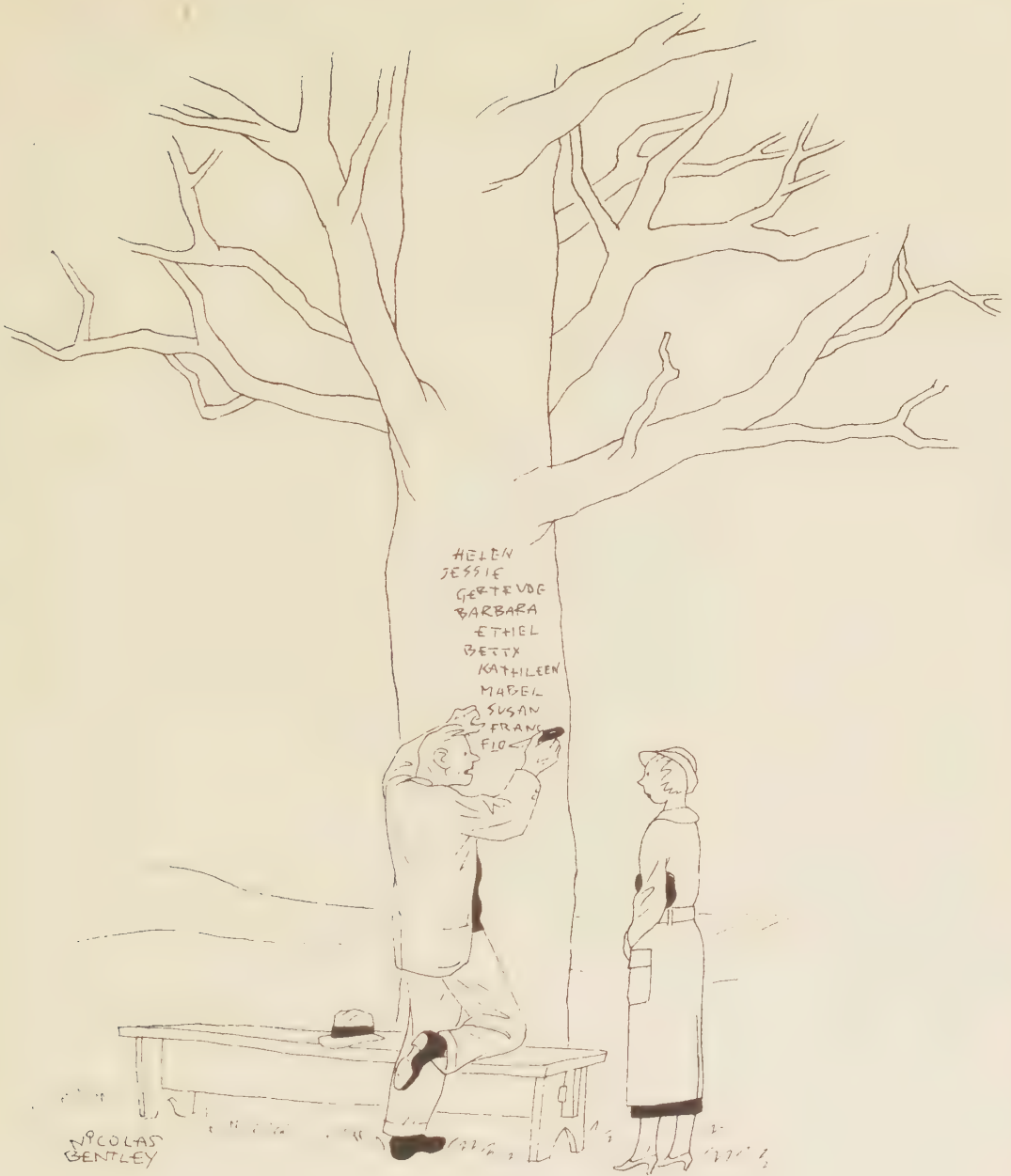
*'With a hey-nonny-nonny and a hot-ch-cha!'*



