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**The 118th Annual Report**

**OF**

**THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S**

**FRIEND SOCIETY**

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY COOPERATING WITH ALL WHO AID MERCHANT SEAMEN

ORGANIZED MAY 1828

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, NEW YORK

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# FOREWORD

TO THE  
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY

*"A friend is one who aids with deeds."*

**I**N our last Annual Report we referred to the fact that all the real needs of seamen could never be met by any one organization and accordingly during the past fiscal year we made every effort to assure friendly and understanding service wherever possible.

In many cases it has been only necessary to make the facilities of other organizations known. In some cases, however, the need was so urgent, the demand for service so extraordinary or the existing rules of other organizations such that nothing could well be done unless we ourselves in some way supplied the necessary help. This applied to requests for every kind of service—Books, Information, Living accommodations, After-hospital Care or in fact anything a seaman might need.

As the National Society we are most appreciative of all the efforts which are made to serve seamen and welcome every opportunity to support or supplement what anyone may do for them.

Seamen think the things we do are necessary because they are useful to them as men engaged in an essential occupation which of necessity deprives them of the educational and other advantages to which landmen are accustomed.

No doubt you will approve of our desire to be brief and conserve our resources as much as is practicable by not printing a lengthy report. Much more might well be said about each one of our activities during the past fiscal year, but the brief account given on the following pages together with a partial record of our work during World War II since Pearl Harbor will give some idea of our service to seamen.

# LIBRARIES FOR SEAMEN



THE LIBRARY FOR SEAMEN IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR  
ABOVE THE MAIN ENTRANCE.

**A**TTENDANCE at the Library for Seamen in Seamen's House has been 19,505 men during the past fiscal year, which is an increase of 4,363 over the previous year. The number of books borrowed and technical works consulted shows that more and more seamen prefer to do their reading in the Library. Currently its capacity is often taxed to find room for them. Approximately one out of every five men who live in Seamen's House make use of this Library, and the rate of use, so far as we know, is unequalled by any Library in the city; showing how success is bound to attend such a real spirit of understanding as is evident in everything done for seamen.

This Library is open every day in the year. Sundays and holidays show the largest rate of attendance. Stocked as it is with the latest and best fiction and non-fiction books including the most used technical works having to do with the marine industry it supplies just what seamen need.

Our relations with other libraries and the book trade in general are such that we are never at a loss to supply any required book whether or not it happens to be in the Library.

As an adjunct to our Information Service the Librarians are asked about every conceivable subject a seaman may be interested in or have on his mind; no wonder the hardworking staff often has very unusual questions to answer. Without their interest and wide range of experience it would not be possible to carry on such a successful institution as the Library for Seamen.

## LIBRARIES AFLOAT

SO many telephone calls have been made direct to our office for books during the past fiscal year that we are sure seamen want books to read while at sea.

According to our records 1,073 ships were supplied with 61,920 carefully selected books along with 264,000 magazines. This reading matter was available to more than 72,590 seamen for their education or amusement when they were at leisure to enjoy them.

Our Ship Visitor also distributed during this period many useful articles for the benefit of the men on the various ships he visited. The following list shows what these articles were:

- 1,232 Ditty Bags (AWVS)
- 29,000 Sheets of Writing Paper (listing our various services on the back of each sheet) and a corresponding number of envelopes.
- 500 Christmas gifts
- 198 Decks of Playing Cards
- 112 Phonograph Records and 3 Victrolas
- 103 Pieces of Knitted Goods
- 53 Pieces of Clothing
- 25 Game Chests (USS)
- 17 Large Atlases and Gazetteers of the World

In addition to this about 5,000 books not suitable for seamen were sent to such institutions as

- Five Points Missions
- House of the Good Shepherd
- Greenwich House

and to various other women's and children's organizations. All of this was made possible by our good friends who cooperated with us by sending more than 78,000 books and about 300,000 magazines. Their support and interest is greatly appreciated and while individual acknowledgements have already been sent we feel they should be further thanked for having so greatly aided us and the men of the merchant marine.

# INFORMATION SERVICE

*"Ask About Anything You Want to Know"*

**T**HIS has shown itself to be the most worth while and popular of our many services. More American seamen made use of it during this year than ever before. Some of the many questions they asked will give an indication of how useful this service can be to merchant seamen.



