



*The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers*  
**The New York Metropolitan Section's Golden Anniversary**  
**Notes, Facts and Fond Memories of the 1st Fifty Years**  
(Excerpts from a paper presented to the Met Section on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In the late 1800's the United States became very conscious of the lack of facilities for the study and advancement of scientific ship design, a time when very few people were involved in full time constructive development of ship design. Great Britain, a seafaring nation whose lifeline was that of the sea, recognized the importance of its shipping industry. They were leaders in the development of design for ship construction, and concerted their design efforts by organizing the Institution of Naval Architects in 1860. It was actively supported by designers, builders, operators, suppliers, merchants and naval officials. In 1879 the United States Government began a program of sending young naval officers to Britain to study naval architecture and marine engineering; however, here at home we were still seriously lacking in our capabilities and understanding of scientific and technical design matters. As late as 1890, we were still procuring our ship designs from Britain.

One of our leaders in ship design and construction was William H. Webb. Mr. Webb was a self-taught professional who had attained great prominence in the marine field. He recognized the importance of continuous future material improvement in the industry, and in the late 1880's endowed the school bearing his name, the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture. At the same time, Mr. Webb, along with a handful of other men prominent in ship matters saw the beneficial results that had followed the efforts of the British group in their 30-year old Institution of Naval Architects. Accordingly, in 1893 these men organized and incorporated The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME), for the purpose of advancing developments and improvements in ships and in the field of ship production.

SNAME came into being when the articles of incorporation were signed on April 28, 1893. SNAME's objective is to advance the arts of shipbuilding, provide for the exchange of information and ideas, to encourage and sponsor research and disseminate the results among the members, to cooperate with educational institutions and to promote the professional integrity and status of the members.

From 1893 to 1941, SNAME grew from a National to an International organization. Technical papers produced by the membership were published in the *Transactions*, SNAME's annual journal. Subjects

published each year were generally in connection with then current developments in shipbuilding design and construction. The *Transactions* from 1893 to date stand as a virtually complete technical history of the development of shipbuilding in this country.

In 1941, after several years of consideration, the Council of SNAME decided to establish an experimental Local Section. The Philadelphia Local Section was organized on November 12, 1941. The success of the Philadelphia Section led to approval of the New York Metropolitan Section on November 11, 1942. In the years since then 15 other Sections have been organized. As of January 1991, the 17 Sections and their inaugural dates are:

Arctic	November 18, 1981
Canadian Atlantic	May 1, 1962
Chesapeake	August 23, 1945
Eastern Canadian	September 25, 1952
Great Lakes/Great Rivers	September 12, 1946
Gulf	May 25, 1949
Hampton Roads	June 5, 1957
Hawaii	January 26, 1955
Los Angeles Metropolitan	April 29, 1948
New England	June 12, 1944
New York Metropolitan	November 11, 1942
Northern California	June 12, 1944
Pacific Northwest	September 12, 1946
Philadelphia	November 12, 1941
San Diego	January 24, 1967
Southeast	April 5, 1965
Texas	September 1, 1979

A measure of the success of the Local Section concept may be seen in the membership numbers. From inception in 1893 to 1940, SNAME grew to 1,980 members. Three years later, with the Philadelphia and New York Metropolitan Sections established, membership had grown to 3,204. Membership continued to grow as Sections were added, peaking at 13,014 in 1983, and which is currently at 9,839.

## **2. NEW YORK METROPOLITAN SECTION - THE EARLY YEARS**

Formation of the New York Metropolitan Section was spearheaded by a group of dedicated and outstanding men led by Rear Admiral George H. Rock, who had served as President of the Society from 1934 to 1936. Working with Admiral Rock were John W. Hendry of Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Lyman J. Ballard of Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, Warner Lumbard of Marine Engineering and Shipping Review, and Lyle Wilson and Madius J. Giraldi of the American Bureau of Shipping. Other charter members included John A. Livingston, A. S. Thaeler and Bengt E. Meark.

It should be noted that the dedication of these early Section Officers, like that of Warner Lumbard (M '28), who served as Secretary-Treasurer for the first six years, then as Vice-Chairman, Chairman (1950-51) and Executive Committee At-Large, formed the foundation for success of the Section. Manlius J. Giraldi, a charter member who served as Chairman (1956-57) was actively involved in the Section leadership for twenty years.

