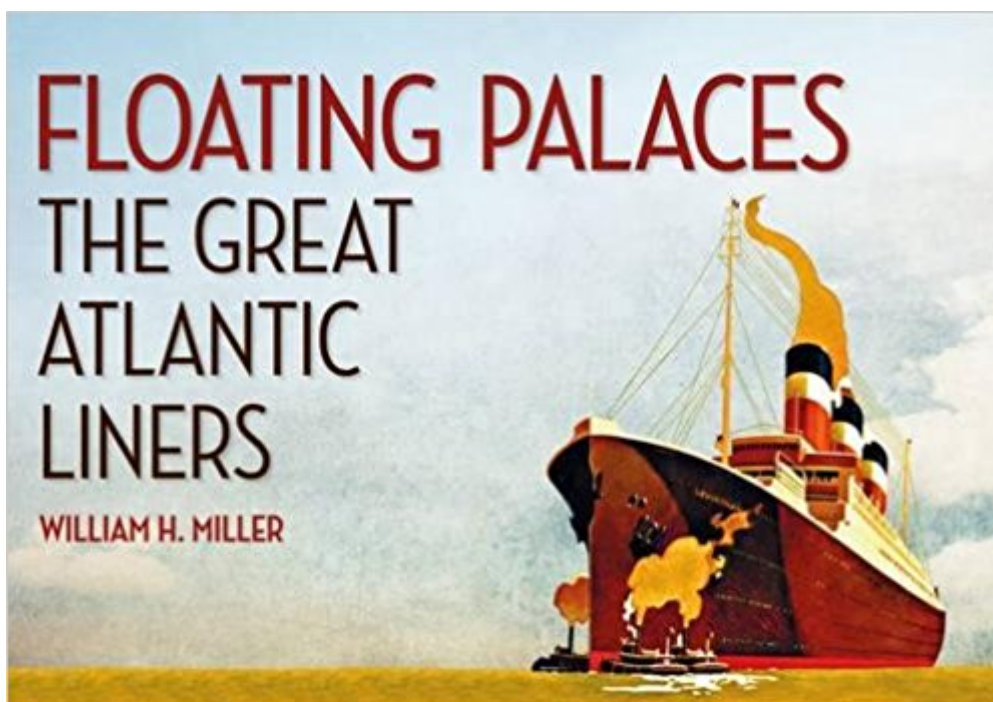


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Floating Palaces: The Great Atlantic Liners



Synopsis

From the mid-1890s a race was on between the merchant navies of the recently unified Germany, Britain and France. That race was to make the most luxurious and fastest ocean liners and it started with the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, the first of fourteen four-stackers built between 1897 and 1921. The large vessels that followed each tried to outdo the previous one in terms of size and interior design. Using many of the most famous of interior designers, every part of the new ships was designed, from the cutlery to the china, from the furniture to the paneling, and from the bedrooms to the boat decks. Through Kronprinzessin Cecilie, Mauretania, Aquitania, Olympic, Titanic, Imperator, Vaterland, Ile de France, and Paris, the development and design of the ships grew grander and more luxurious. The process continued into the 1930s, with the Empress of Britain and the fabulously Art Deco Normandie, the finest and most expensive liner ever built, and designed to be a showcase for all that was France, as well as with the Queen Mary, a rather more traditional vessel, but one, nonetheless, which pushed the boundaries of design away from the traditional country house look of the Edwardian era. Each new vessel brought with it the finest of interiors, from the plush and palatial to the modern look of the time. Even today, the influence of these floating palaces can still be seen in vessels such as Cunard's Queen Mary 2 and the multitude of new cruise vessels, all vying for the public's interest and affection. The large liners were truly floating palaces, and here, William H. Miller brings together a collection of fabulous images of the finest ships ever built, showcasing the style and elegance of a time when getting there was half the fun.

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Customer Reviews

William H. Miller writes extensively on ocean liners, and is known as Mr Ocean Liner. He lives in New Jersey when he is not aboard a cruise ship lecturing about ocean liner history.

This is an impressive "coffee table" book. IF you are at all impressed by how the rich & famous traveled before airplanes, this is the book to see. Too bad the "others" aboard didn't have someone to chronicle their experiences but nevertheless, this is a must-see.

One of his most beautiful books.

This is so very interesting that I could not put it down. Of course, I know cruise ships are beautiful and ones from the past were reputed to be fabulous, but to see all the many photos of the ships and their various staterooms, ballrooms and the fabulous decor is intriguing. However, I had no idea that these amazing Grand Dames of the past century were pressed into military service during World Wars I and II. How these ships were transformed to camouflage them and also to carry thousands of troops, the staterooms converted to dorms for 18 or more people was amazing! These ships were even used as floating hospitals and then after the wars were over some ships were converted back to their original beauty. What an interesting book!

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