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SS Nieuw Amsterdam: The Darling Of The Dutch



Synopsis

Entering service in 1938, the Nieuw Amsterdam was the Holland America Line flagship until the construction of the Rotterdam in the late 1950s. Her pre-war life was short and she was used as a troopship during the Second World War, carrying many thousands of Allied troops to all corners of the world. Of 36,000 tons, she was the largest vessel built in Rotterdam and was launched by Queen Wilhelmina in April 1937. A perennial favorite of the Dutch and their finest Ship of State, Nieuw Amsterdam remained in Holland America Line service until 1974, the last ship to retain the Holland America Line's familiar green, yellow and white funnels. Despite boiler problems in 1967, she was refitted with US Navy-surplus boilers and sailed on, cruising, until withdrawn from service in 1974. Sailing to the breakers, the Art Deco "Darling of the Dutch", as she was affectionately known, was broken up.

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Customer Reviews

"An outstanding paperback history of the great Dutch liner, well illustrated. Anyone fortunate to obtain a copy will be delighted to add it to their maritime collection." (The Northern Mariner, Volume XXII, No 1)

William H. Miller writes extensively on ocean liners, and is known as Mr Ocean Liner. He lives in New Jersey when he is not aboard a cruise ship lecturing about ocean liner history.

Both my brother and I were treated to a summer trip to Europe by our aunt. We each sailed from the Hudson on the SS Nieuw Amsterdam. He departed in 1959 from Hoboken and I in 1965 from Manhattan. I was 14 years old and the memories of how fantastic all that was have grown steadily. For many years I have been collecting photos, deck plans, models, and whatever else I could find. The ship was broken up in 1974 and she passed from us before we collectively could look back at this age, more knowingly, and send in a team of photographers to document her. (And one good recording of her steam whistles.) My own sense is that there isn't all that much available, given my own efforts. This book is wonderful. My comments are not from any professional perspective, but rather the sense of satisfaction that I instantly felt. The cover art alone is spectacular. I was recently at dinner with my brother and I produced this book that I had hidden in a bag. He was almost speechless and I asked if he wanted it. He took it and said that he intended to frame the cover picture. (I have just ordered another copy for myself.) For anyone who has a connection to the glamorous age of transatlantic travel, and if you have "your" ship, there is no other ship that could be as wonderful for you. The SS Nieuw Amsterdam is that ship for me. This book has given me something closer and dearer to my own vivid recollections. I have several other books by this author and have enjoyed each one. I don't know how I had missed that this book was available.

Long gone are the days of WHM's Carmania Books high quality celebratory tomes. His latest books are cheaply made, poorly written and rarely include unpublished photographs. His perky adjectives just ain't cutting it anymore. The photos are bottom notch and the captions are dead in the water. His latest books are so poorly constructed that they never fail to start losing leaves if the pages are repeatedly manipulated the way history buffs tend to do. Regarding the complaints above, this book might be the very worst of all.

This little book on the Holland America liner the Nieuw Amsterdam is fairly interesting, although not many new facts are presented here for the knowledgeable shiplover. The history of this ship is presented in a few brief but accurate -as far as I can judge- chapters. For its circa 30 dollars (including shipping) it is a pity that the black and white photo's are printed in a fashionable sepia colour, fitting for a historic liner, but the sharpness is greatly reduced, and that's a pity, because there are still quite some pictures new to me, even though I have a nice collection of Nieuw Amsterdam books, photo's and deckplans etc. In short, comfortable reading after the late news for 2 or 3 evenings, and then it will gather dust in the bookcase.

This magnificent ship needs a far better book to cover her long history. While Mr. Miller is an excellent writer he tends to gloss over many aspects of this ship's career. The entire book has the appearance of being a rush job to get it out on the market. Mr. 'Ocean Liner' (Miller) is capable of producing far better books than these booklets. Perhaps quality should be the overriding goal over quantity?

Yet another winner from the mind of William (Bill) Miller. If you have any interest in the Nieuw Amsterdam this is your book! There are many more colour photos than in most liner related books. You won't be sorry you made this purchase. The only issue I would say keeps this from being a 5 star product is the scant information that Mr. Miller includes on the very final years of the Nieuw Amsterdam. A little more info of those years would have made this a perfect book. This is a well written, well put together book; well up to and beyond Mr. Miller's usual excellent standards.

I love ships and cruising so this book about the SS Nieuw Amsterdam which entered service in 1938 as the Holland America Line flagship was a real pleasure. The book is packed with photographs showing not only the exterior but also the interior of this beautiful ship. Anyone who loves advertising posters from the past will enjoy the posters shown in this book. William Miller is an expert on ships and ocean travel and it shows on every fact-filled page. If you love the golden age of luxury ocean travel, you will want to own this book.

Nothing new here. It looks like Mr Miller got tired toward the end as the ship has almost no history after World War 2 despite a career that lasted into the 1970s. The Darling of the Dutch deserved better.

It is a wonderful work describing a this amazing Dutch ship filled with fine photographs. A great addition to my library!

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