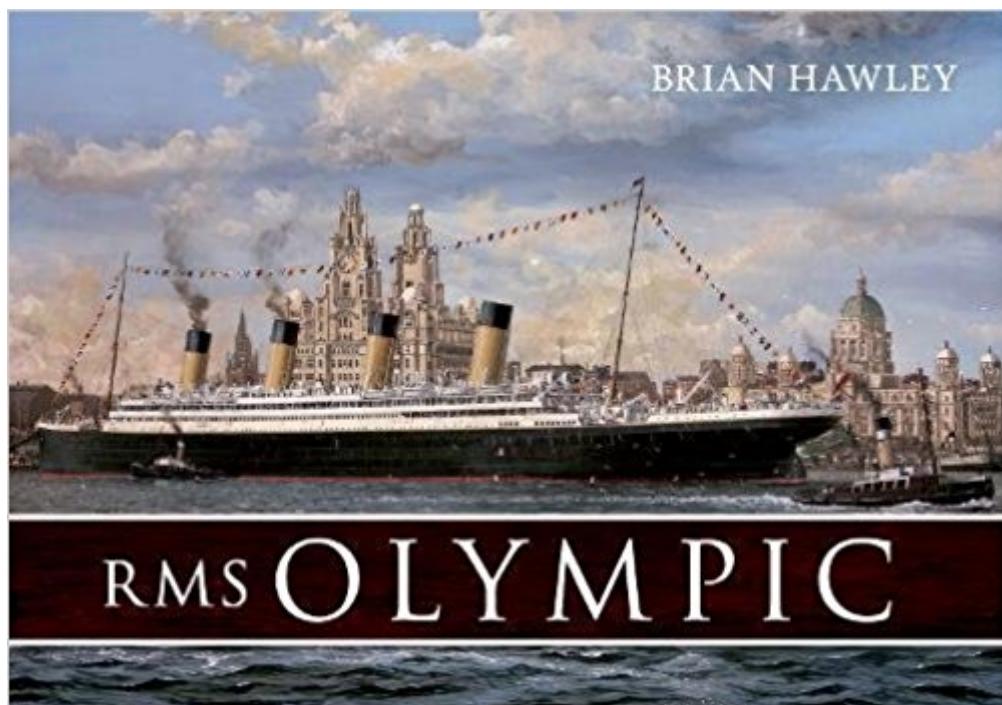


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RMS Olympic



Synopsis

On October 20, 1910, RMS Olympic was launched at Belfast. She was the first of a trio of steamships constructed for the White Star Line and, when built, was the largest ship in the world. Although she has frequently been overshadowed by the tragedy of her younger sister Titanic, Olympic had a long and illustrious career. Serving her country as a troopship during World War I, she was the only major passenger vessel ever to sink an enemy submarine. After the war, Olympic was refitted, and throughout the 1920s, she was a favorite liner of the rich and famous. Although sent to the breaker's yard in 1935, much of her decor remains because her fittings were sold at auction and many houses, hotels, pubs, offices, and factories were fitted with her sumptuous interiors. Nicknamed 'Old Reliable' and proudly advertised as the 'Ship Magnificent,' Olympic was one of the most beautiful liners to sail the transatlantic route and was a firm favorite of passengers. In this work, Brian Hawley brings together many previously unpublished images of White Star's finest vessel.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Amberley Publishing (July 19, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1445600935

ISBN-13: 978-1445600932

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 0.5 x 6.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,201,837 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Passenger #1735 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Ships #2018 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Military History

Customer Reviews

COVER PAINTINGWhite Star's salute to the city of Liverpool.Â On June 1, 1911, after an overnight trip from Belfast, Olympic arrived in her port of registry for a brief visit and open house before continuing on to Southampton and her maiden voyage.Â It was a bittersweet day for the citizens of Liverpool because, in 1907, White Star had transferred their main line New York service to Southampton.Â This view shows the brand-new liner from the Wirral side of the Mersey.Â The

