

Omaha's RMS Titanic Connection

By Tom Murnan

Our April event will be a Titanic theme, since this is the hundredth anniversary of the Titanic's sinking. Titanic aficionados know that Omaha, NE has a connection to the Titanic disaster. Emil Brandeis, youngest of three sons of Jonas L. Brandeis who founded the Boston Store, and later J.L. Brandeis, Omaha's most successful department store, died as a result of the ship sinking on 4/15/1912. We are fast approaching the hundredth anniversary of the disaster.



Emil Brandeis in Egypt

After a trip to Egypt and Europe, Emil Brandeis booked his first-class passage to America aboard the RMS Titanic, the largest ship in the world at the time. Emil, according to witnesses, was playing cards when the Titanic struck an iceberg. He and approximately 1400 other passengers died in the sinking. Emil's body was one of 328 bodies recovered. Among the items found on his person were diamond cuff links, a gold ring, a gold cigarette box, a pearl tiepin, and his pocket watch.



Gold pocket watch recovered from Emil's clothing.



Surviving game box with poker chips.



New York Times Headlines Tuesday April 16th, 1912



Scale model of the Titanic with White Star Line pennant

Thanks to the Durham Museum for the images and history. The artifacts are currently on display in the basement of the museum.

Also for you Titanic lovers out there, there have been some fascinating articles you can link to feed your addiction. From the March 2012 Smithsonian Magazine comes a story called

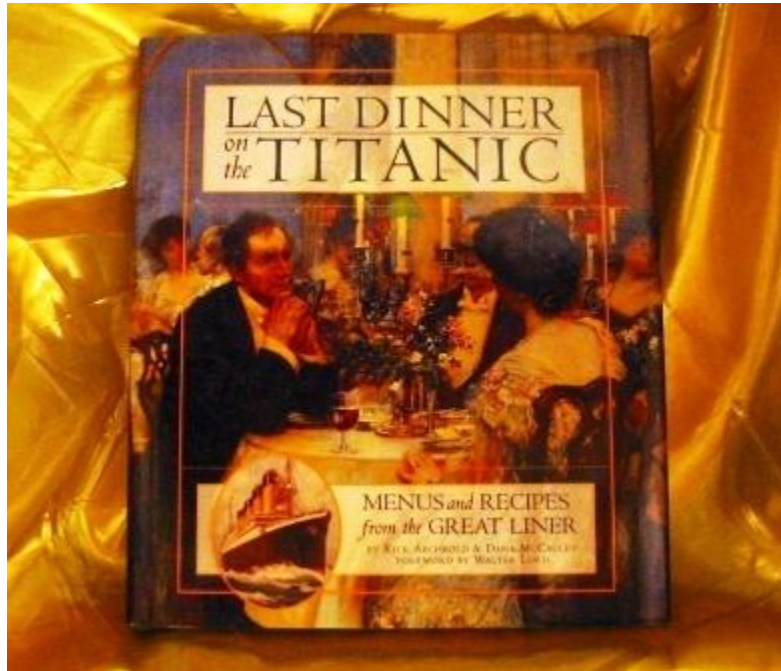
Why The Titanic Still Fascinates Us. It is a little long, but worth the read. Among other things, it focuses on survivors of the disaster and what happened to them:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Why-the-Titanic-Still-Fascinates-Us.html?c=y&page=1>

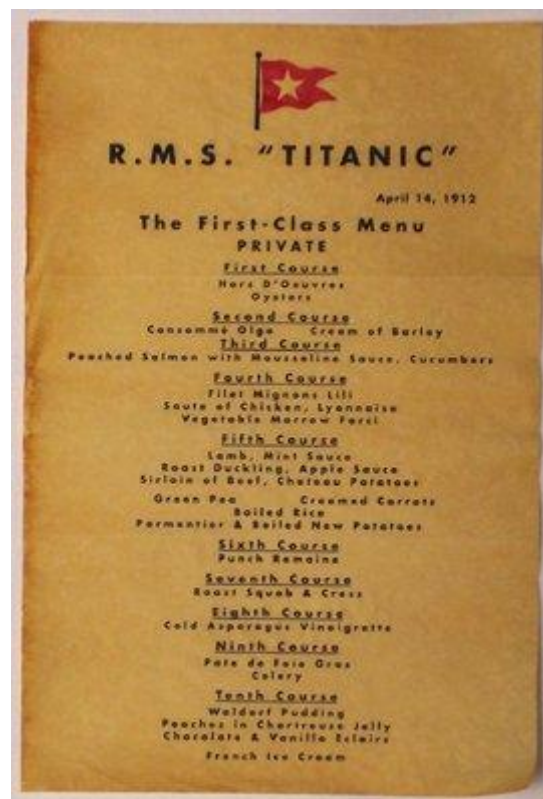


Also worth reading in the same link is: Did the Titanic sink because of an optical illusion? And seven famous people who missed the Titanic.

There are hundreds of books written on the Titanic Disaster, including **Last Dinner on the Titanic**



The First-Class Menu As served in the first-class dining saloon of the R.M.S. Titanic on April 14, 1912



First Course

Hors D'Oeuvres
Oysters

Second Course

Consommé Olga
Cream of Barley

Third Course

Poached Salmon with Mousseline Sauce, Cucumbers

Fourth Course

Filet Mignons Lili
Saute of Chicken, Lyonnaise
Vegetable Marrow Farci

Fifth Course

Lamb, Mint Sauce
Roast Duckling, Apple Sauce
Sirloin of Beef, Chateau Potatoes
Green Pea
Creamed Carrots
Boiled Rice
Parmentier & Boiled New Potatoes

Sixth Course

Punch Romaine

Seventh Course

Roast Squab & Cress

Eighth Course

Cold Asparagus Vinaigrette

Ninth Course

Pate de Foie Gras
Celery

Tenth Course

Waldorf Pudding
Peaches in Chartreuse Jelly
Chocolate & Vanilla Eclairs
French Ice Cream

Different wines were served for each course. After the tenth course, fresh fruits and cheeses were available followed by coffee and cigars accompanied by port and, if desired, distilled spirits. If you have to have a last dinner, you could do a lot worse!



Titanic wine bottles. lying still intact five miles down on the Atlantic Ocean floor.

Unfortunately, we really do not know what composed the Titanic wine list. All that was documented in her manifest was that 1000 bottles of wine, 850 spirits and 191 liquor cases were aboard. No doubt, Champagne and Bordeaux were prominent. Heidsieck & Company Monopole Blue Top Champagne Brut was the official Champagne of the Titanic. Möet Champagne bottles were also found on the sea floor. Click on this link for more on Champagne from the Titanic: <http://bordeaux-undiscovered.co.uk/blog/2010/09/shipwrecked-champagne-from-the-titanic/>