




Learning Objective:
To investigate what life was like on
board for the different classes.



Discuss this question with your partner:

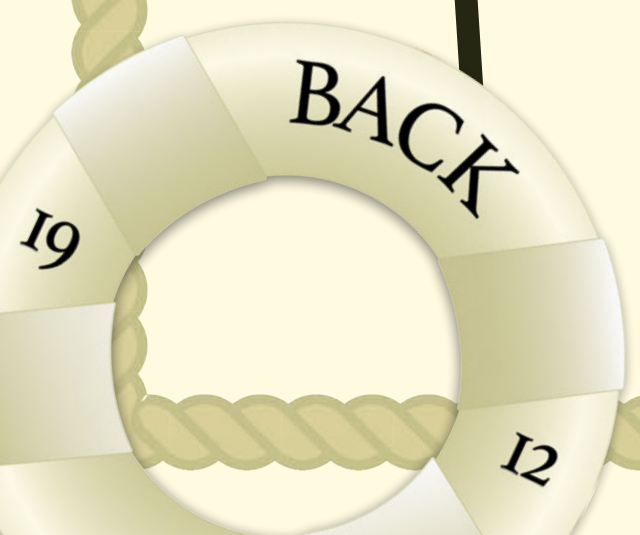


What was life like
aboard the Titanic?

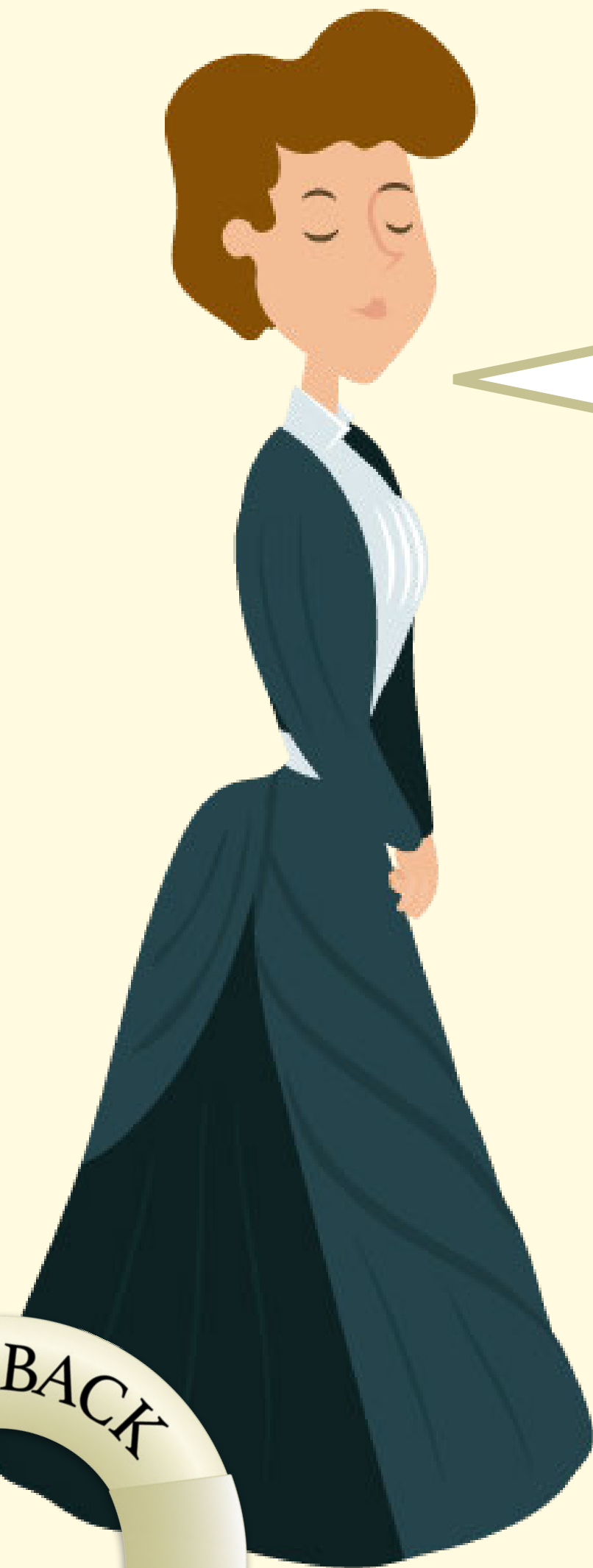
How could you find this out?

What primary sources could you use?

What secondary sources could you use?



There were approximately 1,300 passengers aboard the Titanic as it made its way across the Atlantic ocean.



At the time, a person's wealth or profession separated them into social classes: upper, middle and working class. Aboard the Titanic there were 324 first-class passengers, 284 second-class, and 709 third-class passengers.

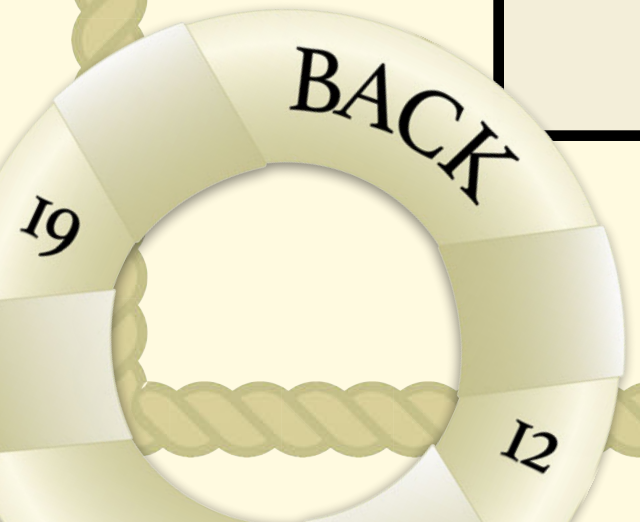
The Goodwin family, who travelled as third-class passengers aboard the Titanic.



The price of tickets to sail on the Titanic varied depending on the class of ticket bought. The highest priced first-class tickets promised unrivalled luxury aboard the biggest passenger liner in the world!

Ticket	Price in 1912	Price equivalent in 2016
First class	£30 to £870	£2,800 to £79,000
Second class	£13	£1,123
Third class	£7	£777

Why do you think some first-class passengers paid such a huge amount of money?

