



The LOOKOUT

SEAMEN'S
CHURCH
INSTITUTE
of NEW YORK

Volume XVII
Number 1

January
1926

1926—

With the passing of the old year and the beginning of the New there comes to institutions as to individuals a moment of self-appraisal—a review of the past year, a looking toward the future. There has probably been no more momentous twelvemonth in the life of the Institute, for the past few months of 1925 have seen the beginning of a new chapter in its life—the laying of the corner stone and the completion of the steel work of the Annex.

Compared with the daring confidence that twelve years ago inspired the erection of the present building—an accomplishment that caused much shaking of heads and doubts as to its wisdom—the present project may not seem so spectacular. But if initial effort does not seem so daring there are other features that mark it an equivalent in superb achievement. First, the amount necessary to build is more than double that for the original building; second, the urgency of the situation and the tremendous demand for the services of the Institute compelled the Board of Managers to begin operations before the finances required were all in sight.

They builded on faith, on the knowledge of right, and the certainty that a veritable army of men and women would lend their help. They relied on the friends of the Institute—the readers of the "Lookout" to support them in their arduous task. Their confidence has not been misplaced for the end of 1925 saw over 1,700 contributions representing \$666,000 in pledges and cash toward the grand total of \$2,750,000 required to pay for the land and to complete the building. These represent contributions from 32 different states and four foreign countries, so uni-

The LOOKOUT

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versal has been the appeal of the work of the Institute. Nothing speaks more eloquently of the interest in the plans for providing for those who roam the seas than a reading of the complete subscription list, and noting the large number of small contributions that have come from young and old, from representatives of all walks of life, those first venturing on the sea of life and those who have weathered many decades of the journey.

As a consequence it was on a year full of happiness that Father Time drew the curtain on New Year's Eve, and the Institute looks to the youthful New Year to provide an increasingly happy support of the construction plans for 1926.

Never has there been a season like the one just passed when the spirit of peace and plenty was so general throughout the land and never was there a holiday time when there was so much joyous giving. But the "Lookout" wants to remind its readers that though the "Annex" cruise is well begun, there is still much to be accomplished—the greater part of the voyage still lies ahead—there are many leagues yet to be traversed before the "Annex" may successfully return to port treasure-laden.

Do you want to provide some of the precious building cargo she seeks? Builder, construction, steel firms and architects must be paid at the work progresses and her stock of building cargo is fast depleted. Will you help create a surplus this month to make January a real leader in the building program.

If you help start the New Year by swelling the building fund or if you talk about our plans to someone else you will have helped just that much to broadcast the news of the "Annex" and speed her on her voyage.

Many "Lookout" readers have not only *given* but have *got* other people to give, and it is only through getting and giving too, that the "Annex" can be made a completed certainty in 1926.

A Timely Reminder

"It was through you I got my job," he said to the House Mother, shifting from one foot to another as he stood in her small office, "and I wanted to give you something to show you how much I did appreciate it. If you hadn't fixed me up with clothes when you did, I wouldn't have had it, you see—and so I brought you this for Christmas." And he began unwrapping a great packet he had been carrying gingerly.

From its wrappings emerged a wonderfully carved clock. "For your new office," he said. "I thought you might like this. I was going to make you a ship model, but where I am now I had no time, and besides I thought this might make you think of me when it strikes." And he pointed out to her the place from which a carved cuckoo announced the passage of the hours.

The Christmas Prodigal

It was in early December that the man came into the Social Service Department. He was looking for his son. Could something be done?

The search was begun and the machinery for tracing missing men put into operation. It was the lad's first trip to sea and no one had heard from him after he had shipped. There was no clue—the ship, port, line unknown.

But in some way the message from the Missing Men Bulletin got to him. He reached home on Christmas Eve. And it was a very changed father

who tapped on the door of the Social Service office on Christmas Eve itself, beaming like the Santa Claus of legends, and with true Italian enthusiasm telling his appreciation of what had been done.