## SOME OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED

Inquiries about training schools—further education along technical lines.  
Requirements for joining the merchant service.  
Queries about lodgings, entertainment and canteens for merchant seamen.  
Where special equipment needed by merchant seamen can be purchased.  
Queries about location of unions and their requirements for membership.  
Inquiries in regard to doctors, dentists, podiatrists and chiropradists.  
Marriage laws.  
Where to get loans.  
Whether hospitalization is available to merchant seamen or their families.  
Queries about allotments, amounts and when payable.  
How to get to certain destinations, reservations and method of transportation.  
How to get duplicates of seamen's papers.  
Queries about foreign mail.  
Where the different Consulates are located.  
Inquiries about decorations and emblems for the merchant service.  
How to get passports.  
How to register for voting.  
Questions in regard to naturalization.  
Whether reduced rates on transportation are available.  
How to get gas and shoe coupons.  
Cashing checks or changing foreign currency.  
What rest homes are available.

Seamen call upon us to get information about these and many other things. All day and every day it was available until 10 o'clock at night and we received anywhere from ten to fifteen calls from merchant seamen and their friends almost every day.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Individuals in such large numbers have contributed to the work this Society is doing in educational and other fields that we are indebted to them quite as much as all the organizations listed below who have most generously helped us by donating money, or reading matter. We are particularly appreciative of contributions made by members of the crews of vessels to which we supplied books and magazines. Their gifts have not only helped defray some of the delivery cost, but more important still it has heartened us and made us sure that our work is really appreciated by the men. These contributions were most welcome.

*The following Organizations and many others have helped us in giving aid to Merchant Seamen:*

American Red Cross  
American Women's Association  
American Women's Voluntary Services  
Bethelship (Seamen's Branch), Y.M.C.A.  
Brentano Book Shop  
British Information Services  
British Ministry of Shipping  
Church of the Holy Trinity  
Civilian Defense Volunteers Organizations  
Cornell Book Shop  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
Harmony Book Shop  
Hotel Alden  
James Foundation of New York  
Mt. Sinai Hospital  
National Women's Republican Club  
New York Bible Society  
New York Public Library  
Polyprep Country Day School  
Propeller Club of the United States  
Public Library, Lyndhurst  
Rutherford Free Public Library  
Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia  
Seamen's House, Y.M.C.A.  
Steamship Companies  
Steinway Public Library  
Treasure Chest Thrift Shop of  
American Women's Hospitals Reserve Corps  
U. S. Naval Hospital, Sea Gate  
U. S. Public Health Service  
Women's Committee for Servicemen, Maplewood  
Young Men's Christian Association

# Some of the many aids to seamen made available by this Society

LIBRARIES ASHORE



A FIFTH EDITION PUBLISHED THIS YEAR.  
TOTAL 275,000 COPIES DISTRIBUTED.

## Entertainment Canteens Rest Centers Lodgings

in  
The Port  
of  
New York

### For Merchant Seamen

FIFTH EDITION

Published

By

THE AMERICAN  
SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY

175 Fifth Avenue

New York

LIBRARIES, BOOKS AND MAGAZINES  
FOR SEAMEN ASHORE AND AFLOAT

## INFORMATION SERVICE for SEAMEN

AND THEIR FRIENDS

Call GRamercy 7-8866

*Ask About Anything  
You Want To  
Know*

*This Service is Available From:*

9 a.m. to 10 p.m. WEEKDAYS

2 p.m. to 10 p.m. SUNDAYS

A TECHNICAL LIBRARY



## HOSPITAL AFTER CARE FOR SEAMEN

SEAMEN, DOCTORS AND  
THE SOCIAL SERVICE  
AUXILIARIES KNOW  
HOW MUCH THIS  
CARE IS NEEDED



WE RELY UPON THEIR  
OPINIONS IN PROVID-  
ING THIS SERVICE AND  
SEE TO IT THAT SEA-  
MEN GET THIS CARE

**F**ORTUNATELY, during the past year we were able to place most of the seamen needing this kind of care in governmentally sustained rest homes, but as most of these have closed or are about to do so, we may be called upon to do more in the coming year.

However, efforts are being made to augment the care Marine Hospitals are now giving to seamen so that after hospital care may be provided by the U. S. Public Health Service.

