

Titanic Centenary

Titanic Top Ten

- 1** The Titanic was insured for £1m, an enormous amount given that the total insured amount for all marine losses for 1912 came to £6.75m (including the Titanic).
- 2** The owners of the Titanic, White Star, were paid their £1m insurance claim by Lloyd's in full within 30 days of the ship's sinking.
- 3** Lloyd's signal station at Cape Race was one of the first to receive the Titanic's distress call. The signal stations were set up in 1901 to help ships detect 'floating derelicts, ice or other dangers to navigation'.
- 4** The life insurance policy pay-out to the wife of John B. Thayer, prominent Philadelphian businessman, who drowned when the Titanic went down, was the largest of its time-she received \$50,000. Bizarrely she died on exactly the same day-15th April-32 years later in 1944.
- 5** The sinking of the Titanic brought the first ever claim for a car damaged in a collision with an iceberg. William Ernest Carter survived and claimed \$5000 for his 25 horsepower Renault that went down with the ship.
- 6** Whilst there was no shortage of those looking to underwrite the Titanic's insurance, one Lloyd's member-British Dominions Marine Insurance-refused to sign the insurance slip saying that the vessel 'sat too low in the water 'which didn't instil confidence.
- 7** The RMS Carpathia, which became famous for rescuing the survivors of the Titanic, was herself sunk in the Atlantic 4 years later during the First World War after being torpedoed by a German U-boat.
- 8** Titanic only had enough lifeboats for 1200 people, yet her maximum capacity was 3500. Surprisingly, the life boat provision was more than the required minimum. Two years after the disaster, new rules were brought in requiring ships to carry enough lifeboats for all those aboard.
- 9** Insurers continued to trade reinsurance on the Titanic even after she sank; following a message from the Exchange Telegraph in New York saying that Titanic was safe and being towed to Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- 10** Walter Gray, the wireless operator at Cape Race was a friend of his counterpart on the Titanic, Jack Phillips. Both had been to the Marconi wireless school together. A few months before the Titanic's voyage, Phillips passed Cape Race on the Titanic's sister ship, the Olympic, and sent Gray a message that he would be back soon on the Titanic.