The 109th Annual Report
The American Seamen's Friend Society

ROOM 911, 72 WALL STREET, NEW YORK

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The
American Seamen's
Friend Society

ORGANIZED MAY 5, 1828
INCORPORATED APRIL 22, 1833

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH
ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 31st, 1937

72 WALL STREET
NEW YORK
Foreword by the Secretary

The Secretary herewith presents the one hundred and ninth Annual Report of The American Seamen’s Friend Society for its fiscal year ending March 31, 1937. We are especially grateful to our many good friends who have continued their support of our welfare work for seamen. We would voice also the thanks of the seamen themselves who have been served on shipboard or ashore.

The one hundred and eighth Anniversary Church Service was held in the First Baptist Church in Williamsburgh, Brooklyn, New York, on May 10, 1936. The Pastor, Dr. Rivington D. Lord, was absent on account of illness and the sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. James C. Healey of Seamen’s House-Y. M. C. A., New York City.

On September 29, 1936, thirty-four graduates and on February 1, 1937, twenty graduates of the New York State Merchant Marine Academy were presented with a copy of the Scriptures at their commencements in the Maritime Exchange, New York City.

Captain Marcus H. Tracy died May 12, 1936, at his home, Flushing, Long Island, at the age of seventy-six years. He had been a Trustee of The American Seamen’s Friend Society since May, 1928, and was always loyal to and interested in its work.

Admiral William Sowden Sims, Honorary Vice-President of The American Seamen’s Friend Society since May 5, 1919, died in Boston, Mass., September 28, 1936, at the age of seventy-nine years.

Clarence Curtiss Pinneo died at his home in New York City, January 3, 1937, in the eighty-first year of his age. Mr. Pinneo had served the Society fifty-five years in the Treasurer’s office, the latter half of which he was Treasurer until his retirement from active service May 7, 1934.

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

William Elling, Librarian, reports: It is gratifying to record that notwithstanding the Marine strike which obstructed shipping on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts for several months, the Society succeeded in sending to sea more libraries this year than in the year previous.

During the year ending March 31, 1937, three hundred and sixty-eight libraries were sent out, of which ninety-two were new and two hundred and seventy-six were reshipped. The total numbers of volumes, 14,720, in these libraries were accessible to 44,580 seamen. Each library contained books of adventure, biography, history, mystery, philosophy, science, travel, fiction, religion and worship.

Since March, 1859, the Society sent out 13,956 new and 18,577 reshipped, making in the aggregate 32,533 libraries. Nearly one million seamen have had free access to the books during the past seventy-eight years.

One of the most encouraging features of the library service is the large number of letters received from ships' officers and sailors all telling of the mental, moral and spiritual benefits derived from reading the books. The following letter is typical of the many received during the year. The radio operator of the motor ship New Orleans writes:

"Regarding the libraries placed on board this vessel by The American Seamen's Friend Society in the past years, I am glad to say the members of the different crews have enjoyed reading the books a great deal. This ship makes voyages of about four months' duration and there are often periods of from twenty to thirty days when we have very little work to do, and the hours are long and tiresome. It is then we turn to the library for a book to relieve and brighten the dreary hours between watches. We were especially pleased with the historical novels, also the autobiography and non-fiction volumes. The inspirational and religious books were also in demand and doubtless a spiritual blessing was received by those who read them. The new library placed on board before sailing on our outbound voyage to the Orient is very satisfactory. I am sure we will derive great pleasure and useful information from reading the books. Be assured sailors are very appreciative of the splendid library service your Society is rendering to seamen on American ships."

