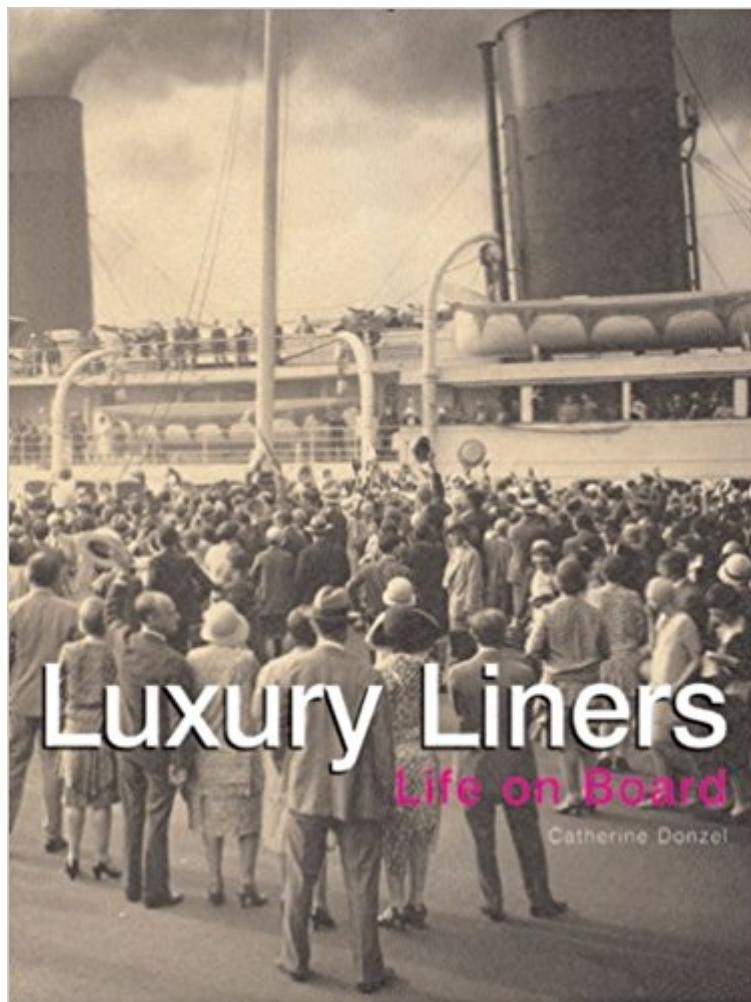


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Luxury Liners: Life On Board



Synopsis

Catherine Donzel offers an illustrated history of ocean liners of the 20th century and the passengers' experiences onboard.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Vendome Press; 1st Am. ed. edition (September 26, 2006)

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Customer Reviews

Catherine Donzel is a historian and coauthor of a number of books on travel themes. She lives in Paris.

What a informative book across the board. Page after page of pictures I have never seen before in any book in my substantial collection of Classic Ocean Liner books. Good text describing life onboard these magnificent ships. This book being from the female point of view makes ship life and the pictures chosen refreshing. Come on guys, this is the first book of this type I have found that gives a different spin on the topic at hand. Not the same old boring stuff here. A much welcome addition the genera. Again, worth the buy if just for the pictured alone.

I work in a visual field and bought this book because I was looking for inspiration from images depicting luxury liners - specifically the excitement involved in embarking and disembarking, and especially the opulence of life aboard these ships. This book contains wonderful imagery for this purpose. The images I found were exactly what I needed to portray the mood I was looking for. The inclusion of celebrities enjoying life above these liners added to the excitement. This publisher is

known for creating visually stylish books with wonderful imagery, which is why it attracts people like me who buy their books for similar purposes. This one did not disappoint in that arena. I purchased the book primarily for visual inspiration, so therefore I was highly satisfied with the book. I must confess however, that I am disappointed to learn from the other reviewers, who seem to be luxury liner aficionados, that the information contained in the book is not accurate. Being that I don't know much about luxury liners, I am not in the position to catch the misinformation that has been pointed out by other reviewers. I will take their reviews on faith however, and will not rely on this book to educate myself on this subject. I would reduce the number of stars in my review for this reason as well, but since I purchased the book specifically for imagery, and was so pleased with what I got, I cannot in good conscience take any more away from this volume than that.

I agree with the previous review, this book is a GROSS disappointment. It's a large and impressive looking volume at first, but the facts contained within are very poorly researched and there are countless errors regarding the photos and the liners in general. My bigger problem, however, is that this book should perhaps be better titled "Life on Board the French Line" or "Life on the Ile de France" because honestly, 80% of the photos relate to the Ile or to the French Line. Even photos of the memorabilia almost all show CGT items, with a noteworthy amount of attention paid to the P&O Line for some reason. If you're looking for photos or information on any Cunard, White Star Line, North German Lloyd, HAPAG, or U.S. Lines ship, forget it, there's nothing here for you. And that's not an exaggeration.

I had this book on my wish list and received it as a birthday gift. What a huge disappointment! There are some beautiful photographs, but a number of the double page shots lose their impact with a big crease down the middle. Many of the photos (a full page shot of Charlton Heston???) outweigh the importance of their subject matter and appear to be there just to make the book larger. The author's flowery overblown style of prose, filled with exaggerations, is bad enough but the number of actual factual errors is frightening. Anyone with a minimal knowledge of ocean liner history could produce a long list. Here are just a few: Yes, Ocean liners did dock in most major ports before the 1930's. No, New York has never had a "transatlantic railway terminal." At 21,000 tons the HAPAG liner New York was never considered a "superliner." A photo of a "1914 trunk" with a 2 Normandie (1935-39) baggage labels???. I guess her publishers don't have any fact checkers. I would recommend to any ocean liner enthusiast that you only buy this book if you find it for a dollar at a garage sale. This author should stick to writing books about subjects about which she has some knowledge.

A fantastic book, worth it's money..... excellent art direction for layout and styling.... giant images printed in amazing quality....I like the enormous amount of nostalgic photos showing opulence and luxury of ocean travel (dining rooms!) , but also immigrants leaving Europe with a heavy heart.... I liked the inclusion of posters, menus and close-ups of silverware and passenger lists....the double-spread photo of the FRANCE (on pages 74/75) in stormy weather listing at an extreme angle makes you feel good to sit in the easy chair in your home in front of the fireplace turning the pages....

thanks!

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