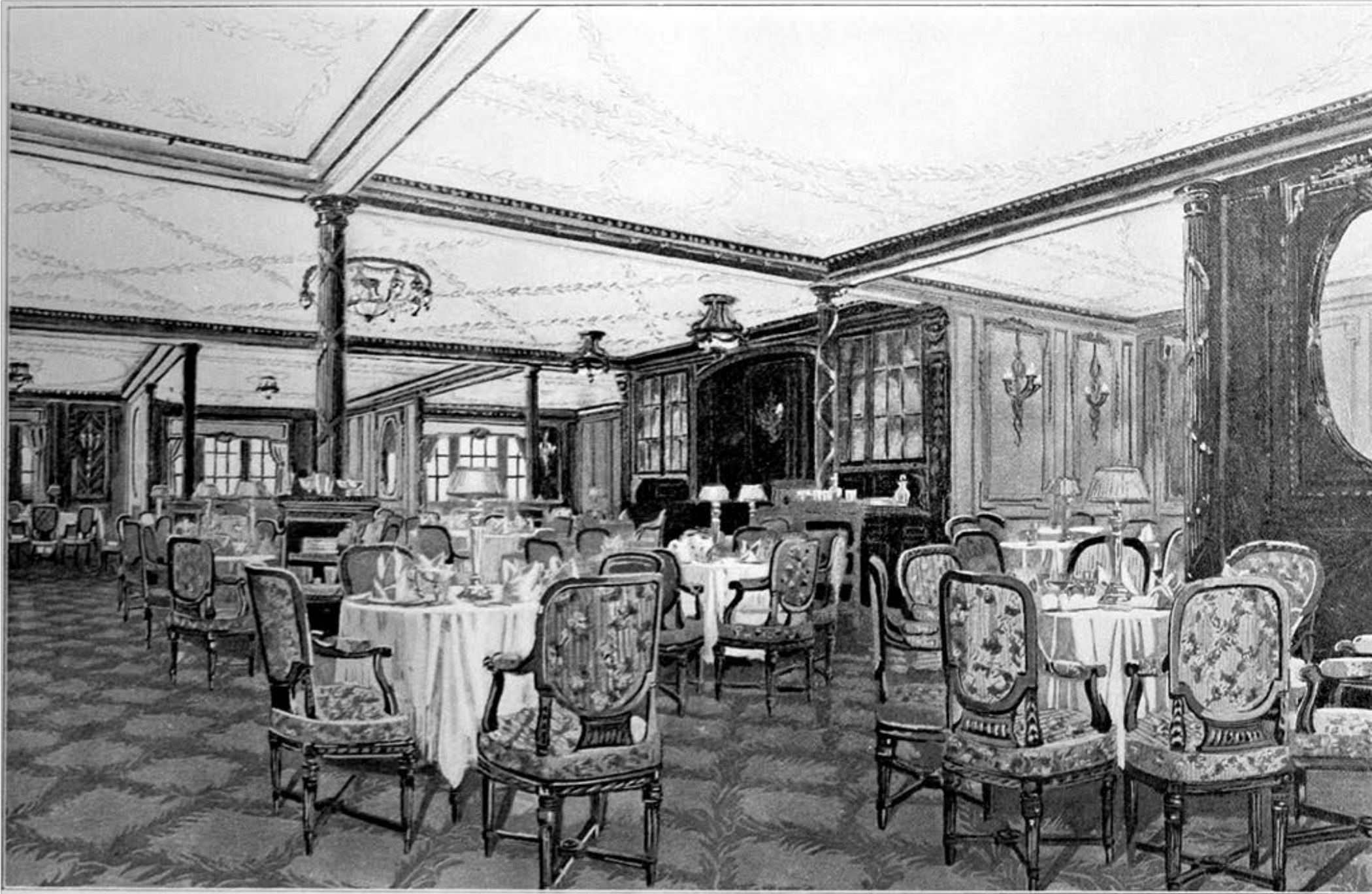




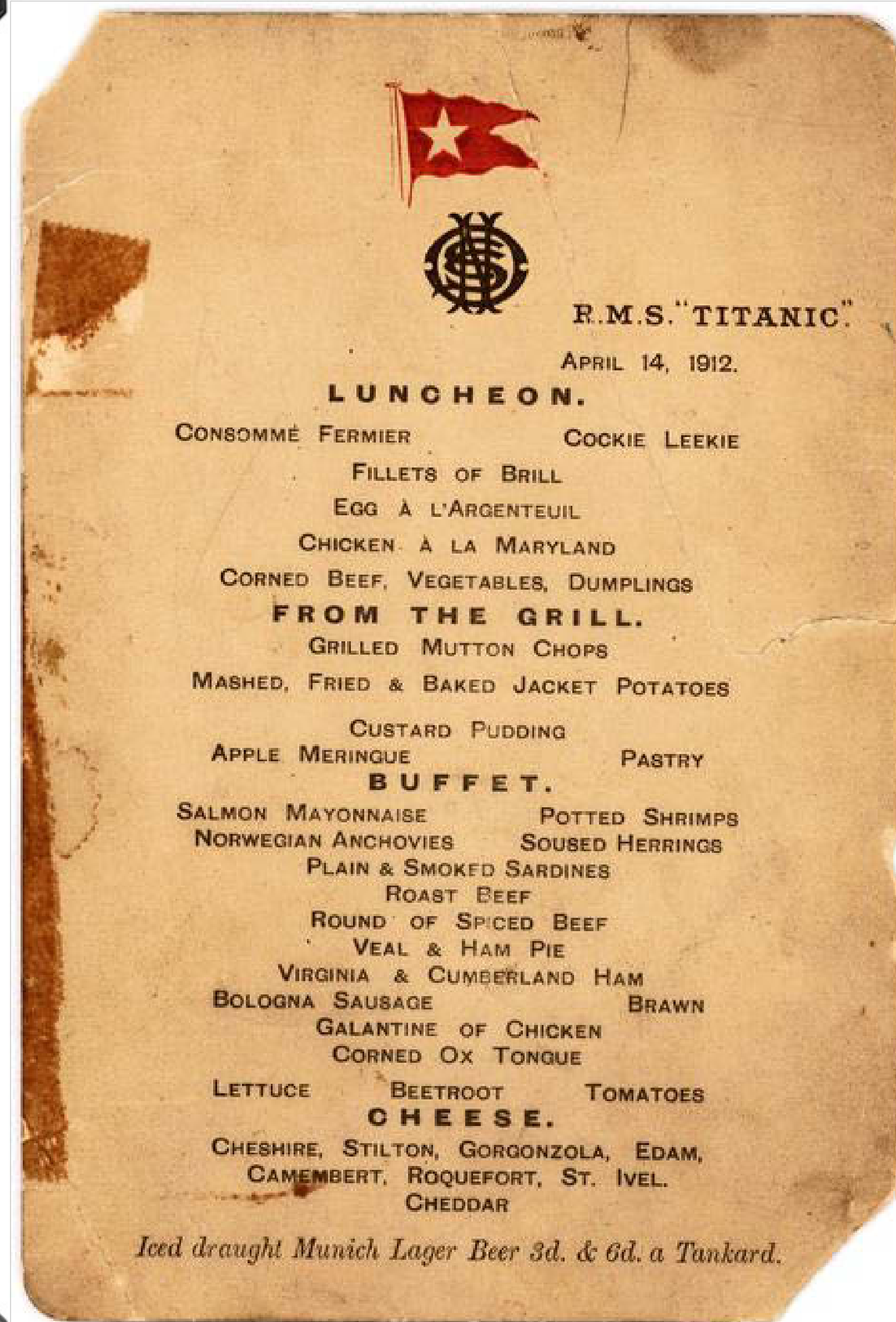
First-class passengers enjoyed the utmost luxury whilst aboard the Titanic.

Their rooms were spacious with comfortable four-poster beds and the walls were decorated with carved wooden panelling. Some passengers had suites which consisted of more than one room.

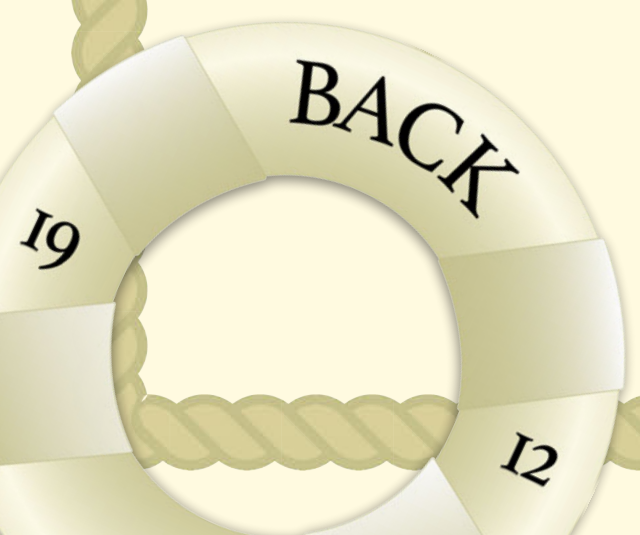


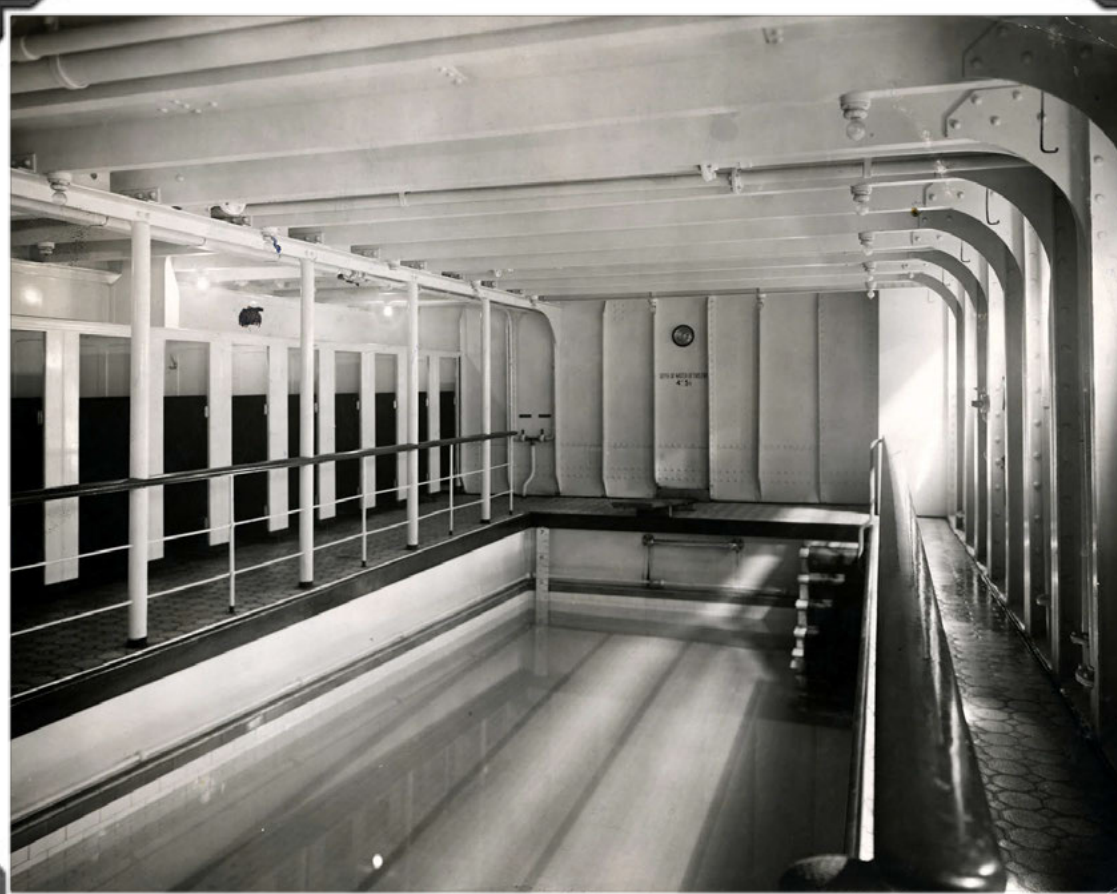


The first-class passengers enjoyed comfortable dining rooms and had a choice of à la carte restaurants or Parisian cafes to have their afternoon tea, with a view of the ocean.