Such worthwhile results should encourage continued and increased support of this much needed practical service for the men of the sea.
Our Ship Visitor, Walter E. Messenger, placed loan libraries on three hundred and thirty-two vessels he visited during the year. He also gave more than eleven thousand copies of assorted magazines and other good literature to seamen on outgoing vessels for their use at sea, and a number of comfort bags, wristlets and socks to needy seamen who were very grateful for these useful and necessary articles.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are not only continuing but adding more interest in the loan libraries of the Society. Fifty-nine Chapters representing nine States sent to sea during the past year sixty-one loan libraries. These libraries have made eighty-one reshipments on vessels. More than 15,000 seamen have been benefited by the books. Many of the libraries were donated as testimonials to individuals. Space does not permit the details of each library but an outstanding library this year was the gift of Princeton Chapter, New Jersey, through its Regent, Mrs. Alfred Goldsborough Mayor, the first library to be dedicated to a "mother." "To Mrs. Ainsworth J. Hague," mother of Mrs. William A. Becker, President General. National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Miss Mary G. Jackson, New Jersey State Chairman Sub-committee The American Seamen's Friend Society, has spoken at several meetings during the year, including the Forty-fifth Continental Congress, N. S. D. A. R., in April, 1936. She also spoke at the State Conference of Massachusetts in October, 1936. Miss Jackson finds the Junior groups and the Children of the American Revolution very much interested in the loan library work and her talks to the young people are educational, inspirational and patriotic, encouraging the youth to visualize the educational needs of the sailor. Miss Jackson is ready and willing to come to young people's groups and adult meetings in the metropolitan area, and share with them an imaginary voyage around the world with the loan libraries.
Affiliated and Cooperating Societies

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

The Seamen's House opened November 4, 1931, was made possible by uniting the work for seamen on the west waterfront of the Young Men's Christian Association, the Seamen's Christian Association and The American Seamen's Friend Society. It cost $1,000,000.00 and is probably the best equipped Home for seamen in the world. So far as is known there is no other that provides for stewardesses. It also gives especial attention to the deck and messenger boys on board ships. It is operated by the Young Men's Christian Association under the leadership of J. C. Clark, Executive Secretary, and Rev. James C. Healey, Ph.D., Chaplain. During the year ending March 31, 1937, more than 841,000 men, women and boys in active service at sea enjoyed its home-like comforts of good food, clean beds, physical recreation, moral and religious inspiration. This was 93,600 more guests than the previous year. During the first seven months, April to November, 1936, employment was found for 23,208. This was discontinued on account of the seamen’s strike during which the management held a neutral position dealing with seamen only as individuals. Beds and rooms were occupied by 76,538 and 105,563 meals were served in the restaurant. This was 5,715 more than the previous year. For destitute and unemployed seamen 50,798 free beds and 125,872 free meals were provided at the Seamen's House and the Sailors' Home and Institute, 507 West Street. An illustration of the splendid work among boys is shown by the following report for the month of February, 1937: From thirty American, English, French, German, Italian and Dutch vessels, 1,165 boys, 400 more than the same month last year—each boy counted once daily—were entertained at the Home and given sight-seeing trips covering most every district in Manhattan. The splendid home-like Christian atmosphere of the Seamen's House and the warm welcome given its guests make it specially attractive to seamen of all nationalities in the port of New York.
Chaplain George E. Russell reports: The Gloucester Fishermen's Institute exists to meet the needs of men who are engaged in an unusually hazardous calling. Those who founded the Institute sought to provide some of the comforts and conveniences to men whose life on the sea is one of hardship and danger. Through the years the directors and workers of this institution have labored to carry out the intention of the founders by improving its service and making it in every way a ministering organization to the men of the sea. The year 1936 has been an active one. The dormitory has been filled to capacity for a number of months and has been well patronized by the men during the rest of the year and all the facilities of the institution have been busily engaged. Sunday and Thursday nights during the fall and winter months found the entertainment hall filled to capacity by audiences enjoying moving pictures. The fisherman depends upon the Institute for many kinds of service which are freely rendered by the Chaplain and his assistants. That the Fishermen's Institute has a vital part to play in Gloucester life is evident to anyone acquainted with this work. Here everything is done for the fisherman, from providing him with a club house where he can spend his leisure time ashore to a service station where his many and various needs are met. An essential thing in life is the spirit of good will. The Fishermen's Institute is an ambassador of good will. It is the agency by which men and women of good will can express that spirit to a class of men who are doing the hard, dangerous work of the world. "Man does not live by bread alone", and after a man has struggled with the sea and brought home his catch, be it large or small, it is good for him to find ashore a place that in some degree tries to express the spirit of Him who was the friend of fishermen and called them to be his disciples.
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 1936 as follows: The Seamen’s Bethel, founded more than seventy-five years ago to work among sailors visiting this port, continues to carry out the purpose of its founders in fostering a program of general welfare work among seamen. The number of men visiting the institution was 13,947, an average of 40 men daily throughout the year. Night lodgings furnished were 10,331, an average of nearly 30 men each night. Of the 10,331 beds, only 3,732 were paid for, which means that almost two-thirds of the beds were furnished free of charge. Employment last year through the agency of the Bethel was less than half the number placed in jobs the previous year; this was the direct result of the new procedure of requiring men to ship only through the Union Hall. However, we did place 107 men, the result of night calls when other sources of supply were not available. Carrying out a long established policy of the Bethel, 178 visits were made to various ships in port and the crews invited to take advantage of the facilities we have to offer. In this way many personal contacts were made and new avenues of service opened up. In answer to the question often asked, “Do the men really enjoy the Sunday evening services?”, attention is called to the fact that the services were held every Sunday night throughout the year and the attendance, which is purely voluntary, totalled 2,130. No record of the Bethel's activities can be made without grateful recognition of the Woman’s Auxiliary which functions as a house committee and manages to accomplish a good deal on a very small budget. The superintendent extends to the men and women comprising the Board of Directors his sincere appreciation of their unfailing interest and helpful cooperation at all times throughout the year.
A DOUE SEMEN'S BETHEL, GALVESTON, TEXAS

