

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

**Europe - Liverpool, England**

13-16 December 1912

*The purpose of religion*

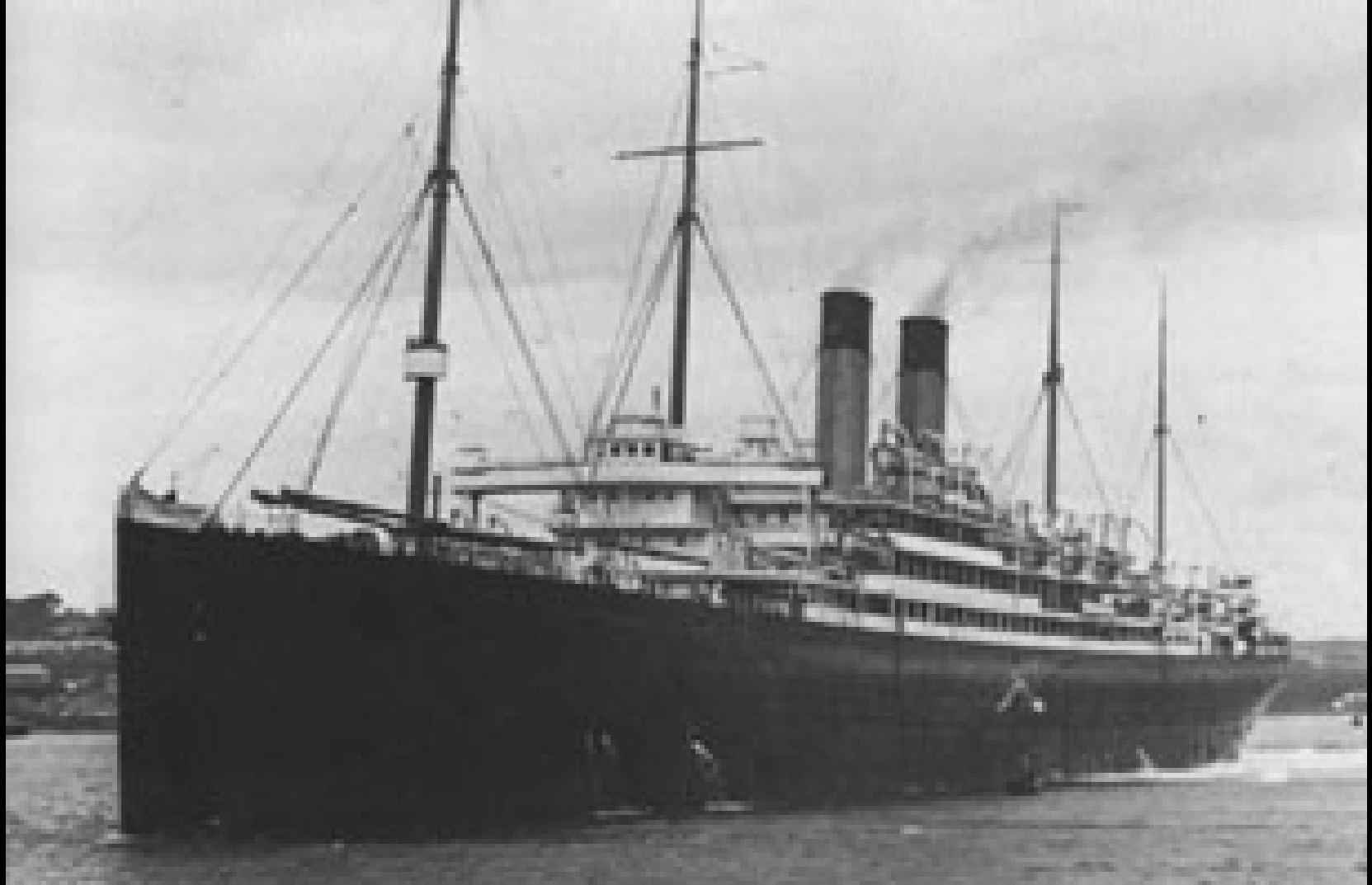
# Return to Europe

'Abdu'l-Bahá returned from America to Europe, arriving in England on 13 December 1912 and staying until 12 June 1913. He visited various communities in the United Kingdom, went to Paris from January to March 1913, then Germany, Budapest, Vienna, and back briefly to Paris before returning to Egypt, where He stayed until nearly the end of the year, going home to Haifa on 5 December 1913.

# Crossing the Atlantic Ocean

The crossing of the Atlantic Ocean on the *Celtic* took eight days. Mostly it was calm, but ‘Abdu’l-Bahá said He would like to see a big storm, saying to the Captain “*In future people will cross the Atlantic in airships; steamers will only carry freight.*” This was fifteen years before the first transatlantic flight.

