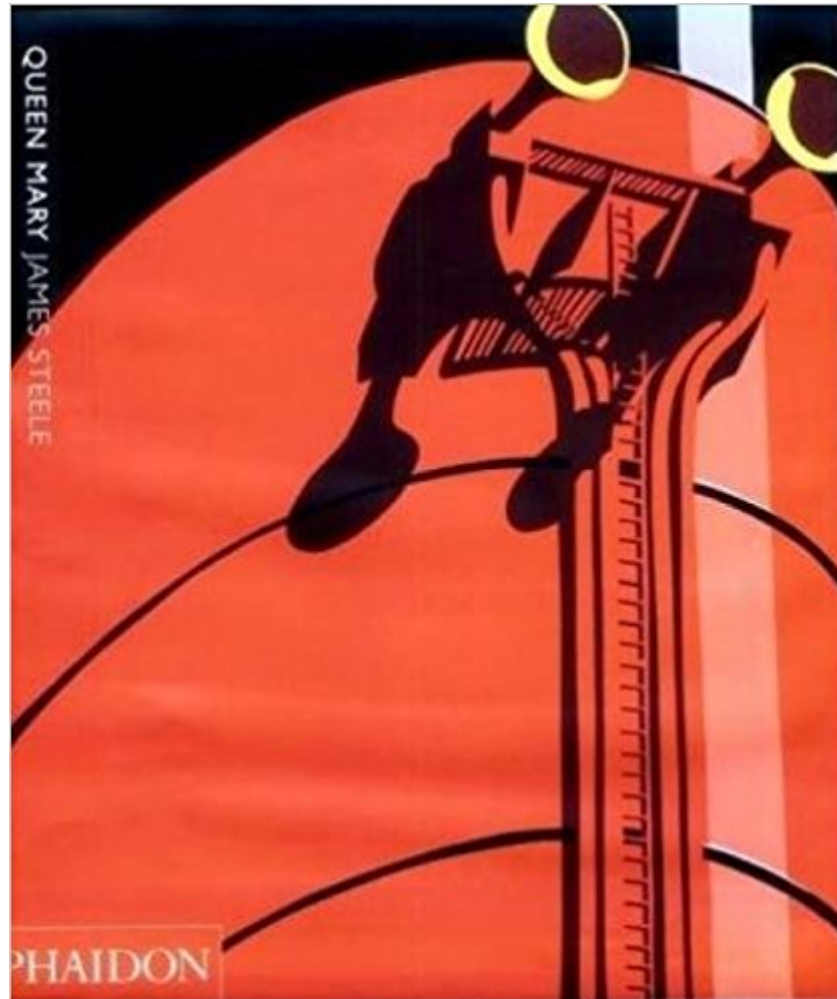




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Queen Mary



Synopsis

This evocative and nostalgic book, now available for the first time in paperback, celebrates the golden age of sea travel. Once the world's largest and fastest ocean liner by far, today the Queen Mary represents a peak of perfection in the art of shipbuilding. With her sleek, sophisticated lines, Art Deco interiors and exquisite detailing, she encapsulates the spirit of an era characterized by elegance and style. On her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York in 1936, this great new liner provided a tangible symbol of the end of the Depression, to become a source of great national pride. Beautifully illustrated with specially commissioned colour photographs and much previously unpublished archive material, this book captures the atmosphere of the Queen Mary's glory days, to presents a comprehensive record of this magnificent and unique floating example of the streamlined style: it remains equally appealing to the enthusiastic connoisseur and general aesthete.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A "biography" of one of the legendary grande dames of transatlantic liner service should be no less a book than this beautiful, large-format one, and the ship's colorful story is rightfully told as much through the treasure of arresting illustrations (primarily photographs and poster reproductions) as through the authoritative text. For 31 years (1936-67), the Queen Mary graced the waves between Southampton and New York. We witness the vessel's glorious career from "its" (it being difficult not to refer to the QM as the politically incorrect "her") design and construction, to what life was like on board while on the high seas, to its wartime service as a troop transport, to its eventual mothballing

as a hotel and meeting space in Long Beach, California, where the Queen Mary rides tethered to this day. A celebration--a feast of a book--impossible for ship fanciers and travel lovers not to appreciate. Brad Hooper --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Wonderfully detailed. Scrupulous research."-New York Times "Anyone who has ever wondered if architecture floats will be convinced by this beautiful, fact-filled book about the last and grandest architecture ever to sail the bounding main. With Steele's intense research, we almost feel like we were there."-AIA Jury

