

The LOOKOUT

SEAMEN'S
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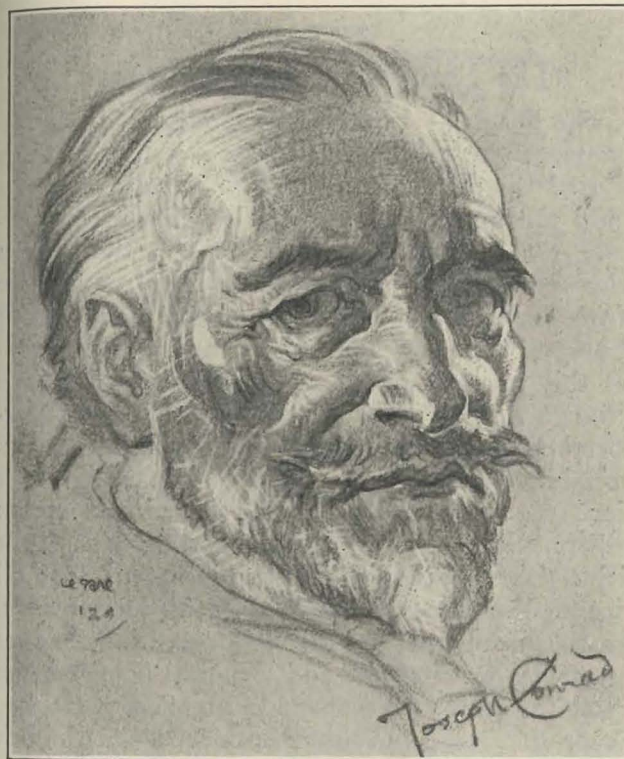
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Joseph Conrad

*The great seaman-novelist
in whose memory
the main library reading room
at the Institute is to be built*

*The sketch of Mr. Conrad
by Mr. Cesare is reproduced
by kind permission of the
New York Times and Arthur
H. Harlow & Company.*

Editor's Note

The "Lookout" is reprinting the following editorial from the New York daily "Sun" which appeared on July fifteenth and which has aroused a great deal of interest in the plans of the Institute.

"The Seamen's Church Institute"

The Seamen's Church Institute is able now to announce the receipt of a few preliminary gifts toward the fund of \$2,000,000 it must raise to build the annex which is needed if it is to continue the essential service it gives to the sailors who come in their thousands annually to a New York they do not know and which away from the water front does not know them. That service this greatest of all social workers for those that go down to the sea in ships has been performing in accordance with the varying needs imposed by the changing conditions of passing years since 1844. It has seen sails furled and steam enthroned as master of the oceans; iron hulls drive the wooden walls from the seven seas; oil rise to the place where King Coal feels his supremacy menaced; but throughout all the changes of marine architecture and technical progress the need for care for seamen in strange ports has never decreased. With the upbuilding of New York until it is the world's greatest port the necessity for the Institute's ministrations has become annually more and more apparent.

Twelve years ago the cornerstone of the present Institute was laid, and it was occupied in September, 1913. It was designed to accommodate 500 men; its average daily population is 836. One hundred thousand seamen seeking

decent lodgings within its walls in the last three years have been turned away because there was no room for them; turned away from the shelter expressly intended for them. All the recreation and play rooms have been sacrificed in the effort to provide sleeping quarters; the lobbies are packed to the "point of unhealthfulness," in the words of the Institute's management.

When the present building was erected it was felt that the necessity for further expansion had been put ahead for some time. So it had. It had been put ahead about eight years, for the overcrowding of the building which has made inevitable the expansion now in progress began to be felt uncomfortably four years ago. The call for beds outran the capacity of the dormitories; the requirements of the social service became heavier; the loss of influence due to overcrowding which necessitated curtailment of many recreational activities began then to be a source of regret to the managers of the work. And in four years these unfavorable conditions have naturally become more pronounced.

