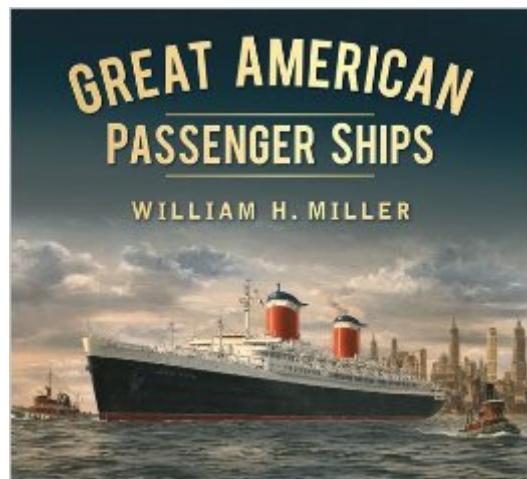


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Great American Passenger Ships (Great Passenger Ships)



Synopsis

Full of previously unpublished images and insightful text, a nostalgic look back at a century of U.S. passenger ships. The United States has produced some of the world's finest, most interesting, advanced, and innovative passenger ships, such as the amazing SS United States, the fastest ocean liner ever to sail the seas, ingloriously left lying in limbo for 42 years. This book also documents passenger ships seized in wartime, notably the giant German SS Vaterland, which became the Leviathan in the United States Lines, as well as many newly built passenger ships, such as Santa Rosa, Lurline, President Cleveland, Independence, and Brasil. Also included are peacetime troopships as well as "combo ships," the once very popular passenger-cargo ships. The great saga of American liners continues to this day with modern cruise ships in Hawaiian service. The cast of ships is both vast and varied, but endlessly fascinating. Presenting many unpublished images alongside historic, insightful text including personal anecdotes of the ships and voyages from passengers and crew alike, William Miller takes the reader on a nostalgic voyage and the great American passenger fleet sails once again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Though I'm a plane buff myself, I know an appealing book cover when I see one..and Robert Lloyd's striking painting of the SS United States on the cover of William Miller's GREAT AMERICAN PASSENGER SHIPS qualifies. It's an atmospheric rendering of a handsome vessel and a great

advertisement for what lies within. Since my knowledge of American liners of the 20th Century is limited to the Morro Castle, Miller's book was a marvelous education and introduction to some classic and classy ships. Starting out with the first U.S. super liner, the Leviathan, Miller chronicles the development and growth of American ocean liners. Comprehensive bios and evocative photographs trace the exploits of such liners as the America, Santa Clara, Manhattan, Lurline, President Wilson, Constitution, Savannah and the aforementioned United States. My, there were some handsome ships sailing the seas back then. I especially enjoyed the 24-page color insert showing so many of those vessels in their full-color finery. While GREAT AMERICAN PASSENGER SHIPS isn't exhaustive or definitive, it is an entertaining and informative tribute to some classic ships. Recommended.

This book is a quick and easy read for those who enjoy America's early passenger ship industry. I learned some new things about early 20th century cruise ship history. Our first (American) cruise liners were expropriated from the Germans when the First World War broke out in 1917. I may have read that a long time ago, but that fact had since been erased from my long term memory. The book also details the romance and elegance of cruising during the Depression: a time we normally do not associate with elegance or romance for many in the world. Of course the Second World War was an important time for cruise ships as they were converted over to troop transports. The post War years would see the reconversion of these ships back to passenger service. The author gives good overviews of many of the routes traveled by the industry all over the world. A fun little window exposing a more relaxed, genteel period in travel. The fates of some of these gorgeous vessels, however, is somewhat sad. That something that required so much work and care could end up rusting away in Asia is somewhat sad. Given the recent woes in the cruise industry this book is sorely needed. Well worth the time.

Having written so many books covering much the same ground it seems that William Miller has finally run out of things to say. There are interesting pictures including a color section (With many shots taken after they flew under the U.S. flag), but the text is rather uninformative. Many ships are covered with minimal depth on each. Much of the text concerns a listing of subsequent owners and names after the ship's U.S. days were over. What is there seems disorganized, with random facts thrown together. There are many better books out there, including many by this author.

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