



R.M.S. TITANIC *(The Unsinkable Ship)*



While reading about the *Titanic* we often ignore the letters preceding the name of the ship. 'R.M.S.' which is short for *Royal Mail Steamer*, thus indicating that the *Titanic* was contracted to carry mail, and in fact had an onboard Post Office, manned by five postal workers sworn to protect the mail. Their mammoth task was to sort 3243 sacks of mail holding over 2000 pieces of mail each. Like several hundred others, they too lost their lives, even as they continued carrying out their fiduciary duties; they were last seen dragging out sacks of mail from the mail room into the post office in a gallant though fruitless effort to save the mail as the *Titanic* slid beneath the icy waters.



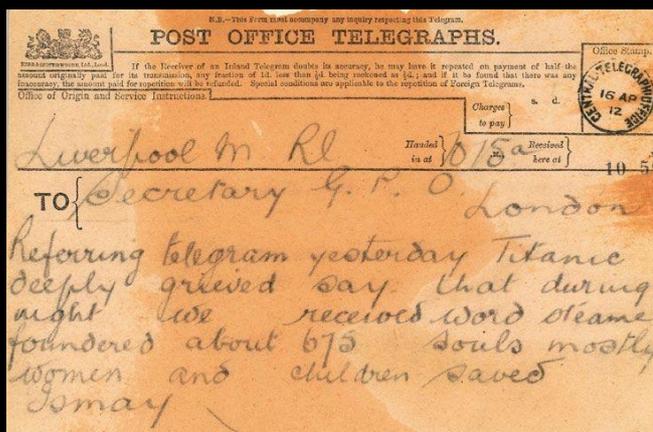
Mails being loaded on R.M.S. Titanic



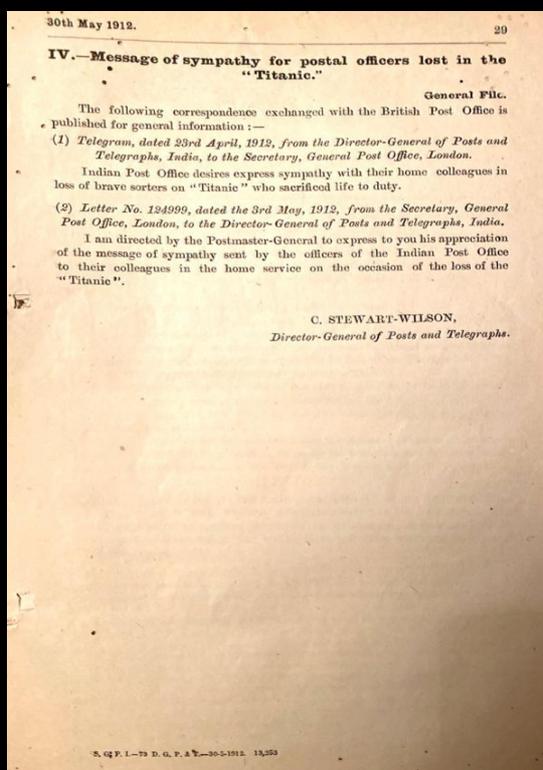
The postal workers



Unfortunately, the fascinating and eventful history of transatlantic mails remains an understudied subject.



The last telegram transmitted informing about the disaster

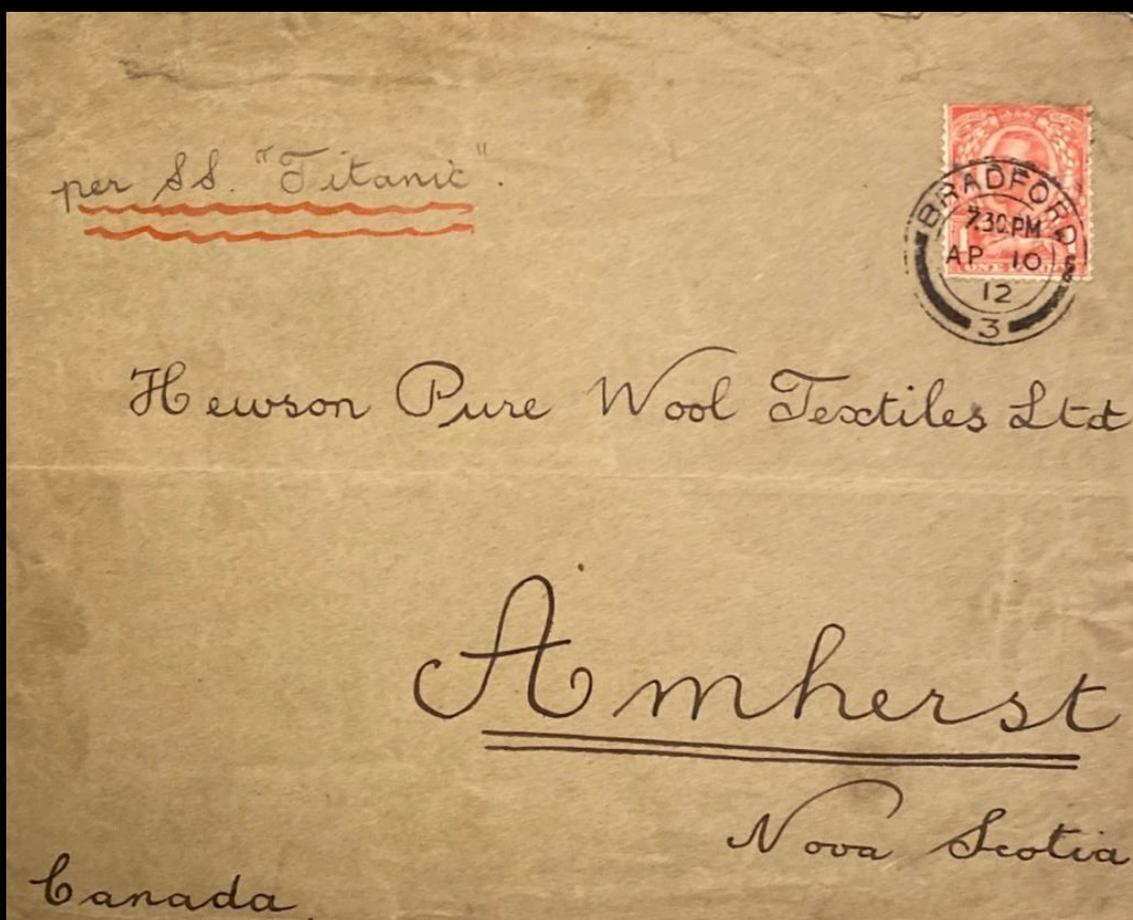


(This cover and the postal circular is part of Rudraksh collection.)

Above is the postal circular of Indian post office showing the correspondence between the London and India post office mourning the death of the brave postmen on board the ship which sank on the night of 14-15 April 1912 after colliding with an iceberg.



It gives me immense pleasure to bring to you the *only* surviving cover, that was just avoided being lost on the *Titanic*. This cover was intended to connect with the infamous *R.M.S Titanic*, on October 11th but was posted too late to connect with the *Titanic* and missed the ship, due to which it was carried on the subsequent ship, thus becoming the only surviving cover, as all mail on board the *Titanic* was lost.



(This cover and the postal circular is part of Rudraksh collection.)

R.M.S. Titanic. 1912 (April 10) Cover franked 1 d from Bradford to Nova Scotia endorsed per S.S. Titanic, intended to connect with the ship on October 11th but posted too late to connect with the sailing from Queenstown, carried on the subsequent ship to leave Queenstown with Amherst N.S. arrival backstamp (April 22).