A NATIONAL  
QUARTERLY  
MAGAZINE

*American*  
**Seamen**

ABOUT MEN OF THE MERCHANT MARINE

DESIGNED TO  
ACQUAINT  
AMERICANS WITH  
THE MEN OF THE  
SEA

**A**S a measure of economy this publication has been discontinued. Perhaps there is still some need for Americans generally to know more about the men of the merchant marine, but the general public has in various ways had its attention called to the importance of these men to our country. During the past year 10,000 copies were printed and distributed.

## **SEAMEN HELP THEMSELVES**

**T**HIS Society for years endeavored to preach and teach seamen about the evils of unrestrained drinking. By word of mouth, by printed tracts and by signed pledges it has striven to inculcate habits of temperance.

Today the achievements of the organization known as the Alcoholics Anonymous are well-known and attested. Recently the seamen established their own branch of the A.A.'s, as the Alcoholic Seamen's Club.

The theory being that only the rescued victim of alcoholism understands the problems and temptations of the habitual drinker, and that seamen best understand the peculiar form of the temptation to which they are subject.

This Society has cooperated and given necessary financial support to the Alcoholic Seamen's Club since its earliest inception. It has members on its Advisory Board and by word of counsel and other help has participated in its growth. Now the Club is almost self-supporting and has helped hundreds of seamen.

We welcome this new and vigorous organization as a new ally of this Society which since its inception has endeavored to bring assistance to seamen who are victims of too much barley-corn.

*Lybrand, Ross, Bras & Montgomery*  
ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS

NEW YORK	DETROIT	DALLAS
PHILADELPHIA	CLEVELAND	HOUSTON
CHICAGO	CINCINNATI	SAN FRANCISCO
BOSTON	ROCKFORD	LOS ANGELES
BALTIMORE	INDIANAPOLIS	SEATTLE
WASHINGTON	ST. LOUIS	LONDON
PITTSBURGH	ATLANTA	

The Board of Trustees,  
The American Seamen's Friend Society,  
New York, N. Y.

We have made an examination of the attached statement of receipts and expenditures of current funds of THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1946. In connection therewith we examined or tested accounting records of the Society and other supporting evidence and obtained information and explanations from officers of the Society.

The receipts from gifts and miscellaneous sources are as recorded on the Society's books. It was impracticable to verify most of them by direct correspondence with donors or others.

In our opinion, based upon such examination, the attached statement sets forth the current funds receipts and expenditures of The American Seamen's Friend Society for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1946.

*Lybrand, Ross, Bras & Montgomery*

New York, June 21, 1946.



THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURES of CURRENT FUNDS  
for year ended March 31, 1946

Receipts:	
Gifts, including \$661.66 allocated to restricted expendable funds	\$12,561.14*
Income from investments, etc., including \$2,667.63 apportioned to restricted expendable funds	19,825.65
Net profit on disposition of current funds' investments	6,386.07
Miscellaneous	<u>1,252.42</u> \$40,025.28
Expenditures:	
Educational work, including books purchased for and maintenance of libraries ashore and furnished to crews of merchant vessels, salaries and miscellaneous expenses, together with \$17,002.43 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses	41,501.79
National work, including aid to seamen, together with \$3,253.21 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses	7,935.57
American Seamen A Review, printing, distribution, salary and miscellaneous expenses, together with \$1,971.54 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses	<u>4,808.08</u> <u>54,245.44</u>
Excess of expenditures over receipts for the fiscal year, charged against available cash balances	<u>\$14,220.16</u>

\*In addition, the Executive Director estimates that 61,920 books and 264,000 magazines were donated and distributed during the year under review. These might have a minimum value of \$17,664.

## OFFICERS

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WINCHESTER NOYES, EX-OFFICIO

**CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**and**  
**LEGACIES**

Generous gifts which will enable this Society to carry on its work are greatly needed and will be much appreciated.

All who aid merchant seamen everywhere receive the impartial and hearty cooperation of this national Society without regard for anything but the welfare of the men of the sea.

Checks should be made payable to The American Seamen's Friend Society and mailed to the main office of the Society 175 Fifth Avenue New York 10, N. Y.

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**FORM OF BEQUEST**

"I give and bequeath to The American Seamen's Friend Society, incorporated by the Legislature of New York, in the year 1833, the sum of.....  
to be applied to the uses and purposes of said Society."