

# AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Providing Sea-Going Libraries  
Since 1921

***A United Seamen's Service Affiliate***



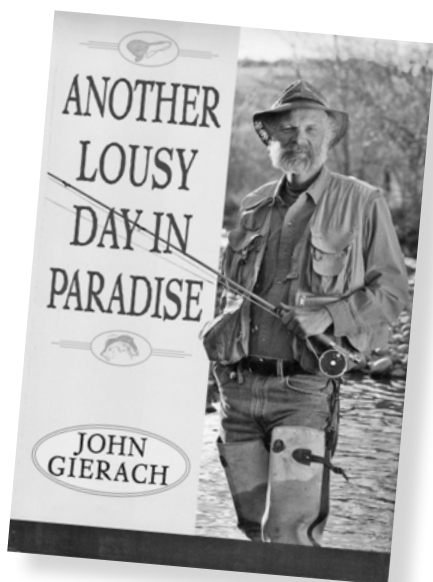
Seafarer browsing for a "Good Read," USS Bremerhaven, Germany.

## AMMLA Purpose and History

The American Merchant Marine Library Association (AMMLA) is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization representing a unique and necessary service to those who spend their lives at sea. The “Public Library of The High Seas,” has sent thousands of books to American flag and allied vessels. There still is a demand for books despite the growing use of the Internet and movies on DVD for entertainment.

Just last year, AMMLA sent more than 19,000 new and used books and magazines to American Merchant Marines, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, and seafarers of allied nations; especially noteworthy were the 210 libraries mailed to U.S. merchant vessels transporting supplies to U.S. Forces. In this era of smaller crews and fewer hours in port, seafarers rely on AMMLA more than ever for their recreation, education and self-help needs.

AMMLA is the only public library chartered to provide library services on American ships. Its history goes back to a World War I book program conducted by the American Library Association to provide books for soldiers and sailor. At the war’s end, the American Library Association asked Mrs. Henry Howard, chief of the social service bureau of the United States Shipping Board, to establish an association to continue placing libraries on American merchant ships. As a result of her efforts, the New York Board of Regents gave AMMLA its library charter in 1921.



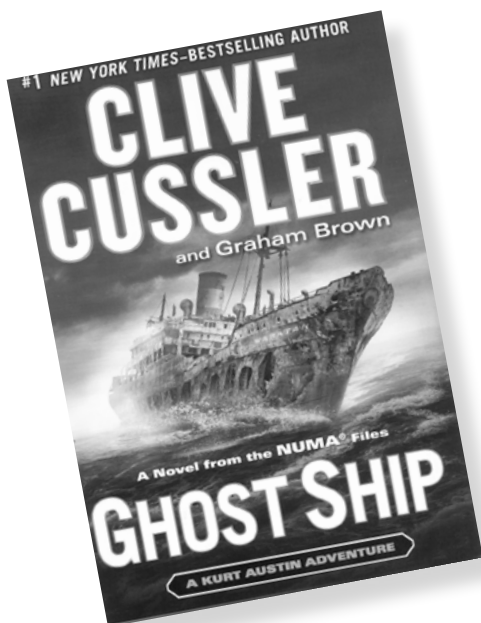
# Seafarers and Books

## What is a “Seagoing Library?”

The American Merchant Marine Library Association (AMMLA), as Public Library of the High Seas, provides seafarers on board ships with books, paperbacks and magazines of interest and educational significance. Each library is like a “care package” and typically includes a range of selections, from biography to science fiction, spy thrillers to westerns, and magazines from National Geographic to Popular Mechanic. As you can imagine, there are as many literary interests as there are seafarers on board each ship; and AMMLA aims to reach across this diversity to cater to the individual preferences of its entire audience.

## The Importance of Libraries on Ships

Seafarers face many constraints in meeting their recreational and educational needs while at sea. During long voyages, seafarers face formidable stretches of unstructured time. When far away from home and loved ones, daily life in such a contained environment can become tedious and even grueling. Libraries on ships help seafarers combat the loneliness of the seagoing life and enjoy their time off-duty while expanding their horizons.



