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Thomas Inch

and the **STRONG MEN** he knew

PART 2.

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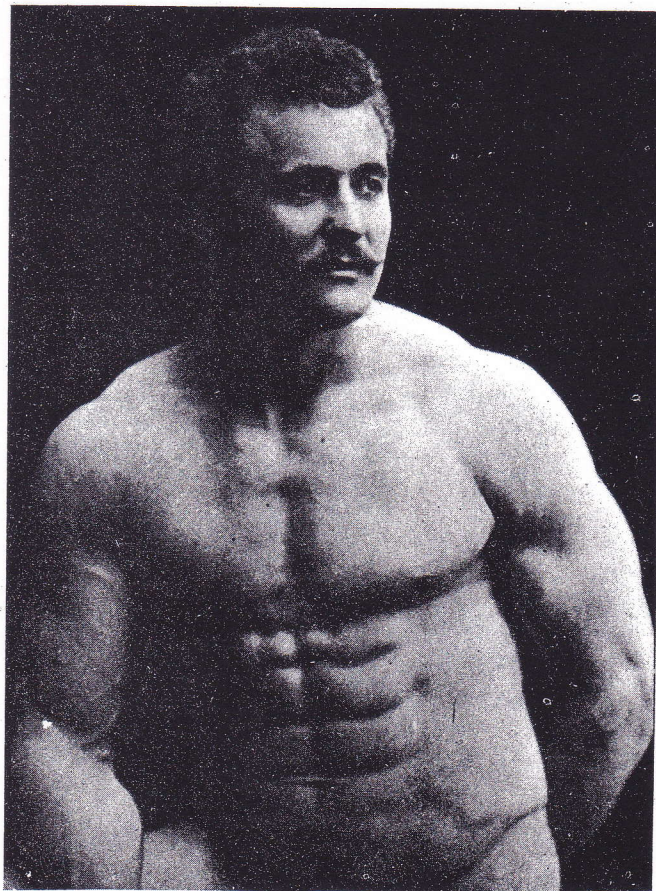
(Continued from previous issue of Muscle Power)

Thomas Inch regarded his friend, Eugene Sandow, not as the strongest man of his time, but as a model of superb physical development. Sandow's meteoric crash into the world of professional strong men is an interesting story.

Eugene happened to get a job cleaning up Professor Attila's gymnasium. In every man there is a subtle 'something' waiting to be aroused, and once aroused it can lead him to the greatest heights of achievement. Just as the appearance of Frank Slade in a strong-man act aroused the sickly W. A. Pullum and sent him forth determined to conquer Tuberculosis and to become the strongest man of his weight in the world, just as the appearance of John L. Sullivan aroused the youthful James J. Corbett and sent him forth to become the champion of the world, so did Professor Attila touch off the spark in Eugene Sandow and send him forth to become the most perfectly developed man of all times and to win immortal fame.

Close contact with the great Attila in the gymnasium served as the stimulus for Sandow; and under the tutelage of 'the master' he soon acquired a symmetrical physique. Then he did a little wrestling and started posing for artists. Time passed on and Eugen increased in strength and improved his physical development. There can be no doubt he was exceptionally strong, but beyond a certain amount of local fame he was comparatively unknown.

The year 1889 was a red-letter year in the history of professional strong men. It was then that Sandow came to London and captured the hearts of the British people. Mr. Aubrey Hunt, an artist, was mainly responsible for Sandow's entry into the professional world of weights and strength. This artist was painting a view of Venice from Sandow's villa near Ledo. Recognizing the superb development of Sandow, the artist prevailed upon him to pose as a gladiator in the Coliseum at Rome. A friendship ripened between the two; and Mr. Aubrey Hunt told Sandow of Samson, who was appearing at the Royal Aquarium in London and offering a hundred pounds to anyone who could duplicate the feats of his pupil, a strong man professionally known as 'Cyclops', and a thousand pounds to



Eugene Sandow was regarded by his friend Thomas Inch as a model of superb perfection, not as the strongest man of his time.
Photo by Ernest Edwin Coffin

anyone who could beat his own. Sandow decided to accept the challenge without delay, and set out at once for London, where he renewed his acquaintance with Professor Attila, whom he got to act as interpreter.

Some writers say that Attila wired Sandow to come to London to meet Samson, but Sandow himself says his visit was due to Mr. Aubrey Hunt.

Sandow wasted no time. The day he arrived he went at once to the Royal Aquarium to accept the challenge. Previous to this, probably Attila was the only one in England who knew of the existence of Eugen Sandow. When Samson issued his challenge, Mr. Fleming, Sandow's agent, accepted it, and Eugen immaculately attired in evening dress, walked majestically on to the stage.

Samson took one look at him and burst out laughing. Even the audience greeted him with boos and derision, and shouted for Samson to ignore the newcomer and get on with the show. Then Sandow took off his coat and a mur-