from https://www.pocruises.com.au/about/history

**Founded in 1837**, . . . .The **Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O)** first offered voyages known as 'excursions,' when passengers from England travelled with the Royal Mails to ports on the Iberian Peninsular and the Mediterranean, returning home on other **P&O mail voyages**. (Oriental meaning "to the east of England", eg the Mediterranean)

**In 1840** Wilcox and Anderson (the founding owners) were awarded a new contract to extend their service to the **Egyptian port of Alexandria via Malta**. The new contract required that the voyage from England to Alexandria be accomplished in 15 days

Though P&O's main focus was mail delivery, it soon became clear to both men that there was more to a life at sea than just getting from A to B. And so leisure cruising was born, with the very first **leisure cruise departing London bound for the Mediterranean in 1844.**

From wikipedia:

Procida Bucalossi (1832-1918) and his son Ernest Bucalossi (27 May 1863 - 15 April 1933[1]) were British-Italian light music composers and orchestral arrangers. It is difficult to differentiate their compositions and arrangements, which are often simply credited as Bucalossi.

**Procida Bucalossi is primarily known for his dance arrangements (Lancers, Polka, Quadrille, Waltz)** of Savoy Operas, particularly those of Gilbert & Sullivan.

In my mind's ear, I can "hear" this tune being played by a shipboard band aboard a 1920's/30's excursion steamship, or pierside, at its departure.