This Seamen's Institute is not a mere dormitory, a lodging house, a transient shelter conducted by benevolence. It is a vital and pulsing institution run sanely and wisely by men of experience who have no illusions. It has a social service which helps seamen out of the legal snarls concerning passports, repatriation and wages; gets them into hospitals and out of jails when they deserve it; assists them with their correspondence, hunts for them when they are lost, guides them when they are apprentices, maintains a navigation and marine engineering school, runs a bank

in which their nest eggs are safe, stores their dunnage, has an employment office, the usual thing in good restaurants, a post office for men who call for their mail once in six months or so. And all this is done in a way that convinces the men who avail themselves of the Institute facilities that they are getting their rights, not charity.

That a sailor is at a serious disadvantage on land is not mere theory; it is a fact. Even the shortening of voyages has not put him in a position to meet the landsman on terms of equality ashore. He needs help; not maudlin, sentimental, charitable help, but informed and soundly based help. This is what he gets at the Seamen's Institute.

It will cost \$2,000,000 to put the plant of the Institute where it should be in housing capacity and in facilities for the various tasks it performs. That is a small sum for New York City, with its vast commerce, its dependence on seaborne trade, its rich argosies from the earth's uttermost parts. The \$2,000,000 must be raised this fall; that it will be we have no doubt."

—*New York Sun.*

Buried Treasure

South Street has resembled an archaeological expedition the past few days due to the excavating for the Annex on Front Street.

Beginning on Wednesday, July twenty-ninth, when the remains of an old Dutch ship about twenty feet in length were discovered buried twenty or twenty-five feet below the street level in the corner by Front Street and Coenties Slip

and increasing with the news that another forty foot sloop had been discovered the other day near Cuyler's Alley, public interest in the Annex spread like wild fire.

The morning following the press announcement of the unearthing of these vestiges of old New York shipping days, the crowd on Front Street grew so large that they threatened to interfere with the workmen. An old gun of early Colonial days, some cannon balls of Revolutionary times, part of an old anchor marked "N York 1732," an old coin marked 1761, were all identified by Dr. Edward Hagaman Hall, the Secretary of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, who made a visit to the Institute to have a look at the treasures found. Many old Dutch rum bottles whose color is the despair of glass makers today have been found in the excavations, some Spanish wine jars of a beautiful terracotta pattern, an old pewter plate, an old tankard, an axe, an old vase, a rare old inkwell of Colonial days, some old copper, and the skull of a monkey were among the many oddities unearthed. Dr. Hall identified the cannon as an old ship's cannon, probably a stern chaser dating from old Colonial times. The beautiful coloring on the old bottles which have been buried was ascribed by him to the action of earth acids on them, causing an iridescence that no process of manufacture can now duplicate.

When all the curios are assembled and the excavations completed, it is planned to have these old relics of Colonial and Revolutionary times classified and tabulated by Dr. Hall and kept as a small historical collection in the Annex.

Chamber of Commerce Endorses Institute

The Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York at the monthly meeting held June 4 unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Reference to the Chamber's proceedings will show that the Chamber has supported the Seamen's Church Institute over a long period of years. In this connection the report adopted February 2, 1911, and referred to by Mr. Baylies, is so instructive that we herewith quote it in full:

'Whereas, The Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York has repeatedly since 1796 taken action in favor of measures for the elevation of the character of seamen and for their protection against the abuses to which men of their trade are peculiarly exposed, and

Whereas, The Seamen's Church Institute of New York is engaged in a non-sectarian work of great service in protecting seamen against the inherently bad conditions along the water-front, affording them a chance to be decent, to save their money, to become self-reliant, and proposes to erect at the corner of South Street and Coenties Slip a twelve-story building, providing room for five hundred sailors, with accommodations for savings department, free shipping office and reading and amusement rooms; the building and site to cost about \$750,000, of which over \$410,000 has already been subscribed by many of the leading men and women of this city, and

Whereas, New York has now outstripped all of its rivals in the amount of its entered tonnage, becoming the world's greatest shipping port, and should, therefore, lead all others in its provisions for the well-being of seamen; therefore,

Resolved, That this Chamber urges shipowners, shippers, transportation interests and all classes of business men interested in the well-being of the Port of New York to support the plan of the Institute for a new building adequate for its comprehensive and beneficent work.'

