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Transatlantic Liners (Shire Library)



Synopsis

Prior to air travel there was only one way to cross the Atlantic: by ship. By the late nineteenth century, steam ships dominated the transatlantic passenger trade, growing exponentially in size as maritime technology improved and as more immigrants poured from Europe into the New World. As the liners got bigger, the scope for luxury increased, so that a substantial part of ships such as Titanic would be given over to sumptuous dining saloons, lounges, smoking rooms and even gymnasias for the most affluent passengers. Meanwhile, the bulk of passengers, the poor migrants with one-way tickets to America, were efficiently arranged in small cabins with bunks in the bows and stern of the ship. This book is an introduction to the age of the superliner, from 1900 to the modern day, exploring changes in the liner's design and role over a century that saw competition between shipping lines and between nations. The author describes the history and design of such great ships as Lusitania, Olympic, Imperator, Normandie, both Queen Elizabeths, both Queen Marys and, of course, the legendary Titanic. He tells the story of the heyday of the great liners before immigration to America was curtailed, the many races for the Blue Riband speed record, the experiences of rich and poor passengers, the role of the liners as troopships and hospital ships during the world wars, and the decline in the Atlantic trade after the 1960s, since when most passengers have travelled by air.

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The Emergence of the Superliner / The Wonder Ships / A Call to Arms / Peace and A New Generation / Return to Conflict / Uncertain Future / The Legends Live On / Further Reading / Places to Visit / Index

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Customer Reviews

This is not a bad book. Its a very small volume, thin and small. The information in it is nothing new and there are few supprises here. For the newer ships there are some nice colour photos. This is a book for the beginner. A nice little book but not for the collector or anyone who has been at hobby for a while.

I found out about this book from Issue 24 TRACING Family History magazine. I then went online and found it at Books at a very good price so ordered it. This book is recommended and it has lots of great photos so is another great book on ships or liners. I am pleased to add this to my collection of books on ships as it has plenty of information and is good reading.

when i rec'd the bk my immediate reaction was suprise & disappointment. the bk is very small. it is, however, a nice summary of ocean liner history w/ some nice illustrations.

There are many books for beginners and young readers. However, this stands out due to the rare photos within it's 64 pages. It is meant to be a short, but informative overview of the evolution of crossing by liner. The author has many authored and co-authored several acclaimed large liner books, but even people familiar with the basics will enjoy this short effort.

What the heck is this? A brochure on Steroids? Certainly not for the 'Transatlantic Liner' researcher. Has little information that hasn't been rehashed over the last couple decades. Refer yourself to John Maxtone-Graham before this.

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