The American Seamen’s Friend Society
72 WALL STREET, NEW YORK
Organized May, 1828, Incorporated April, 1833.

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WILLIAM M. KINGSLEY, Vice-President
GEORGE SIDNEY WEBSTER, D.D., Secretary
ORRIN R. JUDD, Treasurer

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The American Seamen's Friend Society

ORGANIZED MAY, 1828
INCORPORATED APRIL, 1833

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
MARCH 31st, 1936

72 WALL STREET
NEW YORK
__Foreword by the Secretary__

In presenting the one hundred and eighth annual report of The American Seamen's Friend Society for the year ending March 31, 1936, the Secretary expresses grateful thanks to our good friends and supporters who have "stood by" in these days of financial storm and stress. He would also voice the gratitude of the men of the sea, ashore and afloat, and in our own and foreign ports, who have during the year received benefit from our service for their welfare.

The one hundred and seventh Anniversary Church Service was held on May 5, 1935 in the Rutgers Presbyterian Church, New York City, with a splendid sermon entitled "A Friendly Fire" by the Pastor, Rev. Daniel Russell, D. D.

On October 1, 1935, thirty-four graduates and on January 27, 1936 thirty-six graduates of the New York State Merchant Marine Academy were presented with Scriptures at their commencement in the Maritime Exchange, New York City.

Through the American Consul at Leghorn, Italy, word has been received that the Leghorn Seamen's Institute was closed on January 15, 1936 and no report of that work has been received.

The Adoue Seamen's Bethel, Galveston, Texas suffered a serious loss on January 14, 1936 in the death of its founder and superintendent for thirty-seven years, Rev. J. F. Sarner. His enthusiastic devotion to the welfare of seamen and his wise administration of work in their behalf won the respect and support of many friends in Galveston and the affectionate regard of thousands of seafarers with whom he came in contact.

The benevolent work of the Society was continued throughout the year. The large number of shipwrecked, destitute and unemployed seamen who applied at the office, 72 Wall Street, New York, were courteously met and all active worthy seamen with proper credentials were helped to lodging, clothing, transportation, or in other ways suited to their needs.

Grateful thanks are given to the New York Bible Society for generous gifts of Bibles, to the steamship companies who have contributed from their concert collections, to the publishing houses who have furnished books at reduced rates for the loan libraries, to the members and chapters of patriotic societies for generous contributions of money and books for loan libraries, and to all friends of the Society who have given books, magazines and money.
Loan Libraries for Ships

For the year ending March 31, 1936, William Elling, Librarian, reports as follows: Another year of service has been added to the loan library work of The American Seamen's Friend Society. This library work has been carried on without interruption for seventy-seven years and has proved of incalculable value to seamen ashore and afloat.

During the year three hundred and sixty-five loan libraries were placed on three hundred and forty-eight vessels sailing out of the port of New York, of which ninety-one were new and two hundred and seventy-four were refitted and reshipped just as good as new. The total number of volumes in these libraries is 14,600 available to 42,424 seamen. Each library contained books of adventure, biography, history, humor, mystery, philosophy, science, travel, fiction, religion and worship.

Forty-five of the vessels on which these libraries were placed made voyages Around-the-World, one hundred and fourteen went through the Panama Canal to the Hawaiian Islands, British Columbia, and to ports on the west coast of North and South America, one hundred and sixty-six were bound for ports in the United Kingdom, Northern and Southern Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, Egypt, New Zealand, Philippine Islands, Central America, West Indies, Mexico, the east coast of North and South America, fifteen are on United States Coast Guard vessels doing patrol duty along the Atlantic Coast and eight are doing their beneficent work among merchant seamen on vessels in the United States Army Transport Service.

Since March 1859, the Society sent to sea 13,880 new and 18,285 reshipped, making a total of 32,165 libraries. The books in these libraries have been a source of enjoyment and help to the men on vessels sailing on all the oceans of the world. Accurate records are kept of each library and donors are advised.

That this library work has been successful and has proved a valuable aid in uplifting the character of seamen is evidenced by many letters received from sea captains and sailors telling of the benefits derived from reading the books. Here is a sample:

"On behalf of all hands on board the City of Dalhart I want to thank you for the books which you so kindly placed aboard this trip. Credit should be given to the person who so wisely selected the library which it was our good fortune to have. The books were all entertaining, and vastly instructive. Every one thoroughly enjoyed them.

