The 119th Annual Report

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.
FOREWORD

TO THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY

WE are often asked why it is necessary to supply books to ships in this Port for the use of seamen. Why cannot these men purchase such books as they desire? The simple answer is that the selection of books of an educational value requires experience. During years devoted to the selection of books we have learned that certain books are welcomed and used by seamen with eagerness. Unless these men of the sea are supplied with books of educational value it is impossible they will become social assets. Education of our merchant seamen is as vital for the future of our Nation as is education in the schools and colleges on shore. That is why this Society devotes the greatest part of its income, and most of the money received as gifts, in the acquisition and placing on shipboard of books of educational character.

The Merchant Marine Act of 1936 says, in part:

“Composed of the best equipped, safest and most suitable types of vessels, constructed in the United States and manned with a trained and efficient citizen personnel.”

It is not too generally known that the Port of New York from which many vessels from the United States sail, cleared upwards of 10,000 ships during the year 1946. To do credit to the Port of New York alone and to accomplish our due share, we should have greatly increased funds.

In this report we have briefly shown the activities in which we are engaged. We must depend upon you for support of our work which we must have in order to possess an efficient merchant marine.
THE attendance at our Library was 17,008 during the fiscal year just ended, in spite of the fact that during most of the year the hours during which the Library was open were generally reduced by cutting out the morning hours.

For two weeks the Library was not open at all due to the room being repaired. The present hours during which it is open are from one in the afternoon to nine at night.

Many more men would have used the Library but, most unfortunately, they could not be accommodated in the limited room available.

The books borrowed in the fiscal year showed a remarkable degree of increase. Seamen, who preferred to occupy their
leisure in this way, borrowed 2,226 books as against the last fiscal year when the total was only 1,652 and the Library was open substantially longer. An increase was also noted in the technical books studied.

The Library is still open every day in the year and it continues to stock the best and latest fiction and non-fiction books, as well as all the latest and standard marine technical works.

Miss Mary A. Leonard, an ex-Branch Librarian of the New York Public Library, has a thoroughly trained personnel. The Executive Director takes a very active interest in this Library and maintains the policy of keeping it thoroughly up-to-date by the addition of all current books and particularly those called for by seamen.
OUR first concern is Seamen. How can we best serve them? As explained in the Foreword, we know how much depends upon the careful selection of books and magazines for seamen to read at sea, and we try to aid in supplying this obvious need. Many times seamen have called us up and asked us to provide books for their ship, and we have made every effort to meet their request.

One illustration of this service—A seaman called us about 6:45 P.M. when the main office was closed for the day. Our Library took care of the call and telephoned Mr. Messenger, who is in charge of this department, at his home saying that the ship was sailing at midnight and wanted books. He called the driver of our station wagon and the books and magazines were delivered on time. This sort of thing has happened many times and shows how much we are concerned about seamen and how well they are served by this organization.

Currently our libraries ashore and afloat collaborate in supplying our Marine Technical Libraries to all agencies who want them. Six technical libraries were delivered during the past fiscal year, four of these ordered and paid for by the War Department for the account of the United States Engineers Office for the Atlantic, Goethals, Marshall and Navesink. This may be regarded as an endorsement of our selection of technical books for seamen.

During the year the Society provided 799 libraries to 487 ships. This service made 28,901 books available to 32,398 seamen, and was accomplished with the aid of one truck for pick up and delivery. Of course, with two trucks at least twice as many ships could have been supplied, and twice as many seamen be afforded opportunity for educational im-
provement. The extent of this work is obviously limited only by the inadequacy of the Society's financial resources.

The New York Telephone Company aided this Society very much by including in one of its releases to a large number of up-State newspapers the story of how this very old Society is modern in many ways, under the heading "BOOKS POPULAR AMONG UNITED STATES SEAMEN WHETHER ABOARD SHIP OR ASHORE." and the sub-heading, "New York Organization Supplies Large Quantities of Reading Matter to Merchant Vessels; also Conducts Information Service." This account was published in more than 50 newspapers in two columns, with illustrations.
FOUNDED in 1943, the Information Service has had many calls from seamen and their friends. This may be accounted for by the personal interest which is shown by the staff and their desire to be as helpful as possible. During the year just passed we have had on an average of ten calls per day for information, and this adds up to a goodly number of calls per year.

A marked increase in the number of out-of-town letters received shows how widely this service is known, and the variety of questions asked lends reality to the slogan—Ask About Anything You Want to Know.

This slogan has been called “challenging,” but it means just what it says. Of course we are particularly interested in all that pertains to seamen and seafaring. On rare occasions seamen are interested in other subjects and we try to make some suggestions as to where they may find the desired information.

All letters are promptly answered and if the query cannot be replied to with research, an acknowledgment is sent. Some idea of the wide variety of the questions asked was given in our last report. By telephone, letter and personal request they still come in and this service looms large in our aid to seamen.
AID TO SEAMEN 
and
HOSPITAL AFTER CARE

AID to seamen in special cases is sometimes requisite and hospital after-care then ordered by social workers is often needful.