(based on Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 273)

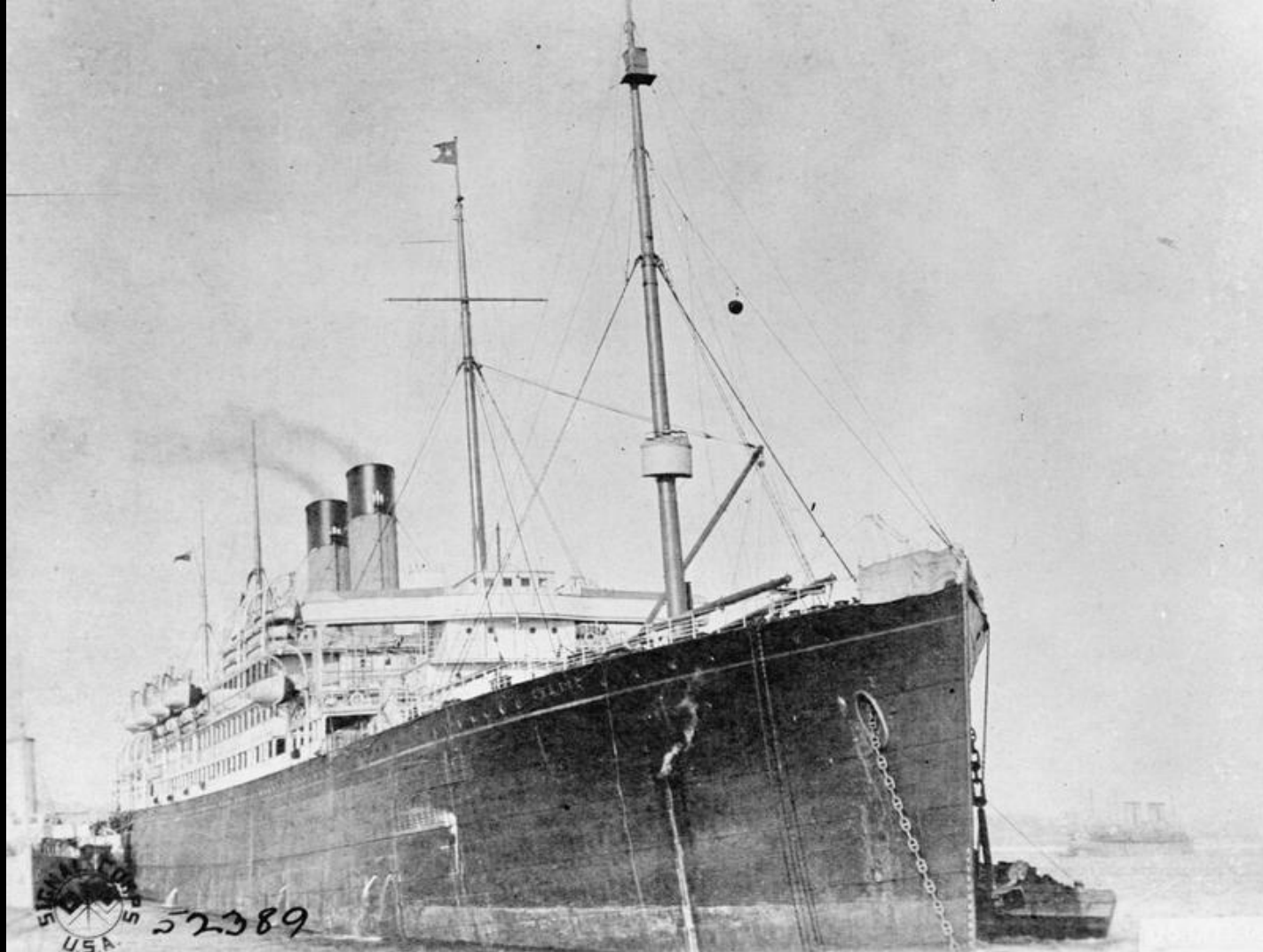


S.S. Celtic

# Crossing the Atlantic Ocean

When a storm finally came, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá watched from the deck, saying: *“Look at that imperial wave, how it mounts high and devours the smaller waves! It is a wonderful sight. This is the best day. I am enjoying it.”*

(based on Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 273)



S.S. Celtic at dock

# Liverpool, England

When the steamer docked in Liverpool the night of 13 December, Bahá'ís were there to greet Him. He stayed for two days in Liverpool and gave two talks. He first spoke to the Theosophical Society about the purpose of religion.

# The Purpose of Religion

*All the different religions of God that have risen on the face of the earth have one purpose: to educate man and to inform him of the spiritual, the luminous, the divine, so that he may partake of heavenly spirit and find eternal life, show forth the virtues of mankind, and from a world of darkness enter a world of light.*

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 274)



# The Purpose of Religion

*All the religions, all the prophets, all the great teachers had no other purpose than to raise mankind from the animal to the divine nature. Their purpose was to free man and to make him an inhabiter of the Realm of Reality.*

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 274)

# The Purpose of Religion

*For although the body of man is material, his reality is spiritual; although his body is darkness, his soul is light; although his body may seem to imprison him, his soul is essentially free. To prove this freedom, the prophets of God have appeared and will continue to appear, for there is no end to divine teachings and no beginning.*

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 274-275)

'Abdu'l-Bahá