I sometimes wonder if people ashore realize how much the men 'who go down to the sea in ships' appreciate good reading matter. When eight bells go, and the watch changes, the watch below finds itself with a few lonesome hours of leisure. It is then that a good book is a friend indeed.

People who have the idea that sailors are a pretty hard set and are incapable of appreciating the finer things of life should spend some time aboard a vessel, and see the type of literature that is mostly popular amongst them."
Our Ship Visitor, Walter E. Messenger, placed loan libraries on three hundred and forty-eight vessels he visited during the year. He also distributed more than ten thousand copies of assorted magazines and other good literature to seamen on outgoing vessels for their use at sea, and he gave a number of comfort bags, wristlets and socks to needy seamen who were very grateful for these useful and necessary articles.

Loan Library No. 13,-834 contributed by the Ex-Regents’ Club D.A.R. of New Jersey in honor of Mrs. William A. Becker, President General, N.S.D.A.R., on the S.S. Coamo bound for the West Indies.

Mrs. Clarence J. Hand, President of the Ex-Regents’ Club, presents the library to the ship’s Officer on September 25, 1935.

Miss Mary G. Jackson, New Jersey State Chairman Sub-Committee The American Seamen’s Friend Society and a past officer of the Daughters of the American Revolution, has spoken during the year ended March 31, 1936 at ten meetings of that patriotic Society including the Forty-fourth Continental Congress, N.S.D.A.R., Washington, D.C., April, 1935 and at the State Conferences of New York and New Jersey. Interesting facts show that the Daughters of the American Revolution in New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Nebraska have contributed loan libraries this year in honor of members and as memorials. Miss Jackson has an interesting message about the loan libraries which she would be glad to bring personally to women’s organizations in the metropolitan area. Her aim is to make better citizens of our seafaring folk by affording them educational advantages through the loan libraries. Her motto is “become sea-minded.”
Affiliated and Cooperating Societies

SEAMEN'S HOUSE, 550 WEST 20TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

The Seaman's House was opened November 4, 1931. It is operated by the Young Men's Christian Association of New York City. Its staff was headed by Clifford W. Petitt, Executive Secretary, Rev. James C. Healey, Chaplain, and Stafford Wright, Employment Secretary. During the year ending March 31, 1936, more than 747,600 women, boys and men in active service at sea enjoyed its splendid facilities for lodging, food, recreation and moral and religious uplift. Employment was found for 39,499. More than 76,160 beds were occupied and 109,848 meals served. Nearly 21,000 seamen used the fine appointments of the gymnasium and game rooms. Personal interviews were held with 6,488 men and 3,888 boys. About 1,000 different boys have found the Seamen's House a real "home away from home" when in port. They came from forty-eight different ships representing seven countries, and made about 12,000 visits each boy counted once daily. The former Sailors' Home and Institute at 507 West Street used as an annex of the Seamen's House furnished free of charge 107,941 beds and 398,037 meals to destitute and unemployed seamen. The Seamen's House is apparently the most popular place in the port of New York for the older seamen and the young lads on board ship and the only one that makes provision for the stewardesses. The definite Christian atmosphere is clearly shown by the following words in the report of its Executive Secretary: "We remember that Seamen's House was the creation of unselfish persons and undertaken for the purpose of aiding seamen; that it is a part of the Young Men's Christian Association; that the source of strength of those of us who labor here is to be found in living out the ideals of Him who came that all men may have abundant life."
FISHERMEN'S INSTITUTE, GLOUCESTER, MASS.

