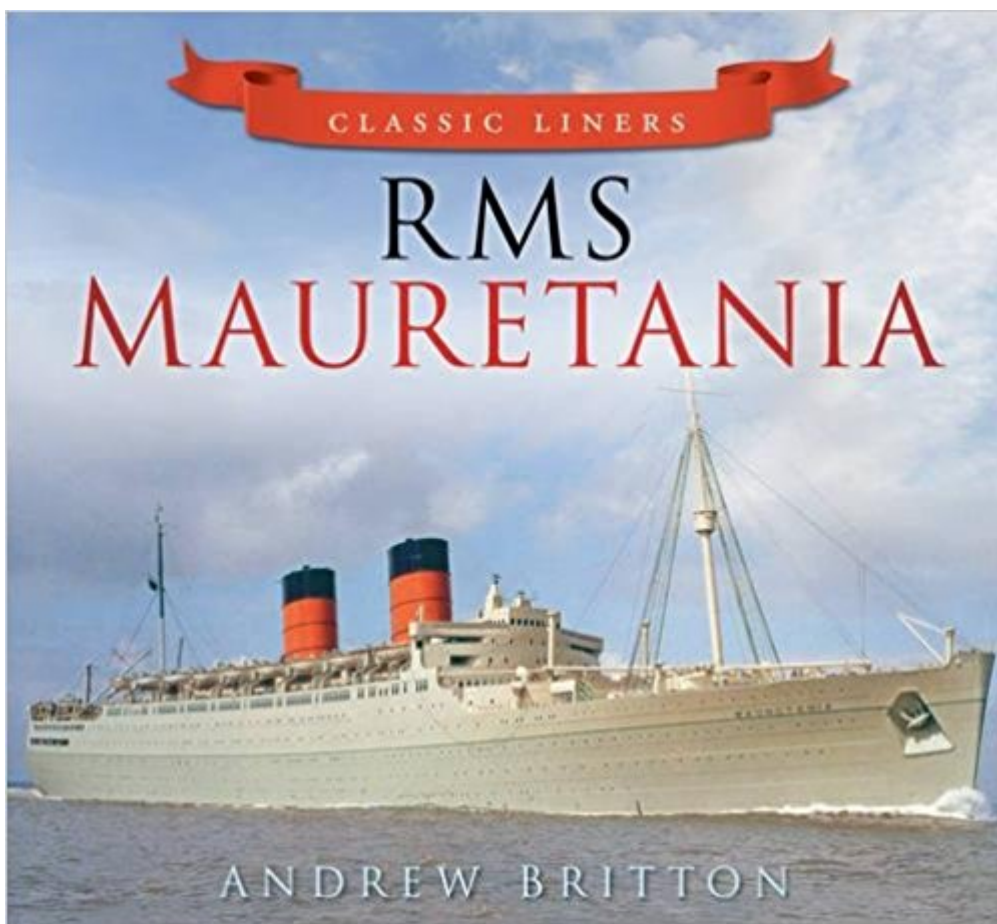


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RMS Mauretania (Classic Liners)



Synopsis

Offering real insight into the life on board during the Mauretania's exotic cruises, a colorful, illustrative history of the second RMS Mauretania. The RMS Mauretania, the second, was a smaller version of the luxurious Cunard Queens. She ran the London to New York service from the River Thames and enjoyed enormous popularity from her launch in 1938 to her retirement in 1965, when the great age of the ocean liners waned at last. Spending time as a troopship in World War II, she then returned to the transatlantic route and even embarked upon a world cruise. Andrew Britton presents a wealth of unpublished material from his unparalleled collection to tell the story, including stunning color photographs, wartime views, unique behind-the-scenes photographs, shots taken from the air, interior views, and a wide selection of tickets, menus, log books, timetables, and much more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Andrew Britton is a lifelong shipping enthusiast and collector with a now vast body of photographs and ephemera, and a keen supporter of the SS United States Conservancy. He is the author of RMS Queen Mary and SS United States.