"This report of 1911 is as pertinent to the situation today as it was then and your Committee on the Harbor and Shipping feels that there should be no hesitation in endorsing the present project to enlarge the facilities of the Seamen's Church Institute.

Practically everyone connected with ocean shipping will testify to the great value of the Institute. One of its outstanding services is a free employment bureau. Shipowners now quite generally engage all labor through the bureau maintained by the Seamen's Church Institute or similar organization. The best men are obtained there. The service protects the men from unscrupulous agencies, promotes good feeling, and at the same time is a practical, direct help to the employer.

Your Committee therefore offers the following resolution:

'Resolved, That the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York approves and endorses the project as set forth in the memorial presented at the meeting of the Chamber of May 7th, 1925, to enlarge the Seamen's Church Institute, and urges its members as well as others to give their support to the plan under way for enlarging the facilities of the Institute.'

Respectfully submitted,

J. BARSTOW SMULL, *Chairman*
HERBERT B. WALKER
MARCUS H. TRACY
CHARLES H. POTTER
ELIHU C. CHURCH
LOWELL L. RICHARDS

Of the
Committee on the
Harbor and
Shipping

FREDERICK H. ECKER, *President.*

Attest:

JERE D. TAMBLYN, *Secretary.*

CHARLES T. GWYNNE, *Executive Vice-President.*
New York, June 4, 1925.

Writers Endorse the Conrad Memorial

Several prominent writers and literary men have commented on the Joseph Conrad Memorial. Among them are the three letters quoted below:

William Lyon Phelps
Yale University

New Haven, 11 July 1925

Dear Mr. Baylies:

I am very glad indeed to hear that the main reading-room in the Annex will be dedicated as a memorial to Joseph Conrad. This is a fitting tribute to his genius, and to the dignity of the calling of those who go down to the sea in ships.

All of Conrad's novels exalt the virtues of courage, honor, sincerity, and self-sacrifice. In the mass of human folly and wickedness, no novelist has more clearly recognized the solid worth of character, the courage that loses life to save it. His own personality was even greater than his art. Faithfully yours,

(Signed) Wm. Lyon Phelps.

The American Mercury
730 Fifth Avenue

New York, July 25, 1925

Dear Mr. Baylies:

I am delighted to hear that you are dedicating your reading room to Joseph Conrad. He was one who believed in the essential dignity of the seafaring man and he made the world believe in it also. I certainly hope that all sailors read him.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. L. Mencken.

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11, Great Marlborough Street,
London, July 20th, 1925

Dear Sir Ashley Sparks,

I am extremely honoured by your kind proposal of making me a member of your Honorary Literary Committee in memory of Joseph Conrad, and I can only accept it with the utmost gratitude.

May I congratulate you on your decision to dedicate one of your reading rooms to the man of genius the loss of whom has been and is still for so many artists and readers of many countries all over the world an unconsolable sorrow.

As a personal friend of the late novelist, I consider the greatest compliment to see my humble name associated with the beloved memory of the author of *The Mirror of the Sea* and *Youth*.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) G. Jean-Aubry.

