The 118th Annual Report

OF

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
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries for Seamen</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries Afloat</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Service</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital After-Care for Seamen</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seamen Help Themselves</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountants Report</td>
<td>10 &amp; 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers, Board of Trustees, etc.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PICTURES**

Some of the Many Aids to Seamen Made Available by this Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOREWORD

TO THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY

“A friend is one who aids with deeds.”

I

N our last Annual Report we referred to the fact that all the real needs of seamen could never be met by any one organization and accordingly during the past fiscal year we made every effort to assure friendly and understanding service wherever possible.

In many cases it has been only necessary to make the facilities of other organizations known. In some cases, however, the need was so urgent, the demand for service so extraordinary or the existing rules of other organizations such that nothing could well be done unless we ourselves in some way supplied the necessary help. This applied to requests for every kind of service—Books, Information, Living accommodations, After-hospital Care or in fact anything a seaman might need.

As the National Society we are most appreciative of all the efforts which are made to serve seamen and welcome every opportunity to support or supplement what anyone may do for them.

Seamen think the things we do are necessary because they are useful to them as men engaged in an essential occupation which of necessity deprives them of the educational and other advantages to which landmen are accustomed.

No doubt you will approve of our desire to be brief and conserve our resources as much as is practicable by not printing a lengthy report. Much more might well be said about each one of our activities during the past fiscal year, but the brief account given on the following pages together with a partial record of our work during World War II since Pearl Harbor will give some idea of our service to seamen.
ATTENDANCE at the Library for Seamen in Seamen's House has been 19,505 men during the past fiscal year, which is an increase of 4,363 over the previous year. The number of books borrowed and technical works consulted shows that more and more seamen prefer to do their reading in the Library. Currently its capacity is often taxed to find room for them. Approximately one out of every five men who live in Seamen's House make use of this Library, and the rate of use, so far as we know, is unequaled by any Library in the city; showing how success is bound to attend such a real spirit of understanding as is evident in everything done for seamen.

This Library is open every day in the year. Sundays and holidays show the largest rate of attendance. Stocked as it is with the latest and best fiction and non-fiction books including the most used technical works having to do with the marine industry it supplies just what seamen need.

Our relations with other libraries and the book trade in general are such that we are never at a loss to supply any required book whether or not it happens to be in the Library.

As an adjunct to our Information Service the Librarians are asked about every conceivable subject a seaman may be interested in or have on his mind; no wonder the hardworking staff often has very unusual questions to answer. Without their interest and wide range of experience it would not be possible to carry on such a successful institution as the Library for Seamen.
LIBRARIES AFLOAT

So many telephone calls have been made direct to our office for books during the past fiscal year that we are sure seamen want books to read while at sea.

According to our records 1,073 ships were supplied with 61,920 carefully selected books along with 264,000 magazines. This reading matter was available to more than 72,590 seamen for their education or amusement when they were at leisure to enjoy them.

Our Ship Visitor also distributed during this period many useful articles for the benefit of the men on the various ships he visited. The following list shows what these articles were:

1,232 Ditty Bags (AWVS)
29,000 Sheets of Writing Paper (listing our various services on the back of each sheet) and a corresponding number of envelopes.
500 Christmas gifts
198 Decks of Playing Cards
112 Phonograph Records and 3 Victrolas
103 Pieces of Knitted Goods
53 Pieces of Clothing
25 Game Chests (USS)
17 Large Atlases and Gazetteers of the World

In addition to this about 5,000 books not suitable for seamen were sent to such institutions as

Five Points Missions
House of the Good Shepherd
Greenwich House

and to various other women's and children's organizations. All of this was made possible by our good friends who cooperated with us by sending more than 78,000 books and about 300,000 magazines. Their support and interest is greatly appreciated and while individual acknowledgements have already been sent we feel they should be further thanked for having so greatly aided us and the men of the merchant marine.
INFORMATION SERVICE

"Ask About Anything You Want to Know"

This has shown itself to be the most worth while and popular of our many services. More American seamen made use of it during this year than ever before. Some of the many questions they asked will give an indication of how useful this service can be to merchant seamen.

SOME OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED

Inquiries about training schools—further education along technical lines.
Requirements for joining the merchant service.
Queries about lodgings, entertainment and canteens for merchant seamen.
Where special equipment needed by merchant seamen can be purchased.
Queries about location of unions and their requirements for membership.
Inquiries in regard to doctors, dentists, podiatrists and chiropodists.
Marriage laws.
Where to get loans.
Whether hospitalization is available to merchant seamen or their families.
Queries about allotments, amounts and when payable.
How to get to certain destinations, reservations and method of transportation.
How to get duplicates of seamen's papers.
Queries about foreign mail.
Where the different Consulates are located.
Inquiries about decorations and emblems for the merchant service.
How to get passports.
How to register for voting.
Questions in regard to naturalization.
Whether reduced rates on transportation are available.
How to get gas and shoe coupons.
Cashing checks or changing foreign currency.
What rest homes are available.