Proper aid has been furnished after careful examination of the circumstances in each case, and hospital after-care has been provided upon the recommendation of approved social workers. Our aim is not to spoil seamen, but to help them as much as we can.

During the War a large number of seamen were sent to the Marine Hospital at Ellis Island. Doctors and nurses there have noticed a decided improvement in the condition of their patients after each entertainment and canteen. These seamen merit our help and we must try to continue to do all we can to further this work.
The A. A. Seamen’s Club has adequate quarters at 334½ West 24 Street, and it seems to us that this Club has done more constructive work among alcoholic seamen than any other organization.

It is so unusual to find seamen who are willing to help themselves that we hope you won’t let the word “Club” fool you. This bunch of seamen, who have come to realize that booze has been getting the best of them, are banded together to do something about it. The Club is built around this one idea.

As members of the advisory committee of this Club we meet once a month and hear the report of the Club’s progress since the last meeting. The one thing that always impresses us is not how near the Club is to breaking even on its expenses, but how definite the opinion is among seamen that no one can understand a seaman’s difficulties like one who has been to sea himself.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

So many individuals have helped us during the past fiscal year that in spite of the fact all have cards or letters of acknowledgments, we feel it would be fitting to thank them again, and this we do on behalf of the Crews of Vessels who have read your books and magazines, reminding you that we welcome calls to pick up books and magazines for seamen. Our thanks are also extended for the money contributed by seamen themselves to help defray a part of the cost of delivery. Thanks also for all money and other things given for the seamen of the World.

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

American Red Cross
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
Cornell Book Shop
Daughters of the American Revolution
Elsinore Gift Shop, Rutherford, N. J.
Free Public Library, New Brunswick, N. J.
Henry Hudson Hotel
Hotel Alden
James Foundation of New York
R. H. Macy & Company
Maplewood News, N. J.
Methodist Church & Home, N. Y.
Mt. Sinai Hospital
National Women's Republican Club
New York Bible Society
New York Public Library
New York Times Library
Pageant Book Shop
Post Book Shop
Post 263, American Legion
Propeller Club of the United States
Public Library, Broadway Branch, L. I. City
Public Library, Lyndhurst, N. J.
Public Library, Maplewood, N. J.
Riverside Church
Rutherford Free Public Library
Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia
Seamen's House, Y.M.C.A.
Steamship Companies
Steinway Public Library, L. I. City
Thrift Shop of Hospitals Reserve Corps
U. S. Public Health Service
Women's Committee for Servicemen, Maplewood, N. J.
Women's University Club
Young Men's Christian Association
The Board of Trustees,
The American Seamen's Friend Society,
New York, N. Y.

We have made an examination of the attached statement of current fund income and expenses of THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1947. 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 fund income and expenses (on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements) of The American Seamen's Friend Society for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1947.

New York, June 12, 1947.
THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY

STATEMENT of CURRENT FUND INCOME and EXPENSES
(on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements)
for year ended March 31, 1947

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<th>Income:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts, including $2,211.21 allocated to restricted expendable funds</td>
<td>$14,946.79*</td>
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<td>Income from investments, etc., including $2,837.23 apportioned to restricted expendable funds</td>
<td>21,486.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net profit on disposition of current funds' investments</td>
<td>7,442.85</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>273.71</td>
<td>$44,849.80</td>
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<th>Expenses:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Educational work, including books purchased for and maintenance of libraries ashore and furnished to crews of merchant vessels, salaries, miscellaneous expenses and purchase of auto truck at net cost of $844.48 together with $15,456.89 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses</td>
<td>32,263.09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National work, including aid to seamen, together with $3,536.40 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses</td>
<td>8,545.15</td>
<td>40,808.24</td>
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Excess of income over expenses for the fiscal year credited to unrestricted general funds $4,041.56

*In addition, the Executive Director estimates that 29,875 books and 104,925 magazines were donated and distributed during the year under review. These might have a minimum value of $8,073.
OFFICERS

WINCHESTER NOYES
President

KNOWLTON DURHAM
Vice-President and Counsel

Orrin R. Judd
Treasurer

R. H. Lee-Martin
Sec'y and Exec. Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Alexander Torrance
Winchester Noyes
Alfred V. S. Olcott
Knowlton Durham
Samuel L. Hamilton
James T. Van Steenbergh

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Matthew G. Ely
R. H. Lee-Martin
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Gilbert Darlington, D.D.
Williamson Pell
O. B. Whitaker
Paul A. Wolfe, D.D.

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Honorable Charles E. Hughes
Admiral Emory S. Land, U.S.N., Rtd.

Captain George Fried
Rear-Admiral Richard E. Byrd, U.S.N., Rtd.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Knowlton Durham, Chairman
Orrin R. Judd

Ralph H. Stever
Matthew G. Ely

Winchester Noyes, Ex-Officio
A bequest is the last opportunity any of us have to show our appreciation of mankind.

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 ........................................... Dollars to be applied to the uses and purposes of said Society."