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# The White Ships, 1927-1978: A Tribute to Matson's Luxury Liners

*Duncan O'Brien*

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**Duncan O'Brien : The White Ships, 1927-1978: A Tribute to Matson's Luxury Liners** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The White Ships, 1927-1978: A Tribute to Matson's Luxury Liners:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good Overview Of Matson Passenger EraBy GryphonisleThis is a nice book about the Matson liners, the White Ships. I guess it's a genre that appeals to its own, as most people seem fixated with the TransAt liners of Cunard and White Star, but for me--and I never sailed a one of them--the Matson liners represent "the age".I would have ordered this book differently. SOLAS--safety legislation in response to the burning of the Morro Castle off Asbury Park, NJ, in the thirties--(which just sent the Delta Queen into retirement for no good reason) changed the look of the Matson ships, dramatically, yet we have to flip back to earlier chapters to observe how much. I would have had before and after pictures side by side, even if placed in different topics elsewhere.I would have also done more research on the movie appearances of these ships as they appear long after they've gone Greek, in such movies as "Splash" (in the background of a NY harbor scene) and in "Never On Sunday" where one shows up in Greece as the shipyard workers jump into the water.Overall, the book doesn't reveal much that is new, or cause its owner to take it off the shelf very often. I like having it, but as much as I love these ships--the image of the Lurline is the dominate repeating image in my tiki hut--this book just doesn't quite deliver. If you like these ships, you will need to buy this book, if not, i'm not sure what to say that will sell you on it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The White Ships, 1927-1978: A Tribute to Matson's Luxury LinersBy TutuThe ultimate Matson story. Try to find a soft cover, their out there. It's way cheaper.Cargoes is another book I would recommend if

you are interested in Matson and shipping.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. San Francisco Chronicle ReviewBy WhiteShipsCruise books let stay-at-homes enjoy high seasSpud HiltonSunday, November 30, 2008When it comes to ocean liners and San Francisco, the name Matson still evokes the romance and wonder from the golden age of pre-airline Pacific voyages. To experience Hawaii on a Matson cruise was the height of luxury travel - and in some cases the only travel - to the (then) truly exotic and foreign world of Waikiki.In what obviously is a very personal labor of love, Duncan O'Brien has compiled a history of the "white ships" - the Malolo, Mariposa, Monterey, Lurline and Matsonia - from 1927 to 1978, told through timelines, text and, most importantly, hundreds of photographs. The book's real strength is as a scrapbook: The writing is pretty standard, but the research is solid and the images are compelling, especially for anyone who was a passenger - or who heard the stories.Among the gems are a photo of Hilo Hattie performing a hula on the deck of the Matsonia in 1948; an advertisement for the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco offering rooms for \$3.50 per night; and several pages of celebrity passengers, including Cary Grant, Eddie Cantor and Elvis Presley on his first visit to the islands.Over the course of 248 pages, O'Brien describes the beginnings, revels in the glory years and mourns the eventual obsolescence and death of the Matson ships. The preface makes it clear that his family spent a good amount of time on these vessels. It shows in the book.

"The White Ships" is the first comprehensive history of the classic white liners - the Malolo, Mariposa, Monterey, Lurline, and Matsonia - operated by Matson Navigation Company between California, Hawaii, the South Pacific, New Zealand, and Australia from 1927 to 1978. This deluxe volume features hundreds of color and black-and-white photos and reproductions of Matson memorabilia. The accompanying text is a chronology of the ships, their ports of call, and the people who sailed on them.