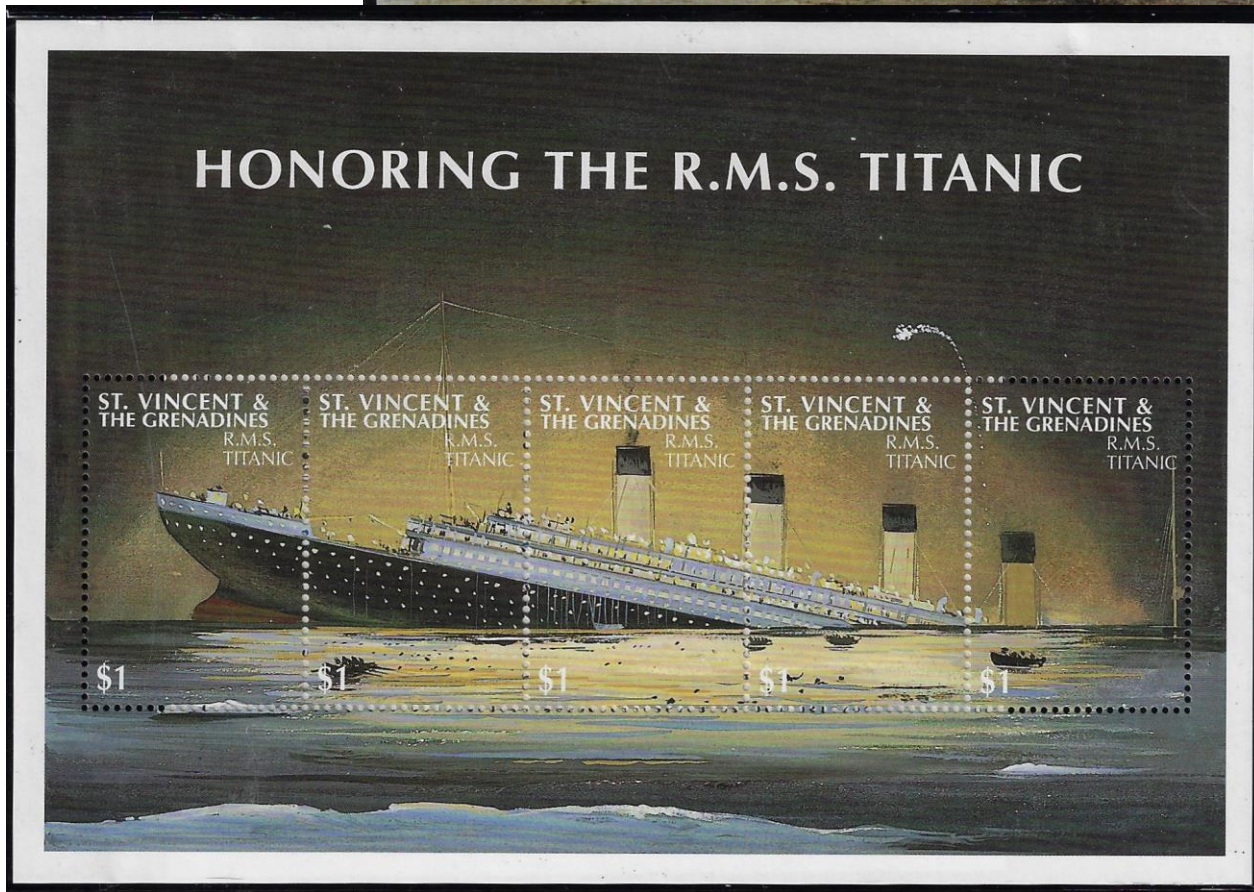


Titanic

The (1910 – 1919) Decade

HMS Titanic built in Belfast (1909 – 1911) by White Star Line. Launched 02 April 1912. Arrived in Southampton 04 April 1912. Billed as most luxurious cruise ship in world. Nearly 900 feet long and 100 feet high. Top speed 30 knots. Virtually unsinkable. 1,308 passengers, crew 898 boarded and set sail on maiden voyage 10 April 1912. She stopped in Queenstown before heading across North Atlantic to New York. Mild winter produced numerous icebergs. Titanic was warned by other ships, but messages went unheeded.

On 15 April 1912, 5 days out, Titanic hit an iceberg and sank in Atlantic, with loss of 1,517 lives. Crew spotted hazard and avoided head-on collision, struck on starboard side. Ripped open six air tight compartments, was designed to survive up to four. She sent SOS signal, first ever sent. Titanic's position was Latitude 41° 46' N and Longitude 50° 14' W.



Passengers ordered to lifeboats, only enough for ½ people on board. Survivors were 1st Class women and children who made it to life boats. 3rd Class passengers not allowed on deck until after 1st Class passengers had abandoned ship. White Star President Bruce Ismay jumped onto last lifeboat leaving with women and children stranded on board. Ship broke in half and sank. Captain Edward Smith, Bridge Crew and 3rd Class passengers went down with ship. 705 people from lifeboats were saved. Captain & Bridge Crew were blamed for tragedy, none of whom survived. Now, all passenger ships are required to have enough lifeboats for all passengers on board.