The following editorial from the Nautical Gazette is so comprehensive a statement of the present day seaman, his ideas, and ambitions, that we feel certain that the readers of the "Lookout" will be interested.

We are particularly pleased with the tribute paid to the American Merchant Marine Library Association whose aims and ambitions are so closely allied to those of the Institute.

"In many quarters the idea still prevails that to be a good sailor a man must be rough and uncouth. Coarse manners and harsh ways are still believed by some to be characteristics of the men who man our ships. How very little the people in the interior know of the nature of American seamen is evidenced by a letter we have received from a college student asking whether American sailors are really of as low a type as they are reputed to be. Nothing could be more erroneous than these ideas, for they are founded on an utter misconception of American ships and of the men who man them. In the days of the squareriggers, sailors' boarding houses and boarding masters, seamen had to be of a rough nature, and any sign of softness they may have betrayed on their maiden voyages was soon submerged by treatment at the hands of crimps and the many other predatory sharks of the waterfronts who selected sailors as their victims. But beneath these rugged exteriors, American sailors were, in the main, good at heart, and the men who go to sea today are far from being

social outcasts which many people believe them to be. This fact was emphasized a few days ago at a meeting of the American Merchant Marine Library Association when Robert F. Hand, assistant manager of the marine department of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, said that in the old days, when the now vanished squareriggers were a familiar sight along South Street, the sailor used to go to sea with a dunnage bag and a sea chest, whereas he now goes aboard with a suitcase. "The old-time sailor smoked a pipe and chewed tobacco, while the modern sailor smokes cigarettes and chews gum; where the old-timers had porridge for breakfast, the sailor of the present day has shredded wheat and grape fruit," said Mr. Hand. Despite this change the American sailor is just as efficient in the performance of his duties and just as brave in time of danger as were his predecessors. Americans going to sea today are of the finest type, and they are now surrounded with influences ashore and afloat which largely counteract any tendency towards the coarsening of their natures. On shore there is the Seamen's Church Institute, where the men are brought into contact with clean surroundings and a refined atmosphere, and on board ships they have the advantage of reading, the splendid literature supplied by the American Merchant Marine Library Association. The modern sailor's literary diet and his requests for particular books would do credit to the students in any of our universities. The modern sailor is ambitious, and he reads the classics with the same appreciation and interest with which he reads books on technical subjects. The American sailors of today are a class of men of whom the nation might well be very proud."

*Women's Associations Aid
Christmas Plans*

Christmas might have fallen far short of its quota of cheer had it not been for the thoughtfulness of the Seamen's Church Institute Associations. Brooklyn, East Orange, the Robert Roger's group and the Seamen's Benefit Society sent checks to swell the holiday fund. Sweaters, scarves, caps and other knitted garments that mariners prize were contributed by the East Orange, Elizabeth, and Riverside groups, while the South Shore Association supplied all the Christmas gifts and candy for the Apprentice Boys' party on December 30th. The Brooklyn Association assured the success of the Fellowship Club Christmas party through a check they contributed.

The Executive Secretary announced that the sale of Christmas cards to provide a cigarette fund for sick seamen had produced \$30.40.

New Year's Resolutions

At this time of year New Year's resolutions are as prevalent as Christmas seals or holiday headaches. They may be serious or sad. They may concern the recovery of lost tempers, latchkeys, or umbrellas; the acquisition of sociability at breakfast time; or several miles of Florida real estate—their variety is as infinite as the human species.

Some of us have tempers as short as the prevailing skirt; some cannot be persuaded that the sun ever shines. Others find humour as hard to discover as a bathroom in an English house; while some go through whole days with a disposition as cheery as a London fog.

But whatever one's particular faults or foibles, New Year's resolutions mark a real attempt at betterment. They are an effort to better one's self, to gain more in life, to extend one's influence.

In that connection there is one resolution that we hope all readers of the "Lookout" have made. It means the casting of your influence far beyond the ken of belief; the touching of thousands of lives; giving pleasure to myriads who serve you; it means more personal contentment to yourself—it means helping the Building Fund.