Mr. J. R. Sarner, Executive Manager, reports as follows for the year ending February 28, 1937: Religious services 48 with an attendance of 914. Seventy-two seamen were sent to hospitals, 164 convalescents from hospitals were cared for and 521 visits paid to seamen in hospitals. More than 10,500 pieces of literature were distributed, more than 3,000 pieces of mail and 1,105 pieces of baggage handled. Free meals 1,565, free lodgings 6,964, and free garments 341 were provided. Employment was found for 307. Nearly 2,000 requests for aid were refused on account of lack of funds. Total attendance 36,451. Mr. Sarner also gives an interesting statistical report of the activities of the Bethel from its beginning thirty-eight years ago showing 1,857,676 seamen served under the leadership of his father, Rev. J. F. Sarner, who died January 14, 1936, and himself, who seems a most worthy successor to one of the finest Chaplains ever engaged in welfare work for seamen.

UPPER CANADA TRACT SOCIETY, TORONTO, CANADA

Mr. George M. Speedie thus reports: Since 1868 this Society has operated at strategic points on this great Home Mission field. During last season of navigation Mr. Judson laboured on the New Wel
The Sailors' Magazine

land Canal. George D. Pound was at Kingston, where he represented the Society for over thirty years. Sailors visiting Toronto were cared for at the Toronto Sailors' Rest by the Rev. Selby Jefferson—especially during the earlier part of navigation. The Royal Arthur Sailors' Institute at Port Arthur (open all the year round) has had another splendid year of service. Friends of sailors should know, however, that the Institute facilities are not confined alone to sailors—railway men, lumbermen and others compelled to be away from home for long periods at a time are always made welcome with free access to the facilities provided. Sunday evening services are conducted. Entertainments of an uplifting nature are arranged for. I visited many vessels in various ports not regularly visited perhaps by our Sailors' Missionaries. In this way I had the privilege of distributing over 350 copies of the Gospel of St. John, and not once did I have a refusal to accept. Rather did I find the men always eager to accept. Valuable contacts have been made with sailors and officers.

The story in figures. Vessels visited when in Harbour 615, many vessels visited at least twice. Gospel leaflets distributed 5,851; magazines 5,181; Scriptures and text calendars 888; visits to Institute (irrespective of those living at Port Arthur Institute) 2,504; sailors' letters handled 1,674; free beds 5,049; free meals 1,286. During the year over 100 Lighthouses have been supplied with parcels of selected books.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, S. A.

