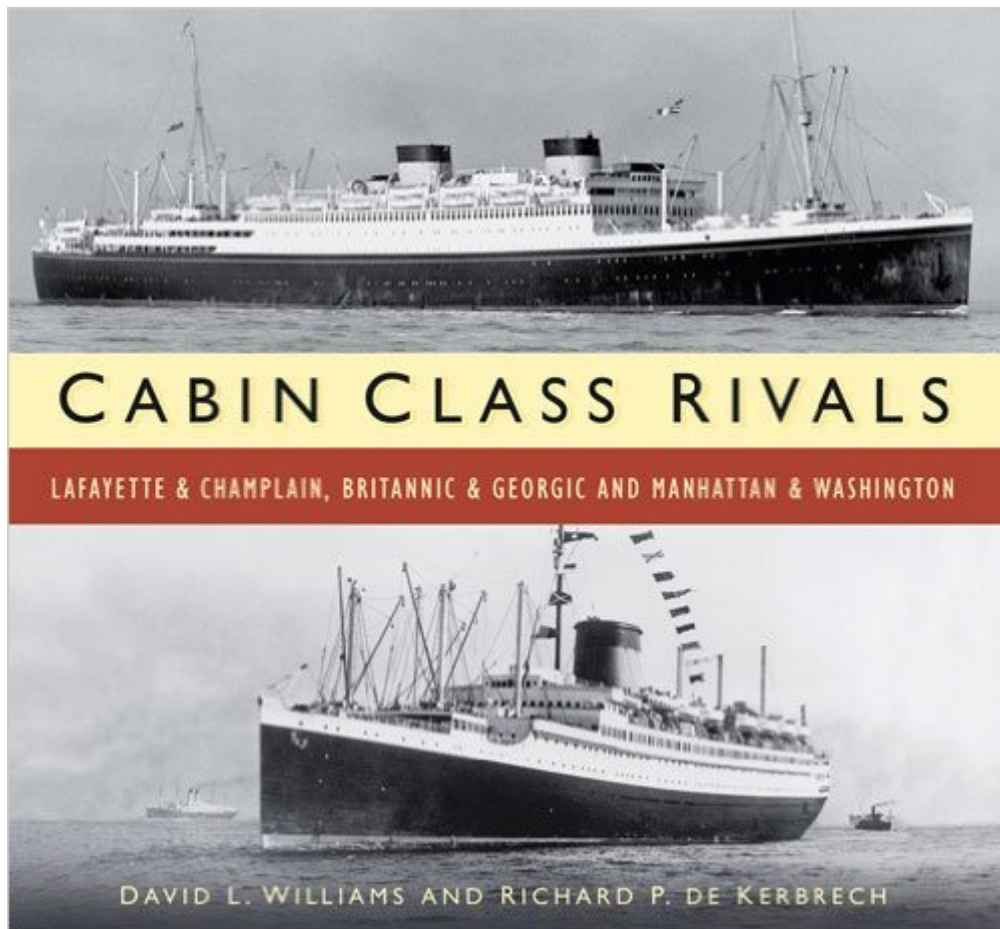


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# Cabin Class Rivals: Lafayette & Champlain, Britannic & Georgic And Manhattan & Washington



## Synopsis

Exploring the Cabin Class revolution and its six greatest vessels, a trio of competitive pairs In the wake of the U.S. government's immigration restrictions introduced following World War I, the classes of accommodation on the North Atlantic changed dramatically, triggering the rapid rise of the Tourist and Cabin grades. These proved extremely popular, offering a high standard of service for a relatively modest fare, undercutting the established First Class trade and acting as a catalyst for the leading shipping lines to invest in modern, quality tonnage specifically for this new class, even at the expense of planned giant liners. Six outstanding ships emerged, three competitive pairs: the Lafayette and Champlain representing France, Britannic and Georgic flying the Red Ensign, and Manhattan and Washington, the most advanced American-built liners up to that time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Cabin Class Rivals" certainly ranks at the top of the class of ocean liner books now being published by The History Press. It is well researched and very well written. The authors provide an informative history of the use of the term "cabin class" and put it into the context of the shipping industry from before WW1 through the Depression to post-WW2, when it was replaced by "first class". The term addressed marketing rather than technical issues. Owners of older luxury liners, unable to meet competition from newer, bigger, more luxurious ships, might prolong their commercial lives by re-naming "first class" accommodations as "cabin class", and offer reduced fares with very little change in service, thus garnering more passengers. This became a winning business model as the

Depression continued, and White Star, the French Line & US Lines responded with the six ships featured in this volume. As the authors note, there were many other cabin class liners for other shipping companies. The ships' histories are not limited to their civilian service, but the authors include complete details, with photographs, of their wartime duties as troopships and fates. The pre-war loss of Lafayette is detailed as well as the harrowing attacks on Georgic (bombed in Port Tewfik, Egypt) and Manhattan (bombed in Singapore), as well as the loss of Champlain to a mine and a devastating fire aboard Manhattan in the summer of 1942. They also detail a little known US military action that began while the US was officially still neutral.

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