Where Christmas Was Merry

If one never looked at the calendar, or did not know the season, there is a very definite feeling in the air that indicates the arrival of Christmas and the end of the year at the Institute. A general feeling of contentment, an indefinable air of satisfaction and of happiness stamp it undisputably the Christmas season. And as each incoming crew entered the Institute the past fortnight we could almost hear a sigh of relief that at last 'home' had been reached for the holidays.

The lobby was especially gay this holiday time with tall shafts of evergreen trees. Wreaths hung in the windows seemed to beckon to all comers that within glowed the spirit of Christmas tide. In fact it looked so attractive we almost wished it might stay that way the year round.

On Christmas morning every man found a card of Christmas greeting in his room, there was a ten-thirty chapel service and at noon the turkey dinners began to appear that brought a real taste of home to hungry palates weary of the food at sea. All told nearly a thousand dinners were served this year, thanks to the checks for the holi-

day Fund which were received from twelve different states.

Every sick seaman in marine hospitals in the port of New York received a gift of a comfort bag or knitted articles supplied by the women's auxiliaries and from friends of the mariner in almost every city in New York State. Some were received from such far-away places as Santa Barbara, Miami, Florida, Detroit, Boston, Cincinnati, Muncie, Indiana, Connecticut, New Jersey, Chicago and London, England.

And it was the same feeling of good fellowship and holiday fun that made one forget how congested things were when everyone tried to crowd into the reading room for the Christmas Day party. The entertainers themselves used a table as a stage and dispensed their merriment like minstrels in the olden days. There was no set program, no announcements, no regulations, and there was about the entire performance such an air of spontaneous gaiety that no one wanted the program ever to stop.

Exactly the same spirit seemed to pervade the Fellowship Club party also which was held on Tuesday night December 29th for whose success the Seamen's Church Institute Association of Brooklyn was largely responsible.

A. M. M. L. A.

The American Merchant Marine Library Association was the guest of Mr. Edmund L. Baylies at a luncheon at the Institute on December 15th preceding its annual meeting. Winthrop L. Marvin acted as toastmaster and introduced the speakers. He mentioned the growth of the American Merchant Marine and the nationwide interest in its development. He said that the American Mer-

chant Marine now was second only to the British in tonnage. As indicative of the Americanization of the ships crews Mr. Baylies mentioned in his address that 82 per cent of the men who have lodged at the Institute in the past year were Americans, born or naturalized.

Mr. Robert F. Hand assistant manager of the marine department of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey dwelt on the change in the type of American seamen in the past twenty or twenty-five years, and how genuinely appreciative the modern seamen were of the educational facilities offered through the A. M. M. L. A.

Capt. John F. Milliken, secretary-treasurer of the Neptune Association spoke of the deep appreciation of the American seaman of the work of the association. Mr. Henry Howard who organized the Shipping Board recruiting service in 1917 spoke of the increased interest in the merchant marine on the part of Americans. The progress made and the expansion of the service of the Association was outlined by Mrs. Henry Howard, President and founder of the A. M. M. L. A.

Mrs. Howard reported that the Association was now serving some 14,000 American ships.

Mrs. Roger H. Bacon, vice-chairman of the book drive campaign reported that 60,000 books had already been received in addition to thousands of magazines, and that the total might reach 75,000.

Dr. John H. Finley, chairman of the campaign committee paid tribute to the work done by Mrs. Bacon and the work that both the Institute and the Association are doing for the merchant seamen.

Among the other guests at the luncheon were: Mrs. James Bertram, Major R. F. Parker, Mrs.

When the white sails of American ships flew from Cathay to New York



"Winged Arrow"—American Clipper 1858

Well known in New York and Boston, and made some remarkable records from Boston to the Equator.