Chaplain George E. Russell reports that there is a constant flow of men in and out of the Institute building as the fishing vessels come and go, creating a continuous demand for services of one kind or another. To provide a convenient place to receive mail and to write letters seems a small service but it means a great deal to the fisherman upon his arrival from the fishing grounds. The mail from home is always important and a letter to loved ones equally so. Without this service, family contacts would be less frequent. When a fisherman comes to port he usually makes for the Institute to clean up. Bathing facilities may not impress those who enjoy them in their homes but to the man in from a fishing trip a bath is a necessity and he appreciates the means of getting it conveniently. Clean, attractive lodgings may not concern the person who lives at home and does not have to depend upon a lodging house but to the fisherman away from home such accommodations are a boon, especially when he can secure them at a low rate. A fisherman comes to the chaplain with money earned on the fishing trip. "Please take care of this for awhile." So the money is held for the man until he calls for it. Take that service away from the fisherman and it may mean the loss of earnings and consequent hardship for him or his family. Sunday evening entertainments are given in the fall, winter and early spring. Moving pictures and stereopticon talks following a short devotional service provide entertainment of a wholesome kind that the men can appreciate. A crowded hall each Sunday night is evidence of the popularity of these entertainments. This year ten men were admitted to Sailors' Snug Harbor, N. Y., and one to Sailors' Snug Harbor, Quincy, Mass., another excellent home for aged seamen.
SEAMEN'S BETHEL, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Captain William Lamb, Superintendent of the Seamen's Bethel of the New Orleans and Mississippi Valley Seamen's Friend Society, reports for the year 1935 as follows: The Bethel cooperated with the Federal Relief Agencies in the care of homeless seamen by furnishing 7,838 free lodgings and about 50,000 free meals. Nearly 4,600 magazines were supplied to the crews of outgoing ships. Employment was found for 283 and personal interviews were held with 3,746 seamen. The total attendance was 20,420. The total number of seamen present at the fifty-two Sunday services, conducted by the ministers of the various Protestant Churches was 2,230. My attendance in June of the Seaman's Division of the National Conference of Social Workers in Montreal, Canada, proved of great benefit to the work here.

ADOUÉ SEAMEN'S BETHEL, GALVESTON, TEXAS

Rev. J. F. Samer, Chaplain and Superintendent for more than thirty-seven years, died on January 14, 1936. His son, J. R. Samer, who succeeded him as Executive Manager, reports as follows for the year ending February 29, 1936: Religious services 61 with an attendance of 1,666. One hundred and sixty-eight seamen were visited in hospitals. More than 10,500 pieces of literature were distributed. Free meals...
476, free lodgings 5,509 and free garments 264 were provided. Employment was secured for 221 and more than 4,700 pieces of mail handled. Total attendance 30,315. Although curtailed in a large degree by the continued lack of necessary funds, the services rendered by the Bethel for the past year shows an appreciable increase over the preceding year. With improvement in business conditions affecting shipping, the Bethel will be ready at all times to expand its services to the seamen to meet their required needs. The Bethel is more than willing at any time to cooperate with the Steamship Agents and Steamship Companies in every way possible.

UPPER CANADA TRACT SOCIETY, TORONTO, CANADA

Mr. George M. Speedie reports for the year of the work for seamen on the Great Lakes administered in their three Institutes, Royal Arthur Institute at Port Arthur, Ontario, Sailors’ Rest, Toronto, and Snug Harbor at Kingston, Ontario. There were 907 visits made to vessels at various ports. Eight hundred and twenty-eight Bibles, Testaments or Scripture portions, 5,025 tracts and calendars, 3,606 magazines, 249 comfort bags, 3,246 free beds and meals were given; mail handled 752 pieces and total attendance 4,656. The Upper Canada Tract Society of Toronto has continued the affiliated relationship under the able leadership of its Superintendent George M. Speedie. This is the only affiliated work the Society has on British territory and helps to keep alive the friendly relations between us and our English cousins across a peaceful, undefended border. Work for seamen on the Great Lakes was taken over from The American Seamen’s Friend Society by the Upper Canada Tract Society in 1868. They appointed Rev. Thomas Bone sailor missionary, who was most successful in his ministry on the Welland Canal for thirty-eight years. This work was formerly conducted by the Western Seamen’s Friend Society, who was for several years an auxiliary of The American Seamen’s Friend Society.
RIÓ DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, S. A.

Rev. Dr. Hugh C. Tucker reports for the year 1935: The work on behalf of the spiritual and general welfare of the seafaring classes in the port of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the year 1935, was carried on after the usual manner and with an equal degree of efficiency as has been reported for the last several years. The Sailors’ Home is administered by the Salvation Army. There were thirty-nine meetings held with an attendance of 484 seamen. Six visits were made to prison, 28 to hospitals and 74 to ships in the port. There was distributed 1,079 pieces of literature; 1,481 free beds and 1,085 free meals were provided. The total attendance was 12,200. Statistics give only in part an idea of the amount of helpful spiritual, social and material service rendered during the year to the seafaring men visiting this port.

