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# CRUISE SHIPS: An Evolution in Design

*By Philip Dawson*



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## CRUISE SHIPS: An Evolution in Design By Philip Dawson

Since the earliest commercial cruises offered in the 1840s, cruise ships have changed beyond recognition and evolved into one of the world's most sophisticated, specialised, complex, and expensive types of vessel. This astonishing development is the subject of this book.

While the origins of the story can be traced back in part to the nineteenth century, the author takes up the story in detail with the large, modern, purpose-built cruise ships of the 1930s. The prototypes for a mass-market clientele emerged in the German KdF ships Wilhelm Gustloff and Robert Ley. At the other end of the scale, the exquisite 1927 Norwegian-built cruise yacht Stella Polaris represents the prototype of a smaller vessel offering the ultimate in luxury. In the post-war years both ends of the industry have expanded dramatically, and the myriad of ships which have been built, and are being built, are described in detail.

Philip Dawson developed an interest in merchant and passenger ships in early childhood. He started writing on shipping and ship design in the early 1980s. He is author of *British Superliners of the Sixties: A Design Appreciation of Oriana, Canberra and QE2* and the highly successful tribute to the P&O cruise liner *Canberra: In the Wake of a Legend*. Philip Dawson lives in Canada.



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## **Editorial Review**

### **About the Author**

Philip Dawson developed his interest in merchant and passenger ships and shipping in early childhood and has continued to follow the rise of commercial shipping, taking particular interest in its design and operation. He started writing on shipping and ship design in the early 1980s, and has since embarked on a second career as a freelance writer, specializing in maritime and transport subjects as well as architectural and industrial design. He is author of *British Superliners of the Sixties: A Design Appreciation of Oriana, Canberra and QE2* and the highly successful tribute to the P&O cruise liner *Canberra: In the Wake of a Legend*. A regular contributing editor for a number of specialist and professional publications in the transport and design fields, Dawson is also research co-ordinator for the Canadian Design Exchange in Toronto.

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