*'You have only to name your figure, Mr. Hirsch.'*



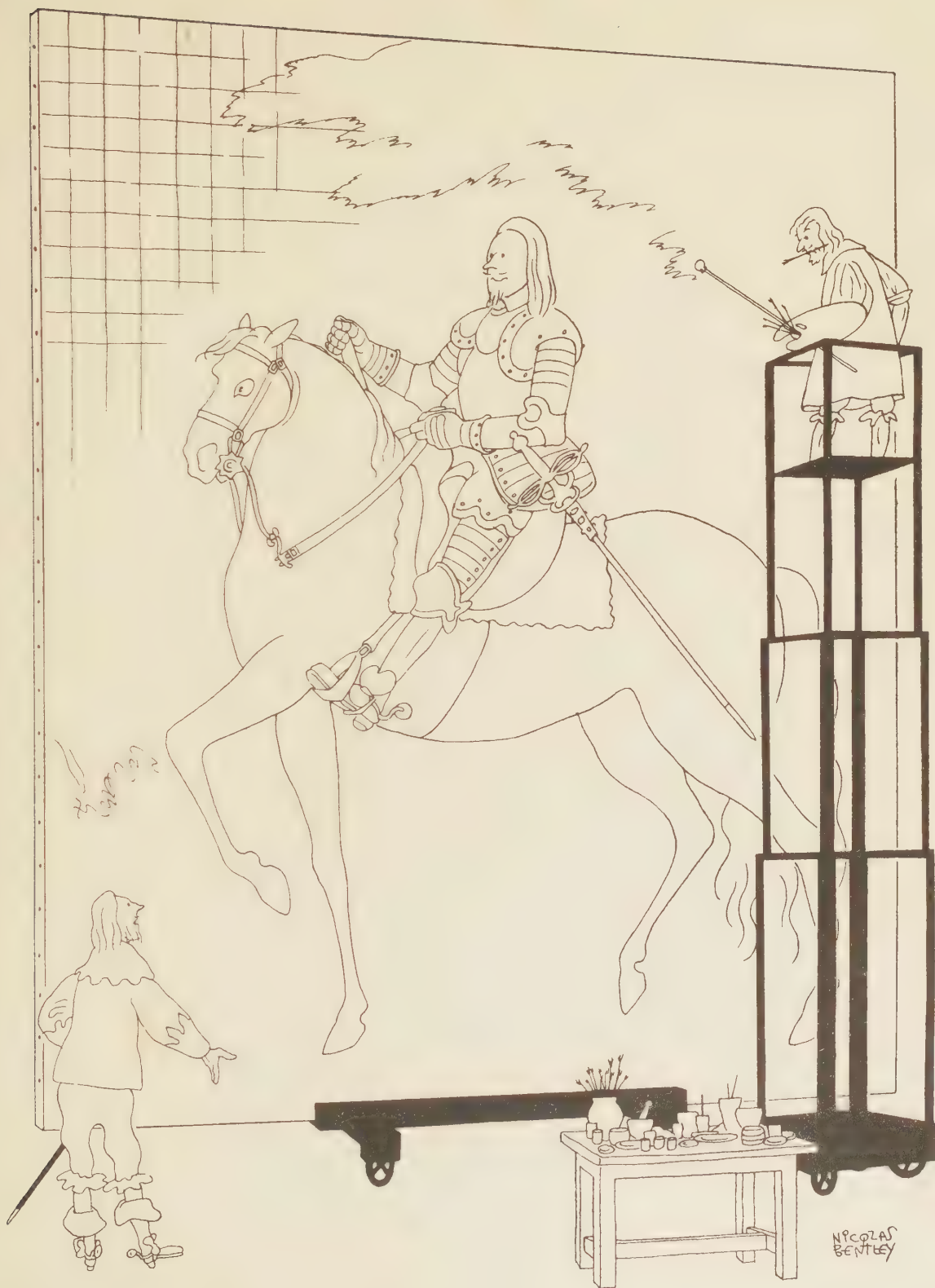
*'Got a light, chum?'*



*'How d'you spell the surname?'*



*'Then we went on to see Les Girls again.'*



'Stop me, Sir Antony! What is this? I said I wanted a miniature this time.'







*'Mother Superior—and how!'*





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of Humour*

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