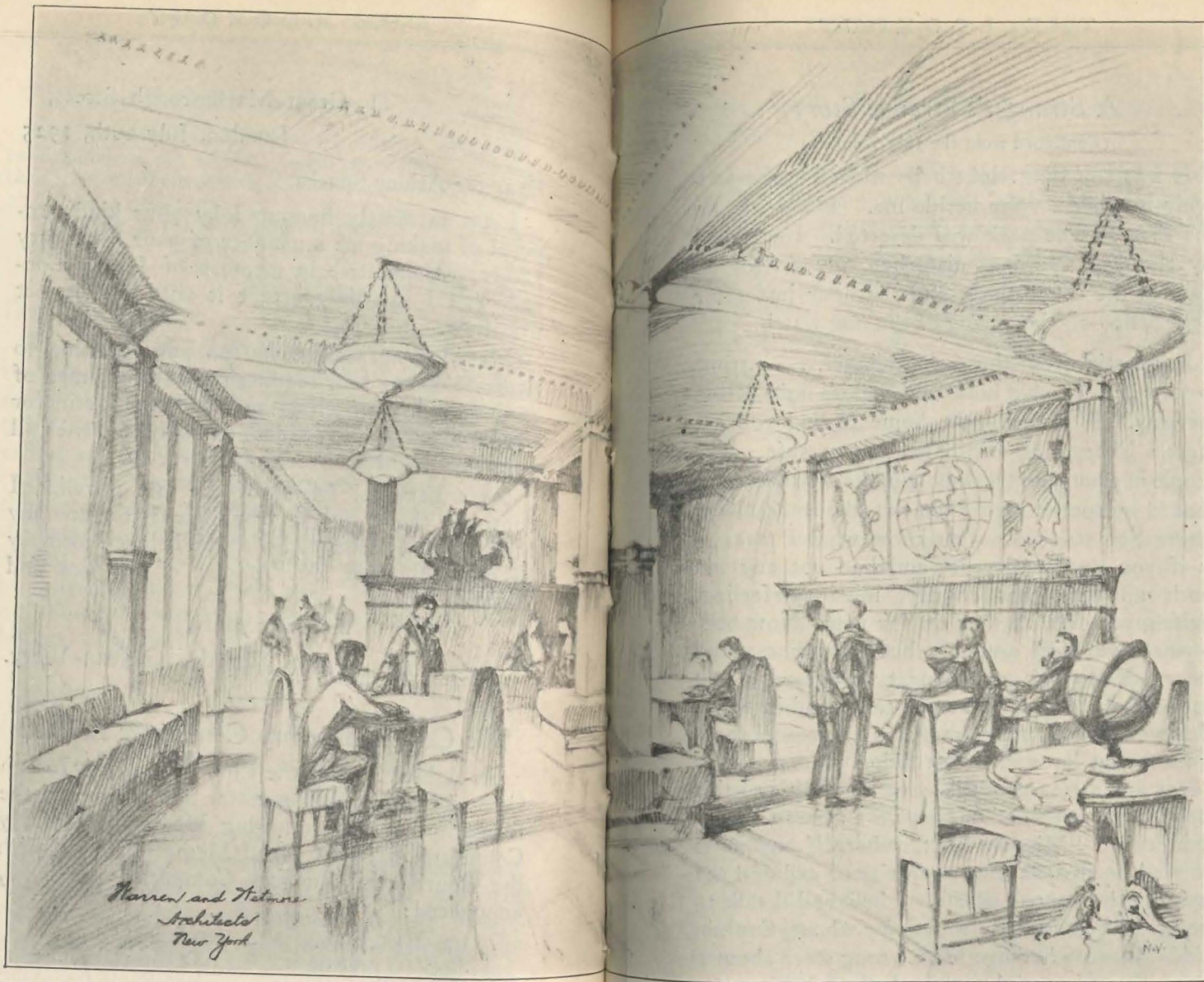
The Conrad Literary Committee Formed

Sir Ashley Sparks, the Chairman of the Joseph Conrad Memorial Committee has announced the formation of the following Honorary Literary Committee of the Conrad Memorial to act with the Board of Managers Committee previously announced:

Elbridge L. Adams
Sir Harry Armstrong
H. I. Brock
Frank N. Doubleday
Dr. John M. Finley
Ford Madox Ford

S. Gruszka
Sir Esme Howard
Monsieur G. Jean-Aubry
Ogden Reid
Dr. Henry Van Dyke

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The Joseph Memorial Room

The proposed design for the great library reading room. The room will occupy the entire space along Front Street in the Annex from Cuyler's Alley to Coenties Alley, approximately 150 feet in length and 50 feet in width. The room will cost \$50,000 to build and equip. Another \$50,000 is planned to endow and maintain it as a proper memorial. That the memorial be the gift of all interested in the sea and navigation is planned to raise this amount by popular subscription.

