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**Tales of Mme. Tussaud's.**

**When John Burns Struck a Bargain.**  
Few children, perhaps, are so simple to-day as the little girl who, when taken some years ago to the famous waxworks of Mme. Tussaud, whispered to her mother, as she glanced down the long array of lifelike effigies, "How are they killed before they are stuffed?"  
The most amazing fact, however, in the story of Tussaud's is that its founder, when a young girl and working as a wax modeller with her uncle, was forced during the French Revolution to mould heads of victims of the guillotine. Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette, Robespierre, Danton, and the beautiful Charlotte Corday were all modelled by Mme. Tussaud after their heads were no longer theirs.  
It is her great-grandson, Mr. John Tussaud, who tells the story in "The Romance of Mme. Tussaud."  
Long before the waxworks became so famous and popular Mme. Tussaud had come to this country, which she toured, modelling celebrities as she went. Her enterprise and originality were remarkable.

One of the earliest visitors to the Portman Rooms, where the exhibition was first staged, was the Duke of Wellington. A few years later he was seen one morning with bared head reverently inspecting the effigy of his great adversary lying in state. Mme. Tussaud saw her opportunity at once, and the group now forms one of their best tableaux.

It was a Cambridge don who suggested the "Chamber of Horrors," which was originally known as the Dead Room. The more popular name was bestowed by 'Punch' many years later, and the Chamber provides Mr. Tussaud with some of his most interesting recollections.

One of his grim memories is of Marwood, the hangman who succeeded the famous Calcraft. Marwood, after he had sat for his model, would often visit the Chamber of Horrors to see some of his old acquaintances, around whose necks he had so delicately adjusted the fatal noose. He would stop before each one with a grim look, while his lips moved tremulously.

"Put me there," he once said, after he had given a sitting. It was a man choosing the site of his grave.

Stories of the comments of visitors to the exhibition are legion. One, told by Lady Bland-Sutton, concerns a little girl who, when asked where she would like to go for a treat, promptly replied, "To Mme. Tussaud's."

"But you went there last year," it was objected.

"Oh, yes, I know," said the child, "but father wasn't in the Chamber of Horrors then."

She must have been a relative of the parlourmaid who told her mistress that she always went to Mme. Tussaud's on her "day off," and added: "You see, having an uncle in the Chamber of Horrors gives the place a family interest, so to speak."

Mr. Tussaud, by the way, again contradicts the apparently immortal legend that a sum of money, ranging from £5 to £5,000, awaits anyone who will spend a night alone in the Chamber of Horrors.

No such ridiculous challenge was ever issued to the public, says Mr. Tussaud; but he is not hopeful that even that flat disclaimer will overtake the chimerical story of a reward.

Talking of famous sitters, Mr. Tussaud says that it was always his aim to secure the sitter's own clothes for a model, and in this connection he tells an amusing story of John Burns, whom he modelled during the great Dock Strike. Mr. Tussaud asked the dockers' champion, at the time of the sitting, to part with the suit he was wearing.

Mr. Burns demurred at first, and then it appeared that he had an extremely good reason for doing so. It was the only suit he possessed, and we agreed that I should have it as soon as I provided him with a new one to take its place.

Mr. Burns, adds Mr. Tussaud, told the story of the transaction in reply to a heckler at a public meeting, who asked: "Where did you get that suit?"

"I got it," said Mr. Burns frankly, "from Mme. Tussaud's. When my portrait was put in the exhibition you may have noticed that it was wearing my old suit. As I had no other clothes the management gave me the suit I am wearing now, and I hope you will agree that I made a pretty good bargain."—Tit-Bits.

**New Peril of the Sea.**

New York—The tale of a ship beset by swarms of mosquitos during a voyage along the South Atlantic coast was unfolded in a complaint filed, in Brooklyn supreme court in a suit for five thousand dollars damages brought by Pendricus Deraay, a sailor, Deraay alleges that after he had been severely bitten, the officers of the steamship Gulf Coast, belonging to the Gulf Refining Company, refused to give him ointment. The Company has asked for a bill of denial that the officers refused the ointment and declares that Mosquito bites were part of the assumed risk of employment.

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