The first-class menus could reach up to ten courses!





During leisure time, first-class passengers were provided with many opulent facilities, such as a swimming pool, gymnasium, Turkish baths and a squash court. The classes each had their own separate deck for relaxing and taking a walk on.

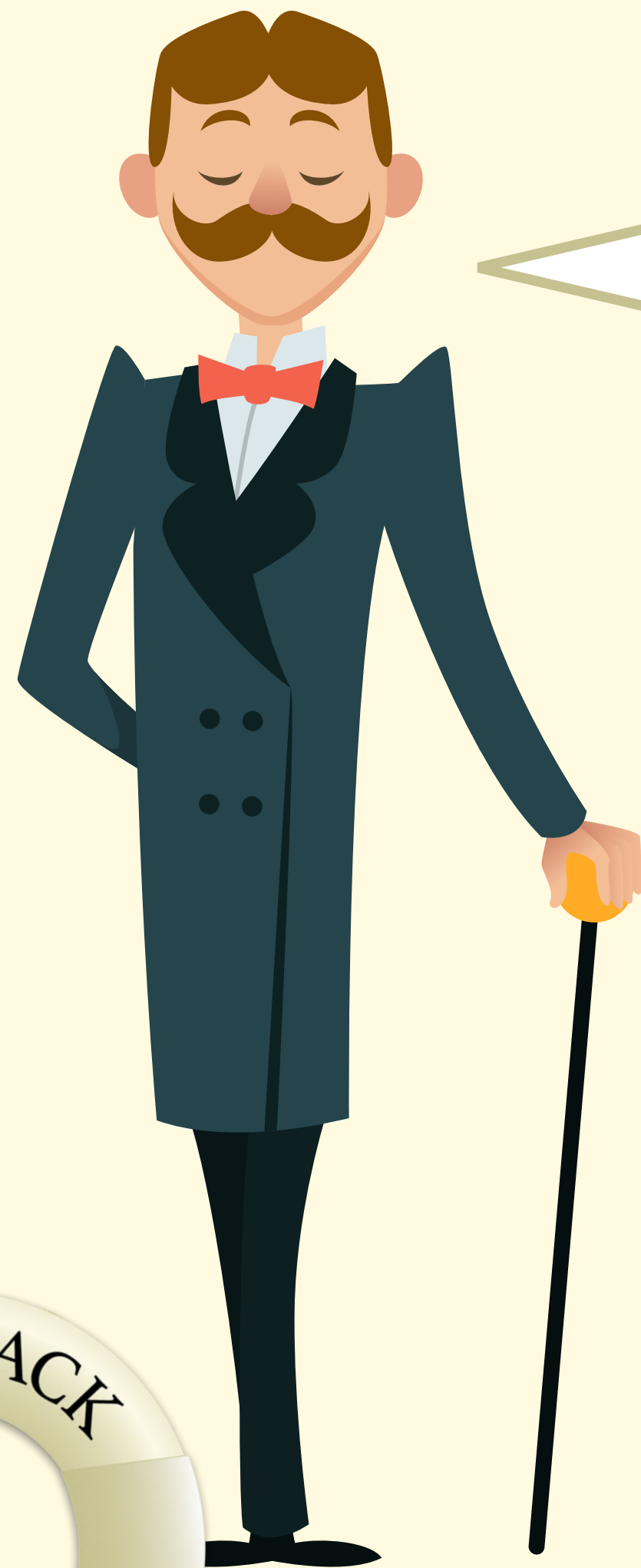


Turkish baths aboard the Olympic, Titanic's sister ship.

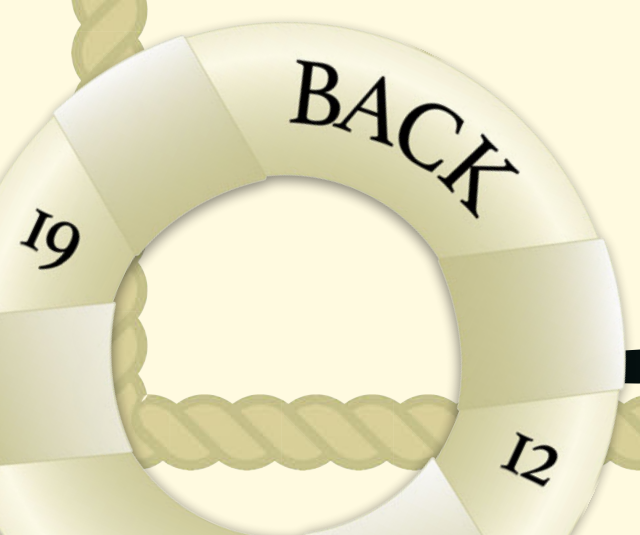
Many aspects of the interior were designed to give the passengers the feel of a high-class hotel, including the elevators and the iconic grand staircase.



After dinner, it was customary for men and women of all classes to retire to different rooms for socialising and evening activities.



First-class men occupied lavish smoking rooms to drink and play cards and the women would retire to one of many reading or writing rooms, lounges or the library.

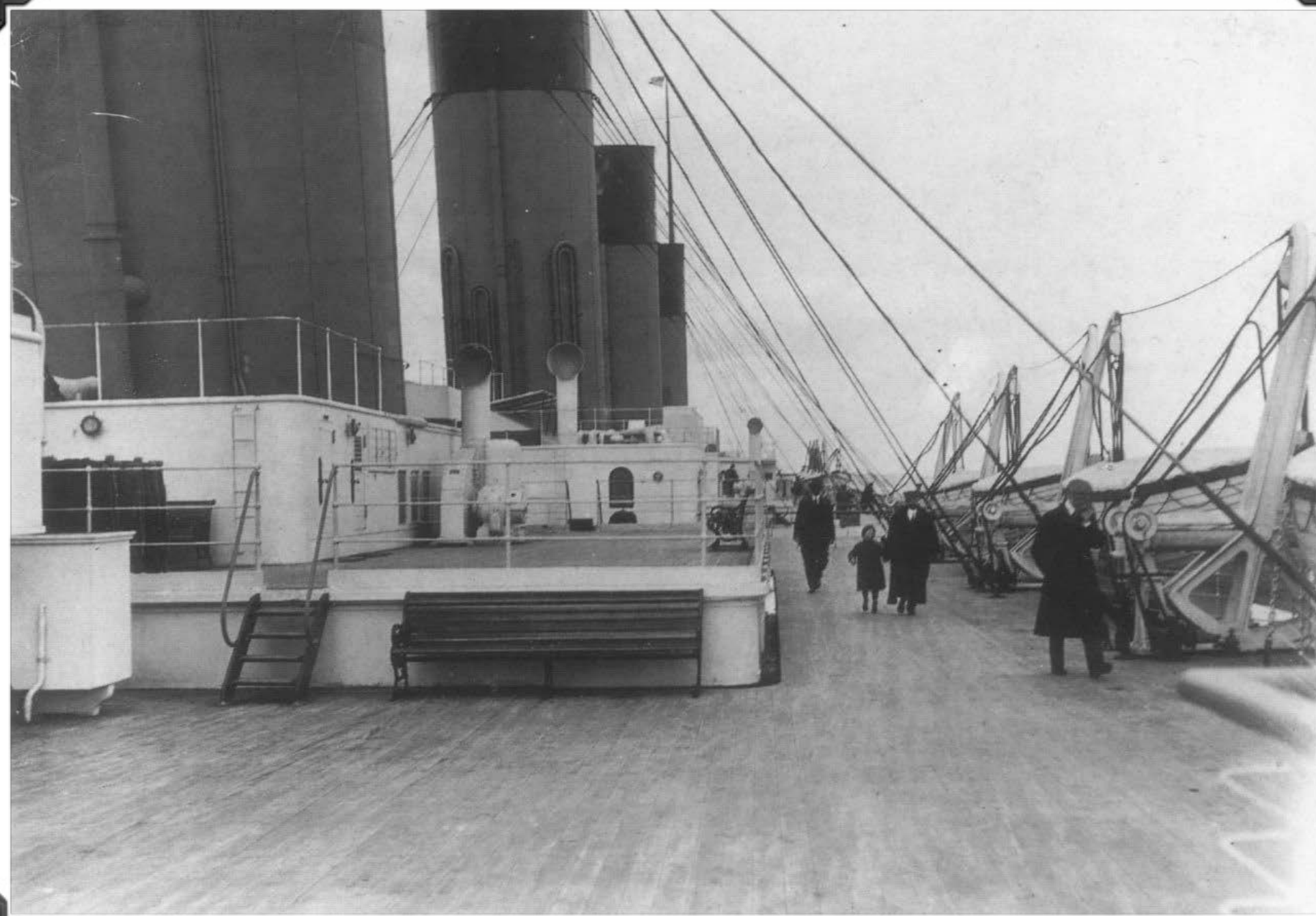


The second-class facilities aboard the Titanic rivalled the first-class facilities on other passenger ships at the time.



Cabins were modestly spacious with bunk beds, a settee, wash basin and a writing desk.

