The Official Journal of the Organization

The Hoboken Historical Museum Newsletter

OF BY And FOR MuSeum MemberS.

JANUARY 1989 Hoboken, N.J. No. 23

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Some Hoboken items have recently been donated to the Museum; others purchased. Among them are: an original bird's-eye-view map of Hoboken published in 1929 by the noted literary figure Christopher Morley (during his theatrical adventures in Hoboken), donated by Robert Rivard; four original 8x10 photographs from the 1950s, former Mayor Grogan, the **Nieuw Amsterdam** docked at the foot of 5th Street (now in our Holland-America Line display case at City Hall); Pier A of American Export Lines, and policeman Mike Aquaviva on duty, all donated by Mr. Acquaviva; a complete copy of the old **Hudson Observer** and a portion of the **New York World**, both from 1912 (the large steamship companies in Hoboken were at their height at this time). Selections from news items related to the steamships taken from these newspapers, donated to the Museum by Brian and Enid McDonough, are published in this issue of the **Newsletter**.)

Also donated to the Museum were two color post-cards of the Holland-America Line: the **Nieuw Amsterdam ca. 1959** and the flagship **Rotterdam**, ca. 1964; and a souvenir soap pack (for Nylons) from the line, donated by Miss Selma Goldberg of North Bergen, We thank these people for their thoughtful gifts.

Acquired recently for the Museum were a number of Frank Sinatra items: four photographs, three of him when he was a young boy, the other when he visited Hoboken about 1947; two original pieces of sheet music: "Roses in the Rain," 1947, and "A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening", 1953; a full-page photo-spread from **Life** magazine when he and Ava Gardner were married, November 7, 1951, and an early Sinatra record album (four 78-RPMs) on Columbia, "Songs by Sinatra" Vol I, ca. 1947.

Also purchased were eight Hoboken steamship postcards and nine other old Hoboken

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cards, dating 1905 to 1920, and a 1905 banknote issued by the First National Bank of Hoboken, measuring 7x3 inches. These, and some other old and interesting Hoboken items will be on view at the Museum's upcoming member meeting.

OLD NEWSPAPERS REVEAL OLD STEAMSHIP NEWS

Two 1912 newspapers, recently donated to the Museum, present evidence of the prosperous steamship lines that had their U.S. terminals in Hoboken.

The Hamburg-American and the North German Lloyd, occupying piers extending from Newark Street to 4th Street, sailed twice weekly at this time. The Hamburg-American Line was in 1912 about to extend their Pier 1, at the foot of 2nd Street. The **Hudson Observer** of September 24, 1912 quoted the company's vice-director, J. P. Meyer, one of the principal advocates of the extension:

"Improvement and pier extension have become necessary safety to dock and care for our new steamers of the **Imperator** type." (The **S.S. Imperator**, which made her maiden voyage the following year and arrived in Hoboken on June 19, established new standards for size, luxury, and safety at sea. She measured 919 feet long and 98 feet wide.)

"We have asked for an extension of 100 feet to our Pier 1, which is a pier of modern and fireproof construction, erected only a few years ago by our company at great expense...With the addition of the 100 feet asked for, this pier will have a total length of 950 feet."

Later, with the pier extension and the growth of the Hamburg-American Line, by April 1913 it was the largest steamship line in the world. Its fleet at that time, 408 ships, employed 68 different services, called regularly at more than 300 ports.

In the same issue, the North German Lloyd company reports a prosperous six months. "The steerage traffic to North America continues good ... the outgoing passenger figures greatly exceed those of last year...the cabin passenger traffic both eastbound and westbound is good."



North German Lloyd

PLYMOUTH, CHERBOURG, BREMEN.
Express Sailings Tuesday.
Fast Mail Sailings, Thursday.
at 10 A. M.

Kaiser Wilh. II., Sept. 24 | Kai. Wilh. d. Gr., Oct. 1
*Koenigin Luise, Sept. 28 | G. Washington, Oct. 3
*Bremen direct.

OELRICHS & CO., 5 Broadway, N. Y.
John Steneck & Sons, 95 & 222 River St., Hob.
Seeschaaf's Agency, 122 River St., Hoboken.

