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P&O: Across The Oceans, Across The Years



Synopsis

P&O: Across the Oceans, Across the Years is a beautifully compiled book illustrated with over 200 images from the P&O Heritage Collection. An engaging and richly illustrated homage to one of the most famous companies afloat, in its 175th anniversary year. Features all the details of life on board, from the food menus and tickets, to the marine paintings and silver. Official campaign book for the Peninsular & Oriental (P&O) Company "A prestigious and fascinating book telling the P&O story through the eyes of those who travelled with, worked for and managed the company over the years, richly illuminated by works from the official P&O Heritage collection." Arabian Gazette A nostalgic glance astern at the glory days of Peninsular & Oriental (P&O) both at sea and on shore. Drawing on personal recollections in the archives of P&O Heritage, Ruth Artmonsky looks back at the company during the age of empire and a bygone time when travelling P&O captured the imagination of writers from Thackeray to Noël Coward. In addition the book takes a curator's tour of the company's art collection which dates back to P&O's foundation in 1837. The result is an engaging and richly illustrated homage to one of most famous companies afloat, in its 175th anniversary year.

Contents: Starting Out
Heading East
Ship Style
Seafarers Life
Aboard
Heritage
Selected Ships List
Paintings Illustrated
Picture Credits
Quotation References

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Customer Reviews

Ruth Artmonsky trained as a psychologist. On her retirement from her associate directorship of a leading psychometric consultancy she ran a small art gallery. Her particular interests are the

'jobbing' artist and the democratisation of art. She has written and published a number of books on British mid-20th century art.

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of the P&O shipping line, this illustrated album brings back an era of sometimes difficult travel to distant and seemingly strange lands. Established in 1837, the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company was formed to serve British colonies in the Mediterranean, India and Far East, chiefly British subjects going out to serve in the army or administration of the far-flung empire. The line took on tourists and expanded into extensive cruising early in the 20th century. This is a largely pictorial record of that journey, melding period color and black and white photos and drawings to explore life aboard for crew and passengers, as well as some of the places visited. One of several books issued for the anniversary, this is the largest and most sumptuous. A final section focuses on how the line has preserved its own history in archives, models, advertising, and paintings--and this book. But this is all past glory--the storied P&O was purchased by a Dubai company in 2006.

I eagerly looked forward to this very large and heavy coffee table book. I have always been an ardent fan of the P&O and Orient liners. The format of the book is interesting. However, the photos of artwork are bit glaring in their full page size. And, most importantly, not enough information on the ships themselves. This book was a tease that left me wanting much more!

One of a number of books written to commemorate P&O's recent 175th anniversary, this volume leaves the reader with a clear understanding of the evolving experience of a P&O voyage over almost two centuries. The book is lavishly illustrated with treasures from P&O's Heritage Collection adding to the reader's connection with the line's long history. What this book is not is a ship by ship history of the line's routes and operations. Some important 20th century ships are hardly mentioned. Some ocean liner enthusiasts might find that disappointing. This book accomplishes something totally different. I am sure I have read a few dozen books on P&O's history and never before have I had such a clear understanding of P&O's role in British life and heritage.

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