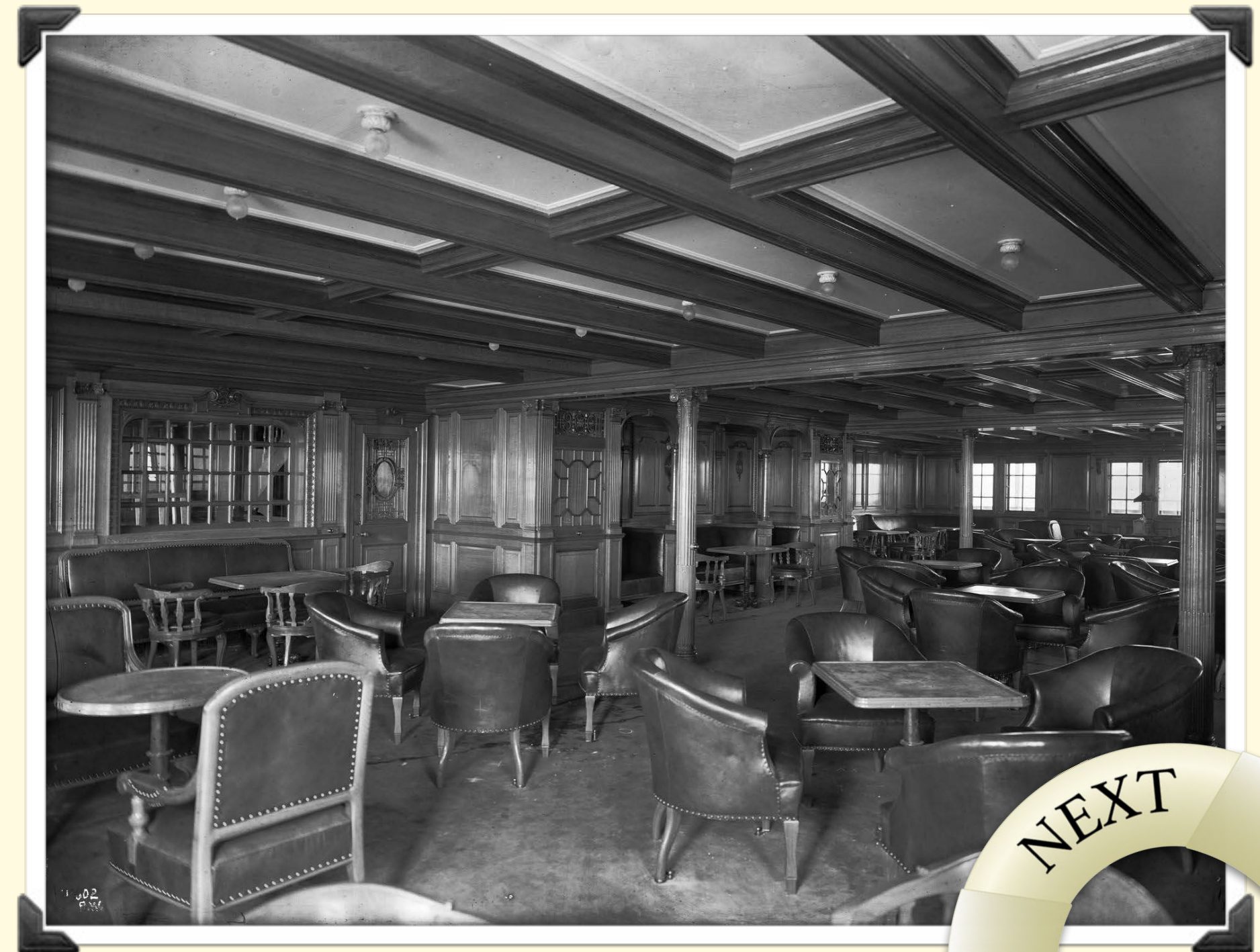


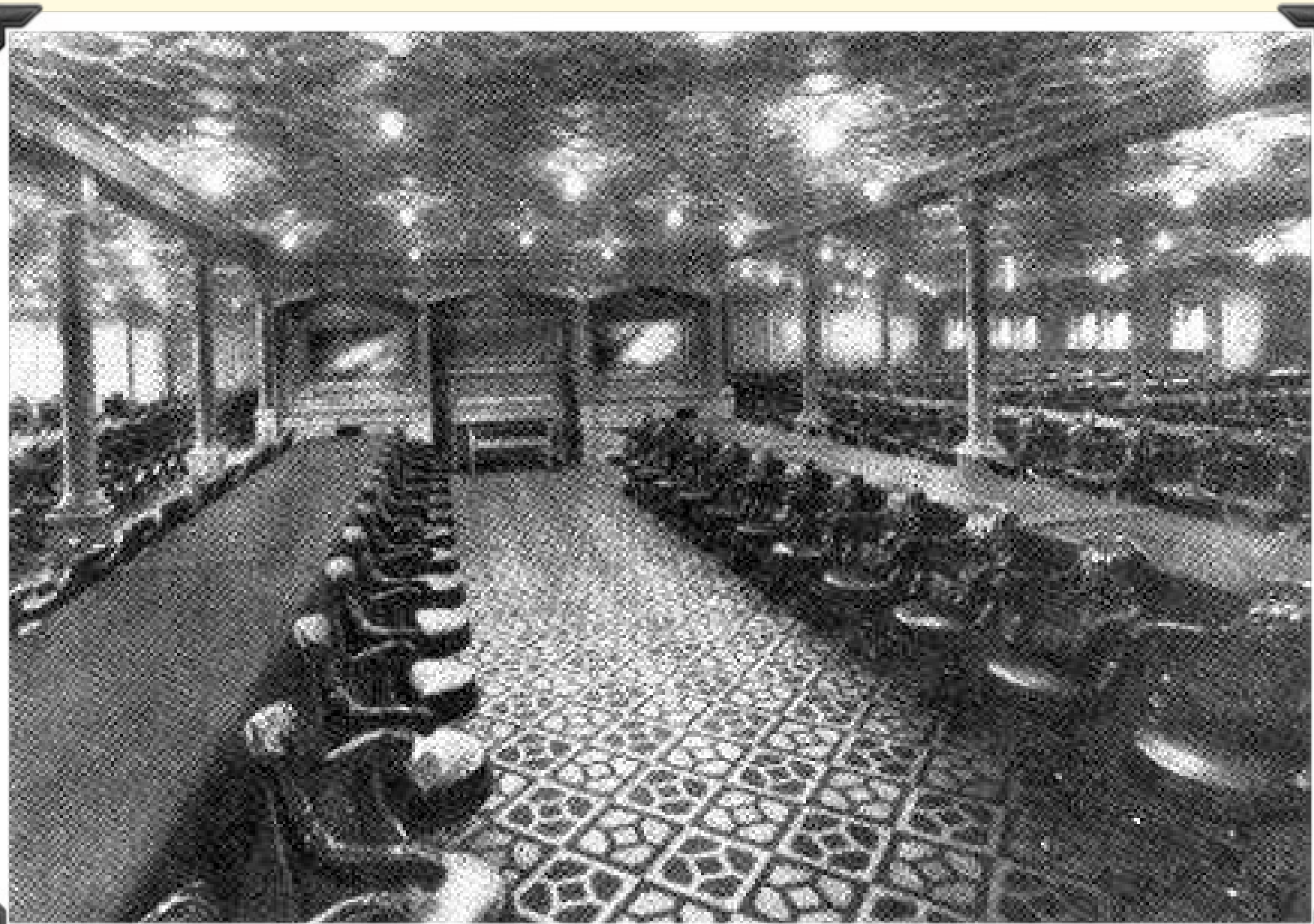


This picture shows the second-class area of the boat deck where passengers could rent deck chairs and play deck games such as shuffleboard, ring toss, chess and backgammon.