A Stranger's Strange Story

(Continued from the July Number)

It was sounding eight bells when I woke suddenly hearing a voice beside me. There was no one there. The park was deserted. I searched my clothes. Nothing disturbed, my watch, all right in the usual place, and the hour just after eight bells—the beginning of the dog watch.

I was stiff from the day's doings time to turn in. The big house showed its light across the way. It's queer—the home feeling you get *there*. Everything shipshape, hearty, safe. The people in command treating you like a visitor come aboard by special invitation, not like some places where I've stopped. You know what I mean—as if you were a derelict and had not any too much up top—that charity, missionary feeling, making you feel all they do for you. Now here—you never feel anything but friendliness and cheer. You think on the next voyage what you can save, instead of what you can spend in ports. If I ever make a pile, I may you know—all these chances you have in new trading places, or—if I ever find a treasure, I'll leave most of it to this shelter to "carry on." They've a bureau in this place called "Missing Men" where if anyone is worried or anxious they can write or call and the "system" begins to operate. I believe I'll talk to the woman in charge tomorrow about Captain Kidd—because he gave me a wrong steer about a house the other night while I slept in Jeanette Park. He said to go in Cuyler's Alley and I would find a warehouse with an old ship's lantern

hanging there—for me to go in and feel my way to a stairway.

I couldn't find the exact place he meant. They are all alike so I wandered about and a square away in an alley I found *the* warehouse. There was the lantern, too, almost like the old warehouse I found in Cuyler's Alley but the door was fastened with a padlock. I tried every way and had to give it up. To-morrow night I'll go back to that bench in the Park and sit there all night if necessary for him to come again.

Of course, I was only 'having you on' when I said that I was going to make an inquiry for Captain Kidd at the bureau for "Missing Men," but a man—one whom I asked in the first place when I was so worried in my mind with the consciousness of his being near me—about the Captain—the one who said, "Oh, that old pirate" told me this morning that it was strange—how many people were interested in Captain Kidd these days, that it was only the other day a morning newspaper printed a story of this locality down here because there is an annex going up to this building—and everybody's talking about it and sending in money to help it along. He told how—and when Captain Kidd lived in more than one house, too, about his being married and all about his trial. Since then, the man said, several people in the building had mentioned the newspaper story and thought, or so did *one* reporter, that it was strange that so few people knew of his living down here. I told the bureau man of the old guide book I found in the library and now they have it out on the table in the reading room. Queer, what?

In that book it says—he, Captain Kidd, was made a scapegoat for a nobleman—that the charge of piracy was hard to prove and that really what he was convicted and hung for, after an unfair trial, was the killing of one of his crew in a fight. "A grossly unfair trial" the book says.

So I can see why he should come back after all the years and try to "redress his wrongs" through one of his own country, too—one who is beholden to a safe harbor for men of the sea like this one here.

Did I tell you I never saw a picture or a cut of Captain Kidd, only of the ship "The Adventure?" And somewhere in the back of my mind I have a picture of what I think he looks like and if he comes to-morrow night in the park I'll try to see him before he goes away—to see if it fits him.

(To be continued)

While on Holiday

Are you thinking of us while on holiday? Do you talk about us? We need new friends and would like you to help make new ones for us. Why not subscribe to the "Lookout" for a year for some congenial friend whom you met vacationing this summer?

A good many of the old friends of the Institute are having extra copies sent to their summer addresses. Others are giving benefit affairs for the Building Fund this holiday time.

Work is going on very rapidly on the Annex these days. To keep it rising, funds must be coming in. Some of our new friends will probably be interested, too, in being a part of the world's largest institution for seamen.

The U. S. Merchant Marine Cadets

The Institute has always been a leader in promoting educational opportunities for seamen. The Navigation School has been the means of helping a host of seamen, regardless of nationality, to acquire their A. B. certificates, pilots' licenses, or mates' ratings. But Captain Huntington, the Principal, felt that something special should be done for American boys.

He believes that helping inexperienced Americans who wish to follow the sea or aiding American boys already ashore to qualify speedily for their officers' ratings, is one of the best ways to improve the officer and petty officer personnel of the U. S. Merchant Marine Service and to help American shipping to take its proper place on the high seas.