White Star Line headquarters are on the far right.Â Original painting from author's collection.FRONTISPIECE IMAGE New YorkÂ (The Mariners' Museum) BACK COVER - The original painting for the famous post-card view of Olympic in Plymouth Harbor by renowned British artist Norman Wilkinson.Â Wilkinson produced a series of paintings for the smoking rooms of the three White Star sisters -- "Approach to the New World" for Olympic, "Plymouth Harbour" for Titanic, and (rumor says) "Old Liverpool" for Britannic.Â For decades Titanic researchers wondered what Wilkinson's painting for Titanic looked like.Â When Wilkinson's son found his father's ideas for the painting, it was identical to this famous post-card view of Olympic.Â Titanic's painting had been in front of us the whole time.Â (Original painting from the Peter Fleming Collection.)

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There has been a spate of small, soft-cover books recently published on the great liners. Most are disappointing. Many of these books will have but a handful of interior images, and most reproduced so tiny that one cannot get any clear idea of the interior. Then, 95% of the images are exterior shots, mostly of the liner's profile. So, the reader gets essentially no information about the interior, and too much information about the exterior. Deck plans? Dream on. Argh!!!!!! Imagine my delight then at this small, soft-cover book by Brian Hawley. There are plenty of interior images, and most of a size to actually understand what the splendid rooms of the great Olympic looked like. There are also fascinating images of the interior just before being scrapped. Above all, the LONG captions are full of interesting information. Ahhhhhh. Me happy. While there are many exterior images, too, these do not seem selected to simply fill the book up (as is so often the case), but for a reason, which the

author makes clear in the adjacent captions. Mr. Hawley did a fine job. Buy this book without hesitation.

Brian Hawley's book on the RMS Olympic, aka 'Old Reliable,' is a small book, but don't let that dissuade readers from purchasing this one. The pages are densely packed with wonderful images, many rare or previously unpublished, of the great White Star Line ship. There is also a good deal of valuable information scattered throughout. It is nice to see the Olympic highlighted in such a fashion, as the vessel was very successful and a favorite of travelers, having had a long and largely safe career. Unfortunately, the vessel is often overshadowed by its more famous sister ship Titanic, and to a lesser extent, the Britannic, both of which sank early in their careers. Some personal favorites in this volume are the images of Olympic as a troop ship during WWI, as well as some of the latter-day images before the vessel was scrapped. I think this is a must have for any liner buff or historian, and Hawley's work is a well-deserved tribute to the ship itself. Recommended.

This book, detailing the older sister of the infamous Titanic, is small but packs a big punch within its pages. Tons of photos, not just exterior, but interior, including some heartbreakingly sad shots of Olympic's magnificent fittings just before she was broken up for scrap. There are also depictions of second- and third-class accommodations and deck plans. The text is well-researched, lovingly telling the story of a ship which survived collisions, war and the shadow of a notorious sister ship. A must have!

The pictures in this book were all new to me. I have many Titanic/Ocean Liner books and I recognized maybe three of the photos in this book. I have never reviewed a product on before but I thought this book was so enjoyable I had to. The book is set up as a sort of picture book, but the accompanying captions are extremely interesting and informative. The book's physical dimensions were a bit smaller than I expected, but that doesn't change my 5-star rating of it at all. Very impressive collection of photographs!

One of my favorite books on the subject. Text was brief to leave as much room as possible for images, yet was well written and highly informative. Wonderfully rich in illustrations, with a special unexpected bonus of high-quality photos from the Library of Congress archives of Olympic in NY harbor just weeks after the Titanic disaster. What a treat.

Really like this book and highly recommend it for any fan of the Titanic. Olympic tends to get lost in the shadow of her younger sister. This book brings her to life again. Loved that there are so many great pictures of her. Gives you a feeling of what Titanic's career could have been had she not met her tragic fate.

Mr. Hawley brings the golden days of transatlantic ocean liner service back to life. Wish they had this on the present QM2.

Loved the pictures of the olympic. The story was short, but well written.

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