## **2. SECTION MEETINGS**

The New York Metropolitan Section has a proud history of hosting meetings to foster the objectives of the Society. To quote the 1943 Transactions, "There was an attendance of more than 500 at the first meeting held on May 6 and there was a large attendance at the two subsequent meetings."

The Section fiscal, or operating, year runs from the 1st of September to the 31st of August of the following year. Several Section meetings have been held each year, ranging from a low of four to as many as ten. The last 15 years have averaged eight meetings per year. Since inception, New York Met has hosted a total of 345 technical meetings. Most of these meetings have been held in the evening, with a social hour and dinner, followed by a technical program which generally consisted of the presentation of a paper or two. At all Section meetings, SNAME National and Section announcements are made to keep the membership apprised of current SNAME activities and general news. Two or three meetings each year have an Honored Guest. The Awards and Executive Committee select these guests from the roles of retired New York Met Section members who have distinguished themselves through dedicated service in the advancement of SNAME objectives. A list of Past Honored Guests is attached.

From the inception of the Section in 1942, it has been a tradition to hold joint meetings on subjects of mutual interest with other professional societies. The first joint meeting was held on February 23, 1945 with the American Welding Society. Other organizations have included The American Society of Naval

Engineers, The Port of New York Engineers, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers and The Institute of Marine Engineers.

Five colloquia, or panel sessions have been held, and the Section has organized and presented 12 Symposiums, most of which have been international in scope.

#### **4. PAPERS**

At the dinner meetings, panel sessions and symposiums discussed above, a total of 529 papers have been presented; representing the efforts of 817 authors. The papers represent the results of research, investigation and experience on subject matter well distributed over the wide field of marine matters, including operations, economics, management and education, as well as naval architecture and marine engineering.

At the conclusion of each paper presentation, the floor is opened for discussion. This usually proves to be the highlight of the meeting, as the author responds to the various questions and/or points brought out by discussers.

In addition to papers by prominent naval architects and marine engineers, papers by ship owners, operators, equipment and material suppliers, educators and outstanding students have been presented. The titles of most of these papers, their authors and dates presented are listed in the attached "*Transactions Information*" enclosure.

#### **5. STUDENT SECTIONS**

Today's youth is the future backbone of our industry. To nurture the spirit that will insure continued and steady improvements in ships, the New York Metropolitan Section very proudly sponsors and supports our four local schools -- the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, Stevens Institute of Technology, and the State University of New York Maritime School at Fort Schuyler -- with Student Sections at all of them, except Webb Institute. In addition, the Section makes student grants available each year of up to \$350 for support of student research projects. Student attendance at our Section Meetings is strongly encouraged by responsible marine industry related companies in the New York Area through contributions which allow the students to attend and enjoy their dinner at a substantial cost reduction.

## **6. LEADERSHIP**

The New York Met Section has successfully operated under the capable leadership of the Officers and Executive Committee, a group of outstanding men and women who have given unselfishly of their time and service. The Officers and Executive Committee Members are elected annually by the section Members. Most candidates for office have devoted many untiring years of service to the Section prior to being nominated, ensuring that those elected bring with them the experience and expertise required for distinguished service. Each Chairman, and the Section as a whole, is thereby virtually guaranteed a Committee of personnel with the competency and dedication needed for successful Section operations. A list of the Section Leadership from inception of the Section in 1942 to date is provided as an attachment to this paper.

## **7. IN SUMMARY**

In the late 1800's the United States recognized what Britain had learned years before; the importance of a firm backbone in support of its shipping industry. Britain had concerted their design efforts in 1860 by organizing the Institution of Naval Architects. Seeing the beneficial results of this organization, a group of men prominent in U.S. shipping matters organized and incorporated The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers in 1893. For the first 48 years, SNAME operated on a national basis.

In 1941, the Council of the Society established an experimental Local Section in Philadelphia. The success of this Section led to approval by Council of the New York Metropolitan Section in 1942.

The New York Met Section was well organized by a group of men led by Rear Admiral George H. Rock, Past President of the Society from 1934 to 1936, who served as the Section's first Chairman.

