THE 120th Annual Report

THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY COOPERATING WITH ALL WHO AID MERCHANT SEAMEN
ORGANIZED MAY 1828

THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY
CONVALESCENT HOME

EXECUTIVE OFFICES 175 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.
FOREWORD

TO THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE AMERICAN SEAMEN’S FRIEND SOCIETY

"A friend is one who aids with deeds"

THE establishment of a Convalescent Home for Seamen had long been in the mind of the Executive Director of this Society. Especially has the need of such a Home been apparent since the closing of Gladstone, the wartime effort of the United Seamen’s Service, left no place available near the Port of New York where seamen upon discharge from hospitals could go for convalescence and after care.

The Officers and Board of Trustees of the Society are very happy to announce in this 120th Annual Report that the Society has recently purchased property on Staten Island suitable for such a home. A splendid building and some three acres of land have been recently acquired and opened as "The American Seamen’s Friend Society Convalescent Home.” On the cover of this report, and on subsequent pages, you will see pictures of the new home. Situated on Hylan Boulevard, Tottenville, Staten Island, overlooking lower New York Bay and within easy transportation distance of the Marine Hospital, it is an ideal location.

In presenting this report for the year ending March 31, 1948, grateful acknowledgment is made to the many friends who have helped by donating useful pieces of furniture and other articles for the Home, as well as contributing money. A contributor of long standing completely furnished a comfortable and attractive room in the Home in memory of Captain Joseph Jeremiah Lawrence.
LIBRARIES ASHORE and AFLOAT

A GOOD selection of books and magazines to read is important to everyone. The first concern of this Society is, of course, the welfare of seamen. One of the ways in which we have for many years been serving seamen is by providing them with an adequate amount of varied and carefully selected reading material. This Society has endeavored continually to meet the reading needs of all seamen — both while they are ashore and while they are at sea.

LIBRARY ASHORE

Every day of the year, from one in the afternoon to nine at night, our Library at 550 West 20th Street, New York, is open. Seamen come in to browse through and borrow from the large stock of books there — which includes the best and the latest in both fiction and non-fiction reading. For those interested in marine technical works, the Library is equipped with all standard texts, as well as the latest books in the field. It is the policy of this Library to keep thoroughly up-to-date by the addition of current books and particularly those called for by seamen.

During the past fiscal year, our records show 4,105 books were circulated, a larger number than had ever been circulated before. Nearly 16,000 men availed themselves of their opportunity to make use of and enjoy this Library.
Seamen using this Library discover a very qualified librarian is always on hand to help them find books in which they will really be interested.

LIBRARIES AFLOAT

In addition to the Library for Seamen ashore, the American Seamen's Friend Society is concerned with Libraries for Seamen while they are at sea. Daily we receive calls from delegates of ship crews who ask that they be supplied with books and magazines to read after their ship leaves port.
Sometimes specific reading material is requested, but ordinarily they are satisfied to accept the varied selection they find in the Library we supply. Occasionally we get a call for books from a ship very shortly before it sails. While it is not easy to comply with such late requests, through the efforts of our ship visitor, libraries have always been delivered on time.

During this past year, the Society has provided 915 ships with 917 libraries. This service made 36,680 books and 148,860 magazines available to over 70,000 seamen. At Christmas 1,140 gifts were distributed.

All of the books and magazines placed aboard ships were generously donated by friends of the Society. Our two station wagons are always available to collect any reading material individuals may care to donate.
CELEBRATE OUR 120th YEAR

EXHIBIT AT GRAND CENTRAL PALACE
INFORMATION SERVICE

"Ask About Anything You Want To Know"

THE slogan of our Information Service is, and has been since the Service was started in 1943, "Ask about anything you want to know." From the inquiries received from seamen and their friends, we see that our slogan has been taken to mean just what it says. And it does. All queries are given serious, intelligent, and prompt attention.

Information requests continue to come in by mail, telephone, and by personal office calls. Our slogan is a challenge still. We feel that this service which has been used by so many seamen and been of help to them, has been another successful phase of our program for the welfare of seamen.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE American Seamen's Friend Society recognizes the fact that only with the help of many individuals, firms, churches, and corporations, who have generously donated books, magazines, other articles, services, and money, has it been able successfully to carry out its program of services to merchant seamen.

