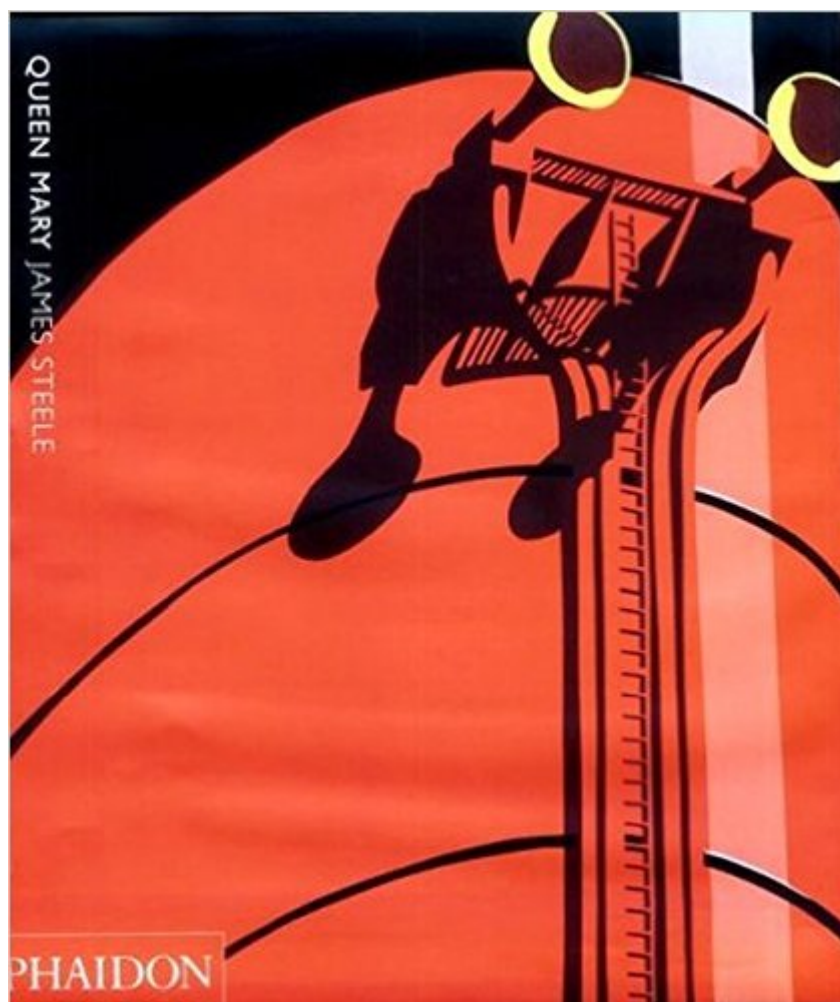


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Queen Mary



Synopsis

This evocative and nostalgic book, now available for the first time in paperback, celebrates the golden age of sea travel. Once the world's largest and fastest ocean liner by far, today the Queen Mary represents a peak of perfection in the art of shipbuilding. With her sleek, sophisticated lines, Art Deco interiors and exquisite detailing, she encapsulates the spirit of an era characterized by elegance and style. On her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York in 1936, this great new liner provided a tangible symbol of the end of the Depression, to become a source of great national pride. Beautifully illustrated with specially commissioned colour photographs and much previously unpublished archive material, this book captures the atmosphere of the Queen Mary's glory days, to presents a comprehensive record of this magnificent and unique floating example of the streamlined style: it remains equally appealing to the enthusiastic connoisseur and general aesthete.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (16 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

One reviewer removed a star on the rating due to this book lacking history of the Queen Mary after she arrived in Long Beach stating that the author must feel like she is nothing more than a "shell of her former self" and in fact, this statement is true. The book's foreword explains this as being exactly what the author feels and I must agree. I feel that there are two Queen Marys--one of which is the famous ocean liner that sailed from 1936 to 1967 and the other is a permanent fixture in Long Beach standing as a shipboard hotel. This book makes no allusions to the fact that its primary focus is the historical and visual exploration of the ship's former self. With that said, five stars have been

awarded. This book can be purchased on the ship in one (or more) of the many gift shops for \$34.99, so if you can't make it down to Long Beach or you wish to save a little bit, here's your chance. Now on to the book! From a reading point of view, the book unfolds a chronological timeline of events and famous stories from her many voyages across the Atlantic. Some of these stories you may already know and some you don't. I was enthralled with this book from beginning to end. It was hard not to skip ahead to look at the photos because there is not one page that goes by where there isn't an amazing picture; some of which cover the history of Queen Mary's owner, Cunard. But if you're interested in this book mainly for the photos, you will also not be disappointed! We all know that there are countless websites and books about Titanic due to its infamous history, but you might be surprised that there aren't as many on the Queen Mary.

While it does border on "style over substance" from time to time, this book is an excellent visual history of one of the most famous ships ever built. From keel laying to launch, fitting out to trials, commercial service to troop transport, it provides a fascinating look at the ship from a multitude of different angles. It doesn't just depict the Queen Mary as a passenger liner, a mechanical marvel, an art deco showpiece, or a massive assemblage of steel and rivets. It presents the ship as ALL of these things, from the perspective of the Clydebank steelworkers who built her, the thousands of Allied troops she carried during World War II, the craftsmen and artists who designed her interiors, and passengers who sailed aboard her as a liner. Backing up the text are hundreds of illustrations, including historic photographs, candid onboard images, color images of the public spaces and their artwork, engineering schematics, and period publicity posters. There's also a full set of deck plans, a beautiful four-foot long foldout color cross-section of the ship, and a number of pages from the "Queen Mary Book of Comparisons." On a visual level, this book is superb, but as an actual history of the ship, it's a little lacking in depth. It's awfully gushing in tone, and avoids making any direct criticisms of the ship, most notably her rather horrendous rolling problems. James Steele is primarily an architectural writer, and while he does an excellent job describing her interiors, I wonder what he truly feels about them. Studying this book in depth, I get the impression that although the public rooms featured occasional moments of brilliance, the Queen Mary's interior design never really "gelled" as a whole.

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