

Isle of Man Celebrates Cunard Anniversary

On May 25 the Isle of Man Post Office celebrated the 175th Anniversary of the Cunard shipping Line's first transatlantic service with a set of special edition collectibles. In addition to being available on the Isle of Man website, they were also sold at the Liverpool Council's pop up shops, located along the Liverpool Waterfront during Cunard's 175th Anniversary (May 24-26) and the 2015 International Mersey River Festival (June 5-7).

There are three covers, two of which feature artist Robert Lloyd's homecoming of the three Cunard Queens lined up together on the River Mersey in front of Liverpool's world-famous UNESCO World Heritage Site waterfront, with the historic Cunard Building "holding pride of place."

Liverpool, forever an important part of Cunard's history, also marked the 175th Anniversary of the Cunard Line on May 25 with an unprecedented sighting of all three Cunard ships, the *Queen Mary II*, *Queen Victoria* and *Queen Elizabeth*, together back where Cunard



originated. The covers are available as signed and unsigned versions, postmarked May 25, 2015 and accompanied by three stamps depicting each of the three cruise liners. In addition, another souvenir is a print limited to 175 copies, personally signed by Robert Lloyd, showing the three ships lined up, which also includes the three stamps and the May 25 postmark.

Finally, there is a limited edition large format cover featuring artist Robert Lloyd's impression of Cunard Line's RMS *Lusitania* on the Mersey which is postmarked 7 May 2015. This edition is personally signed and numbered by the artist and then accompanied by a single stamp from John Halsall's Maritime History miniature sheet which depicts the sinking of the *Lusitania* with rescue boat the *Peel Wanderer* PL11.

For information on this and other Isle of Man new issues and collectibles go to: <https://www.iompost.com/stamps-coins/>.