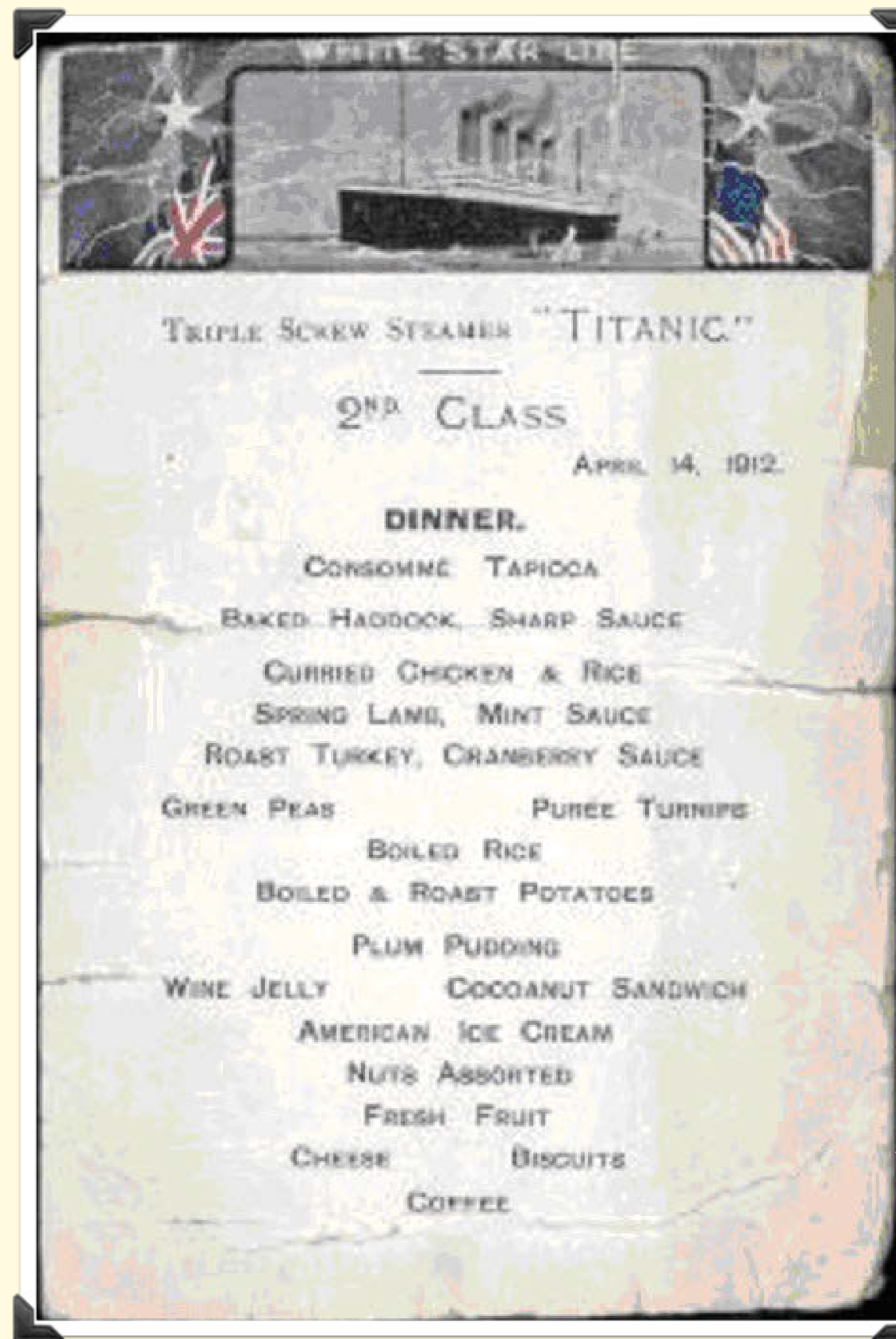


Like first class, second-class passengers also had a library and smoking room to use, though these were not as lavishly decorated as first-class rooms.



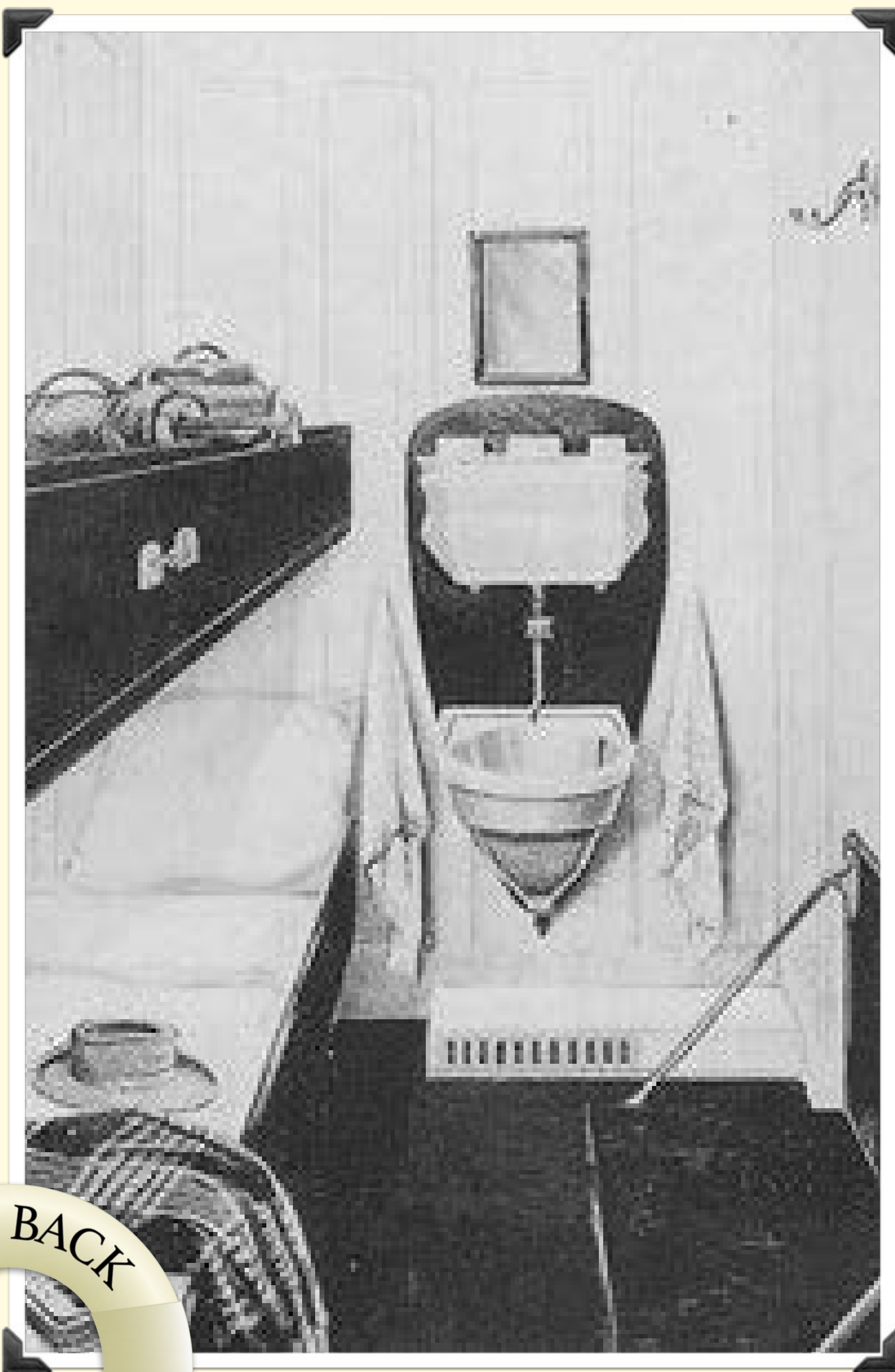


The second-class dining room consisted of long tables with swivelling stools which were bolted to the floor (this was typical of a first-class dining room on other ships at the time).



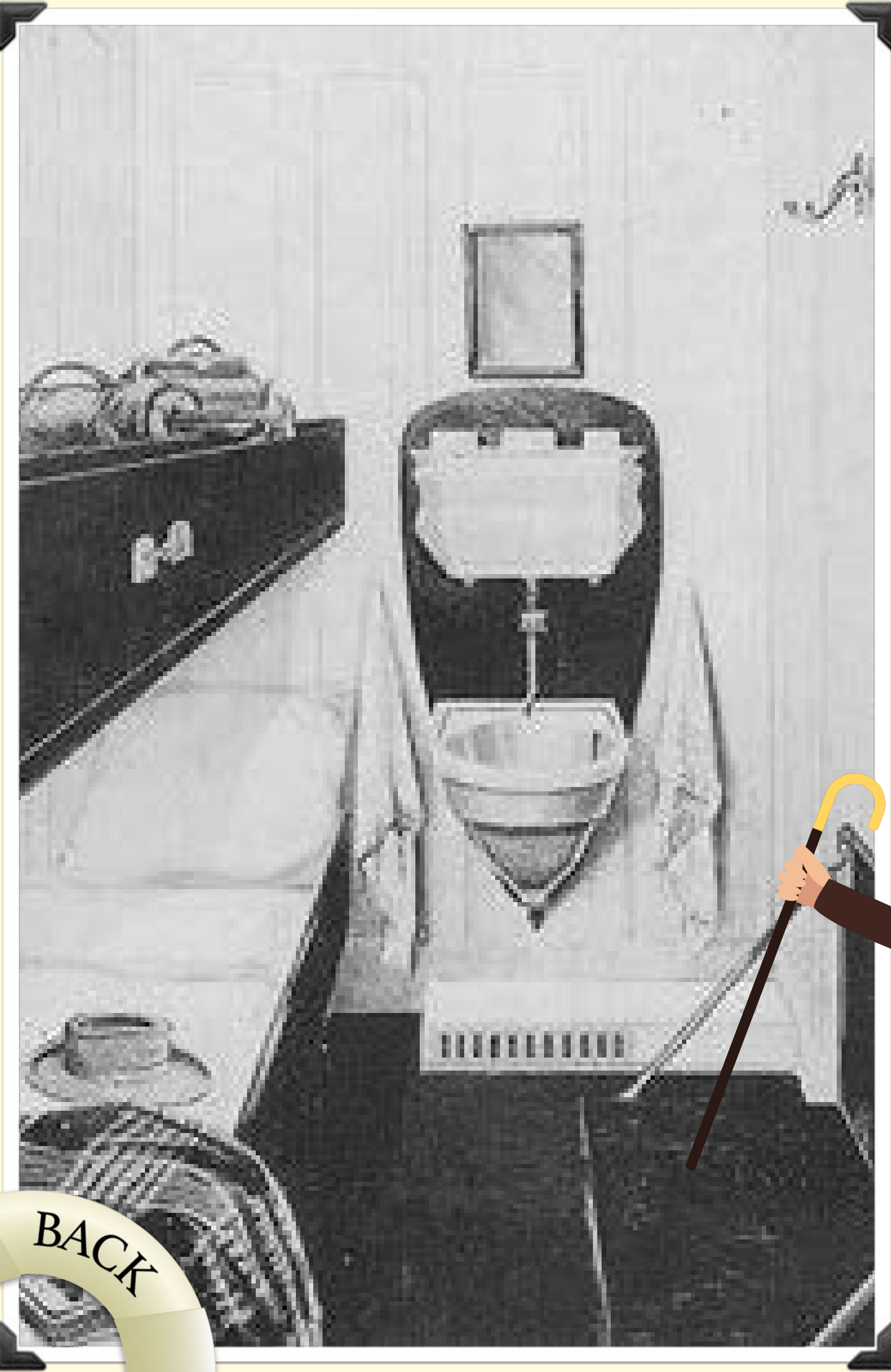
Dinner would normally be a three-course meal, eaten whilst a piano played for entertainment.



