A Cultural and Historical Narrative of the Titanic

Jillian Woodfield

First Advisor
Dr. Erica Heinsen-Roach, Ph.D. Visiting Assistant Professor, History

Publisher
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Document Type
Thesis

Language
en_US

Date Available
May 2014

Publication Date
2014

Date Issued
April 2014

Abstract
Unlike the little engine that could make it up the steep hill, the Titanic could not make it across the vast Atlantic, and yet it has fascinated and inspired people for generations. By definition, the word “titanic” means monumental, gigantic, or colossal. When people hear the word, however, they do not think of its literal meaning, but associate it with the ship that suffered a tremendous tragedy. The story of the Titanic did not end the night it sank on a frigid night more than one-hundred years ago. Indeed, it is a never-ending story that has been added to and changed revised. The story of the Titanic is made up of witness accounts, discoveries made by modern technology, and society’s perceptions that fit together like pieces of a puzzle in the same way the pieces of the wreckage once fit together to make up the ship. Even though the survivors have long since passed on, and the once elegant ship slowly decays into dust, there are movies, documentaries, and plentiful museums that continue to spark interest and captivate the imagination of the audience.

Comments
A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the University Honors Program, University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Creative Commons License

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License.

Recommended Citation

https://digital.usfsp.edu/honorstheses/169

Social history and the film ‘Titanic’. One of the conclusions you may have come to from the previous section is of the prime importance during the early twentieth century of the concept
of 'class'; the upper and lower class system whereby the lower class should know their place. In the film 'Titanic' James Cameron has highlighted the concept of class by positioning the story of Jack and Rose against the backdrop of the sinking of the Titanic. The fact is that the two characters are from the two extremes of the class system. Rose appears to be from the wealthiest of families (although we later