One reviewer removed a star on the rating due to this book lacking history of the Queen Mary after she arrived in Long Beach stating that the author must feel like she is nothing more than a "shell of her former self" and in fact, this statement is true. The book's foreword explains this as being exactly what the author feels and I must agree. I feel that there are two Queen Marys--one of which is the famous ocean liner that sailed from 1936 to 1967 and the other is a permanent fixture in Long Beach standing as a shipboard hotel. This book makes no allusions to the fact that its primary focus is the historical and visual exploration of the ship's former self. With that said, five stars have been awarded. This book can be purchased on the ship in one (or more) of the many gift shops for \$34.99, so if you can't make it down to Long Beach or you wish to save a little bit, here's your chance. Now on to the book! From a reading point of view, the book unfolds a chronological timeline of events and famous stories from her many voyages across the Atlantic. Some of these stories you may already know and some you don't. I was enthralled with this book from beginning to end. It was hard not to skip ahead to look at the photos because there is not one page that goes by where there isn't an amazing picture; some of which cover the history of Queen Mary's owner, Cunard. But if you're interested in this book mainly for the photos, you will also not be disappointed! We all know that there are countless websites and books about Titanic due to its infamous history, but you might be surprised that there aren't as many on the Queen Mary. I actually half-expected this book to simply regurgitate the same hundred or so photos I always see online, but as very happy to see that many of the photos in this book are fresh and new. Also, one of the great surprises in this book was the fold out double-sided deck plans that illustrate where everything was located on the ship from the top down. On the reverse is a full-color drawing of Queen Mary detailing the inside from a sideview. Any history buff, ocean liner buff or fan of the Queen Mary will not be disappointed with this purchase!

This is the book to buy for anyone nostalgic about their time on the Queen Mary. It is thorough and has many beautiful photographs. It would be good to look through this prior to a tour of the ship, because the empty corridors do not convey the glamour of the Queen Mary during her days in service. My parents were on the QM for their honeymoon in 1958 and could find their very table in the Veranda Grill. This book was an excellent gift.

While it does border on "style over substance" from time to time, this book is an excellent visual history of one of the most famous ships ever built. From keel laying to launch, fitting out to trials, commercial service to troop transport, it provides a fascinating look at the ship from a multitude of different angles. It doesn't just depict the Queen Mary as a passenger liner, a mechanical marvel, an art deco showpiece, or a massive assemblage of steel and rivets. It presents the ship as ALL of these things, from the perspective of the Clydebank steelworkers who built her, the thousands of Allied troops she carried during World War II, the craftsmen and artists who designed her interiors, and passengers who sailed aboard her as a liner. Backing up the text are hundreds of illustrations, including historic photographs, candid onboard images, color images of the public spaces and their artwork, engineering schematics, and period publicity posters. There's also a full set of deck plans, a beautiful four-foot long foldout color cross-section of the ship, and a number of pages from the "Queen Mary Book of Comparisons." On a visual level, this book is superb, but as an actual history of the ship, it's a little lacking in depth. It's awfully gushing in tone, and avoids making any direct criticisms of the ship, most notably her rather horrendous rolling problems. James Steele is primarily an architectural writer, and while he does an excellent job describing her interiors, I wonder what he truly feels about them. Studying this book in depth, I get the impression that although the public rooms featured occasional moments of brilliance, the Queen Mary's interior design never really "gelled" as a whole. This is one area where John Maxtone-Graham (who wrote the introduction) has always excelled; his comments on the interiors of the great liners are frequently witty, insightful, and humorously caustic. I hate to sound too critical, because this book really is a wonderful tribute to the Queen Mary, and everyone involved in her creation. I recommend it to anyone fascinated by ocean liners and the golden age of transatlantic travel. Just don't expect to be blown away by the writing.

I had low expectations for this book, based on the paucity of details provided in the description. So, I was more than happy to see that it contains a wealth of documentation on the ship's promotional efforts and interior shots. Not as jaw-droppingly beautiful as her coldly elegant Normandie Rival, the Queen Mary was nonetheless favored by many for her comfort and warmth and a huge source of

pride for depression-ravaged England. The wealth of promotional material issued by her suppliers featured in this book speaks volumes about how important this ship was to the psyche of British people. In addition to the photos, the book includes a comprehensive history from her beginnings as Hull No. 534 to her eventual retirement to, surprisingly of all places, Long Beach - a port she never visited until her last voyage. This is a great book to page through and daydream about an era when 'getting there was half the fun'.

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