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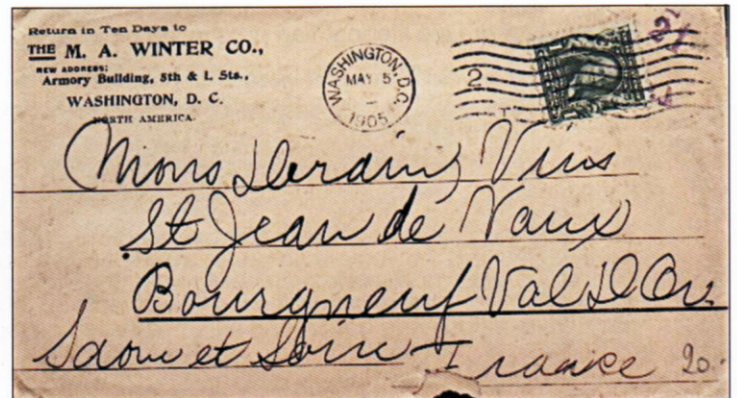


# Titanic Covers, Part Two

A number of covers have been found that bear a TITANIC mark on them (in 3 varieties, see [www.titaniccovers.com](http://www.titaniccovers.com)). The covers were sent from France, Denmark and Spain and all were mailed in March, 1912. Eighteen were sent to the M.A. Winters Company in Washington, DC, and one was addressed to Seattle, Washington. Jerry N. J. Vondeling's article *Titanic and the Winter Building Covers* in *The Titanic Commutator*, No. 218 2017 contained an error that Mr. Vondeling is addressing:



A cover sent to the Winter Company. - (THS collection)



A cover sent by the Winter Company. - (Authors collection)

I wrote that the letter sent to the possible future employee, written on August 28, 1912, referenced file number 6055. It is my belief the hand-written file number 5536 on the *Titanic* cover of March 1912 was in reference to a letter sent by the company in late February or early March in one of their own pre-stamped covers.

The THS mail piece mentioned in the article also with file number 5536 may be unrelated to the postal card sent to the Winter Company in September, 1912. It was sent to the Winter Company, not by the Winter Company, and thus is unrelated to the McKinley postcard in my collection.



Cobh, Ireland to Kampen, Netherlands. (Author's collection)

## Another White Star Line Related Cover

A while ago I came across the 1931 Irish cover (right) in an online auction. At first sight it isn't much to look at, but the "T 20" gave a clue that there was more to it. The interesting part proved to be on the reverse, where two Dutch postage due stamps totaling 12 ½ cents are found along with a White Star Line label sealing the envelope. The cover was sent by W.E. Aherne from the





White Star Line offices in Cobh, until 1920 known as Queenstown. It was addressed to the Secretary of the La Bolsa Cigar Works in Kampen, Holland. As I am Dutch and a White Star Line collector, this piece sparked my interest to do more research.

### About the Cigars

Founded in 1878 and formerly known as the C. J. Boele Cigar Works, La Bolsa was the largest cigar manufacturer in the region, headquartered in Kampen, about 75 miles northeast of The Hague and Rotterdam. Their cigars were a major export product, advertised in many Dutch language periodicals as distant as Sumatra and Batavia in the Dutch East Indies, more commonly known as Djakarta, Indonesia today. Could the White Star Line have had a business relationship with the firm, buying these for their ships departing Cobh?

A 1909 Spirit and Tobacco list from the Cunard line, White Star's competitor, only shows that cigars manufactured in Havana and Manilla were sold onboard.



The 1912 *Titanic* manifest lists the following cigars and brands available:

- Fernandez Garcia-Vincedores (1/- or 25c each) (left)
- Bock's Rothschild-Eleganties (6d or 13c each)
- Jose Morales (6d or 13c each) (left)
- Garcia Perlas- Finas (4d or 8c each)



Additional brands were found among the wreckage during *Titanic* salvage efforts, perhaps the preferred brands of some of the

passengers. Boxes and cigarette cards labeled Culbro Tobacco and General Cigar Co, Inc. were recovered. These were the predecessors of White Owl and Garcia y Vega brands (1)

It's possible that La Bolsa cigars may have been purchased by the White Star Line a decade or two later, especially their very popular "Uiltje" cigars that the company produced from 1902 right until the firm's closing in 1965. By that time cigars were out of fashion and cigarettes proved to be tobacco product of choice.

In 1934 the White Star Line merged with the Cunard Line, owning 38% of shares in the combined fleet. In 1949 Cunard bought the remaining 38% and the White Star Line ceased to exist.

*Proofread and edited by Thomas Fortunato*



Postcard of White Star Office in Queenstown. (Author's collection)

Vraagt van de Eerste Ned. Koninklijke Sigarenfabriek

**LA BOLSA - KAMPEN**

ROODVEST	Portorico. . . . .	1/2 pond. . . . .	f 0,75
ROODVEST	Varinas. . . . .	1/2 . . . . .	1,40
ROODVEST	Blanke Krul. . . . .	1/2 . . . . .	1,-
ROODVEST	Friesche Baai . . . . .	1/2 . . . . .	1,-
ROODVEST	Heerenbaai . . . . .	1/2 . . . . .	1,-

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Importeur :  
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**v.h. DOBBELMAN.** 449 e  
Pasar Besar Tel. 1021 Z. en Tandjoeng-Perak Tel. 2732 N.

Ad from De Indische Courant, Java, Dutch East Indies, 13-04-1928



VOORAAN UILTJE OWL Cigar Tobacco tin by La Bolsa Kampen Holland