VICTORIA SAILORS’ HOME, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINE

Mr. P. J. Wyatt, Superintendent, reports for the year 1935 as follows: During the year financial reasons have forced the Committee to limit expenditure to necessities with the result that certain entertainments, which previously were a regular feature at the Home, had to be suspended with a consequent drop in the number of men attending entertainments. Eighty-one more ships visited the port than during the previous year. Out of a total 930 ships, 122 were American, which was nine more than in 1934. There were 391 visits paid to ships, 65 entertainments were held with an attendance of 901 and 383 bundles of literature were distributed to the crews on board the ships. Sick and injured seamen were visited in the hospitals by the Superintendent and members of the Ladies’ Committee. Stranded seamen were sent home and employment was secured—for quite a number considering the difficulties of the worldwide economic situation.
Sailors' Rest, Genoa, Italy

Rev. R. P. R. Anderson, Chaplain and Superintendent, reports as follows: The Genoa Harbour Mission is in its 66th year. That is quite a respectable age: sixty-five years of unbroken activity. But I am all against claiming respect or even respectability for any institution on the ground of age alone. Institutions, like people, may be old in years without ever having been alive. So, having broached the subject of age, I hasten to add that sixty-five need neither be the old age of youth nor yet the youth of old age; there is no good reason why it should not be the heyday of vigour and vitality. I claim that this is true of the Genoa Harbour Mission. It is very much alive in this, its 66th year. In spite of the times and their difficulties I refuse to believe that its future, as an Irishman said of a friend, is behind it. There is something of good omen for us in rising sixty-six. I find that multiples of eleven have been milestones in the Mission's history. Thus, for instance, in its eleventh year the Mission was transhipped from its first floating home, The Bethel, to its second, The Caledonia. In or about its twenty-second year it left that good old ironclad and transferred itself ashore, its identity unchanged, to its present base, The Sailors' Rest. Its thirty-third year saw another era begin when the gallant Captain Clucas retired from active service as Dr. Donald Miller's missionary and new lines of approach to the sailor came in. Other eleven years or thereby, and the great war was on us. Roughly eleven more and the present chaplaincy began. Eleven since then, and the work begun by that pioneer apostle of the sea, Donald Miller, has all but completed the sixth multiple of eleven. There is still plenty of room in the multiplication table, and plenty of life in the sixty-sixth year of our youth. Altogether the omens seem good in these multiples of eleven.
Rev. Stanley Parker, Chaplain of the Antwerp Seamen’s Friend Society, thus reports for the year ending February 29, 1936: At the Mariners’ Church and Institute 173 Gospel and other Church services had an attendance of 7,707; entertainments were held with an attendance of 17,892; 1,688 visits were made to ships and 274 visits to sick and injured seamen in hospitals. More than 7,000 pieces of mail were handled and 11,513 seamen frequented the reading room. Among events of outstanding interest may be mentioned the visit to Antwerp during its summer cruise of training ship Empire State of the New York State Merchant Marine Academy under command of its Superintendent, Captain James H. Tomb, U. S. N. Ret.

The Empire State and the Nantucket, Cadet ships from New York and Boston respectively also visited Antwerp, and at the invitation of the American Consul-General we entertained hundreds of young men at various functions. Dr. Webster, the Secretary of The American Seamen’s Friend Society, wrote saying that when presenting Scriptures to the graduation class of the Empire State in New York many told him of the good times they had spent in our port and city.

Mr. E. R. S. Pardon, President, reports another very quiet year. The Home appears to suffer from all the disturbances which contribute to world unrest and even the war in Ethiopia, although so remote from Japan, has affected us adversely. No large British warships visited Nagasaki.
in the autumn and as most of our patronage comes from the British Navy we have done little or nothing since the Spring. Sometimes we wish it were possible to tranship the buildings and equipment to a place of greater need. It is possible to derive satisfaction, however, from the fact that the cost of maintaining the institution is very small and it has been unnecessary for two years to appeal for funds which might be diverted from more deserving causes. We have done what we could. Mr. Edwin Parker has continued to assist in the management and has visited all the foreign warships entering the port and many of the merchant vessels. This is very useful work and has been done more effectively than for several years past. Nagasaki being only a port of call, merchant seamen have few opportunities of coming ashore, but they appreciate a visit and a bundle of magazines. In the spring two large British cruisers—the Suffolk and the Kent—made separate visits to the port. The "boys"—lower deck members of the crew under eighteen years of age—were entertained at the Home. Teas were provided for about eighty and singing, billiards, and pingpong were among the other attractions. Gratitude was subsequently expressed to the Directors by the commanding officers and the chaplains of the vessels, while there is every reason to believe that the boys themselves greatly appreciated the hospitality of the Home.

