

Ocean Liners Celebrated ships old and new



The paintings on the stamps

1st class RMS *Queen Mary 2* (2004) by Edward D Walker; E rate SS *Canberra* (1961) by David Cobb; 42p RMS *Queen Mary* (1936) by Charles Pears; 47p RMS *Mauretania* (1907) by Thomas Henry; 57p SS *City of New York* (1888) by Raphael Monleao y Torres; and the 68p PS *Great Western* (1838) by Joseph Walter. The issue was designed by John Gibbs.

SIX STAMPS and a miniature sheet featuring famous Ocean Liners go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 13 April. The issue marks the introduction to service of the new Cunard liner, the *Queen Mary 2*. The name of each vessel is given at the foot, with the value and The Queen's head at top left and top right respectively. The designs are by John Gibbs, who has designed several issues since his Year of the Disabled set in 1981. The stamps will also be available in a miniature sheet, price £2.82. Stamps will be issued to post offices in sheets of 25; sheets of 50, with gutter margin, will be supplied to Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 41 × 30mm

Sheets 25 and 50

Miniature sheet 116 × 104mm

Perforation 14.5 × 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Cylinders and colours

All values D1 gold ● D1 black ● D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ● D1 cyan (blue) ● D1 phosphor

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets around 6 April, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with stamps/miniature sheet cancelled by pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Southampton must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.73 UK, £3.18 overseas. State if stamps or miniature sheet required.

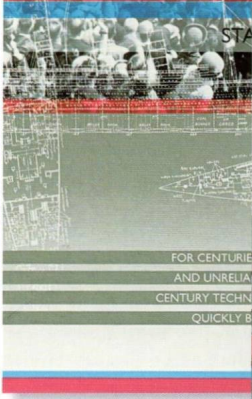
Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Southampton postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO415' (Tallents House), or 'FDO416' (Southampton). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Southampton postmark.

SELF-ADHESIVE STAMP BOOK The 1st class *Queen Mary 2* stamp will also be issued in self-adhesive version in a retail stamp book. This will contain two of the *Queen Mary 2* stamps plus four 1st class Machin definitives, price £1.68. The *Queen Mary 2* stamp will be shown on the front cover.



The pack (shown left) contains many fascinating illustrations, including photographs of the launch of the *Mauretania* and the arrival of the *Queen Mary* in New York on completion of her maiden voyage.

OCEAN LINERS



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PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the six stamps (above, price £3.35) and seven stamp cards (six stamps and miniature sheet, 30p each) will be available from Tallents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack, designed by Why Not Associates, includes text by Anthony Tibbles of Merseyside Maritime Museum. A Philatelic Numismatic Cover will cost £14.95 and a Presentation Case containing the miniature sheet and silver medals £75.

Ocean liners stamps Issues featuring ocean liners include the following.

Great Western GB 2004 68p Ocean Liners

Great Britain GB 1969 Ships 1s, Falkland Islands (both are shown opposite), Grenadines of Grenada, Central African Republic

Great Eastern GB 1987 22p Victorian Britain (opposite), Bhutan, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Congo (Brazzaville), Monaco, Portugal

Mauretania GB 1969 Ships 1s (shown opposite), Mauritania, Congo (Brazzaville), St Lucia, St Vincent

Queen Mary GB 2004 Ocean Liners, Hungary, Ivory Coast, St Vincent, Tonga and Tristan da Cunha (opposite)

Queen Elizabeth GB 1988 Transport & Communications 26p (opposite), Bahamas, St Vincent, Tristan da Cunha and Malawi

Queen Elizabeth 2 GB 1969 Ships 5d (opposite)

Canberra GB 2004 Ocean Liners, Gibraltar, Fiji, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbuda, Grenada, Tonga, Falklands

Queen Mary 2 GB 2004 Ocean Liners 1st, and France (opposite) and maiden voyage special postmark (below)



Ocean liners In the late 1830s, Brunel's *Great Western* was the first steamship to make regular crossings of the Atlantic. The vessel, gross tonnage 1340, was capable of traveling at nine knots, and carried nearly 150 passengers. Brunel went on to design two even more famous Great ships – the *Great Britain*, launched in 1845 and the *Great Eastern* in 1858.

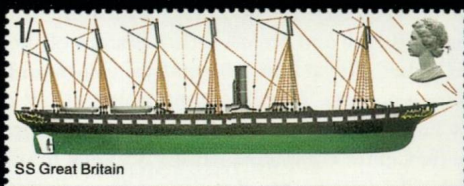
By 1888, the Inman Line's *City of New York* was the largest ship afloat and the first express transatlantic liner fitted with twin propellers. It had a gross tonnage of 10,499, a service speed of 20 knots and accommodation for 540 first class, 200 second class, and 1000 third class passengers. Further technological advances and new levels of comfort arrived in ships such as Cunard's *Mauretania*, which made its maiden voyage on 16 November 1907. She weighed 31,938 tons, had a service speed of 25 knots, and carried 563 first class, 464 second class and 1138 third class passengers.

But the luxury trans-Atlantic liners were epitomized by the *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, launched respectively in 1934 and 1938. When the *Queen Mary* went into service in 1936 she was greeted with acclaim. Many previous ships were furnished in historical and period styles, but *Queen Mary* was a showcase of contemporary art and interior design. Major artists like Dame Laura Knight and Edward Wadsworth were employed producing paintings, decorative carvings, glass panels, sculpture and other furnishings in the art deco style. Ocean liners were like floating hotels, offering every facility and service: there were gymnasiums, lounges, smoking rooms, shops, children's play areas, even a special fruit-ripening room! During the Second World War, *Queen Mary* transported 765,429 military personnel, carried 12,866 GI brides, and conveyed Churchill to vital conferences. In 1967 she made her final voyage from Southampton to Long Beach, California to become a floating hotel. An article by James Negus about the philatelic souvenirs of her maiden voyage was published here in May 1996.

When the transatlantic passenger trade declined in the 1960s, liners were built for cruising, like the *Canberra*. In 1982 this famous vessel was involved in the Falklands War.

The latest addition to this illustrious list, *Queen Mary 2*, was built in France and named by The Queen on 8 January. It started its inaugural voyage from Southampton to Fort Lauderdale, Florida on 12 January, with prices from £2200 to £29,000. The vessel has a gross tonnage of 150,000 tons, a speed of 24-26 knots, and passenger accommodation for some 2620. Amenities include a planetarium, a 1000-seat theatre, five swimming pools, 10 restaurants, and even a prison! It is said to be as tall as a 23-storey building, and cost £450 million to build. The captain is Ronald Warwick, whose father was the first commander of the *Queen Elizabeth 2*. For a while it will be the largest cruise ship in the world, until a larger Finnish liner enters service in 2006. *Queen Mary 2* has been designated a Royal Mail Ship (RMS) as were her distinguished predecessors, *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*.

For more about Cunard liners see Barbara Last's article in the June 1988 *Bulletin*. Details of ships carrying the mails can be found in *Carrying British Mails: Five Centuries of Postal Transport by Land, Sea and Air* by Jean Farrugia and Tony Gammons, published by the National Postal Museum in 1980 ●



R. M. S. QUEEN MARY

FINAL CRUISE FROM SOUTHAMPTON ENGLAND ROUND CAPE HORN TO LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

OFFICIAL CITY OF LONG BEACH COVER

