The 117th 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.

THIS NECESSARILY ABBREVIATED WAR TIME REPORT IS PRINTED TO CONFORM TO THE LIMITATIONS ON CONSUMPTION OF PAPER.
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FOREWORD

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

"A friend is one who aids with deeds"

SEAMEN are men and it would be wrong to underestimate their needs. Experience has shown that no agencies of the Government, shipping industry, the unions or any other organizations can ever meet all the real needs of seamen. Accordingly this society helps seamen in many ways and makes every effort to assure that friendly and understanding service is given.

The services we provide, as shown by the following report, are most essential and our current budget together with foreseeable future tasks will require not only all our available resources but the most generous contribution from everybody.

V E Day has come and gone. But this triumph would not have been possible without the valorous assistance given by the men of the merchant marine, and when V J Day comes credit will have to be given to these same men for its attainment. When peace reigns again seamen will still be indispensable.

The Arsenal of America would have been useless without the help and sacrifice of seamen. God forbid that any of us should forget!
Words, at any time, have a well known degree of inadequacy, but we hope this brief report with pictures will serve to impress everyone with the fact that we have been serving seamen for a long time and particularly during the past fiscal year.

This could not have been accomplished without the help of our staff and the many others who have aided us. Without their assistance we could have accomplished little. Since its foundation this Society has recognized the enormous task involved in improving "the social and moral condition of seamen" and has always acknowledged the efforts of others in this vast field. Seamen themselves and their friends have given evidence that they are by no means lacking in appreciation of the extent to which this organization will go to serve their real interests.

The years of war have presented many problems, but there has been no lessening in the demand for the services which we had to offer. The general outline has not changed very much, however the brief story of our various services which follows shows not only definite progress but such gratitude from the men that this century old organization can very justly be called the National Society.

Holding up the hands of American seamen, we effectively supply their educational and other needs. Libraries Ashore, Books and Magazines for Ships, Information Service, Hospital After-Care and the publication of American Seamen to acquaint landsmen with the men of the sea. All of which is done in the traditionally broad spirit of the founders of this Society.
THE Library for Seamen is more than just a collection of books. In part this is shown by the record of attendance. Considerably over 4,000 more men have made use of this Library during the past fiscal year than in any previous period. Few men come to pass the time away. A large city with many attractions almost insures that only those who actually want books ever come to the Library.

Seamen are often surprised to find so many of the current much talked of and advertised books in the Library. They like to read fiction or non-fiction and enjoy the latest worthwhile books. Of course, technical books are greatly in demand and during the past year the circulation of these works has increased 25%. This is not surprising because the seaman today has to have much more knowledge and training than formerly.

A careful record is kept of all books borrowed by seamen, in both Seamen's House and at the Bethelship Y. Such a substantial increase has been noted that we are confirmed in our belief that the modern seaman is book-minded.

Just books, however, are not all the Library for Seamen has to offer; in addition to being a cozy place to read and browse, the librarians are so interested in men's needs and so understanding that the seaman feels more than at home. After a long trip no wonder seamen gravitate to this cozy, friendly Library.
Many letters from seamen express appreciation for books and magazines. Some are more aptly phrased than others, but many could be summed up in the following extract from one of them.

"Your choice of books was excellent and contained a happy blend of the serious and trivial—this balanced perfectly.

"You can have no idea of the sense of comfort which is given one to know that when the watch on deck is finished that there is a library at hand to sustain interest and to give a lead and purpose to conversation which otherwise tends to become either aimless or just degenerate."

Serving boats docked at out of the way points in the vast metropolitan area known as the Port of New York may have resulted in a slight decrease in the number of vessels served in the past fiscal year. But the gratitude of the men aboard and this contribution to the war effort is ample payment. 2102 boxes of books, 4050 boxes of magazines placed on 1206 vessels during the year gives only a fragmentary picture of the services rendered.

Wherever seamen gather our technical libraries are in demand.
"ALL SERVICE RANKS THE SAME WITH GOD"

Browning

MORE THAN A THOUSAND ARTICLES WERE PLACED ABOARD BOATS BY OUR SHIPS' VISITOR FOR SEAMEN INCLUDING

Body Belts
Clothing
Games
Helmets
Mufflers
Phonographs
Records
Puzzles
Reefers
Scarves
Socks
Sweaters
Watch Caps
Wristlets

FUR VEST PROJECT FOR SEAMEN

A total of 250 pieces of fur were picked up and delivered to the Fur Vest Project for Seamen.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR SEAMEN

At Christmas time about 300 portfolios (picture on margin), containing writing paper and envelopes were delivered to various ships. On the back of each sheet of writing paper our various services were mentioned as the illustration shows.
THEIR READY HELP HAS AIDED SEAMEN

In addition to the organizations mentioned below we have received invaluable help from hundreds of individuals who have given us books and magazines for merchant seamen.