Rev. Dr. Hugh C. Tucker reports:
The work among the seamen in the port at Rio de Janeiro was carried forward successfully through the year 1936 under the direction of the local Salvation Army Corps. The home, reading and game rooms, distribution of literature on board steamers, visiting sick in hospitals, helping stranded men, finding employment for a number, and the services of worship, have all had attention in a fine spirit of prayer, faith and devotion. At Christmas time the usual Christmas dinner, distribution of good things, and a social hour with music, etc., was provided.
Victoria Sailors' Home, Buenos Aires, Argentine

Mr. P. J. Wyatt, Superintendent, reports for the year ending December 1, 1936, as follows: The past year has shown some improvement over the previous year when for financial reasons activities were restricted. The cosmopolitan character of the work is indicated by the fact that while the majority of the sailors boarded were of British nationality, nevertheless Americans, Argentines, Chileans, Chinese, Danes, Estonians, Japanese, Maltese, Norwegians, Russians, Spaniards and Swedes were among the men who made use of the Home during the year. Fewer ships visited the port than during the previous year. There were 780 British and 112 American, making a total of 892 ships. There were 412 visits paid to ships, forty-four entertainments were held with an attendance of 482 and 261 bundles of literature were given to crews on board ships. The visit of President Roosevelt was greatly enjoyed and we trust it may result in lasting friendship and enduring peace between the two Americas.

Mariners' Institute, Antwerp, Belgium

Rev. Stanley Parker, Chaplain of the Antwerp Seamen's Friend Society, thus reports for the year ending February 28, 1937: At the Mariners' Church and Institute 158 Gospel and other Church services had an attendance of 6,921; 159 entertainments were held with an attendance of 15,694; 1,735 visits were made to ships and 312 visits to sick and injured seamen in hospitals. About 6,000 pieces of mail were handled and 10,735 seamen frequented the reading room. Our Institute with its warm, bright atmosphere has proved very attractive to those seamen without employment, while our Samaritan work has justified our claim to be international in our outlook. British, American, Portuguese, Italian, German and Russian sailors have been helped with beds.
and meals as well as colored men from all parts of the world. The spiritual side of our work continues to present many opportunities for Christian service, and we have had many interesting talks with men and boys on the Christian life, and the possibility of living that life on board ship.

SEAMEN'S HOME, NAGASAKI, JAPAN

Mr. E. R. S. Pardon, President, reports another very quiet year. The report of the Board of Directors for the year ending October 31, 1936, stated that the doors of the Home have been kept open, but comparatively few seamen have entered them. This inactivity has been due to causes repeatedly mentioned in the Board's reports during recent years. Political unrest in the Far East and elsewhere has kept warships away from the port, while foreign merchant ships have made such short visits that it has been impossible for their men to make use of the Home.

"In May the British airplane carrier Hermes spent several days in Nagasaki, and the Home was fairly busy; the ship's boys were entertained and appreciation of these efforts was expressed by the officer commanding and the chaplain of the Hermes. Unfortunately, other visits of British warships, scheduled for the autumn, were cancelled.

"Financially the Home is in a sound position and could be maintained for several years without difficulty, but its usefulness is undoubtedly curtailed to a regrettable extent by the absence of a port missionary, while the cost of supporting one could not be undertaken without considerable help from outside sources.

"It is for the members of the Electoral Board to decide the future of the Home. We pray that the decision may be in accordance with the Christian principles for which the Home has stood since it was established in 1896."
SAILORS’ REST, FUNchal, MADEIRA

Rev. William George Smart, for more than fifty years Superintendent of the Sailors’ Rest in Funchal, Madeira, died April 19, 1936. The Chairman of the Committee in charge of the Rest wrote The American Seamen’s Friend Society as follows on October 2, 1936: “We very much regret to inform you that circumstances have obliged the local committee to decide to close the Sailors’ Rest at Madeira. You are no doubt aware that it was entirely due to the personal efforts of the late Rev. W. G. Smart that the Rest has continued to exist up to the present time. His lifelong devotion to this object, given without remuneration, leaves a void impossible to fill and the Committee therefore have no option but to liquidate.”

Mr. Smart made hosts of friends both seamen and tourists who miss his genial personality and his noble Christian character.
The American Seamen's Friend Society

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1937

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Investments sold or redeemed</td>
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<td><strong>Investments sold or redeemed</strong></td>
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<td>Grants to affiliated stations</td>
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<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><strong>Balance March 31, 1937</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,630.54</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, J. C. Clark, Executive Secretary, Rev. James C. Healey, Ph.D., Chaplain.

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, J. R. Sarner, Executive Manager.

Upper Canada Tract Society, 406 Yonge Street, Toronto, Canada, George M. Speedie, Supt.

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


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

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 Room 911, 72 Wall St., New York, N. Y.

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 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.