

May, 1943

THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES

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ANNUAL DINNER—MAY 7, 1943

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The Annual Dinner was held at The University Club, 1 West 54th Street, New York City, at 7 P. M. on May 7, 1943. 246 members and their guests were present. There were present as guests of the Association, Judges Augustus N. Hand and Charles E. Clark of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; Judges John C. Knox, William Bondy, George Murray Hulbert, Edward A. Conger, Simon H. Rifkind and John Bright of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and Judges Robert A. Inch and Clarence G. Galston of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

The President, John W. Griffin, acted as toastmaster. Chalmers G. Graham, Special Counsel to the War Shipping Administration, and one of our members told us of some of the interesting trips which he has made to various parts of the world in connection with the marine transportation side of the war effort.

Our guest of honor was Judge Knox who on April 29, 1943, completed 25 years on the bench of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Judge Augustus N. Hand drew a very interesting word picture of the Southern District Court 25 years ago and its expansion since that time due very largely to the untiring and kindly efforts of the guest of honor. The following remarks of Judge Knox brought the members to their feet and brought to a close another very happy evening:

## GENTLEMEN OF THE ADMIRALTY BAR:

I would be *more* or *less* than a man if, after what has been said tonight, I failed to be gratified by the generosity and kindness that are responsible for the utterances of your spokesman. For your evidences of regard, and your understanding of what I have tried to do, I express my appreciation, and

give you my thanks. Some time—I hope it is far in the future—upon a winter's evening, and before a fire of drift-wood—I shall recall tonight and, taking up my rosary of remembrance, I shall count its beads—one by one—and each of them will stand for one of you.

Twenty-five years is a long, long time and, while I realize that no snow falls so lightly as that of age, I am also aware that no snow is heavier. It *never* melts. Nevertheless, you and I shall again sail the Spanish Main. Together, upon the bridge of an Atlantic tramp, we shall stand in oilskins, grasp the rail, and adjust ourselves to the labor and travail of the ship beneath our feet. Upon our faces we shall feel fog—the night will be dark and the barometer low—and out of the gloom we shall hear the fog-horn of another craft and then, thank God, you and I will give over to the men who compose the merchant marine, and who, unlike ourselves, will *know* what to do. You, later, may berate them, and I, perhaps, may condemn them, but, when we have done so, we should bow at their feet, and pay tribute to the skill and knowledge that enabled them, notwithstanding a thousand perils, to bring their ship safely to port.

In this day of unsurpassed sacrifice and danger upon the high seas, let us recognize the men of the merchant marine for what they actually are—persons of outstanding stamina, knowledge, courage and fidelity, whose lives were cast in the molds of heroes. As Little Tim might say, "God bless them all—each and every one." And upon you, too, I ask His blessing. You have been good to me.

The Dinner Committee prepared an attractive booklet containing the menu and seating arrangement. On the cover was a reproduction of the seal of the Association. The booklet was printed without charge by the Court Press, to which the appreciation of the Association is extended.

The members of the Dinner Committee were:

Mark W. Maclay, Chairman  
 John T. Carpenter  
 William E. Collins  
 Joseph F. Luley  
 P. J. R. McEntegart  
 Rolf T. Michelsen  
 John W. R. Zisgen