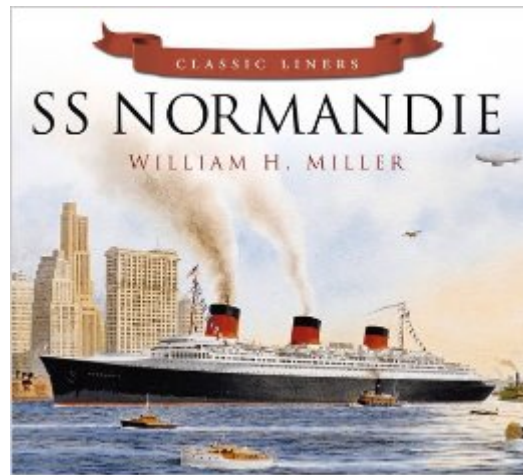


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# SS Normandie (Classic Liners)



## Synopsis

Learn the full story behind the most decoratively striking of all the great Atlantic liners, the SS Normandie—a creation of the extravagant 1930s, the Normandie was the pride of the great French Line, the national flagship, and a ship well ahead of almost all other passenger ships of her time. She was the largest, longest, and fastest, but also the most decoratively stunning and had the most striking and innovative overall design. Her dining room was longer than the famed Hall of Mirrors at Versailles and her outer decks were uncluttered, superbly balanced, and streamlined. Her career was, however, highly dramatic and quite tragic in the end. She sailed commercially for just four years, and then was laid up in New York due to the start of World War II; she suffered the fate of burning at her pier, capsizing, and becoming a complete loss. In 1946, to the great sadness of her endless fans, the 11-year-old ship went to the breakers. This book, through added insight and anecdotes by experts with many superb, unpublished photos, greatly adds to the story of this finest of French liners.

## Book Information

Series: Classic Liners

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: The History Press (December 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0752488082

ISBN-13: 978-0752488080

Product Dimensions: 9.7 x 0.4 x 8.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a highly abbreviated history of the SS NORMANDIE and consists of limited text and many photographs with brief captions. Virtually all of the photographs of the ship itself are in black and white, are generally small, and are of fair quality. Almost all of the color illustrations are of travel posters and of selected memorabilia from a South Street Seaport exhibition; although, there are a

few color photographs of the ship itself that are interesting. My primary problem with this book is that the ship itself is poorly described. A coherent presentation of her principal characteristics cannot be found nor can much information regarding her design and systems. There is no inboard profile showing the general internal arrangements beyond an almost illegible page from a brochure. An argument could be made that much of this can be found in other books; however, this is also true of the basic content of this book. A significant portion of the book (13 out of 95 pages) is devoted to the aforementioned travel posters, which while visually interesting, tell little about the ship. It appears as if the book was assembled from the author's large collection of passenger liner photographs and memorabilia. It conveys the impression of an assemblage of odds and ends for the sole purpose of pulling together yet another book on passenger liners. The contents are poorly integrated and do not really add anything to the body of knowledge associated with the SS NORMANDIE. It is too superficial for the knowledgeable enthusiast and is not sufficiently complete or well organized for a neophyte wanting to learn about the ship.

Bill Miller has been pumping books out about ocean liners for a number of years now - which is a good thing! Lots of great photos and a concise history of the ship and/or ships in his numerous books. He's now taken on doing a book on the beautiful French liner "Normandie" - probably the most noted and collected liner except for the "Titanic". Unfortunately the "Normandie" had a short career too. Well worth the price for the great selection of photos alone. Mr. Miller keep up the good work.

This book surprised me, and I almost didn't get it. However, I only bought it to round out the collection in the series, and I was pleasantly surprised. Along with the usual stock photos of Normandie from my other big volume books, there are some very nice unseen, by me, photos in colour of the raising of Normandie at pier 88, and some lovely photos of the collection of Mario Pulice from the exhibition at the South Street Seaport Museum that I unfortunately missed in 2010. I'm glad I got this one, and its not to be missed by the SS Normandie enthusiast.

The Normandie was truly one of the most beautiful ships ever built. A great beauty that ended tragically. So this book was a must have. Anyone who loves ships will love this book. From the laying of the keel to completion this book is a gem. The Normandie was a beauty queen by anyone's measure.

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