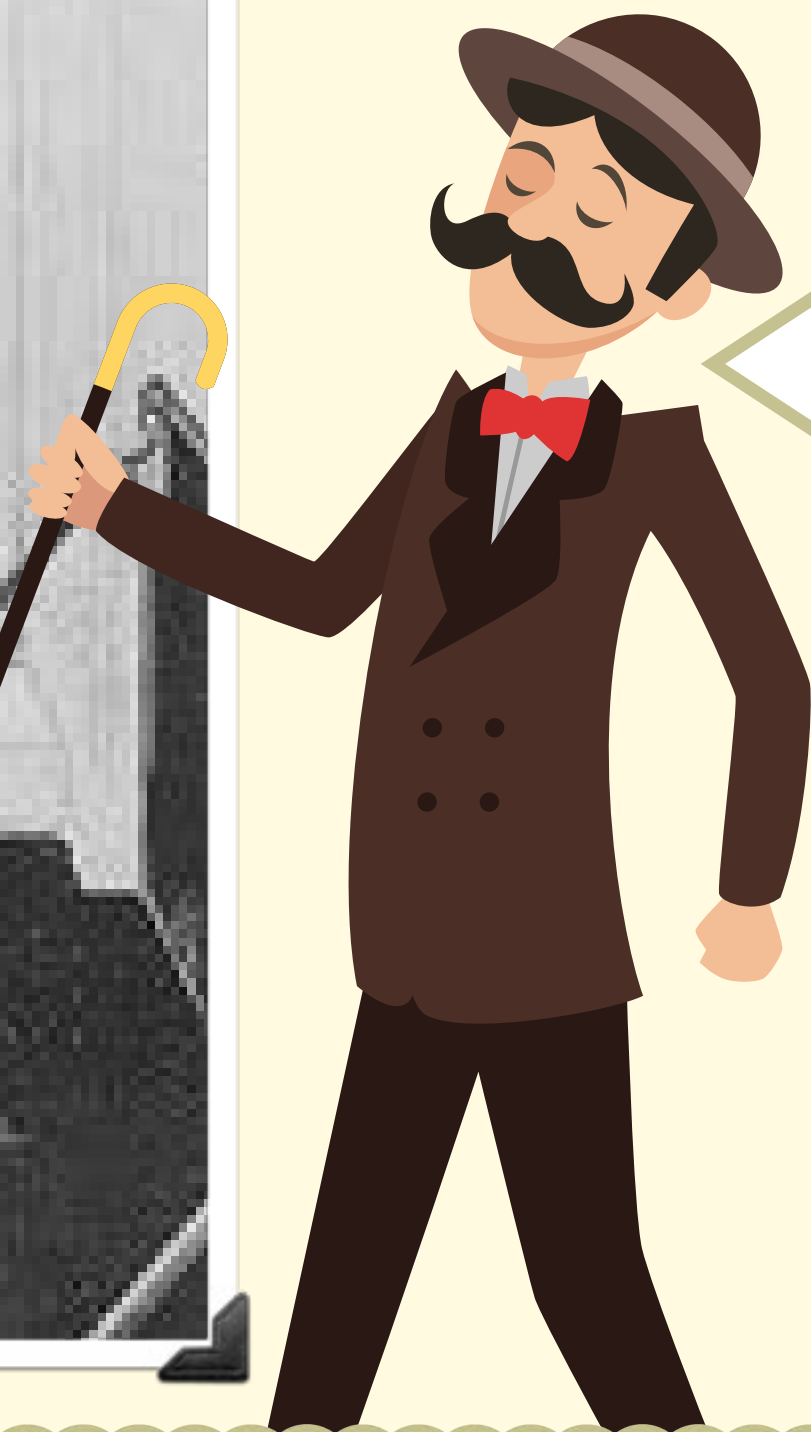


There were more third-class (steerage) passengers by quite a large margin. Their cabins were situated on the lower decks of the ship and were shared between four to six people. Some families would be lucky enough to share a cabin together, but more often, people sharing a cabin were strangers who may not have spoken the same language!





The steerage cabins had bunk beds and a washbasin in them. The bathrooms were shared and there were only two baths (one for men and one for women) to be shared among all 700 of the third-class passengers.



Despite this, the facilities were generally better than the passengers had at home! The passengers were made more comfortable than steerage passengers on other ships.





Steerage passengers had two dining rooms which served meals in two sittings. The food was simple, but plentiful, offering fresh bread and fruit with each meal. Dinner would usually be soup, roasted pork, two or three vegetables, pudding and biscuits.

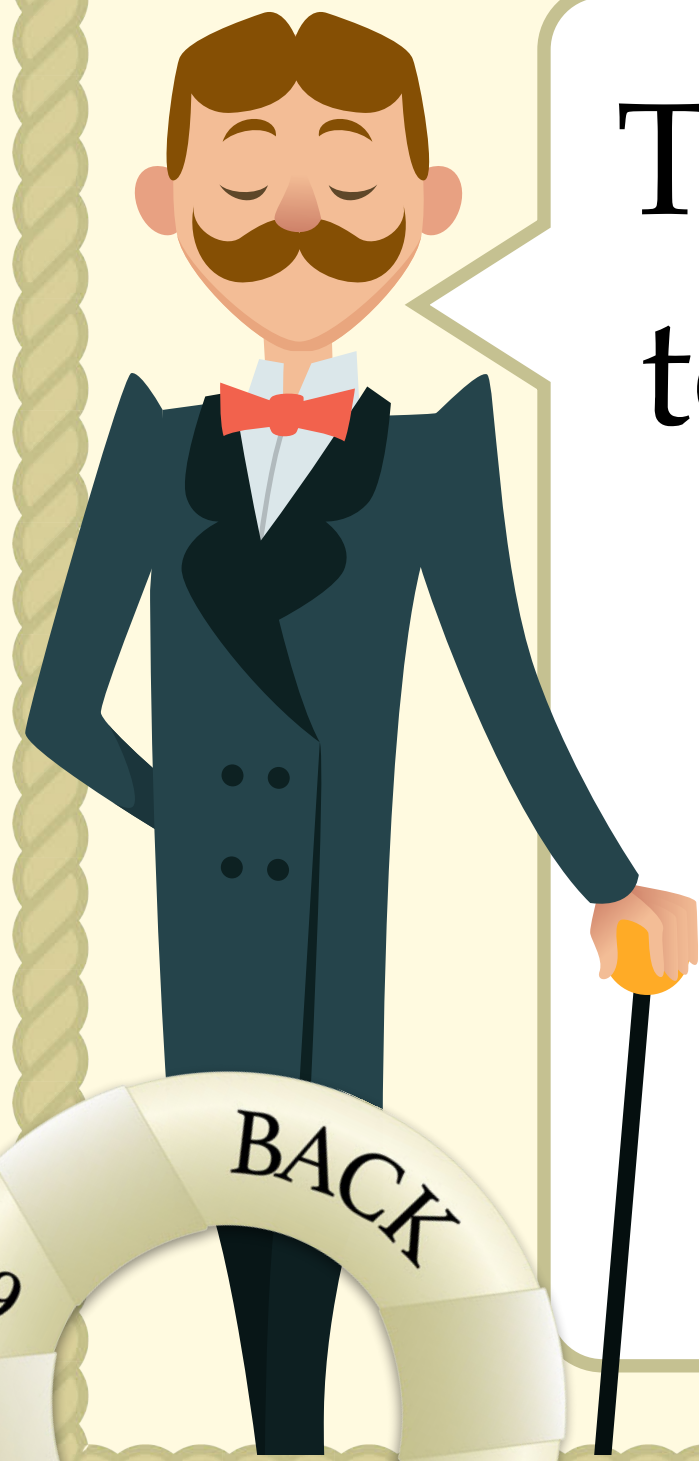
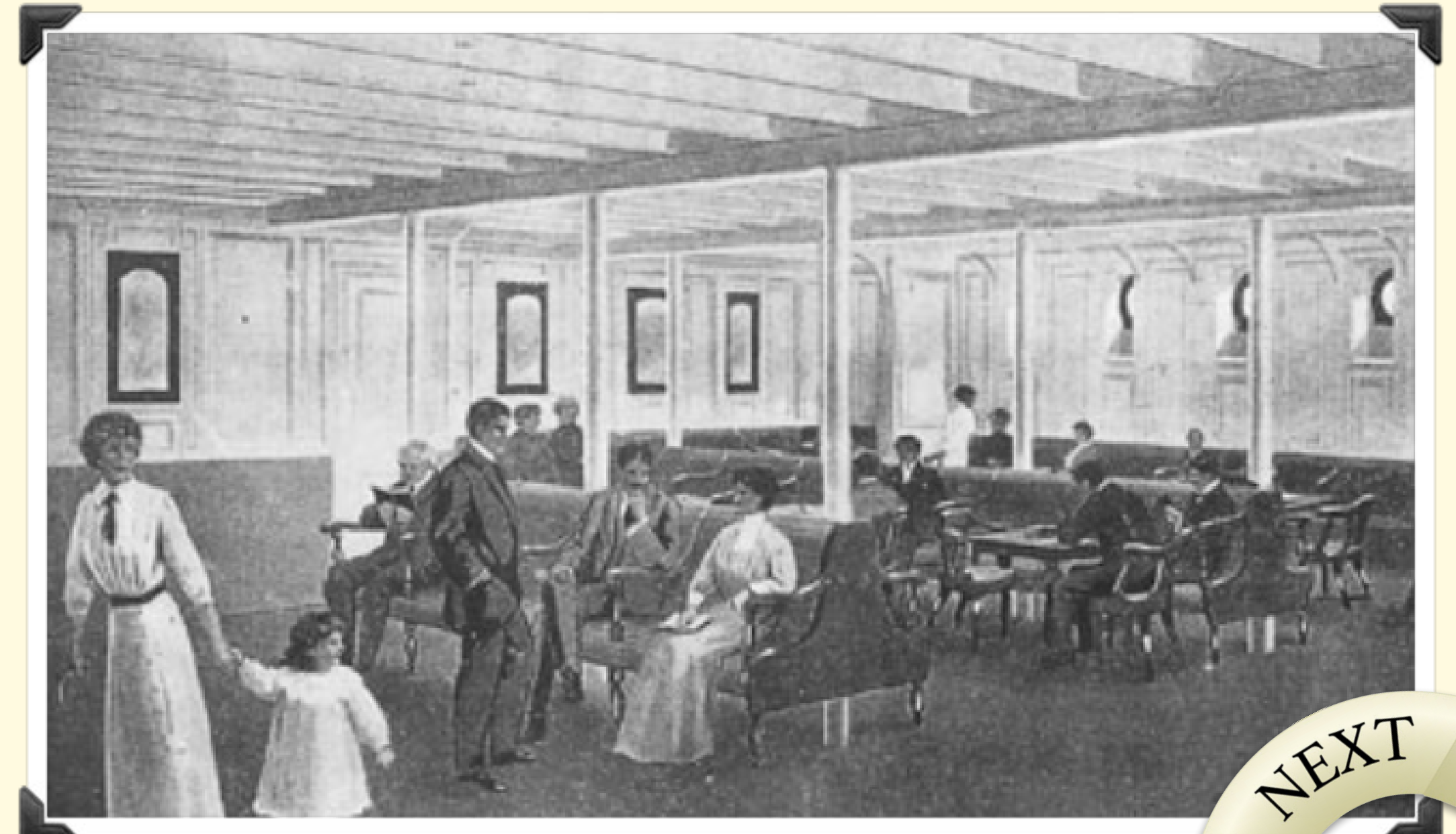