HAMBURG-AMERICAN

LONDON—PARIS—HAMBURG

Cincinnati, Sep. 25, 10am | ‡Pennsylvania, Oct. 3
†Kais'n Aug. Vic. Sept. 26 | §Victoria Luise, Oct. 10
§First Cabin only.
†Ritz-Carlton a la Carte Restaurant.
‡Hamburg direct. Second Cabin only.

Hamburg-American Line 45 Broadway, N.Y.
Or John Steneck & Sons, 95 and 222 River St.
A. Seeschaaf, 122 River St., Hoboken, N. J.

The Hudson Observer, Sept. 24, 1912.

The sailing of Lloyd's express service liner **Kaiser Wilhelm II** is mentioned in the **New York Evening World**, September 24 1912.

"The **Kaiser Wilhelm II** sailed from Hoboken today bearing Mrs. Clarence Mackay, her daughter, Ellen [who eventually married famous songwriter Irving Berlin] her secretary, chauffeur, two maids and two automobiles." Two

automobiles! when most people still got around on foot or by horse and carriage. "Mrs Mackay is going for a two months' tour of houseparties in England and France."

MUSICAL NOTES

The Museum's second benefit musical will be held in February, tentatively at the Elks' Club on Washington Street. Admission will be $10 for non-members, $5 for members. Musicians who participate will be our guests. People who wish to join the Museum may do so at the event. Any person who wishes to help at the benefit, either musically or otherwise, please contact Perry Robinson, Entertainment Chairman, at 795-9081.

In another and unrelated musical event, members Tim Rosenkrans, saxophonist, Perry Robinson, clarinetist, and Jim Hans, disc jockey, will appear at Live Tonight!, Hoboken's newest night club, 125 Washington Street, on Tuesday evenings in January.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of the **Newsletter** (# 22), we made a mistake in correcting someone else's mistake! The first yacht club in America was founded by John Cox Stevens not in 1854, but in <u>1845</u>.

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to thank all the new members who recently have joined the Museum. Returns are still coming in from our recent mailing of complimentary copies of the **Newsletter**. The Lifetime category has been a great help. We recently received a nice note and a check for a Lifetime Membership from an old friend living all the way out in California, who wrote:"I really appreciate your sending me ...the **Newsletter**...I read each one with keen interest. Hope someday soon to pay a personal visit to the Museum. I will be honored if you accept my attached check and application for membership...Happy holidays!" signed, Jim Houchins.

ANNUAL ELECTION

In compliance with the Museum's by-laws, election of officers and trustees for 1989 will take place at the January meeting, Tuesday, January 17 at Fabians and there may be votes by proxy and/or by mail.

In addition to the nominees here listed, nominations duly seconded at the January meeting will be accepted from the floor. Only paid members will be eligible to vote.

At the Board meeting of December 13, 1988, the following persons were nominated:

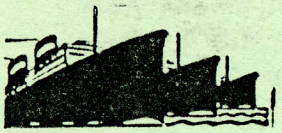
Officers: President, Jim Hans; Vice President, Bob Foster; Treasurer, Gerard Lisa; Recording Secretary, Hugh Kilmer; Corresponding Secretary, Kathleen McBrady.

Trustees: Martin Andrews, John DePalma, Geraldine Fallo, George Kirchgessner, Paul Lippman, Perry Robinson, Jeanne Valentin, Larry Von Holland.

(Voting will be for six trustees.)

<u>Absentee Ballots</u> To be valid, all absentee ballots must be received no later than January 17, 1989.

Hoboken Historical Museum
P.O. Box M-1220
Hoboken NJ 07030



NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 6
HOBOKEN, NJ

&
NEWS PAPER PEOPLE, ETC.

THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CITY HALL

WASHINGTON AND FIRST STS. HOBOKEN, N.J.

BRING IN YOUR FAVORITE HOBOKEN MEMORABILIA FOR 'SHOW AND TELL'

The Hoboken Museum has a new idea: members and non-members alike are invited to bring to our meetings any item of Hoboken memorabilia they may have to share with all of us. Perhaps you may wish to know more about it, and one of our members may be able to help you out. So check out your old shoeboxes and dresser drawers and see if you have any relics of Hoboken's past that you may wish to show to our members or learn more about.

MEETING NOTICE

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 17, 1989, to be held first at City Hall for a group photo at 7:30PM, and continuing from 8PM in the back room of Fabians, northeast corner of 1st and Bloomfield Streets, where our regular meeting will take place. All members are invited. Potential new members and guests are always welcome to attend.

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