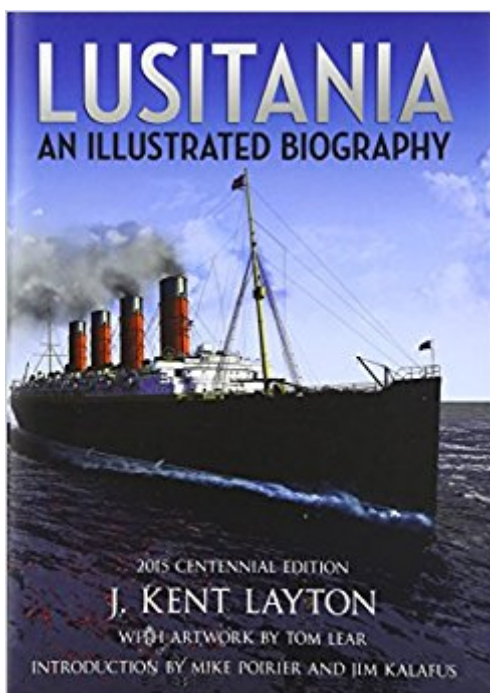


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# Lusitania: An Illustrated Biography



## Synopsis

2015 marks the centennial anniversary of one of the worst maritime disasters in the history of the great trans-Atlantic liners: the sinking of the RMS Lusitania. This volume helps to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the disaster by telling the complete story of the life and loss of the Lusitania. Today, the Lusitania is mostly remembered for her tragic sinking, the political repercussions of the disaster, and on numerous conspiracies which have sprung up around her. While it is important to remember her tragic loss and the people whose lives were forever changed by that event, it is also important to remember the history of the great liner in context. Prior to May 7, 1915, the Lusitania was already a legend: not for tragedy, but instead for success. Having entered service in September 1907, for seven and a half years, she crossed the North Atlantic with punctuality and dependability. She fast became the ship of choice for many of the transatlantic travellers. Since her sinking, however, the story of her wondrous career and technological marvels have largely been neglected. Instead, the focus has shifted to her political importance, and on numerous conspiracy theories about her last voyage and sinking. This special centennial edition of *Lusitania: An Illustrated Biography* discusses the entire story of the liner. There have been numerous updates, expansions and corrections to the 2010 text; new photographic and illustrative material has been added, many of them in large format to help bring her back to life for readers. Artist Stuart Williamson has generously added some of his pieces to the color section to help supplement the fine work of Tom Lear, which was produced specifically for the 2010 edition. In short, everything that was so highly regarded about the previous edition has been retained, while the improvements and additions bring the book to new heights. It is hoped that this new volume will be a fitting tribute to all of those who sailed aboard, died on, and who were ever touched by the legendary Lusitania. This special edition is not to be missed, and belongs on the shelves of anyone who loves the history of the great Atlantic liners.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A thorough and solid biography following her story from design to death" (The Titanic Communicator)

With the upcoming centennial of the Lusitania disaster, I knew that it was time to prepare my book for re-release. The important thing to me was to prevent it from just being a 'repackaged' book with a 'centennial' label slapped across its face. The book was the book, and the basic text needed to remain the same; however, how could it be improved or expanded? What new photographic or illustrative material could be brought in? Where could low-quality images from the first edition be reduced in size, and better or rarer images displayed in large format? All of these questions led to a thorough revamp of the entire book. The layout has been completely redone. The blueprints which I personally drew for the 2010 edition have been given a larger print size. The photo and illustration count is up. Whether you enjoyed the 2010 edition, or did not have the opportunity to acquire that volume, make sure to get your copy of this splendid centennial edition release. I hope very much that it will be a fitting tribute to those whose lives were touched by the Lusitania, both in life and in death.--J. Kent Layton, February 2015.

I hadn't remembered seeing this book before, though I may have and had simply ignored it. I'm so glad I saw this and decided to get it. It had been out for two years, so why hadn't I seen this already? Its published and printed in Britain, and I couldn't be happier. What a gem. There are several photos of Lusitania, as well as a few of her sister Mauretania, at various stages of construction and during her life. Included are a few great candid shots of passengers that will tweak any ocean liner fanatic's fancy. The written history is rich and of great depth. The typeface is very readable at about 12 to 13 point, which is great on any aging eyes. Also included are many colour illustrations and what appear to be colourised photos. The deck plans also depicted aren't fold outs, but indeed serve to make this book more complete. There are even extensive passenger lists from a few voyages included at the end. This book will round out my collection of books, and will help as

I'm building the model of the ship I have yet to begin.

The new J. Kent Layton book on the LUSITANIA, certainly has to me among the most concise, detailed books ever regarding this one famous Cunard liner... Although her sister-ship MAURETANIA gained more fame over the long term for her enduring speed record and flawless reliability, the LUSITANIA remains most familiar to many, largely due to the pointless war-induced disaster which befell her... There are many photographs never seen anywhere else, plus some survivor accounts and anecdotes from others still alive from when the ship met her doom... The book has a set of deck-plans, plus a number of colorized period postcard photos of the liner "as built" with the white forecastle before she actually entered commercial service. The book also contains several colorized interior photos from her early years. There are also a number of finely-detailed paintings of the LUSITANIA, including the cover artwork depicting the liner as she looked with buff promenade-stripe and black funnels as per her last voyage. Pete Hodges

This book is truly a treasure! If you like ships and history do not let this book pass you by. It is full of rare photos and history. The Lusitania was a beautiful ship and her sinking was a tragedy and a tremendous loss. You will love this book! It is well done.

This is the most extensive and definitive history on the Lusitania's career. Starting from conception and moving all the way through the tragic sinking, each chapter contains oral accounts of those who conceived, sailed, worked and survived her. The photos, many from private collections, fill each page as do scans of Lusitania memorabilia. No stone is left un-turned by the author, as he sets to deliver the full story of the RMS Lusitania.

The best comprehensive, illustrated and exceptionally interesting story of one of history's most famous ships, a once living legend now resting on the bottom of the sea off the coast of Ireland.

This book is one of the most comprehensive books about the Lusitania. I have been an avid Lusitania buff for over thirty years and I have purchased books about her, but this book has pictures of Lusitania that have never been seen at Liverpool and here in New York. I am extremely satisfied with this book and would like to salute the creator of the book, J Kent Layton, "Cheers", A magnificent Job Well Done.

I was very pleased to see the updated pictures throughout the book - although the story in the book is the same as it was in the original version, it was still very refreshing to read and will take it along on my future cruises to read in a deckchair while out and about on the ocean!

Wow, fantastic.

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