

R.M.S. FRANCONIA

1910-1916

This exhibit is an exploration of the Cunard Liner RMS Franconia from the launch in 1910 to the sinking in 1916, using a wide variety of philatelic and non-philatelic materials to document the history of the ship. It is divided into 4 sections: Construction & Launch; Trans-Atlantic Service; Winter Cruising Caribbean and Mediterranean; Wartime service.



Tuvalu 2011
FRANCONIA
20c value in set
"World Famous Ships"
Ocean Liners.
Image from Postcard
"Cunarder at
Monaco"



Undated Woven Silk Postcard
R.M.S.FRANCONIA

Divided back Inland Postage 1d
"For inland postage only"

"Wish you were here what a lovely trip fine weather, sea calm & such a lovely blue enjoying so well. Sunday getting a little rough."

Tonnage - 18,150 tons gross; 11,247 tons net	Engines - Eight-cylindered quadruple-expansion by Wallsend Slipway Co Ltd.
Displacement - 25,000 tons	Service speed - 17 knots
Dimensions - 182.96m x 21.73m (600.3ft x 71.3ft)	Builder - Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson, Wallsend-on-Tyne
Number of funnels - 2 Number of masts - 2	Launch date - 23 July 1910
Construction - Steel	Passenger accommodation - 300 First Class, 350 Second Class and 2,200 Third Class
Propulsion - Twin screwed	

The *Franconia* and its sister ship the *Laconia* [1911] were built to replace the *Ivernia* and *Saxonia* on the Liverpool to Boston/New York Trans-Atlantic service and to cover for the *Luisitania* and *Mauretania* if these were being refitted. She was launched by Lady Forwood, wife of a Cunard director Sir William Bower Forwood, on **23 July 1910**, was engined and fitted out at Wallsend-on-Tyne with her maiden voyage between Liverpool, Queenstown and New York on **25 February 1911**. During the winter, the *Franconia* undertook a cruise to the Caribbean then several cruises from New York to the Mediterranean.

Two notable events during the Trans-Atlantic service were the rescue of 13 survivors of the burning of the **Leyland Line** vessel, *Colombian* on **3 May 1914** and the participation in the convoy carrying the **Canadian Expeditionary Force** to Europe in **October 1914**. She was then requisitioned as a troopship in **February 1915** and was sent to the Mediterranean to assist in the Dardanelle campaign, carrying the troops between Gallipoli and Alexandria. The *Franconia* was torpedoed **4 October 1916** by UB47 with the loss of 12 lives with the *Dover Castle* picking up 302 survivors.