Seamen call upon us to get information about these and many other things. All day and every day it was available until 10 o'clock at night and we received anywhere from ten to fifteen calls from merchant seamen and their friends almost every day.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Individuals in such large numbers have contributed to the work this Society is doing in educational and other fields that we are indebted to them quite as much as all the organizations listed below who have most generously helped us by donating money, or reading matter. We are particularly appreciative of contributions made by members of the crews of vessels to which we supplied books and magazines. Their gifts have not only helped defray some of the delivery cost, but more important still it has heartened us and made us sure that our work is really appreciated by the men. These contributions were most welcome.

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

- American Red Cross
- American Women’s Association
- 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
- Civilian Defense Volunteers Organizations
- Cornell Book Shop
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Harmony Book Shop
- Hotel Alden
- James Foundation of New York
- Mt. Sinai Hospital
- National Women’s Republican Club
- New York Bible Society
- New York Public Library
- Polyprep Country Day School
- Propeller Club of the United States
- Public Library, Lyndhurst
- Rutherford Free Public Library
- Seamen’s Church Institute of Philadelphia
- Seamen’s House, Y.M.C.A.
- Steamship Companies
- Steinway Public Library
- Treasure Chest Thrift Shop of
- American Women’s Hospitals Reserve Corps
- U. S. Naval Hospital, Sea Gate
- U. S. Public Health Service
- Women’s Committee for Servicemen, Maplewood
- Young Men’s Christian Association
Some of the many aids to seamen made available by this Society

Libraries Ashore

Entertainment
Canteens
Rest Centers
Lodgings

in
The Port
of
New York

For Merchant Seamen

Fifth Edition
Published
By
The American
Seamen's Friend Society
175 Fifth Avenue
New York

Libraries, Books and Magazines
For Seamen Ashore and Afloat

Information Service for Seamen
And Their Friends

Call Gramercy 7-8866
Ask About Anything You Want To Know

This Service is Available From:
9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Weekdays
2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays
HOSPITAL AFTER CARE FOR SEAMEN

SEAMEN, DOCTORS AND THE SOCIAL SERVICE AUXILIARIES KNOW HOW MUCH THIS CARE IS NEEDED

WE RELY UPON THEIR OPINIONS IN PROVIDING THIS SERVICE AND SEE TO IT THAT SEAMEN GET THIS CARE

Fortunately, during the past year we were able to place most of the seamen needing this kind of care in governmentally sustained rest homes, but as most of these have closed or are about to do so, we may be called upon to do more in the coming year.

However, efforts are being made to augment the care Marine Hospitals are now giving to seamen so that after hospital care may be provided by the U. S. Public Health Service.

A NATIONAL QUARTERLY MAGAZINE DESIGNED TO ACQUAINT AMERICANS WITH THE MEN OF THE SEA

As a measure of economy this publication has been discontinued. Perhaps there is still some need for Americans generally to know more about the men of the merchant marine, but the general public has in various ways had its attention called to the importance of these men to our country. During the past year 10,000 copies were printed and distributed.
SEAMEN HELP THEMSELVES

THIS Society for years endeavored to preach and teach seamen about the evils of unrestrained drinking. By word of mouth, by printed tracts and by signed pledges it has striven to inculcate habits of temperance.

Today the achievements of the organization known as the Alcoholics Anonymous are well-known and attested. Recently the seamen established their own branch of the A.A.'s, as the Alcoholic Seamen's Club.

The theory being that only the rescued victim of alcoholism understands the problems and temptations of the habitual drinker, and that seamen best understand the peculiar form of the temptation to which they are subject.

This Society has cooperated and given necessary financial support to the Alcoholic Seamen's Club since its earliest inception. It has members on its Advisory Board and by word of counsel and other help has participated in its growth. Now the Club is almost self-supporting and has helped hundreds of seamen.

We welcome this new and vigorous organization as a new ally of this Society which since its inception has endeavored to bring assistance to seamen who are victims of too much barley-corn.
The Board of Trustees,
The American Seamen's Friend Society,
New York, N. Y.

We have made an examination of the attached statement of receipts and expenditures of current funds of THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1946. 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 funds receipts and expenditures of The American Seamen's Friend Society for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1946.

New York, June 21, 1946.

Lysander, Rose, Bros. & Montgomery
ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS

New York, June 21, 1946.
Receipts:
- Gifts, including $661.66 allocated to restricted expendable funds: $12,561.14
- Income from investments, etc., including $2,667.63 apportioned to restricted expendable funds: $19,825.65
- Net profit on disposition of current funds' investments: $6,386.07
- Miscellaneous expenses: $4,025.28

Expenditures:
- Educational work, including books purchased for and maintenance of libraries ashore and furnished to crews of merchant vessels, salaries and miscellaneous expenses, together with $17,002.43 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses: $41,501.79
- National work, including aid to seamen, together with $3,253.21 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses: $7,935.57
- American Seamen's Review, printing, distribution, salary and miscellaneous expenses, together with $1,971.54 for proportionate part of administrative salaries and other general expenses: $4,805.08

Excess of expenditures over receipts for the fiscal year, charged against available cash balances: $14,220.16

*In addition, the Executive Director estimates that 61,920 books and 204,000 magazines were donated and distributed during the year under review. These might have a minimum value of $17,664.
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CONTRIBUTIONS

and

LEGACIES

Generous gifts which will enable this Society to carry on its work are greatly 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.”