

Postcard from Titanic's radio operator being sold at auction

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The card, with a glossy image of the ill-fated ship on the front, was written by Jack Phillips to his sister, Elsie Phillips, in March 1912 while awaiting the ship's first sea trials, according to RR Auction in Boston.

A photo copy of a postcard, provided by RR Auction, with a message written in March 1912 by the Titanic's senior wireless operator Jack Phillips, is shown with a postage stamp attached. The reverse side is dated May 31, 1911, and shows a photograph of the Titanic, in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The handwritten postcard was to Phillips' sister, Elsie Phillips. The postcard is to be auctioned by RR Auction. Image Source : AP

Boston: A postcard written by the Titanic's senior radio operator just weeks before the ocean liner sank in the North Atlantic in 1912 has been put up for auction.

The card, with a glossy image of the ill-fated ship on the front, was written by Jack Phillips to his sister, Elsie Phillips, in March 1912 while awaiting the ship's first sea trials, according to RR Auction in Boston.

"Very busy working late. Hope to leave on Monday & arrive Soton Wednesday afternoon. Hope you quite OK. Heard from Ethel yesterday," he wrote. It's signed "Love Jack."

It is postmarked Belfast, where the Titanic was built, and has a canceled halfpenny stamp.

A photo copy provided by RR Auction of a postcard dated May 31, 1911, shows the Titanic, in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The postcard was sent with a message written in March 1912 by Jack Phillips, the Titanic's senior wireless operator, to his sister. The postcard is to be auctioned by RR Auction. Image Source : AP

Soton is a contraction of Southampton, the English port city from where the Titanic departed on its maiden voyage. It sank in the early morning hours of April 15.

Phillips, who turned 25 on board, stayed at his post after the Titanic struck an iceberg to send calls for assistance to other ships in the area until water was lapping around his feet, according to RR Auction.

He made it off the ship after being told by the captain that he had done his duty, according to his biography in the British National Archives, but died of exposure in the frigid North Atlantic, according to RR Auction.

The postcard is being sold by the estate of Vera and John Gillespie, longtime members of the Massachusetts-based Titanic Historical Society, said Bobby Livingston, executive vice president at RR Auction.

It is expected to sell for around \$15,000 in the Fine Autographs and Artifacts auction that began March 26 and ends Wednesday, the day before the anniversary of the tragedy.

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wireless operator Jack Phillips, is shown with a postage stamp attached. The reverse side is dated May 31, 1911, and shows a photograph of the Titanic, in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The handwritten postcard was to Phillips' sister, Elsie Phillips. The postcard is to be auctioned by RR Auction. Image Source : AP

Phillips sent his sister hundreds of postcards during his career, often depicting the ship on which he was serving at the time. But only a handful were connected to the Titanic, Livingston said.

Titanic memorabilia is still popular, more than a century after the disaster, he said.

“It's one of those stories that still resonates around the world, about the hubris of man being taken out by nature,” he said.

- AP