## Taking Time to Remember: Seafarers and Books

AMMLA has evolved to meet the changing needs of seafarers. In 1973, AMMLA became an affiliate of United Seamen's Service (USS). Through this affiliation AMMLA is able to expand its operations by distributing seagoing libraries through the USS Centers worldwide. With the support of USS, AMMLA now provides publications for seafarers from a whole host of nationalities as well as U.S. mariners.

It's a winning combination. During long voyages, seafarers face formidable stretches of unstructured time. When far away from home and loved ones, daily life in such a contained environment can become tedious and even grueling. Having libraries aboard ships creates the opportunity for seafarers to continue to expand their horizons.

Seagoing libraries typically include a range of selections, from biographies to science fiction, spy thrillers to westerns, and magazines from National Geographic to Time and Newsweek. As you can imagine, there are as many literary interests as there are seafarers on board each ship.

And, it's the American Merchant Marine Library Association that is the primary source of these "seagoing libraries." Throughout our history, we have provided diverse selections of books to seafarers, catering as much as possible to individual preferences.

Seafarers and AMMLA have the general public to thank for this service. It is people like you who help to ensure the well-being of merchant mariners through your generous support of this program. Gifts and books are always appreciated and are the cornerstone of AMMLA's service to seafarers.



*Don Kadlac, USS Officer, presents AMMLA Service Report to the USS Council of Trustees at the 2018 Annual Meeting.*

## **Ship Service**

“Seagoing Libraries” are distributed to the ships through port branches in New York/New Jersey, Port Arthur, Texas and at United Seamen’s Service (USS) centers worldwide.

Since 1981, in addition to the services of its port branches, AMMLA has operated a direct library service. Libraries are mailed to ship management companies for distribution directly to the ships and through the fleet post office (FPO).

## **Collecting Books: Library and Financial Support to AMMLA**

AMMLA is wholly dependent upon public and publisher contributions for its books, magazines and operating funds. Because of the invisibility of seafarers in our daily life and geographical scattering of their families through the U.S., special effort is needed to make the recreational and educational needs of our seagoing men and women known to the American public.

## **Mailing Rates and Tax Deductions**

Books may be mailed to 104 Broadway, Jersey City, NJ 07306. The U.S. Postal Service makes it easier to donate books by allowing them to be mailed by the pound as Media Mail. The current postal rate for Media Mail is \$2.75 for the first pound and 52 cents for each additional pound up to 70 pounds. All packages must be clearly labeled MEDIA MAIL to qualify.

For book donations, AMMLA will issue a receipt for the number of books received to validate the tax-deductible contribution. The donor determines the value of the gift.

## A Seafarer's Expression of a Life of Adventure

Encouraged by AMMLA programs, seafarers often take an active interest in literature, writing and developing their own literary talents. The late Captain Daniel T. Kozak had been a prolific writer of poetry, essays and articles about his seagoing life. His poem, *Homeward Bound*, captures his fond memory of the challenges of navigation during inclement and foggy conditions:

“The Captain of a ship stands on the bridge alone  
As he brings his vessel and crew safely home  
The Pilot or Mates plot the rocks and the reefs  
Their skill aboard brings great relief  
A drastic course change lends to some tension  
Sharp, watchful eyes heed what needs mention  
A break in the mist is a welcomed sight  
Whether it occurs in daytime or during the night  
The long voyage home is finally ended”  
When the last mooring line to the shore has been bended.”



Book Exchange, “Take One – Leave One,”  
USS Yokohama, Japan

## USS-AMMLA Library Services

Since 1921, the American Merchant Marine Library Association (AMMLA) has supplied “seagoing libraries” to American Merchant Marines, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, and to seafarers of allied nations. As a non-profit, non-sectarian library service, AMMLA’S primary objective is to meet the educational, recreational and self-help needs of seafarers by offering a library service on a wide array of subjects.

