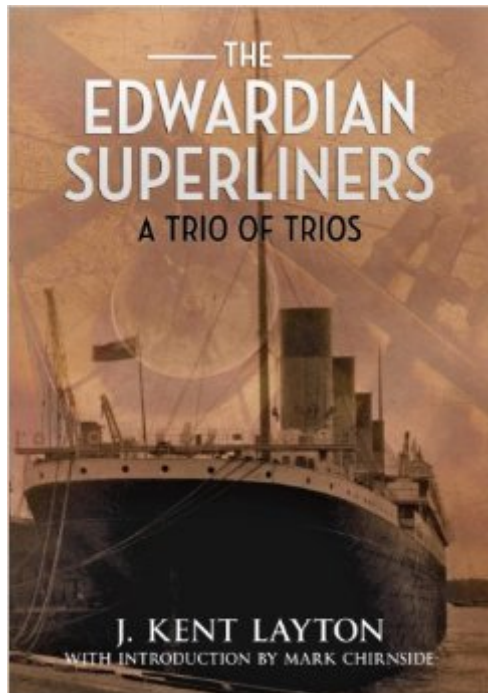


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The Edwardian Superliners: A Trio Of Trios



Synopsis

Three trios of ocean liners led the maritime equivalent of the Arms Race in the Edwardian Era: They were: Mauretania, Lusitania and Aquitania for Cunard; White Star's Olympic, Titanic and Britannic and the Hamburg Amerika's Imperator, Vaterland and Bismarck. Three sets of ocean liners, each destined to be of three vessels, dominated the Atlantic in the Edwardian era. The race to build the biggest and the best began with Mauretania and Lusitania in 1906, followed by the White Star Line's Olympic and Titanic in 1911-12. Each of these pairs was to see a larger sister, developed as a result of changes needed or desired as a result of operating the two earlier vessels, with Cunard's being Aquitania and White Star's, the ill-fated Britannic. Germany's answer to these British behemoths was the Albert-Ballin designed trio of Imperator, Vaterland and Bismarck. Through misfortune or war, two of these vessels would sink but the others led useful lives, with Aquitania surviving two world wars before being scrapped. Designed to be the absolute engineering achievements of their time, these nine vessels dominated the Atlantic. J. Kent Layton tells the story of the Edwardian Superliners in this fabulously illustrated volume, showcasing many images previously unpublished and never before seen. Rarely can one describe a book as definitive, but this volume truly deserves the accolade.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am writing this review to highly recommend 'The Edwardian Superliners.' Out of fairness, I must state that I have coauthored a book on the Titanic disaster with Kent Layton, and made some small contributions to this book. However, I have zero financial interest in this book's success, and if I did

not think that it was an excellent volume, I would certainly not endorse or give it a positive review. Instead, I would say nothing about it at all. With that out of the way, I can state that Layton has crafted a masterpiece with this volume. As suggested by the title, the book focuses on three sets of trios from the Cunard Line, White Star Line, and Hamburg Amerika Line. I need not recite the names, as interested parties reading this probably already know them by heart. Each ship gets its own section, and each is very detailed and contains a lot of new information. It isn't just rehash from previously published books with the same-old information. For example, the histories of the Mauretania and Aquitania during WWI are described in detail, as are the impact of WWI on the German vessels. The HMHS Britannic gets a nice sized chapter describing its voyages prior to its sinking in the war, and the text doesn't just focus on the final voyage as many do. The RMS Olympic gets nice recognition, and the Hamburg Amerika ships are thoroughly covered. They are often overshadowed by the WSL and Cunard Line vessels, which in many ways is a shame considering some of the advances in design and successes that those vessels had, despite the tumult in the first quarter of the 20th century. While the text will fascinate and engage researchers and people casually interested in liner history alike, the real gems are the images.

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