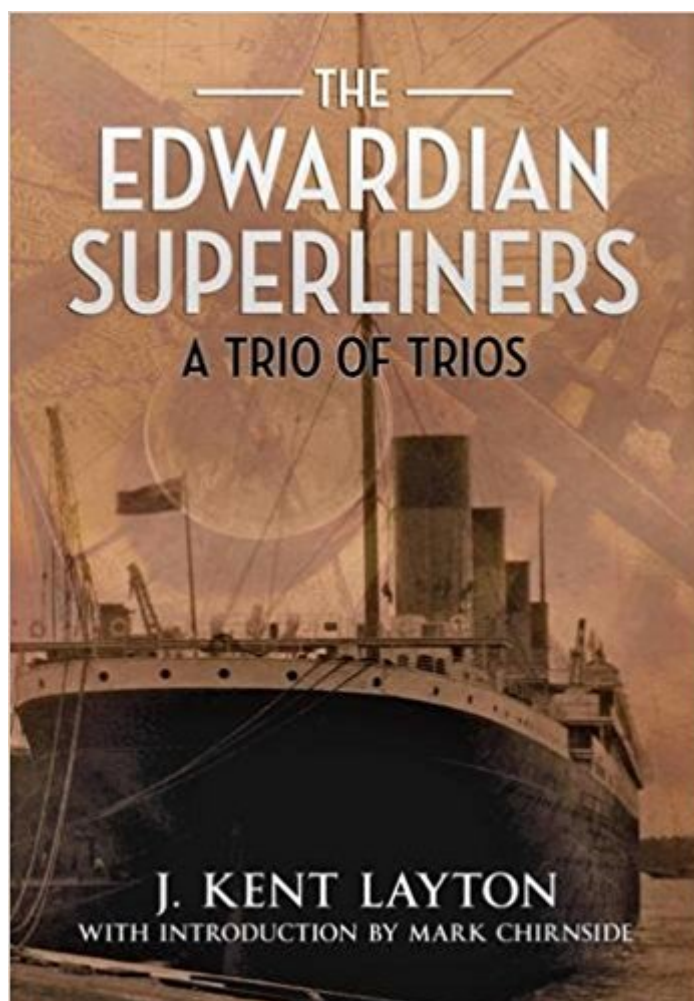


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# The Edwardian Superliners: A Trio Of Trios



## Synopsis

As the twentieth century got underway, the competition between the three greatest passenger lines in the history of the North Atlantic produced three trios of wonder ships. From the Cunard Line came the Lusitania, Mauretania and Aquitania. From the White Star Line came the Olympic, the infamous Titanic, and the Britannic. From the Hamburg-Amerika Line came the Imperator, Vaterland and Bismarck, which would later find service as Cunard's Berengaria, the U.S. Line's Leviathan, and White Star's Majestic. They were, in turn, the fastest, most powerful, largest and most luxurious ocean liners that had ever sailed that ocean. Some would find great success; others would suffer disaster. Their careers would be affected by natural elements, by mismanagement, and by the brutalities of war. Their fates were also inextricably intertwined. The Edwardian Superliners tells their story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'... so crammed with remarkable photographs, information, facts and figures that it is almost as sumptuous as the older liners, which are the subject of this magnificent volume. ... The Edwardian Superliners, A Trio of Trios by J. Kent Layton is destined to be recognised as the definitive work on this golden age of ocean travel.' - Southern Daily Echo, 19 August 2012 [First Edition review].

The new Second Edition of this book, printed in the spring of 2013, is still in hardcover; however, the printing and binding issues experienced with the First Edition copies have been rectified. The book stands as, perhaps, my personal favorite among those I have authored. Absolutely packed with rare

photos and illustrations, it contains detailed information on the careers of nine of the finest, or most famous, ocean liners ever to sail the North Atlantic. *The Edwardian Superliners: A Trio of Trios* was nominated for the 2013 Mountbatten Maritime Award by the Maritime Foundation in Great Britain.

If you're interested in finding out all you can about these magnificent liners, including a general history of the race to build them to beat out the competition, this is the book for you. It's absolutely full of information about the construction and life of each ship through the years. Details about the building of the ships are interesting without being too technical or drawn out; it's a very well balanced book. If you're looking for information about the specifics of the disasters that some of the ships met, you will not find that here. This book is about the life of the liners, not their demise. You'll find little more than an explanation of how the ship met its end. Fortunately there are plenty of books out there for that. I highly recommend this book for any liner enthusiasts. This is a wonderful book to refer back to even after reading, as it contains lots of information, as well as accounts of people aboard these ships (which are particularly fascinating to read). An excellent book to add to your collection, 5 stars all the way!

For those of us who are fascinated by the Edwardian era, this book provides with a *Downton Abbey* of the sea. The story of these nine ships provides the reader with interesting comparisons combined with the social background of each ship including the various national characteristics of their owners and, more important, their passengers. A book about ships must include a variety of technical data, but this is presented in a conversational way that even the corn farmer will be intrigued to read far from the sea.

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. Layton has assembled hundreds of high quality images for this book, illustrating every stage of the career of each vessel covered. Many of the images are previously unused, or rare. Something that must be noted is that an earlier version of this book was published through Lulu as 'Atlantic Liners: A Trio of Trios.' For anyone that owns a copy of the previous volume, the text has been completely reworked and expanded and the photographic content is significantly expanded and better in the current incarnation in my opinion. I have both versions, and they are very different. Also, unfortunately, the first printing of 'The Edwardian Superliners' had issues with the binding and paper quality. However, for this second printing, the format is smaller and much nicer in my opinion, and those quality issues have been completely resolved. I am very picky about which books I buy these days based on trying to save some money, and also on keeping the size of my library reasonable. That being said, I strongly recommend 'The Edwardian Superliners,' and it is one of the better books to come out on the subject in the past couple of years. It is worth having on your shelf.

For any fan of the Cunard, White Star & Hamburg Amerika's four stacker ocean liners, this is a must have for your collection. The book is very well written and sourced...and just full of amazing pictures (many of which I had not seen before.) I found it super interesting and informative. The quality of the book itself (printing, paper, etc. is top notch.) I am pleased to add it to my collection. Well done Mr. Layton! (p.s. Love the title!)

This was a gift for my son, and he is enjoying reading every page.

Great book if u love these liners

A truly valiant effort and one that I am enjoying. Why the 3 stars instead of 5? This book would work far better in a larger format. The pictures are wonderful but many of the details are almost

impossible to view without a magnifying glass, which I use of course! Mr. Layton's writing style is a curious mix of fact, opinion, foreshadowing and an unfortunate tendency towards the use of American slang words mingled with more traditional prose. It can be a bit jarring to read. That all being said, I applaud his effort and very much recommend this book to true ocean liner lovers.

Not read yet, looks like what I expected.

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