

WHEN LINERS RULED

USA Adelaide

Wed. 10-11.30am

Geoff Howe

Week 1 : From 'Tea Kettles' to Ocean Liners c. 1830-1870

3/2

Early steamships. The first Atlantic crossings. The Great Western, Cunard and Collins lines. Brunel's ill-fated 'Great Eastern'. Inman line.

Week 2 : The Liner Comes of Age c. 1870 - 1914

17/2

Rapid increase in the power, speed and luxury of Atlantic liners. Fierce international competition. The great ships of the 'Belle Epoch' era.

Week 3 :

Disasters at Sea

3/3

The dangers of the Atlantic. Fate of the 'Arctic' and 'Arizona'. Collision of 'Republic' and 'Florida'. The 'Titanic' disaster. Loss of 'Empress of Ireland' and 'Andrea Doria'.

Week 4 :

Luxury, Squalor and Speed

17/3

Conditions for passengers on the sailing packets and early steamships. The contrast between First Class and Steerage. The splendour of the great liners. The race for the coveted 'Blue Riband'.

Week 5 :

Liners at War - WWI, 1914-18

31/3

Liners as armed cruisers, troopships and hospital ships. Submarine warfare in the 'Battle of the Atlantic'. Losses, and the 'Lusitania' disaster. German liners, and the 'Vaterland'.

Week 6 :

Between the Wars, 1919 - 1939

14/4

A return to splendour. The French Line and 'Ile de France'. Life aboard in the 'Jazz Age'.

Effects of the Depression. Revival: 'Bremen', 'Rex', 'Europa', 'Normandie', 'Queen Mary'.

Week 7.

World War 2 and the Post War Period.

28/4

The murky morality of the war at sea. Losses of 'Lancastria', 'City of Benares' and 'Laconia'. The fate of 'Normandie'. The sinking of 'Rex', 'Wilhelm Gustloff' and 'Cap Arcona'. Post war revival - and rapid decline.

Week 8

The Growth of the Cruise Industry

12/5

The first cruises. 'Furst Bismarck' in the Mediterranean 1894. 'Auguste Victoria', 1898, and Scandinavian cruises. 'Columbus' in the Caribbean, 1939. World cruises. The massive growth of cruising from the 1970's - new lines and new, huge liners.