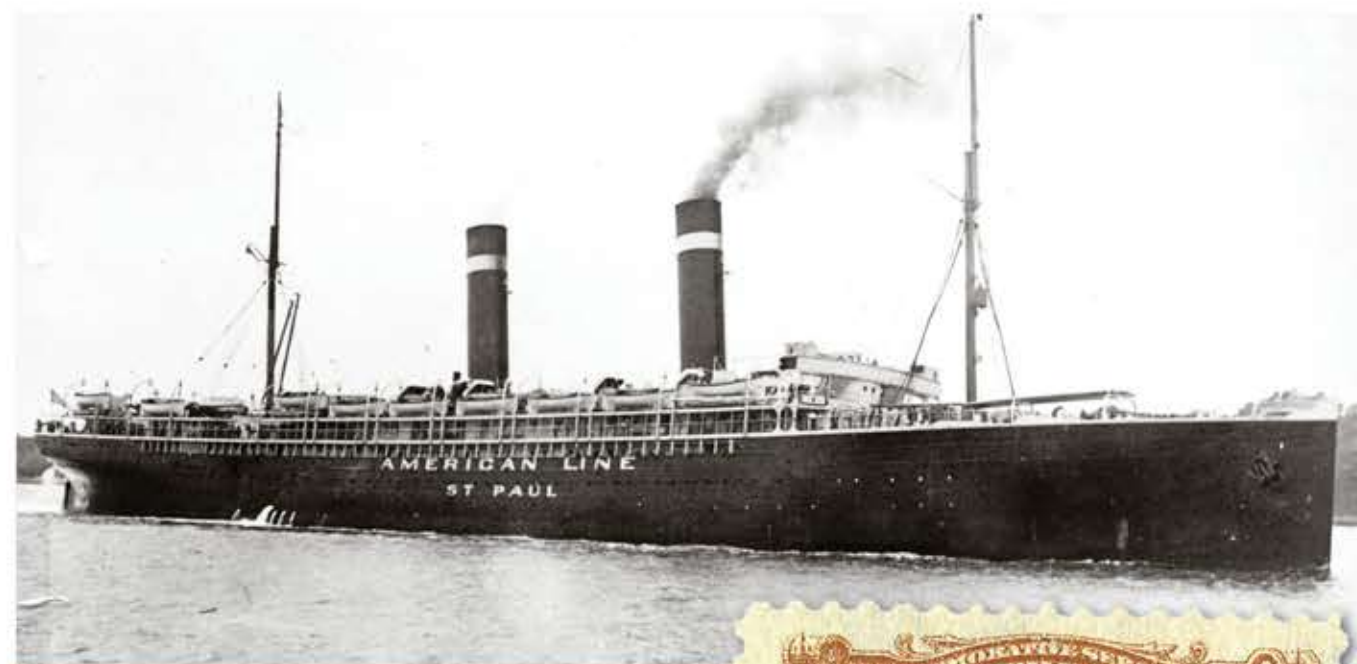




*Saint Paul* showing how its name and that of American Line were displayed on the side of the hull.

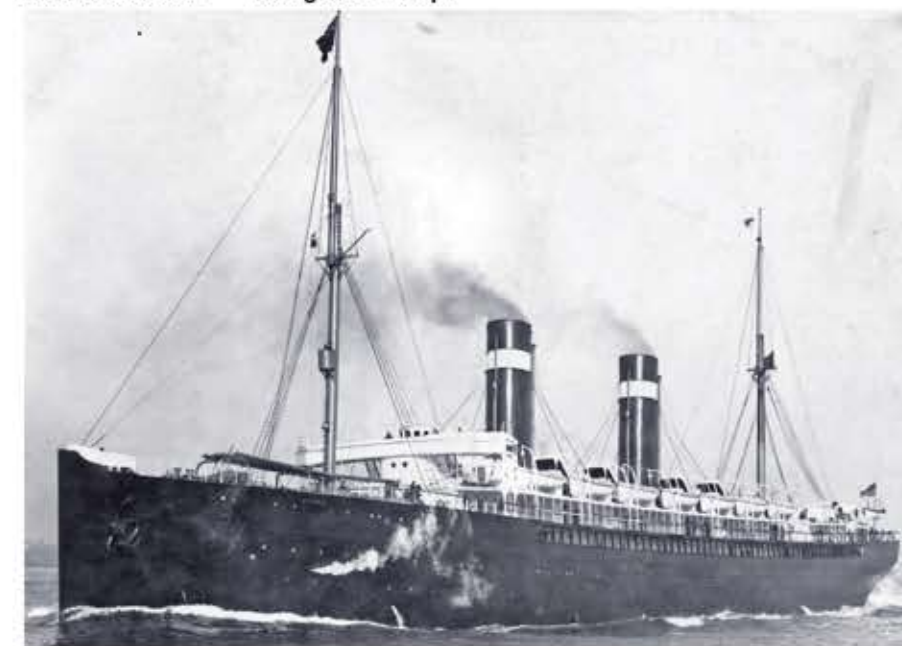
**O**n 10 April 1895, the yard at William Cramp & Sons in Philadelphia saw a flurry of activity as a new steel passenger liner was launched. She was SS *Saint Paul*, which was owned by the International Navigation Company (INC) and was scheduled for operation as a transatlantic ocean liner. Created by Clement Acton Griscom, INC had several distinguished shipping companies under its wings including Red Star Line and the American Line. An imposing ship, *Saint Paul* was 553-ft 2-in long with a 63-ft beam and a draft of 28-ft. She weighed in at 15,150-tons and had a top speed of 22-knots. *Saint Paul* was designed for 1420 passengers comprising 320 first class, 200 second class, and 900 steerage. *Saint Paul* and sistership *Saint Louis* each had 17 watertight compartments and this was two decades before *Titanic*. The ships were the first large liners built in the USA since 1857 — other large American liners had all been European in origin. The ships were ordered to take advantage of the subsidies set aside by the Merchant Marine Act of 1891. The sisterships were the last such large passenger liners built in the USA until the 1930s.

*Saint Paul* would have been launched on 25 March 1895, but a faulty slipway had to be corrected.

The liner was delivered to the American Line on 4 October and on the 9th of that month, she departed on her maiden voyage between New York and Southampton. *Saint Paul* immediately went to work on the transatlantic



During 1901, the US Post Office produced a set of stamps for the Pan-American Exposition. Many of the stamps reflected a "speed" theme. *Saint Paul* was selected for the ten cent Fast Ocean Navigation stamp. The Spanish-American War was still fresh in the minds of many Americans and *Saint Paul's* fame made it an obvious choice for the Fast Ocean Navigation stamp.



*Saint Paul* and sistership *Saint Louis* were the largest American ocean liners and offered impressive service.

# SAINT PAUL'S SAGA

BUILT AS A PIONEERING AMERICAN TRANSATLANTIC LINER, SS SAINT PAUL  
WOULD COMPILE A MOST INTERESTING HISTORY THAT INCLUDED ACTION IN TWO WARS  
BY REG MILLER

The stricken USS *Saint Paul* after capsizing in New York's North River on 28 April 1918.