Even these simple meals were luxurious as, at the time, many other ships would expect the steerage passengers to provide their own food for the journey.



Steerage passengers had access to a deck at the back of the ship where they had to make their own entertainment. Indoors, they had a general room. This was a large room for passengers to meet and socialise which was also used as a nursery, lounge and recreational room.

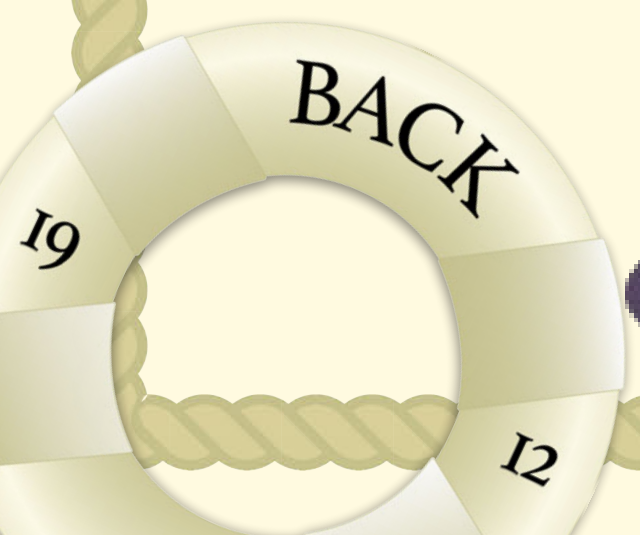
There was a piano available to play, and with their own instruments, passengers would form bands to entertain their fellow passengers with music.



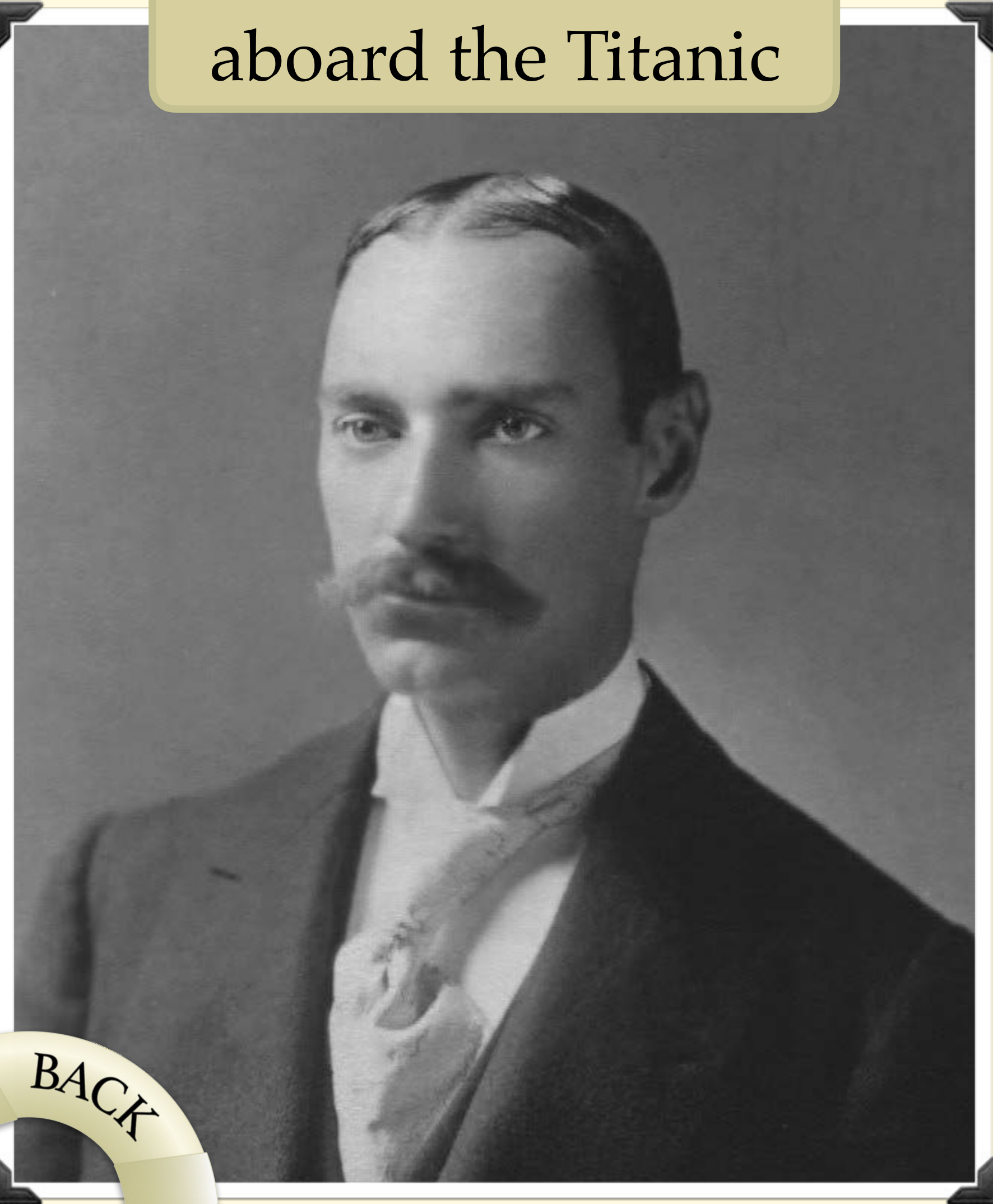
Think, pair, share...



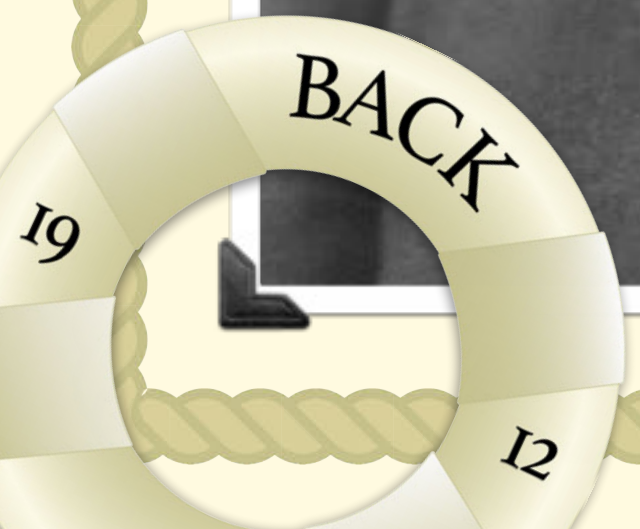
Why do you think people were aboard the Titanic? Did the different classes have different reasons?