In 2018, USS/AMMLA distributed more than 19,000 books through its USS Centers, AMMLA representatives in New York/New Jersey and Port Arthur, Texas, and to US Merchant vessels transporting supplies to U.S. Forces. The following is a list of USNS, Ready Reserve Fleet, MSC time chartered vessels and U.S.-flag vessels that received AMMLA libraries in 2018:

Cape Diamond	USNS SHIPS
Cape Douglas	Effective
Cape Ducato	Fall River
Cape Edmont	Impeccable
Cape Henry	Invincible
Cape Horn	Maj. Stephen W. Pless
Cape Hudson	Dewayne T. Williams
Cape Inscription	Lewis and Clark
Cape Isabel	PFC Eugene A. Obregon
Cape Island	Page
Cape Kennedy	SGT Mate J. Kocak
Cape Knox	SGT William R. Button
Cape May	Sisler
Cape Mohican	Pomeroy
Cape Race	Roy W. Wheat
Cape Ray	1st LT. Jack Lummus
Cape Rise	1st LT. Baldomero Lopez
	2nd LT. John P. Bobo
	LTC John U.D. Page
	Watkins
	Watson

MV Patriot	APL Agate
MV Edgar B. Speer	APL Belgium
MV Edwin H. Gott	APL China
MV Endurance	APL Coral
MV Freedom	APL Cyprine
MV Great Republic	APL Guam
MV Honor	APL Japan
MV Independence II	APL Korea
MV Integrity	APL Pearl
MV Liberty	APL Philippines
MV Midnight Sun	APL President Adams
MV North Star	APL President Jackson
MV Ocean Atlas	APL President Polk
MV Ocean Titan	APL President Truman
MV Pacific Collector	APL Singapore
MV Pacific Tracker	APL Thailand
MV Patriot	
MV Presque Isle	SS Arthur M. Anderson
MV Roger Blough	SS Carson J. Callaway
MV Resolve	SS Cornhusker State
MV Wheeler	SS Denebola
	SS Flickertail State
	SS Gem State
	SS Gopher State
	SS Grand Canyon State
	SS Keystone State
	SS John G. Munson
	SS Philip Clarke
	SS Pollux
	SS Regulus
	SS Seakay Spirit



## AMMLA'S Dedicated Friends

To make libraries available, AMMLA depends upon financial contributions and donations from many dedicated friends of seafarers. Shipping companies, crews, maritime unions, publishers, the general public, and United Seamen's Service contribute to AMMLA. In 2018 AMMLA financial and/or book contributions were received from the following:

American President Lines (APL)  
American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier  
American Maritime Officers  
American Merchant Marine Veterans – NJ

Richard Berger  
Richard Berkowitz  
Lee Danon  
Phillip W.J. Fisher  
Kevin Gatling  
Gerald Gordon  
Kathleen A. Hunt  
Howard Jones  
Robert Kaufman

Keystone Shipping Company  
District 1 – MEBA  
Enrico Esopa

International Organization Of Masters Mates, & Pilots, ILA, AFL-CIO  
John Clarke Chapter of Daughters of the War of 1812  
Masters, Mates & Pilots  
Matson Navigation Company  
M.E.B.A.

Maersk Line, Limited

National Defense Transportation Association  
National Society, Daughters of the American Colonists  
National Society, U.S. Daughters of 1812

Operation Pass Along  
Operation Paperback  
Pacific Gulf Marine  
Beatrice Pratt

Harvey Rubenstein

Scarsdale Women's Club

Seafarers International Union

The Marine Society of the City of New York

The Philip and Janet Shapiro Family Foundation

Totem Ocean Trailer Express

USMMA Bland Memorial Library

United States Daughters of 1812

Barbara Spector Yeninas

**AMMLA Statement of Support,  
Revenues and Expenses and  
Changes in Net Assets  
Year ended at December 31, 2018**

Operating Revenues, gains and other support	
Public Support, Ocean and Inland Crews	\$7,780
Contributed goods and services	10,640
Interest and Dividends	<u>1</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>\$18,421</u>
Operating Expenses	
Program Services	
Furnishing Literature to Vessels and Portside Libraries	\$18,870
Supporting Services	
Management and Fundraising	<u>6,341</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$25,211</u>
Change in Net Assets before Other Changes	(\$6,790)
Forgiveness of Liability Due to United Seamen's Service, Inc.	<u>\$25,000</u>
Change in Net Assets	\$18,210
Net Assets (Deficit) – Beginning of Year	(\$84,302)
Net Assets (Deficit) – End of Year	<u>(\$66,092)</u>

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Website: [www.unitedseamensservice.org](http://www.unitedseamensservice.org)



*Reading Room, USS Diego Garcia.*

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