

# readers' letters

## I was in the picture

Sir,  
In case you have to settle an argument some day, may I correct the caption to the picture at the bottom of page 21, CLANSMAN no. 33?

It should read: "Left to right (standing) R. Brew, G. A. Rutter . . ." and so on. I am not quite sure how I got into the picture. It was a very enjoyable, rather crowded evening.

R. BREW,  
19 South Craig,  
Windermere LA23 2JH.

## Thanks for all your help

Sir,  
Through your columns I would like to express my grateful thanks, first for the magnificent present which was given to me on my retirement. I was delighted to see so many old friends at my retirement party on October 10, but I know that many more were unable to be present. I must also give my thanks to Fred Hawkes and the Tendimus restaurant staff for all they did to make my departure such a memorable occasion.

Then I would also like to say thank you for all the help and co-operation I have received from staff in this country, in South Africa and at sea during my long service

with the company, and particularly during the time I have spent in the public relations department. Without the ready help and co-operation of so many colleagues it would have been quite impossible to carry out my job properly, and this help has always been so readily given.

SYDNEY SMITH,  
58 Lakeside Road,  
Palmer's Green,  
London N13 4PR.

## Ship cards wanted

A young reader in Rondebosch, Cape, writes to tell us he is a collector of postcards of ships . . . mainly company cards. If readers have Union-Castle or Clan Line cards they wish to sell or exchange, they can contact Peter Newton at C204 Devonshire Hill, Grotto Road, Rondebosch 7700, Cape, South Africa.

## Lead, kindly

Capt. W. H. Ball ("Tullybeg", Ballygibben Avenue, Sandycove, Co. Dublin) writes (very kindly, considering) to point out errors that crept into our printed version of his letter, CLANSMAN no. 33. The name of the vessel of the B+I Line in which his son serves should read *Dundalk*. The name of the general lighthouse authority for the coasts of Ireland should read The Commissioners of Irish Lights.

Quite killing us with kindness, Capt. Ball encloses a lighthouse service Christmas card showing the dramatically-sited light on the cliffs at Rathlin West.

## Offers of Clan Line pictures

Quite a number of readers have volunteered pictures and documents in connection with the planned history of the Clan Line. Latest is Peter Main (67 Gardner Street, Glasgow), who writes:

"As a third generation Clan Line

employee, I am in possession of many ships' photographs and paintings going back as far as the first *Clan Matheson* (steam and sail, 1870s), also many of the older vessels including turret deckers, and the first diesel vessel to sail for Clan Line, *Stirlingshire*, later renamed *Clan Macdonald*".

Peter Main offers access to his pictures, and the history researcher has been put in touch. Any other readers with interesting Clan Line pictures or documents should write, describing them and saying where access can be had.

Footnote: T. L. Main OBE, late father of our reader Peter Main, was commodore chief engineer of the Clan Line.

## CISA builds up history

Housed in filing cabinets in the office foyer of Cayzer, Irvine South Africa (Pty) Ltd. is the start of a historical collection that CISA staff hope to build into a museum. Mrs. C. Wasserfall writes from Cape Town to ask for the help of any CLANSMAN readers in gathering portable objects of all sorts that demonstrate the long association of the group with southern Africa.

So far, Mrs. Wasserfall explains, the bulk of the collection consists of old pictures and records, many of them preserved by the publicity department. Jack Newlan and Heather Stewart (Castlemarine) have turned in a whole collection of posters going back to 1922. There are some interesting pictures of ships, and shots of the original Union-Castle building in Adderley Street and of the old Paramount Building.

Mrs. Wasserfall hopes that, if the collection develops the character and depth CISA staff can be proud of, the directors will decide to set aside a room for it. Pensioners living in southern Africa will, she believes, be a rich source of historical material. They can contact her at PO Box 4459, 54/56 Adderley Street, Cape Town.

■ This special philatelic cover marked the last voyage of the mailship SA Oranje. Sold on board between Cape Town and Durban, October 3 to 6, the cover carries a recent South African stamp showing Field Marshal Smuts, whose wife launched the vessel (as Pretoria Castle) by remote control. Members of the SA Ship Society had special permission to travel with the ship and sell the covers. Their small profit goes toward establishing a maritime museum in the old clock tower in the docks at Cape Town.



SHIP SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA



LAST VOYAGE  
LASTE REIS S. A. ORANJE CAPE TOWN TO DURBAN  
KAAPSTAD NA DURBAN 3-X-75