Therefore he has organized at the School the U. S. Merchant Marine Cadet Corps to which will be admitted any American born citizen between 18 and 23 who passes the necessary physical, mental and character tests required for membership.

Free training in seamanship, navigation, practical astronomy, marine engineering, first aid, hygiene and sanitation will then be given.

To secure admission to the Cadet Corps an American boy must have served less than nine months' time at sea when he applies. If not on a vessel when enrolled, instruction in lifeboat and general seamanship will be given him at the school in order to get a boatman's certificate before reporting for active sea duty.

J. Frederic Tams, LeRoy King, Louis Gordon Hamersley, Oliver Iselin, Aymar Johnson, Louis B. McCagg, Jr., Franklin Remington, and Herbert L. Satterlee, who comprise the Committee in charge of the School, have heartily endorsed Captain Huntington's plans. Already he has placed nine boys on the Grace Line boats.

Still Growing

As the foundations sink deeper for the Annex, the Building Fund is slowly rising. The following list includes some of the additional subscriptions to the Annex fund:

Mrs. George S. Allan	\$1,000.00
Mrs. William P. Anderson, Sr.	250.00
Anonymous	7,000.00
Anonymous	250.00
Mrs Frank L. Babbott, Jr.	250.00
Frederic Barnard	500.00
A. E. Bechstein	300.00
Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Benjamin	250.00
Church of the Beloved Disciple	250.00
Stephen Carlton Clark	500.00
R. Fulton Cutting	1,000.00
George W. Dix	250.00
Mrs. James May Duane	250.00
J. W. Falconer	250.00
Miss Susan D. Griffith	250.00
Mrs. J. Amory Haskell	250.00
Miss M. Houghton	250.00
Mrs. Cortlandt Irving	300.00
Dr. and Mrs. Walter B. James	500.00
Benjamin Brewster Jennings	250.00
C. B. Keferstein	500.00
C. H. Ludington	5,000.00
Mrs. Bernon S. Prentice	250.00
Franklin P. Remington	1,000.00
Elvine Rickard	3,000.00
Miss Maria D. Rickard	1,000.00
The Misses Righter	1,000.00
Miss Sallie A. Roche	1,500.00
Mrs. John A. Roebbling	300.00
Mrs. T. Shaw Safe	1,000.00
Herbert L. Satterlee	1,000.00
Miss Rebecca A. Scarborough	1,000.00
Hiram W. Sibley	250.00
Miss Myra Valentine	250.00
Henry D. Woods	250.00
Miss Ethel Zabriskie	500.00

For the Medical Care of Seamen

The following letter just received by Dr. Mansfield from the Surgeon General of the United States shows the interest that the governmental authorities are taking in the Annex and their appreciation of the Institute's provision for the health of the seafarer.

Treasury Department
Bureau of
The Public Health Service
Washington

August 4, 1925.

Rev. A. R. Mansfield,
Seamen's Church Institute,
25 South Street,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Doctor Mansfield:

My attention has just been called by a statement made in Dr. Sprague's annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925, to the effect that the work on your new addition is in progress and that you plan to provide a space on the first floor mezzanine thereof to be utilized as an out-patient department and that you plan to continue to give the Public Health Service harborage there according to your present custom in the old building.

I presume that this is true because it is just what your courtesies in the past lead me to believe we might expect from the Institute. Therefore, I do not hesitate, although it may be somewhat premature in the absence of a direct assurance from yourself, to express to you my appreciation in behalf of the Service for this further evidence of your regard for us, and to assure you that every inch of space and all the other facilities which you may place at our disposal for the medical care of seamen will be well-used for the high purpose designed.

Sincerely,

(Signed) H. S. Cumming,
Surgeon General.

What the Institute Means to Youth

Mrs. Baxter's cordiality, her quick comprehension of the needs of the army of blue-coated apprentice boys who come into the Institute has made the Apprentices' Room one of the bright spots of sea life to these youthful aspirant sea captains. Afternoon and evening each day they are in port they make the Institute their real home. Some of them Mrs. Baxter has seen develop from shy, wee boys—"first trippers" too timid to express themselves about New York and America—to long legged, dignified officers who have gained a real understanding of our country and its peoples through their contacts in the Apprentices' Room.

