Exhibiting maritime histories: Titanic Belfast in the Post-Conflict City

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Abstract

The sinking of the RMS Titanic in 1912 represents one of the most infamous maritime disasters in the history of shipping. Yet despite it entering the public imagination in the decades after its sinking, until recently it has all but been erased from the collective memory of the people of Belfast, the city in which it was built. In a post-conflict context, however, Belfast has begun to re-imagine the role of the ship in the city’s history, most particularly in the re-development of the docklands area and its designation as the Titanic Quarter, and through its landmark project the Titanic Belfast museum. This paper will trace the economic, social and political context from which the Titanic was built, and the role that this played in silencing any very public commemoration of its sinking until after the signing of the Belfast Agreement. The ‘story’ told in the new museum will be analysed from this perspective and will illustrate how the wounds of the Troubles continue to inform the interpretation of the city’s divided past.

Keywords
Titanic Belfast; Post-Conflict City; Museum Interpretation

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Titanic Belfast is the World's largest Titanic visitor experience and must-see attraction in Northern Ireland! Explore the shipyard, walk the decks, travel to the depths of the ocean and uncover the true legend of Titanic in the city where it all began. Read More. GIFT VOUCHERS. Treat a loved one to a Titanic Belfast Gift Card and choose from a host of Titanic Experiences, shopping or dining! Read More. White star premium pass. The ultimate Titanic Experience - our White Star Pass provides entry to Titanic Belfast, SS Nomadic & the Discovery Tour. Read More. What's On Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival. date_range 25 May 2018. location_on Titanic Quarter. The magnificent masts of Tall Ships return to Belfast's quaysides, signalling the start of one of the city’s most popular family events, the Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival. Returning for its 11th year, our quaysides will come alive on the last bank holiday weekend in May, from 25 - 27 May 2019. Visitors are invited to: Hop aboard some magnificent vessels. Sample an array of maritime-themed family fun and food. Watch roving international street performers and shows. There will also be lots to see and do over the weekend in Titanic Quarter with live music, authentic nautical cuisine and famil...