*Models of Famous American Merchant Ships
In the Days When Sails Outnumbered Stacks*



"Mary L. Sutton"—American Clipper 1856

Built by Charles Mallory, of Mystic, Connecticut. One of eight clippers built for the California trade during 1856. Her record run was 110 days to San Francisco in 1856 and 103 days in 1860.

F. Bradley Reynolds, Mrs. William Grosvenor, Miss Maude Wetmore, Mr. Franklin H. Hopper, Mrs. Coffin Van Rensselaer, Miss Katherine Howard, Mrs. Otto Heinigke, Mr. Bert L. Todd, Dr. A. R. Mansfield, Mr. Edward F. Stevens, and Mr. Carl W. Shattuck, Director of the A. M. M. L. A.

The aims and aspirations of the Association lie close to those of the Institute and it is especially gratifying to see the splendid progress their work has made, and to know that proper public recognition is being given it. Seamen as a class are more avid readers than their shore cousins. The very nature of their lives makes books their irreplaceable companions, both for recreation and instruction. In keeping the ships of the American merchant Marine service supplied with such reading material the A. M. M. L. A. is rendering a national service of paramount importance.

Congestion

A mass of unmoving men with now and then a head emerging above the others, a buzz of conversation in many languages, occasionally a break in the dense block of humanity as some individual tries to thread his way to the door or to the stairs—that is the lobby. You know there is a floor but only in the wee small hours while the great building sleeps under the green-blue vigilance of the lighted tower does it ever show. Even the lower steps of the stairway leading to the second floor are always covered by a tide of men.

The writing room on the second floor might be the twin of the lobby. The same conditions exist—a group about the piano, each chair filled, and even tables must be sat upon when there is no place else to go. There is no place now in the

building where one can go to read, to relax, to move about, to know something of the comforts of unconfined quarters after weeks in the narrow, cramped quarters of a ship on wintry seas.

That is why the large recreation rooms are most vitally needed now—that is why subscriptions to the Conrad room are welcome. If funds for the building come in apace it may be possible to make some of these public rooms available before the entire building is completed and provide some imperative recreation space.

In the Christmas Mail

The many friends of the seamen who were kind enough to contribute to the Christmas Fund or who sent in gifts for them all will be interested in seeing come of the following letters which have come from seamen whose Christmas was made brighter because of the Institute Christmas plans.

Dozens of letters have been received from appreciative seamen, but space permits the reproduction of only a few.

From Jones Point, where seamen have been keeping a lonely watch on some of the Shipping Board vessels, came the following letters:

S.S. "Benoni"
Jones' Point
New York
December 30, 1925

Kindly allow me to offer a word of thanks for the presents myself and the boys received at Christmas. It was indeed the most pleasant surprise I have ever received.

Please thank the good friends we have for us. Many of us have neither home nor friends and it makes us grateful. God bless you all.

I am,

Yours very respectfully,

J. A. E.

Burke Foundation
White Plains, N. Y.
December 30, 1925.

Many thanks for the Christmas parcel you sent me by Miss Kelm, Supt. Burke Foundation.

I was badly in need of the things.

Yours gratefully,
(Signed) F. F.
Caldwell Fleet, Jones Point, N. Y.

December 30, 1925

Dear Sir:

On behalf of all the officers and the members of the crew of this Fleet, I wish to thank you for the kind consideration shown in sending Christmas gifts to the men employed here.

The useful contents of the packages played a very important part in making the Christmas holiday more enjoyable and the recipients appreciated not only the presents but the thought that they had been remembered at this season of the year.

I shall take this opportunity to commend you and your institution on your persistent and successful efforts for making the existence of sea-faring men as bright as possible.

Wishing you continued success in the future, I am,

Respectfully yours,
A. S. Lee
Fleet Manager

From the various marine hospitals have come the following notes:

Ward's Island
Dec. 25, 1925.

Dear Sirs:

I received your most welcomed card, with gifts. I am very glad to say that I am well pleased with them.

I can't express my gratitude with words.

May yours and every sailor's heart be filled with joy on this wonderful day of Xmas.

May the New Year bring success towards your welfare in the coming year.

