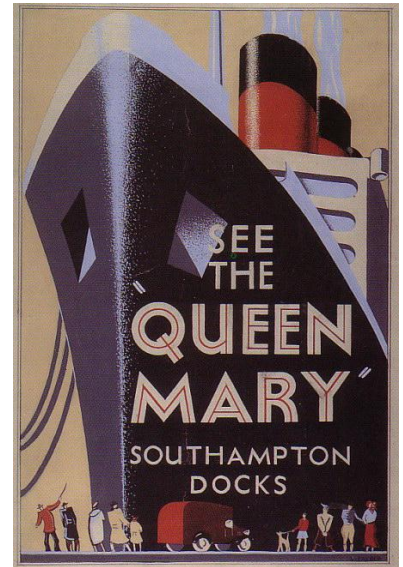


THE QUEEN MARY G.E.C.

Built by John Brown & Co in Clydebank, Scotland, the Queen Mary was launched in 1934 and made her maiden voyage in 1936 to New York. She then sailed until her retirement in Long Beach, California in 1967 where she is now a floating Hotel and Convention Centre.

Commissioned to be one of the greatest Atlantic Ocean Liners, Queen Mary's interiors were designed in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Smooth Art-Deco lines were the style of the day and that influenced the ships design and selection of fittings.

The Ivory Gecophone shown in the attached pictures was an ideal choice at that time - obviously GEC would have been delighted to have their phone selected for the QM staterooms. Quite advanced, at that time a passenger could also place a call from ship to shore.



The Gecophone was used in many prestige installations such as the Queen Mary and the Royal Train. When the Queen Mary ended her service, quite a few of these phones reached private collections. They are very easily recognised by the unique dial lable offering ship to shore telephone calls from the passenger's own stateroom. It is worth noting on the pictures of my own example that they also had a unique "Gold" cir-clip holding the dial lable in place. The plug connector too is one that I haven't seen before and would obviously have been a fitting designed for ease of maintenance and replacement.



Whilst the phone is almost exactly the same as other Gecophones that I've seen, it does have some unusual characteristics -

1. The receiver diaphragm is marked as Richard Thomas & Baldwin's Limited (manufacturer)
2. The transmitter insert is quite a different "orange" shade to what I've seen before.
3. The cradle is a different shape, reaching closer to the dummy dial. There is a soft spring stretched around the point where the Bakelite body meets the cradle - it looks like it may be intended to keep out vermin.
4. Mentioned before, the unusual line cord plug.