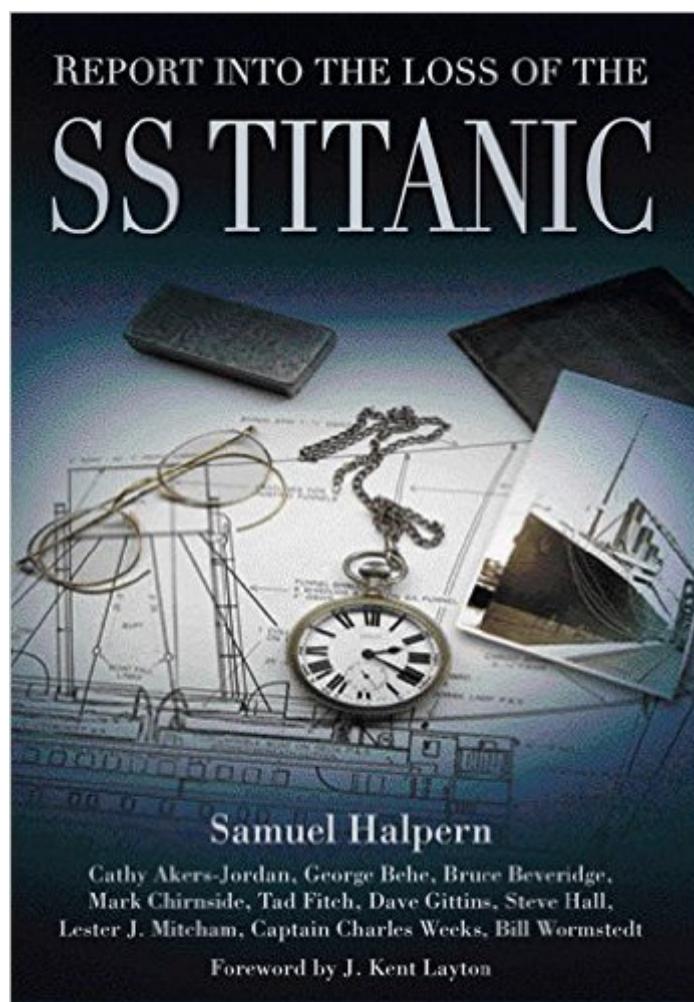


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Report Into The Loss Of The SS Titanic



Synopsis

Samuel Halpern has written widely on Titanic and often used the 1912 wreck report as a source of reference. It occurred to him one day how fascinating it would be if a team of dedicated, passionate, and expert authors were to issue a modern day report, with the knowledge we have todayâ "what would such a report look like? In this book we have the answer. Following the basic layout of the report, this team provides fascinating insights into the ship herself, the American and British inquiries, the passengers and crew, the fateful journey and ice warnings received, the damage and sinking, protocol and process of rescue, the circumstances in connection with the SS Californian and SS Mount Temple, and the aftermath and ramifications around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the immediate aftermath of the sinking of the Titanic, almost a full century ago, both the British and American governments launched formal inquiries into the circumstances of the disaster. A couple of years ago, Titanic expert Samuel Halpern was browsing through the British Wreck Commission report when he began musing how that report would have differed had the investigators had access to the additional information (and improved analytical tools) developed over the past hundred years. So, Halpern recruited an All Star team of Titanic experts to, in essence, create a new "Report into the Loss of the SS Titanic". The members of this Titanic superteam did more than simply contribute information relative to their own individual specialized areas of research. Instead, they reviewed, debated, and critically analyzed each other's work so that the best, most tested conclusions made it into this new "Centennial Reappraisal" (although of course

sometimes this necessitated a "most likely" or "educated guess" solution to a difficult question, with the full knowledge that for some matters we never have any final answers. This is not a book for a Titanic newbie. To appreciate or even understand the mass of information presented, the reader must bring a substantial previous Titanic knowledge to the table. Although the material is presented in chapters (and appendices) arranged in a fundamentally chronological order, the result is not a smooth, continuous narrative. Rather, the book is more like a collection of highly detailed, often technical, essays on various aspects of the Titanic's story.

"Report into the Loss of the SS Titanic" is a nice 100th anniversary summary of the Titanic accident and what has been learned since. The authors are an ensemble cast of many devoted Titanic amateur researchers from around the world. The book follows a similar format as the original accident report created by the British wreck commission in 1912 covering such basic as the Titanic's design and construction, breakdown of passenger and crew statistics, navigational details during the journey across the Atlantic, and descriptions of the sinking and rescue. Where the book goes beyond contemporary investigations is attempting to reconstruct more precise timelines of events, reconciling the often contradictory first-hand accounts, and exploring the controversy of the nearby "mystery ship" based upon much more information than was available in 1912. These attempts to compile and reconcile so many disparate pieces of information are the book's greatest strength and provide a more cohesive history of the Titanic sinking than most any other book I've read. This effort alone is worth the price and makes it a valuable reference to future researchers. There are a couple areas where I had hoped for more. First, the book is largely a merging of research articles the various authors have posted on websites or in other publications. While it is nice to have these works assembled in one place, much of the information is freely available at online sources. The single aspect of the book I most wish had been improved upon from the web articles is the quality of diagrams, but many are identical to those used on author Sam Halpern's website. Another mild disappointment is the book does not include a full chapter about the wreck site itself and only has a few paragraphs.

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