Sailors' Rest, Funchal, Madeira

More than fifty years ago Rev. William George Smart began welfare work for seamen in the port of Funchal on the Island of Madeira. He now bears the title Hon. Superintendent and Hon. Secretary of the Sailors' Rest. He reports that during the year 1935, 475 sailors visited the Rest. They were from American, English, French, German and Dutch battleships. The stay of naval ships is usually four to twelve days and on all occasions tea was served to sailors on liberty who visited the Rest. The Hon. Superintendent has been thanked either verbally or by letter by the Commanders of the various ships. It is quite evident that when men from foreign ships are entertained at a British Sailors' Rest much is done to promote peace and friendliness between the nations represented. We extend our grateful thanks to all who have helped us in this work, to The American Seamen's Friend Society of New York for their kind help.
### The American Seamen's Friend Society

#### RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1936**

#### RECEIPTS

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Balance April 1, 1935</td>
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<td>Legacy (unrestricted)</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from investments</td>
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<td>Unrestricted investments called</td>
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<td>Legacies—Permanent Funds</td>
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<td><strong>Balance March 31, 1936</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,328.48</strong></td>
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#### DISBURSEMENTS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grants to affiliated stations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shipwrecked and destitute seamen</td>
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<td>Library books and cases</td>
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<td>Salaries and pension</td>
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<td>Investment of permanent funds</td>
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<td><strong>Balance March 31, 1936</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,328.48</strong></td>
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**Orrin R. Judd,**  
*Treasurer.*

Examined and approved,  
**Ralph H. Stever,**  
*Auditor.*
The American Seamen's Friend Society

AFFILIATED AND COOPERATING SOCIETIES IN HOME AND FOREIGN PORTS

Seamen's House, 550 West 20th Street, New York City, Clifford W. Petitt, Executive Secretary, Rev. James C. Healey, Chaplain, Stafford Wright, Employment Secretary.

Fishermen's Institute, 8 Duncan St., Gloucester, Mass., Rev. George E. Russell, Chaplain.

Seamen's Bethel, 2218 St. Thomas St., New Orleans, La., Captain William Lamb, Supt.

Adoue Seamen's Bethel, Galveston, Texas, Rev. J. F. Sarner, Chaplain.

Upper Canada Tract Society, 128 University Ave., Toronto, Canada, George M. Speedie, Supt.

Salvation Army Sailors' Home, Rua Saccadura Cabral 233, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Rev. H. C. Tucker, D.D.


Sailors' Rest, 16 via Milano, Genoa, Italy, Rev. R. P. R. Anderson, Supt.

Seamen's Institute, 1 via Fiume, Leghorn, Italy, Joseph G. Welsby, Supt.

Mariners' Institute, 21 Avenue d'Italie, Antwerp, Belgium, Rev. Stanley Parker, Chaplain.

Sailors' Rest, 18 Rua Roberto Ivens, Funchal, Madeira, Rev. William George Smart, Supt.

Seamen's Home, 26 Oura, Nagasaki, Japan, E. R. S. Pardon, President.

The American Seamen's Friend Society is also associated for work in Foreign Ports with the British Sailors' Society, 680 Commercial Road, London, E. 14, England, Herbert E. Barker, General Secretary.

Contributions and legacies in support of the affiliated work, and to aid shipwrecked, destitute and unemployed seamen and to place on vessels Loan Libraries for seamen at sea ($25.00) are greatly needed.

Checks payable to The American Seamen's Friend Society may be mailed to 72 Wall St., New York, N. Y.

FORM OF BEOUEST

"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 charitable uses and purposes of said Society."

Three witnesses should certify at the end of the will, over their signatures, to the following formalities, which in the formation of the will should be strictly observed.

1st. That the testator subscribed (or acknowledged the subscription of) the will in their presence. 2nd. That he, at the same time, declared to them that it was his last will and testament. 3rd. That they, the witnesses, then and there, in his presence, and at his request, and in presence of each other, signed their names thereto, as witnesses.