I also wish to state and make my thanks for the per-

sons who made known my name to you in New York City. I am from Phila. and am a sea-faring man having been in the merchant marine during the war and have worked for Lykes Bros. on West Modus and for Atlantic Refining coastwise. If anybody happens to be in your Institute I wish they would come to see me.

Thanking you in advance,
Yours respectfully,

R. J. S.
Fireman.

Marine Hospital, No. 21,
Ward I, Staten Island,
Dec. 25, 1925.

Seamen's Church Institute
25 South St.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:

I want to thank your Institute for what cheer you brought this ward and myself by the gifts sent to us, it sure helped to make a Merry Christmas.

In closing may I wish you all a Happy New Year?

Respectfully,
(Signed) G. F. C.

Fleet Corporation
45 Broadway
New York, N. Y.
Caldwell Fleet
Jones Point, N. Y.
December 30th 1925

My dear Sir:

I take great satisfaction in expressing my personal appreciation of the wonderful work being done by your Institution. You are indeed to be congratulated.

I would also thank you for the thoughtful remembrances of Christmas Day, and I am sure that those gifts made Christmas more happy for one and all of us, and especially for we who were not able to be with family or friends on this Day of Days.

Wishing you success and happiness for the coming year, I beg to remain,

Respectfully yours.

(Signed)

R. K. Thurber, Chief Clerk.

The Building Committee

At the last meeting of the Building Committee among the larger subscriptions to the Building fund announced were the following contributions:

John T. Austin.....	\$100
R. Graham Bigelow.....	100
Miss Anna M. Boyd.....	100
Mrs. Harriet T. Cramer.....	100
The family of Rev. W. T. Crocker.....	1,500
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Harris.....	100
Miss Margaret Hendrie.....	100
Mrs. Cooper Hewitt.....	100
H. D. McFaddin.....	100
W. M. McFarland.....	100
William Larimer Mellon.....	100
Edwin G. Merrill.....	100
Henry J. Miller.....	100
Miss E. M. Norton.....	100
George B. Ogden.....	100
Right Reverend and Mrs Robert L. Paddock..	100
M. L. Parker.....	100
Henry A. Rusch.....	\$100
R. A. C. Smith.....	100
Mrs. Ada C. Stanley.....	100
H. G. Ward.....	100
Miss Ida M. Harris.....	200
John A. Morris.....	200
Miss Zelina T. Clark.....	250
Sir T. Ashley Sparks.....	250
William A. W. Stewart.....	250
Howard Townsend.....	250
Mr. and Mrs. Ansell H. Ball.....	300
Anonymous.....	500
F. Kingsbury Bull.....	500
Anonymous.....	1,000
Maitland F. Griggs.....	500
Seward Prosser.....	500
Charles D. Wetmore.....	500
Anonymous.....	1,000
Miss Mary J. George.....	1,000
J. H. Kean.....	1,000
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Graeme Ladd.....	1,000
Mrs. C. Eric W. McDonald.....	1,000

Stevenson Taylor.....	1,000
Mrs. Geo. Peabody Wetmore.....	2,000
William Harris Douglas.....	5,000
Anonymous.....	10,000
J. W. Packard.....	10,000
Frederick W. Vanderbilt.....	10,000

The following were announced as special memorial gifts:

Sir T. Ashley Sparks—	\$250 for the Conrad Memorial.
Mrs. C. Eric W. McDonald—	A seamen's room. "In memory of Daniel Barnes, President of the Seamen's Bank for Savings, 1906-1922."
Stevenson Taylor—	A seaman's room.
Mrs. George Peabody Wetmore—	Annex to the dining room. "Given by Mrs. Geo. Peabody Wetmore in memory of her sons, William S. K. Wetmore and Rogers P. D. K. Wet- more."
William Harris Douglas—	One convalescent seaman's room. "Given by William Harris Douglas in loving memory of William Erskine Douglas."
Reverend William Tufts Crocker and family—	Officer or Staff Room. Paul Crocker Memorial.

