

SCRIBBLINGS



From Bill Miller

Apr 2022

Above: Caribbean cruising on the Grace Line in the 1950s

Sun Apr 10th 2022 At Home in Secaucus: The 1,105-ft long *AIDAcosma* was christened yesterday as part of a colorful music and light show in the Port of Hamburg under the motto "The world is becoming more colorful."



Despite that some 300 cruise ships have returned to service and bookings are up in many cases, covid still causes disruptions. Citing crew availability issues over in the UK, P&O Cruises has cancelled

seven cruises on the *Arcadia* (seen below with the *Queen Mary 2*), extending through a Jun 23rd departure to the Norwegian fjords. The ship had just restarted service for the brand in late March, marking P&O's return to full operations.

P&O  Cruises

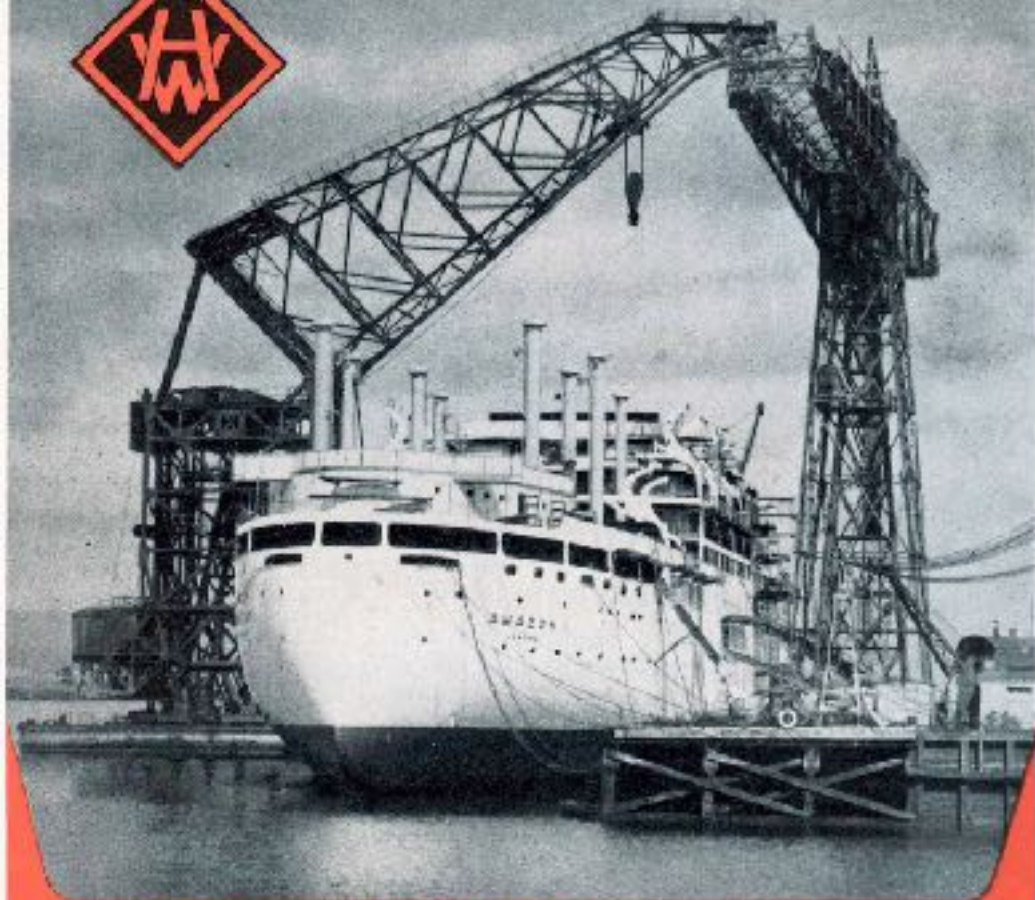


Thu Apr 14th At Home in Secaucus: 110 years ago – the immortal *Titanic* collided with an iceberg in the North Atlantic at 11:40pm, ship's time, and soon began to sink. The 882-ft long liner, the largest afloat at the time, slipped under 2 hrs & 40 mins later with the loss of 1,514 lives (the actual number has varied over the years).



In other news: Both the *Queen Victoria* and *Aurora* are both headed to Belfast, to the famed Harland & Wolff shipyard (and where the Titanic was constructed) for lengthy refits. Harland & Wolff have not been involved with passenger ships for decades, but the company is having a revival in passenger ship repairs & refits. ... 47 additional cruise ships are resuming sailing this month – and this brings the worldwide total to over 300.

SHIPBUILDERS & ENGINEERS



H&W
HARLAND AND WOLFF

The first of three 20,000-ton motor liners building at Belfast for Royal Mail Lines, Limited, in fitting-out berth with 150-ton floating crane and dockside crane in attendance.

LARGE PASSENGER LINERS

BELFAST GLASGOW LONDON LIVERPOOL SOUTHAMPTON

Mustard, relish & onions! My mother was a steady customer in her school days back in the 1940s -- but today we venture west (25 minutes and in Clifton, New Jersey) to Rutt's Hut, said to have some of the ten best hot dogs in all the USA.



Fri Apr 15th At Home in Secaucus: In the wake of our recent posting that included crossing on the legendary *QE2* (seen below at Capetown) in the 1970s, from over in the UK our dear friend and world traveler Howard Franklin wrote: “I remember my first trip in *QE2* travelling as a Queens Grill passenger. My accommodation was one of those original first class cabins, midships, just along from the Purser's Office if I remember correctly? Jonathan Lever was an assistant purser. It was huge, with entrance hall, baggage room, enormous bathroom, and a sitting area with sofa and chairs.”



Howard added, "But I recall being shocked that the pillars in the mid ships ballroom were not marble but they were Formica!! And the statue busts were not bronze, but made of fiber glass composite!! Yes, much of *QE2* was fake -- and yet I thought it to be the most magnificent ship I had ever sailed in. There was a feeling of stability and security, even on the winter crossings. And then there was dancing every evening -- with all those dance hosts and dearest Maureen Ryan presiding."

And in addition to our recent posting on the possible re-sizing of the *Queen Mary 2*, one of our readers added further insight: "The *QM2* refit was going to replace the gas turbines for new diesels. This would have needed more space in the engine room, thence the jumboizing."



Our source concluded, “But then, the extra cabins would mean too many passengers to the present layout of public rooms, with the main problem with the restaurants.”