We feel, therefore, it is very fitting that we extend to each and every individual who has not only helped us in our general work but in the furnishing of our Convalescent Home also, a hearty and sincere thank you on behalf of the Society and on behalf of the crews of the ships and all seamen who have benefited.

During the past year the following organizations — and many others — have aided in making our work a real success:

American Red Cross
Mrs. Daniel Bacon
Church of Holy Trinity
Daughters of the American Revolution
Elsinore Gift Shop, Rutherford, N. J.
Federal Reserve Bank
Henry Hudson Hotel
Hotel Century
James Foundation of New York
Mrs. Ella Lindey
McGraw Hill Book Company
Mast Magazine
Methodist Church and Home, N. Y.
New York Bible Society
New York Public Library
New York Times Library
Pageant Book Shop
Mrs. N. M. Pond
Miss Margaret Oldenburg
Mrs. Louis J. Outcault
Public Library, Broadway Branch, L. I. City
Public Library, Lyndhurst, N. J.
Radiomarine Corporation of America
Reader's Digest
Riverside Church
Mrs. J. W. Richmond
Mrs. A. Rusoff
Rutherford Free Public Library
Miss K. Schoelle
Mrs. Walter Scott
Miss H. A. Sparkman
Steamship Companies
Mr. Henry A. Stetler
Mr. A. Swan
Thrift Shop of Hospitals Reserve Corps
Mrs. H. C. Wagner
Woman's Committee for Servicemen, Maplewood, N. J.
Womrath Book Store
The Board of Trustees,
The American Seamen's Friend Society,
New York, N. Y.

We have made an examination of the accompanying statement of current fund income and expenses of THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY for the year ended March 31, 1948. In connection therewith we examined or tested accounting records of the Society and other supporting evidence but we did not make a detailed audit of the transactions.

The receipts from legacies, gifts and miscellaneous sources are as recorded on the Society's books, and certain large contributions were confirmed by direct correspondence with donors or others; however, it was impracticable to verify all contributions.

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 year ended March 31, 1948.

New York, May 19, 1948.
THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY
STATEMENT of CURRENT FUND INCOME and EXPENSES
(on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements)
for the year ended March 31, 1948

Income:
Legacies and other gifts, including $1,161.39 allocated to restricted expendable funds $116,227.62*
Income from investments, etc., including $2,307.11 apportioned to restricted expendable funds 21,314.47
Net loss on disposition of current funds' investments 245.00
Miscellaneous 528.51 137,825.60

Expenses:
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 cost of $1,897.25 together with $16,306.15 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses 30,130.71
National work, including aid to seamen, together with $7,264.84 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses 8,165.15 38,325.86

Excess of income over expenses $ 99,499.74

*In addition, the Executive Director estimates that 39,789 books and 162,168 magazines which might have a minimum value of $15,952 were donated and distributed during the year under review.
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

Class of 1949
Orrin R. Judd
Ralph W. Sockman, D.D.
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Matthew G. Ely
R. H. Lee
Martin
James Marshall Stuart

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Williamson Pell
O. B. Whitaker
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Class of 1951
Winchester Noyes
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Knowlton Durham
James T. Van Steenbergh
Felix M. Cornell
Commodore Robert C. Lee

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Honorable Josephus Daniels
Alexander Torrance

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Knowlton Durham, Chairman
Orrin R. Judd

Ralph H. Stever
Matthew G. Ely

Winchester Noyes, Ex-Officio
In the name of God, Amen

A bequest is the last opportunity any of us have to show our appreciation of mankind.

Bequests

In the name of God, Amen
I, Harriette Eddy, widow of Charles Eddy

I give and bequeath to The American Seamen's Friend Society, the sum of $3,000

Last Will & Testament of George A. Quinn

I give and bequeath to The American Seamen's Friend Society, the sum of $5,000

Checks

are always welcome for the benefit of seamen.

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 user and purposes of said Society."