



## President's Message

This past quarter, our Planning Committee completed their annual responsibilities of investigating the various grant requests we receive for charitable donations, visiting and interviewing the requestors, and meeting to debate and determine how best to disburse our available funds. As we've noted before, this committee works hard and responsibly, and we thank Chairman Paul Lohnes and every member of his committee for their service. I was privileged to attend a recent meeting, and even though I have served in the past on this committee and am well aware of how the program works, I was nevertheless surprised, impressed and proud of the way in which Paul and his committee conducted their business and came to their resolutions. This year they had funds to meet only about 22% of the requests we received, but they had each of the qualified requestors prioritize their needs, and in the end were able to address at least the highest priority needs in most cases. A tough job well done.

On another subject, we have for some time discussed the idea of having MCMA lapel pins made for our members, and I'm pleased to report that these are finally in the works and should be ready to distribute at our next Quarterly. Why do we need lapel pins? They are simply a way of showing that we are proud to be members of this Association. (And there will be no cost to MCMA.)

Thank you all for your commitment to MCMA.  
Bill Anderson

## Recent Happenings

Once again, our July Quarterly was held at the Adams Inn at Neponset. And once again, we enjoyed great weather and a fine, barbecue meal. *[Actually, it was a pretty hot day, but our meeting was held in the Gazebo on the Neponset River, where it was breezy and comfortable.]* We were pleased to welcome Mr. Peter Drummey to his first meeting as an Honorary Member, and very pleased to welcome back Mr. Tom Crowdis Jr. following his recent heart surgery. Copies of our 2009 Annual Report, which contained a number of photos from our recent Triennial, were distributed to all members, and it must be said that this report was particularly well prepared and presented. *[Kudos to Dick O'Meara and Ric Purdy.]* Membership Committee Chairman Joseph Bellomo recommended and received votes of approval for Mr. John Curtis and Mr. Barry Williams to be accepted as Associate Members. President Anderson announced that, in the spirit of trying something new to increase interest in our meetings, our October Quarterly will be held at the China Blossom Restaurant in Andover (it will be a buffet meal that will include prime rib and sushi in addition to traditional Chinese dishes) followed by a trip to the Methuen Music Hall, a building specifically built for the massive organ it contains.

Also this past quarter our Finance Committee authorized an independent investment advisor (Marco Consulting Group) to perform an analysis of our investment strategy with SSGA. Our committee met with MCG's representatives to fully discuss their qualifications and participation before asking them to proceed. We were able to obtain this service without cost due to MCG's past association with BOG member Mr. Joseph Valante.

## Helping Others

Though they have been a frequent recipient of MCMA support in the past, our 2009 grant to **Community Work Services (CWS)** helped this very accomplished organization branch out into a venture that offers both immediate returns and even greater long-term potential. Founded in 1877 to address widespread unemployment



and homelessness in Boston that resulted from a severe five-year business depression, CWS continues to offer assistance to our most disadvantaged citizens. Program participants include the physically, developmentally and emotionally disabled; the homeless; families transitioning from welfare to work; and un- and under-employed Greater Boston residents in need of new skills and supportive services. CWS partners with federal agencies, major corporations, small businesses, local hospitals, and 29 hotels in job-training programs designed to offer both entry level employment and a career ladder for advancement. One of these job-training programs is in Food Service, and to facilitate this training CWS has for the past 42 years operated a cafeteria in its Portland Street headquarters

building. Providing both on-the-job training as well as instruction (in sanitation and safety, nutrition, inventory, finance, and customer service), CWS is able each year to train, graduate and place into full-time employment 80 individuals who are disabled and/or homeless.

Last year, however, CWS was able to expand this program in a major way. When Work, Inc., another past recipient of MCMA support, relocated from Quincy to its new facility in Dorchester, it recognized that space suitable for an in-house cafeteria was available, and that such an asset would be beneficial for its employees, and asked CWS to explore the idea. Seeing the potential for expanding its overall Food Services training program, CWS went about raising funds for equipment purchases, and was able to raise about 80% of the \$86,000 needed. (MCMA provided \$15,000 of that amount.) Nonetheless, it went ahead,

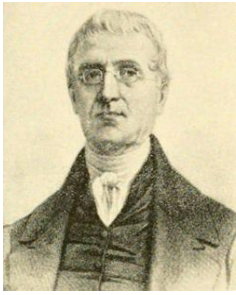


and was able by year end to open what is now called the Freeport Street Cafe, serving breakfast and lunch to over 400 Work, Inc. clients and staff. The cafeteria is not yet self-sufficient, owing partly to start-up costs and the initial funding shortfall, but it expects to achieve that status as the remainder of the building is leased out. And this is clearly a win-win situation, as Work, Inc. personnel get to appreciate the convenience of their in-



house cafeteria serving hot meals, and CWS, by replicating its Portland Street cafeteria, will now be able to train and place into employment 60 additional individuals each year, some of whom will be Work, Inc. clients as well. Importantly too, this experience has alerted CWS to the possibility that other opportunities exist for similar expansion, especially with non-profits operating on-site workshops for their clients, and CWS is now actively seeking out such opportunities. All in all, we thought last year that this would be a good investment, and this year we're pretty happy with the results.