I agree with transatlantique's review and have mixed feelings about this book. I'm happy that someone has taken the time to acknowledge this ship which often sailed in the shadow of her

famous namesake and her two "big cousins" Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth. The second Mauretania was a fine ship in her own right. On a positive note, it's obvious the author has an affection for his subject. The text is engaging, and the chapter of the "Maury's" wartime service is rather suspenseful, noting at one point a near-collision with the Ile de France. But while there are plenty of handsome exterior shots of the Mauretania, I agree; almost no interiors. No deck plans. It's not that this material is unavailable; I have seen interior Mauretania shots in other liner books I own. The Mauretania was a beautifully appointed ship, and interior shots are why I buy books such as this. I hope some sort of revised edition is in order; this is an OK book that could have been great.

Agree with the other reviews here regarding the disappointments for what the book does not include. There are also inaccurate captions as well as outdoor shots on deck attributed to the Mauretania which are in fact other Cunarders.

No, there aren't a lot of good interior reprints of this ship. My other books by Britton are fairly complete, but not this one. There is a nice colour reprint, included with a few different others, of two men sitting in their cabin, and an interior scene of a banquet held on board with the Queen Mother, but it leaves much to be desired. Most reprints are of the exterior, and most are in colour, in various ports with various other ships. The colour scenes entering NY harbour are quite nostalgic. There is a nice reprint of Mary, SS France (in the very back), and Mauretania's green hull next to an automobile at Ocean Terminal in Southampton. There are some interesting deck scenes, and many layouts of menus, event flyers, posters, letters, adverts, various memorabilia, and a cutaway that falls the first quarter of the ship into the fold of the page. Of course the key to this cutaway leaves one looking for a magnifier to match up the numbers. The text is sufficient enough to describe an accurate history. But who is doing much reading with these books? We want photos from all perspectives. It isn't all a loss, not as bad as 1 star. I would have given it 3 stars because of the lack of interiors, but what is included is four stars. Had it been mostly text, that would have brought the rating down considerably. If there are photos from and of the decks, I assume that the person taking those photos on the ship went inside. So why aren't there interiors of her? This does baffle me given the number of interior scenes Britton has included with his other books. A written explanation at the beginning would have been nice. Maybe there are some photos of her interiors included in another book, but I would have liked for them to have been included in this one. I am glad I bought this, though incomplete, because it fits in nicely with my collection. Maybe someday I'll see a publication that will expound on what life might have been like from the inside of Mauretania, preferably in

lavish and large layouts.

there is almost a total lack of photos of the ship's interior which i found very disappointing. a number of the exterior photos are so similar as to be redundant, adding to the disappointment that more interior photos were not used.

Here we have one of the few books dedicated to the second Mauretania. It's a pretty good one too. There are many ships that could do much worse than a tome such as this. Filled with tons of exterior shots (something common to this series of books, "Classic Liners") a good deal in color, there are VERY few pictures of her interiors. So few that the average reader would come away wondering at their absence. All pictures are however very high quality and there are lots of them. However there are a few misidentified pictures, such as listing Mauretania when the actual picture contains Queen Mary, Ile de France or Queen Elizabeth. The latter a common mistake as Mauretania was visually extremely similar, simply 50,000 tons smaller. The narrative is excellent with sections written Commodore Marr, Captain Jones, Engineering Officer Gleed, Officer Jackson, Steward Webb, and Steward Owens. Many copies of Daily Programs, a nice cutaway and cruise brochures are also included. An excellent addition to your liner collection and certainly a ship worthy of such a tribute.

Beware: The description of this book in the listing is misleading in one very important aspect. There are NO interior shots of this great ship's public rooms or cabins. Zero! How can an author create a book supposedly about life on a great liner and totally omit photos of the public spaces like lounges, dining rooms, lobbies, theatres etc and also totally exclude photos of the accommodations? There is one shot of two gentlemen in a cabin and I think one shot of a deck buffet. No diagrams, deck plans, artist sketches, nothing to give the reader a clue of what went on inside the ship. To add insult to injury there are numerous repetitive exterior shots that appear to be just taking up space, the same shot from multiple angles. What a missed opportunity this book is for those of us who wanted to learn more about this "little sister" of the great Queens. I feel like I have wasted my money on this book.

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