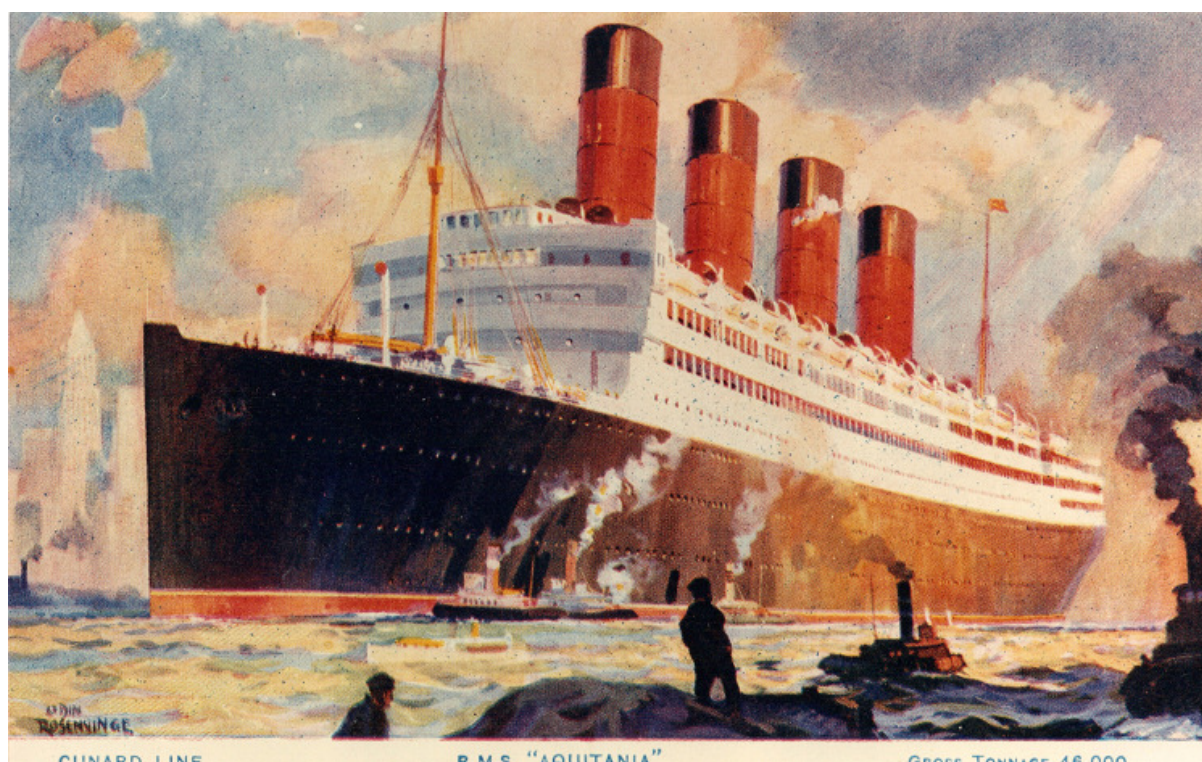




CUNARD

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE 'SHIP BEAUTIFUL'

Queen Victoria to make a rare Cunard overnight in Liverpool to celebrate Aquitania Centenary



CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. "AQUITANIA"

GROSS TONNAGE 46.000

When **Queen Victoria** arrives in Liverpool on Friday 30 May 2014 she will be celebrating history as well as making a little bit of history herself. **Queen Victoria** is in Liverpool to mark the departure, exactly 100 years earlier on 30 May 1914, of **Aquitania** one of the most famous and beloved ships in Cunard history. **Queen Victoria** will remain overnight thus making the first overnight call in Cunard's 'spiritual' home of Liverpool by a Cunard passenger ship since **Franconia** in January 1968 – almost 50 years ago!

The Liverpool call takes place during **Queen Victoria's** 13-night 'Around the British Isles' cruise which departs Southampton on 23 May. The cruise will also call at Edinburgh (from New Haven – a maiden call), Invergordon, Kirkwall (maiden call), Glasgow (from Greenock), Dublin, Cobh (Ireland) and St Peter Port (Guernsey) before arriving back in Southampton on 5 June

Activities planned to celebrate this unique call include local opera singer Danielle Thomas performing both during the afternoon on 30 May and for **Queen Victoria's** 31 May departure, and also for a Civic Reception and Dinner on board before late-evening fireworks will cap another day of Mersey maritime history.

Aquitania – a Cunard legend that became known as the 'Ship Beautiful' – is considered one of the most beautiful liners ever built and certainly the most beautiful four-funnelled liner ever constructed. She became one of the longest-serving Cunarders in history (36 years service), sailed more miles than any other (three million) and was the only major liner to serve in both World Wars. In fact Churchill credited her and the two Cunard Queens (**Mary** and **Elizabeth**) with shortening the Second World War by a year! Her length of Cunard service and miles sailed were both only surpassed by **QE2**.

Angus Struthers, Cunard Director, says:

“Each visit of a Cunard ship to the Mersey marks a new milestone for both Cunard and the City of Liverpool, our spiritual home. This call by **Queen Victoria** is special though – the departure of **Aquitania** exactly 100 years ago is something to celebrate and we intend to do that in true Cunard style on the actual day of the anniversary. Both Cunard and Liverpool have a lot to be proud of and a lot to look forward too – especially with the 2015 celebrations we have announced in the city to mark our 175th anniversary”.

Queen Victoria will have called at Greenock on the Clyde the previous day and this also has a close connection with **Aquitania** as she was built at the famous John Brown Shipyard on the Clyde.

An earlier Cunard ship, **Lusitania**, will be remembered for her loss in the First World War when **Queen Victoria** arrives in Cobh as is becoming the custom when Cunard ships call there.