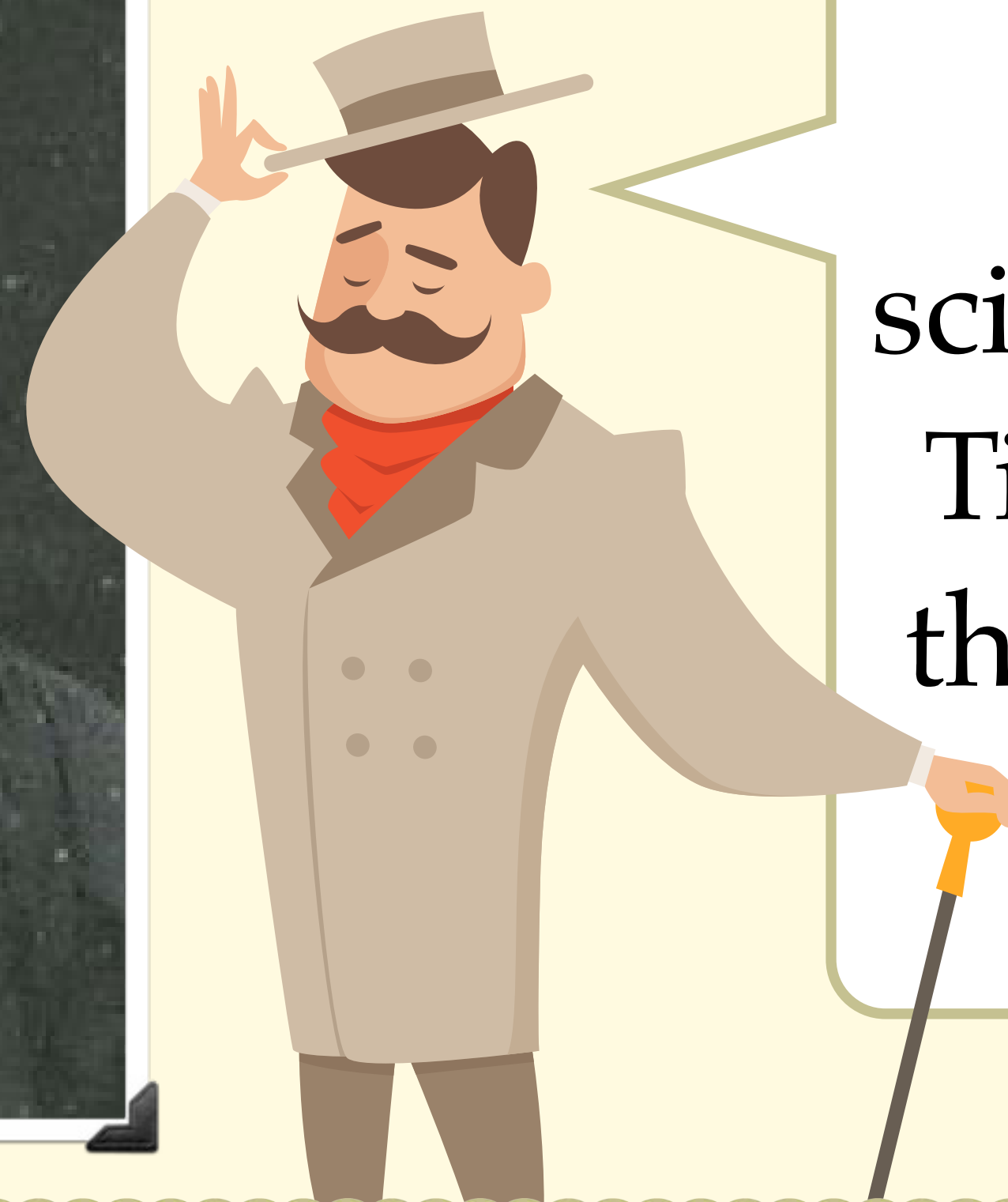
John Jacob Astor IV
The wealthiest man
aboard the Titanic



Many first-class passengers were aboard the Titanic to complete their holidays or travels between America and Europe. Some were travelling for work, and others travelled to be able to say they had been aboard the luxurious and record-breaking Titanic on her maiden voyage.



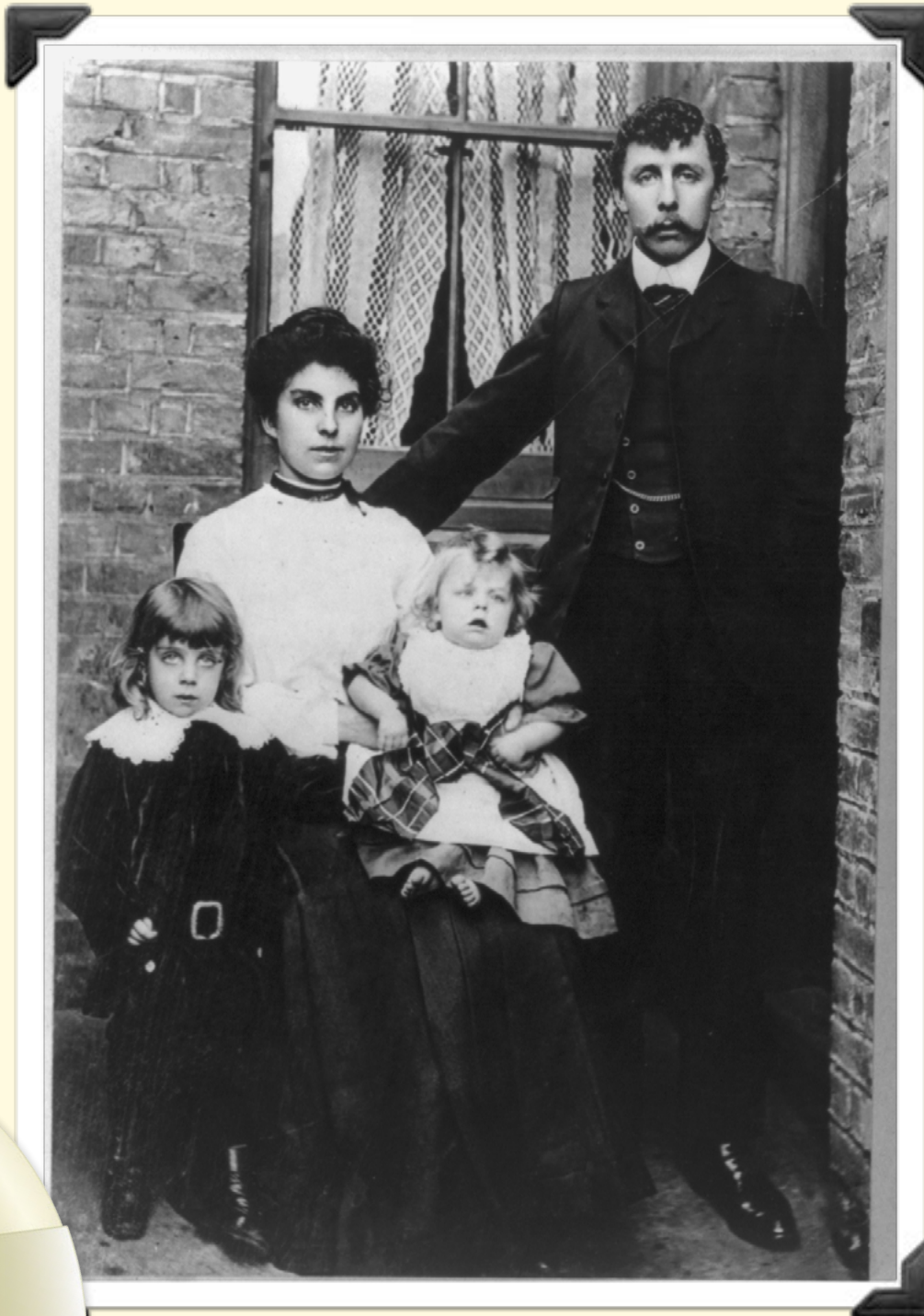
Second-class passengers were tourists, professors, members of the clergy and middle class English and American families. A few passengers were on their honeymoon after being recently married.



This is Lawrence Beesley, a science teacher who survived the Titanic disaster. He was aboard the Titanic to visit his brother in America.



Most third-class passengers were on the Titanic to start a new life in America or Canada. Some travelled alone or in small family groups. Many women travelled with their children to join their husbands who had already left for America. After saving enough money, the men were able to send for their families to join them.



There were many people emigrating from all over Europe and even Asia, making steerage a rich mix of nationalities.



Plenary

How would you answer this question now?



What was life like
aboard the Titanic?

How certain are you about your answer? How
could you become more certain?

I am very
uncertain...

I am
beginning to
think that...

I am fairly
sure...

I am
completely
certain...

