



Watercraft Philately



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Cunard celebrates the first Queen



By Allan Fisk

The 80th anniversary of a major maritime event takes place this year.

On May 27, 1936, the **RMS QUEEN MARY** departed Southampton, England to begin her maiden voyage to New York City.

The Cunard White Star Liner **QUEEN MARY** was christened by Queen Mary, wife of King George V when the **QUEEN** was launched in Clydebank, Scotland, on Sept. 27, 1934.

QUEEN MARY was the first merchant ship to be christened in person by a queen of England. Special trains brought thousands of people to Southampton to witness the liner's departure.

It took four days, 12 hours and 20 minutes for the new superliner to complete her westward Atlantic voyage to New York City. She arrived on June 1, 1936 and was escorted up the Hudson River by a fleet of packed excursion boats. Hundreds of thousands of people packed the streets, piers and buildings on the Manhattan and New Jersey

Inside this issue:

Queen Mary	81
New Listings	86
Long Liners/Cargo	89
Emma Maersk	91
Canadian series	93
Tristan da Cunha	93



Photo 1 – This is one of the variety of cachet covers that were created to commemorate this sailing. The rivalry with the French line **NORMANDIE**, which had come out the year before, had begun.