



Anyone who would like to guess which ships this could be?



## TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition, by Lana Rodlie

Margaret Tobin Brown was in her first class suite, reading in bed, when the Titanic hit the iceberg, "knocking me right out of the bed and onto the carpet."

What followed was a deadly quiet.

"It alarmed me most when I heard the engines cut out," she said, describing how one gets quite used to the constant hum of the ship.

The actress playing the "Unsinkable Molly Brown" at the B.C. Royal Museum's Titanic Exhibit was so convincing, one would think she had just stepped out of a lifeboat. She even looked like period photos of Brown.

Dressed in 1900s clothing, she met visitors at the side of a replica of a first-class suite - a luxurious double bed with red embossed quilt, elegant furniture and Persian-style rug.

Keeping in character, she explained how she came to be one of 705 survivors on the fateful night of April 15, 1912 when 1,523 men, women and children perished during the world's most famous ocean tragedy.

"I came out and saw a fellow who said 'put on a life jacket.' I went and put on seven pairs of stockings and this suit, which I wasn't going to wear until we got to New York. But it's the warmest thing I had. And I put my fur coat over top, stuffed \$500 U.S. dollars in each pocket and my Egyptian good luck charm."

Brown soon found herself helping other women into the lifeboats - women who couldn't speak English.

"Suddenly I was grabbed and dropped into a lifeboat."

The boat had the capacity to hold 65 people but there were only 24, all under the care of a crewmember who was a "craven lunatic."

She described how the crewmember had been on the bridge when the ship hit the iceberg and how he "must have lost his mind at that moment.

"He kept on saying, no matter what we did, we'd be dead by morning."

She watched as 20 women said goodbye to their husbands and sons.

The crewman was hysterical and kept shouting that they were all going to die.

"I took charge," she said. "Because the man couldn't. I took off my stockings and distributed them to the other women and organized rowing - away from the Titanic as fast as we could, because we thought we'd be dragged down when it



sank."

(TITANIC, *The Artifact Exhibit*, cont. on page 64)