## MCMA Past...



Several of our past members have been iron and/or brass founders by trade, and one of the most noteworthy of these gentlemen was **Cyrus Alger**, who joined MCMA in 1818. Born November 11, 1781 in West Bridgewater, Alger learned the iron foundry business from his father, and initially went into business for himself in Easton. But he moved to South Boston in 1809, at first starting a small foundry with a partner on Second Street, then a foundry of his own on West Fourth Street. In 1816 he purchased land north of West Fourth, and over the next several decades greatly expanded this property by filling in the mud flats between the Fort Point Channel and what is now Dorchester Avenue. *[At the time, Alger's and several other foundries were located in this area, and a portion of Foundry Street exists to this day, but most of the land eventually was turned into (and remains) railroad yards.]* By the 1850's, the Cyrus Alger Iron Company, also known as the South Boston Iron Company, was the largest foundry in the country.

Alger sold the government large quantities of cannon balls during the War of 1812, and his works became known for the excellent ordnance manufactured there. The first gun ever rifled in America was done at his works in 1834, and he invented the first malleable iron cannon in 1836. The first bronze cannon cast in this country was made at his foundry in 1837 under the direction of his superintendent **Isaac Babbitt**, and his company received the first War Department contract to cast the American version of the mountain howitzer, designated the M1835. During the Civil War the M1835 was to participate in every major engagement, and today many Cyrus Alger cannons are prized collector pieces in museums and at battlefield memorials. *[The*



*adjacent photo shows a monument on the Shiloh battlefield to Battery D, 1st Illinois Light Artillery, with two of the Alger 24-pounders used by that unit.]* Alger also was the first to cast large cannon (10, 11 and 12-inch caliber) for use by the Army and Navy, devised improved time fuses for spherical shells and grenades, and held multiple patents in the field of ordnance. *[Babbitt, by the way, a goldsmith by training, founded in 1822 the forerunner of what would become the Reed & Barton Company, and in 1839 invented the alloy still known as babbitt metal, and still widely used as a bearing metal. Babbitt too was a member of MCMA.]*

Alger's work was by no means limited to ordnance, though. He was considered perhaps the best practical metallurgist of his time, and his numerous patents of improved processes show continued advancement in the art practiced by him. Through experimentation he was able to purify cast iron so as to give it more than triple the strength of ordinary cast iron, and thereby keep well ahead of his competitors. He patented in 1811 a method of making cast iron chilled rolls, and in 1822 the first designed cylinder stoves. By the 1850's his establishment offered a daunting selection of products, ranging from Steam Engine Castings, Hydrostatic Presses, Large (to 1500 gallon) Kettles and Heavy Shafts, to Cast Iron Pipes, Cooking Ranges, Fly-Wheel Pulleys, Gratings, and iron frames for **Chickering** pianos. Alger also found time to serve on the City Council in the first year of its existence, and was elected Alderman in 1824 and 1827.

Cyrus Alger was one of the first manufacturers to introduce the 10-hour day, and he made it a practice never to part with good workmen, frequently keeping a large force on half-pay when their services were not needed. He died in 1856, and his grave at Mt. Auburn Cemetery is marked by a monument that befits his stature.





## ...and MCMA Present



There are far fewer *founders* in our Association these days. In fact, there is only one at present, but he represents his profession admirably. **Arthur J. Anthony** owned and ran Mystic Valley Foundry for over 40 years. The foundry, which was started by his father in 1936, works in aluminum, bronze, brass and zinc, serving various industries (such as construction, automotive, machinery, furniture, architectural, etc.) plus all branches of the military. It utilizes traditional molding techniques combined with state-of-the-art technology, and prides itself on high quality, quick turnaround and competitive pricing. [In these respects, Arthur's firm bears a strong resemblance to

Alger's before him, a resemblance that extends also to some of the products manufactured, such as gears, bearings and sprockets, and even the occasional bronze cannon.] In 2005, however, Arthur transferred the foundry to his son Arthur, and has since concentrated his time on his other business, the McIntire Brass Works, which he



acquired in the 1980s. The principle (though not the sole) product of this firm is brass slide poles for use (primarily) in fire stations across the country and beyond. [McIntire is in fact the *only* manufacturer of fire station slide poles

in the country.] State-of-the-art manufacturing processes and high quality materials are needed to produce these hard-drawn, highly polished solid brass poles. And of course, as can be seen in the accompanying photo, the days of an open hole in the floor around a pole are long gone, so these installations require a quick-opening guardrail as well as a fire-rated floor closure device that allows an individual to pass through and then reseals itself. [Arthur designed, holds patents on, and manufactures these closure devices.]



Arthur was born in Cambridge, raised in Cambridge and Lexington, and received a parochial school education (St. John's elementary school in Cambridge and St. Sebastian's School in Newton) prior to attending college at the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy. He received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from (nights) to earn a for eight years in the Division), and was Arthur's education in eight his father had years he absorbed experience. Arthur continued his "production" work credits for the continued success of the company.



MMM, and later attended Suffolk University B.S. in Business Administration. He served Massachusetts National Guard (26th Yankee discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant. the foundry business began early, as by age him exposed to the business, and through the every aspect of it through hands-on took over from his father in 1963, and father's business strategy of avoiding in favor of specialty work, a strategy which he

Arthur lives now in Concord. His wife Elaine and he have two daughters and a son, and his interests are, as he himself describes them, "eclectic". He and Elaine travel extensively, plus Arthur has taken hunting trips all over the world, has several times hunted in Argentina, once climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania with his son, and will be traveling to Iceland this month to hunt on the Arctic Circle. He collects antiques (particularly guns, cannons, clocks, bells, tobacco jars and furniture), and at one time was an avid *spelunker*. Arthur joined MCMA in 1981. He serves on our Finance Committee, and he is currently serving his third term on our Board of Government, where his openness and his willingness to offer and debate new ideas are much appreciated.