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

American Junior Red Cross
American Merchant Marine Library Association
American Red Cross
American Women’s Association
American Women’s Hospitals Reserve Corps
American Women’s Voluntary Services
Baker & Taylor
Brentano Book Shop
British Information Services
Cornell Book Shop
Civilian Defense Volunteers Organization
Daughters of the American Revolution
James Foundation of New York, Inc.
National Maritime Union
National Women’s Republican Club
New York Bible Society
New York Defense Recreation Committee
New York Telephone Company
Personnel Division of various steamship companies
The Propeller Club of the United States
Rutherford Free Public Library
Seamen’s Church Institute of New York
Seamen’s House, Y.M.C.A.
United Seamen’s Service
United Service Organizations
United States Government (various agencies)
Young Men’s Christian Association
INFORMATION that merely satisfies curiosity is one thing, but answers to questions helping to solve vital human problems that are important enough to warrant a telephone call are another. The expressed gratitude of all users of the service has been adequate reward. During the three years of its operation this service has answered thousands of questions. A vast number of human needs have been satisfied.

Our challenge “Ask Us Anything You Want to Know” has been taken literally by seamen who certainly ask a large variety of questions. During the war calls have come, as would be expected, from men sailing in the ships of many nations, also on account of the rapid expansion of our merchant marine many calls came from men who have never been in a large city before.

No question is unimportant to the person asking it. And the increase of three thousand calls during the past fiscal year indicates not only the growth of this service, but the repeated inquiries from some of the seamen reflect the confidence the men have in Gramercy 7-8866.
DETERMINED to give seamen a larger map of the world than before showing among other things the distances between the principal ports, we designed the compact book shown above. This little book, 3 3/8 by 4 3/4 inches in size, fits easily into a seaman's wallet. A first edition of 10,000 copies was printed and has proved to be very useful and interesting to merchant seamen particularly on account of the aid that it gives them when they have unfortunately lost their papers. Their interest in having a reliable place from which to get the numbers of their papers is shown by the fact that we receive duplicate cards in almost every mail.
Everyone has been most enthusiastic about the folder pictured above. More than 250,000 copies have been distributed by many organizations, including those listed in the various editions. At the close of the fiscal year a new Fifth Edition was already demanded.
HOSPITAL AFTER CARE FOR SEAMEN

AN EVEN MORE VARIED CLASS OF SEAMEN THAN THOSE PICTURED ABOVE NEED HOSPITAL AFTER-CARE.

WE still depend upon the opinions of doctors and social service auxiliaries of the Marine Hospitals and cooperate with local seamen’s agencies in providing this service.

Our Information Service has put us in touch with many cases needing Hospital After-Care. Every legitimate case coming to us through either this source or in other ways has been helped during the past fiscal year.

A QUARTERLY NATIONAL MAGAZINE

Introducing Americans to the Men of the Sea

American Seamen

About Men of the Merchant Marine

BY sending this publication not only to subscribers but also to libraries throughout the country, steamship executives, legislators, national and state, department heads in Washington, seamen’s institutions throughout the country and the general public interested in seamen, each of the four issues published in the fiscal year has made seamen better known.

Replete with articles about the men of the sea this illustrated magazine has grown in public esteem everywhere.
The Board of Trustees,

The American Seamen's Friend Society,

New York, New York.

We have made an examination of the attached statement of current funds of THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1945. 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 legacies, gifts and miscellaneous sources are as recorded on the Society's books. It was impracticable to verify all of them by direct correspondence with donors or others but one major item was so verified.

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, 1945.

### Statement of Current Funds

**The American Seamen's Friend Society**

**Statement of Current Funds**

for year ended March 31, 1945

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balances at beginning of year:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation for future building fund, available to meet future budgets</td>
<td>$75,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General current surplus</td>
<td>49,882.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted expendable fund</td>
<td>2,854.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$127,136.81</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legacies and other gifts, including $192.00 allocated to restricted expendable funds</td>
<td>7,511.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from investments, etc., including $2,275.10 apportioned to restricted expendable funds</td>
<td>19,719.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,028.10</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures:</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational work, including books purchased for and maintenance of libraries ashore and furnished to crews of merchant vessels, salaries and miscellaneous expenses, together with $23,760.49 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses</td>
<td>49,919.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National work including aid to seamen, together with $1,723.17 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses</td>
<td>3,579.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Seamen's Review, printing, distribution, salary and miscellaneous expenses, together with $4,059.53 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses</td>
<td>8,527.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>62,026.59</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Balances at end of year:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation for future building fund, available to meet future budgets</td>
<td>75,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General current surplus</td>
<td>15,697.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted expendable fund</td>
<td>2,440.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$93,138.32</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In addition, the Executive Director estimates that about 63,000 books and 303,000 magazines were donated and distributed during the year under review. These might have a minimum value of $18,000.*
Contributions and legacies which will enable this Society to carry on its work are 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.

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."