

## Titanic postcard could sell for \$15,000 at auction

10th April, 2021



Image: RR Auction

A postcard written by a worker on the Titanic in 1912 could fetch \$15,000 at an auction in the USA. The card was written by Jack Phillips, the ship's senior wireless

operator. He wrote the card to his sister while the Titanic was at port in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He wrote: "Very busy working late. Hope to leave on Monday and arrive in Southampton Wednesday afternoon. Hope you are OK." His message ends with the words, "Love, Jack." The postcard features photos of the Titanic on one side. On the address side of the card there is a postmark from a post office in Belfast. The card is one of many objects from the wreck of the Titanic in a multi-million-dollar auction.

The Titanic was a British passenger liner completed in 1912. Its builders said the ship's design made it unsinkable. It embarked on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York on April the 10th, 1912 and sank in the North Atlantic Ocean five days later. The ship hit an iceberg. The impact made a huge hole in the ship's hull. Of the estimated 2,224 passengers and crew on board, more than 1,500 died. Mr Phillips abandoned ship as water flooded the Titanic. He escaped and ended up on an overturned lifeboat. He waited to be rescued but died of exposure to severe cold. He was 25 years old. The story of the Titanic was made into a 1997 Oscar-winning movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

Sources: [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) / [9news.com](http://9news.com) / [nypost.com](http://nypost.com)

## Writing

A postcard is worth \$15,000. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

postcard / auction / senior / operator / sister / port / message / address / object / passenger / liner / design / voyage / hole / water / lifeboat / rescued / movie

## True / False

- a) The auction for the postcard will take place in America. T / F
- b) The postcard was written by a Titanic worker to his brother. T / F
- c) The postcard features photos of London. T / F
- d) The postcard is the only thing up for auction. T / F
- e) The Titanic's designers said the ship was unsinkable. T / F
- f) The Titanic hit an iceberg five days into its maiden voyage. T / F
- g) More than half of the Titanic's passengers died. T / F
- h) The man who wrote the postcard drowned. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>written</b>   | a. started        |
| 2. <b>senior</b>    | b. finishes       |
| 3. <b>busy</b>      | c. serious        |
| 4. <b>ends</b>      | d. things         |
| 5. <b>objects</b>   | e. higher-ranking |
| 6. <b>embarked</b>  | f. collision      |
| 7. <b>voyage</b>    | g. left           |
| 8. <b>impact</b>    | h. penned         |
| 9. <b>abandoned</b> | i. journey        |
| 10. <b>severe</b>   | j. hard at work   |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of ocean liners and cruise ships?
- c) Where would you like to go to on a cruise?
- d) Would you rather receive a postcard or a social media message?
- e) What are postcards from your town like?
- f) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- g) Have you seen the movie 'Titanic'?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the auctioneers?

## Phrase Match

- |                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. the ship's senior wireless      | a. made it unsinkable     |
| 2. while the Titanic was at        | b. objects from the wreck |
| 3. On the address side of the card | c. an iceberg             |
| 4. The card is one of many         | d. cold                   |
| 5. in a multi-                     | e. operator               |
| 6. builders said the ship's design | f. there is a postmark    |
| 7. It embarked on                  | g. flooded the Titanic    |
| 8. The ship hit                    | h. million-dollar auction |
| 9. water                           | i. its maiden voyage      |
| 10. died of exposure to severe     | j. port in Belfast        |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the Titanic?
- What do you think of postcards?
- What do you think of a postcard selling for \$15,000?
- What do you think of ocean cruises?
- When have you written a postcard?
- Do we need postcards when we have smartphones?
- Would you like to go to an auction?
- Why might someone buy objects from the wreck of the Titanic?

## Spelling

- ctefh \$15,000 at an auction
- the ship's senior wireless toeprar
- and rivera in Southampton
- His agesmes ends with the words
- On the sddaers side of the card
- many cbsetoj from the wreck
- a British seseangrp liner
- It embarked on its maiden govaye
- The ship hit an ecbrieg
- the tsiteeamd 2,224
- Mr Phillips naodadben ship
- died of exposure to veeers cold

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. d
6. a	7. i	8. f	9. g	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Ocean Liner

You think ocean liner is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplane, bicycle or on foot.

### Role B – Airplane

You think airplane is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): ocean liner, bicycle or on foot.

### Role C – Bicycle

You think bicycle is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplane, ocean liner or on foot.

### Role D – On Foot

You think on foot is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplane, bicycle or ocean liner.

## Speaking – Travel

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to travel at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| • Ocean liner | • Bus       |
| • Train       | • Motorbike |
| • Bicycle     | • Car       |
| • Airplane    | • On foot   |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.