The following letter is from an English lad, a Yorkshireman, who has just completed his time at sea and has gone home to "sit for his ticket"—i.e. to go up for his examinations. Universally well liked, his frankness, humor and intelligence have made him one of the impressing figures among the embryo officers who regard the Apprentices' Room as a second home. His letter reveals his feeling for the Institute in a way which his natural reticence might prohibit.

"Dear Mrs. Baxter,

Since it is quite impossible to present myself in person I'll do the next best thing and put myself before you in the shape of a note reposing in the hand of my esteemed ex-watchmate the 'Honorable' R. E. M. Such a position, Mrs. Baxter, is the next best place in the world that I should wish to be in. Of course, that is to say, that though the hand of Reginald (alias Peter) is scarcely a receptacle of comfortable repose, what I mean is, that to stand before you, flushed and happy, is from my point of view (next to home) the most desirable place in the world. I've calculated that it is some time between noon and midnight on a certain Sunday

that this note is put into your hand and yet as I give myself over to meditation I realize that it is a note and not myself that you are reading, and not talking to.

Alas, that events should so change when one is settled down to a desirable routine. And yet I find no sorrow in the fact but rather joy, for I'm sure, Mrs. Baxter, you'll agree that to go home after a period amounting almost to two years away from the land of one's birth is without a doubt a joyful event.

I am reconstructing the scene of the return of the changed 'Dacre', for have I not experienced similar joys five whole times? The entrance of the 'Dacre Castle' boys into the Apprentices' Room with Mrs. Baxter the central figure welcoming with a delicious smile the return of one who knows well the joys the next few weeks will have in store for him, and perhaps others who are ignorant of the happiness the future holds for them. But be they real Britishers they will harbour only too soon on the day they sail, pangs of remorse and regret at the parting. Many times have I thought and dreamed during the voyages to the Far East of that room, its occupants and its joys, and looked forward with an intense anticipation to the return of the 'Dacre' to New York. Now I've returned home, which, as I remarked before, is about time, to secure the necessary 'ticket' for one's bread and butter.

I imagine that the 'Dacre' has changed more than you have expected, but of this I am sure, that, providing the 'first trippers' frequent the Institute and happen to be of the disposition aforementioned, they will be exceedingly susceptible to the charm of various persons responsible for all the joy and happiness existent in this room. The object of this letter, which I'm sure is very incomprehensible, is to try in a very pitiful way to thank you for your kindness and to assure you that so far as a bad memory concerns the Institute goes, it would be utterly impossible to forget.

Really you must need a gas mask after all this so I'll bid you adieu with the heartiest handshake ever given.
D."

Parked!

The casual visitor to Sailor Town and South Street is often struck by what he regards as the crowd of "loafers" in Jeanette Park—the seamen's paradise in warm weather. Its benches are usually filled and even the little stone coping that runs around the park facing the Institute seems to have an irresistible fascination as a perching place for men of the sea. There men sit hours at a time without stirring. To the uninitiated such inactivity spells loafing.

But those who know seamen have quite another impression. They know that mariners ashore have the gift of real immobility. Afloat they are like gulls—ever awing—from port to port. But while ashore, they will remain hours talking, reading, thinking, lost in contemplation. In the main they are here a few days only before starting out on another voyage. It is their period of rest, of quietude. They are taking advantage of it. No other class of men seems to have the same ability for quiescence. The average landsman does not know such serenity.

The men one sees in Jeanette Park are not "loafers." They know the true value of calmness. More philosophical, they are not so "movement mad" as are their landsmen cousins. They may be here today or perhaps tomorrow, but the chances are that the day after tomorrow they will be on a freighter bound for Singapore, or Hammerfest, or engaging with sea pirates in Rangoon. They deserve to sit as long as they like when they have a chance. Renewing acquaintance with terra firma cannot be called loafing.

Seamen's Church Institute of New York

Incorporated 1844

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