Helping a Helper

He was from Maine, and he came naturally by his love for the sea. But that fickle lady Fortune had seemingly neglected him when he came to the House Mother's door—haggard, hungry, his face as gray as his clothes. A thin wisp of a boy he was. He needed help.

"Yes, I'll take any sort of a job—anything at all," he said, "but I do need some shoes," and he looked at the worn out coverings for his feet. But his listener understood how much more he needed than that.

"You go down and have a good wash and a scrub, and put on these clothes when you come back," she told him, as she hunted for some fresh

clothing. "You'll need that before you can get a job."

Warm sox she found, a sweater, but she could not find a shirt. But as though reading her thoughts a tall young seaman came into her office for a bag he had left. Opening it he handed out a fresh one, "Here's a shirt for the boy that I think will fit him. I saw him when I came in and know he needs it. I know what it is to be broke myself."

Congratulations

From another great figure in the literary and artistic world has come the following letter regarding the Conrad Memorial.

Muirhead Bone, distinguished artist and writer, is a brother of Captain David Bone of the "Transylvania." They crossed on the same ship with Mr. Conrad on the occasion of his memorable voyage to America in 1923.

Byways Steep, Petersfield, Hants,
Oct. 31, 1925.

Dear Sir Ashley Sparks:

I hope I am not too late in venturing to congratulate you and the Manager's Committee of the Seamen's Church Institute on the splendid idea of dedicating your new reading room to the memory of Joseph Conrad.

I was only a friend of Conrad's towards the close of his life but his was such an intense and vivid personality that having known him at all I seem to have known him always. He was a real king among men—the wide scope of his genius and understanding was something tremendous. I always feel a great gratitude to him for the way he thrust aside mere acquaintanceship and gave one at once full and intimate friendship. I shall—I can—never forget those days on the Atlantic passage with him when he told me of how his ambitions grew and how the sea shaped them all.

He would love to think of the friendships and good-fellowships associated with his name in your fine scheme.

A place where friendships are made—he would want to be remembered in no more hallowed spot.

With warm good wishes,

Ever yours,

(Signed) MUIRHEAD BONE.

An Apprentice's Christmas

Christmas seems to occupy a special place in the European heart. And if you add to that the feelings of youth—then you may know something of the gaiety of the apprentices' party on December the 30th. Of course there were decorations, and wreaths of red and green...and a tree...and the infectious happiness of over a hundred blue-uniformed boys "home from the sea" at Yuletide.

And best of all, having danced around the tree all evening it began yielding gifts for everyone—gifts specially chosen and furnished these youthful circlers of the globe by the South Shore Association, as well as remembrances for each of the Volunteers from the Institute.

Certain we are that many a happy "post mortem" there was aboard ships sleeping in the harbor when their embryo future commanders came aboard at the end of the festivities, and many a letter home contained cheery news of Christmas because of the holiday party.

Exchange of Gifts

Christmas sees so many gifts for seamen come across the House Mother's desk from various friends of the Institute, so many articles of warm-knitted woolens, and other examples of someone's thought and skill, that it is not surprising that she

has grown quite accustomed to consider packages addressed to her as being for some member of her sea-faring family.

But one time this was not the case. A friend of the Institute knowing how little thought the House Mother gave to herself provided a surprise for her in the shape of a Christmas gift. It arrived duly addressed, but it looked like all the others. In the midst of the Xmas bustle when a big six-foot Yankee came in for a sweater, the small bundle was given him.

A few days later, he came into her office, a broad grin on his face, and handed back to her the self same package. "I thought you would have more use for this than I would," he said. Could you change this for a sweater? Besides there's a card in it addressed to you," and with that he unwrapped the package and exposed to the astonishment of the House Mother a charming, cobwebby scarf, delicate of texture and hue, bearing a card with a personal greeting.

"Someone has to look after you, you see, the same way you do after us."

Seamen's Church Institute of New York

Incorporated 1844

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