The Section's main method of fostering the objectives of the Society, which includes providing for the exchange of ideas and dissemination of the results of research among the members, is to hold Section meetings. These meetings provide, aside from the social atmosphere and aspects, a forum for the presentation of technical papers which are then openly discussed.

In addition to dinner meetings, 5 panel sessions and 12 symposia have been prepared and hosted by the Section. Several meetings a year have an Honored Guest, and several others are held jointly with other professional societies with mutual interests. In all, New York Met has held 345 meetings.

At these meetings, 529 papers have been presented, representing the efforts of 817 authors.

These papers cover subject matter well distributed over the wide field of marine matters and have been presented by prominent people in all segments of the marine industry, including many by outstanding students.

The New York Met Section is the proud sponsor of three local Student Sections: the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy; Stevens Institute of Technology; and SUNY Maritime at Fort Schuyler. The Section strongly encourages student activities through student research grants and subsidized meeting costs.

Leadership of the Section is by a group of dedicated men and women elected to office by the Local Section Membership. Elected officials have generally had many prior years of operating committee experience, providing them with the qualifications needed for the Section to operate successfully under their guidance.

The Section has been blessed with a wonderful first 50 years. An obviously large reason for this has been the fact that we are located in one of the largest and busiest seaports in the world. As with the rest of our nation, New York harbor, while fortunately still being a busy seaport, has witnessed an unfortunate decline in overall marine business. This decline will most certainly have an adverse effect on the New York Met Section, mostly through loss of membership by attrition. As people are leaving the marine field in the New York Area, either through retirement, relocation, choice or otherwise, few are being replaced. This is going to place a heavy burden on the future generations of leadership of the Section, but I am confident that if we continue to have leaders with the youth, qualifications, dedication and stamina of those currently in charge, New York Met will remain the foremost, proudest and most prestigious of all SNAME sections.

### **SNAME NY Metropolitan Section** **Honored Guests – 1984 to June 2001**

<b>Prior to 1984</b>		<b>Lauren McCready</b>
<b>1984</b>	<b>January 18</b>	<b>Walter Bachman</b>
	<b>February 23</b>	<b>Nicholas Bachko</b>
	<b>March 21</b>	<b>John L. Foley</b>
	<b>October 25</b>	<b>Alvin E. Cox</b>
<b>1985</b>	<b>March 14</b>	<b>Helmut “John” Eccarius</b>
	<b>April 18</b>	<b>L. Morris Schlosberg</b>
<b>1986</b>	<b>January 16</b>	<b>Charlie Wilson</b>
	<b>March 20</b>	<b>Henry J. Karsch</b>
	<b>April 22</b>	<b>Edward Numata</b>
<b>1987</b>	<b>October 20</b>	<b>Montgomery Banister – “Monte”</b>

1988	March 15 October 19	William H. Norman Duncan Stanley G. Stiansen
1989	None	
1990	October 25	Thomas J. Sartor
1991	March 13 April 16 May 14 June 5 October 22	William duBarry Thomas Francis J. "Frank" Joyce Dr. Daniel Savitsky Professor Thomas H. Bond (Webb) Walter C. "bud" Cowles
1992	February 5 March 3 April 1 May 5	Vice Admiral Robert I. Price USCG (Ret) Robert G. Mende William G. Hannan Charles A. Narwicz
1993	March 10 May 12 June 8 November 4	Joseph J. Cuneo Zachary M. Awer Pierre DeSaix Harry Ottaway
1994	March 10 October 27	Connie Gradilone Thomas Jones, Jr.
1995	March 15 June 6	Jerome Gruder Captain Hermann A. Allen
1996	March 5 May 8 June 6 July 11	Captain Moses W. Hirschowitz Richard T. Soper Stephen C. Dvorak Nedret S. Basar
1997	March 12 May 6 Nicola June 10	Norman Brubaker Pergola Harry Yagel
1998	None	
1999	June 8 Jacques	Haddler
2000	January 12 May 11 June 6 Walter	Arnold M. Stein Donald Birney Maclean
2001	January 10 June 5 Robert	Frank Mei B. Zubaly

