

THOMAS INDUSTRIES INC
Form SC 13D/A
April 23, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. 33)

Thomas Industries Inc.
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, \$1.00 Par Value Per Share
(Title of Class of Securities)

884424109
(CUSIP Number)

James E. McKee
Gabelli Asset Management Inc.
One Corporate Center
Rye, New York 10580-1435
(914) 921-5294
(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

April 22, 2004
(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of Section 240.13d-1(e), 240.13d-1(f) or 240.13d-1(g), check the following box.

CUSIP No. 884425109
1
NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Gabelli Funds, LLC
I.D. NO. 13-4044523

2
CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)
(a)

(b)

3
SEC USE ONLY

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4

SOURCE OF FUNDS (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

00-Funds of investment advisory clients

5

CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED
PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2 (d) OR 2 (e)

6

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

New York

NUMBER OF

SHARES

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED

BY EACH

REPORTING

PERSON

WITH

7

SOLE VOTING POWER

573,000 (Item 5)

8

SHARED VOTING POWER

NONE

9

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

573,000 (Item 5)

10

SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

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NONE

11

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

573,000 (Item 5)

12

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

13

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

3.31%

14

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IA

CUSIP No. 884425109

1

NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

GAMCO Investors, Inc.

I.D. NO. 13-4044521

2

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

(a)

(b)

3

SEC USE ONLY

4

SOURCE OF FUNDS (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

00-Funds of investment advisory clients

5

CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED
PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2 (d) OR 2 (e)

6

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

New York

NUMBER OF

SHARES

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BENEFICIALLY

OWNED

BY EACH

REPORTING

PERSON

WITH

7

SOLE VOTING POWER

2,772,929 (Item 5)

8

SHARED VOTING POWER

NONE

9

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

2,863,729 (Item 5)

10

SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

11

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

2,863,729 (Item 5)

12

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

13

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PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

16.53%

14

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IA, CO

CUSIP No. 884425109

1

NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

MJG Associates, Inc.

I.D. NO. 06-1304269

2

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

(a)

(b)

3

SEC USE ONLY

4

SOURCE OF FUNDS (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

00-Client Funds

5

CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED
PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2 (d) OR 2 (e)

6

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Connecticut

NUMBER OF

SHARES

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED

BY EACH

REPORTING

PERSON

WITH

7

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SOLE VOTING POWER

15,900 (Item 5)

8

SHARED VOTING POWER

NONE

9

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

15,900 (Item 5)

10

SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

11

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

15,900 (ITEM 5)

12

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

13

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

0.09%

14

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

CO

CUSIP No. 884425109

1

NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc.

I.D. NO. 13-3056041

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2

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

(a)

(b)

3

SEC USE ONLY

4

Source of funds (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

None

5

CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED
PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2 (d) OR 2 (e)

6

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

New York

NUMBER OF

SHARES

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED

BY EACH

REPORTING

PERSON

WITH

7

SOLE VOTING POWER

None

8

SHARED VOTING POWER

NONE

9

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

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NONE

10

SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

11

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

NONE

12

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS) X

13

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

NONE

14

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

HC, CO

CUSIP No. 884425109

1

NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Gabelli Asset Management Inc.

I.D. NO. 13-4007862

2

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

(a)

(b)

3

SEC USE ONLY

4

Source of funds (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

None

5

CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED
PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2 (d) OR 2 (e)

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6

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

New York

NUMBER OF

SHARES

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED

BY EACH

REPORTING

PERSON

WITH

7

SOLE VOTING POWER

None (Item 5)

8

SHARED VOTING POWER

NONE

9

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

None (Item 5)

10

SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

11

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

None (Item 5)

12

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CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS) X

13

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

0.00%

14

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)
HC, CO

CUSIP No. 884425109

1

NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Mario J. Gabelli

2

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

(a)

(b)

3

SEC USE ONLY

4

Source of funds (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

None

5

CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED
PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2 (d) OR 2 (e)

6

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

USA

NUMBER OF

SHARES

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED

BY EACH

REPORTING

PERSON

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WITH

7

SOLE VOTING POWER

None

8

SHARED VOTING POWER

NONE

9

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

10

SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

11

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

NONE

12

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS) X

13

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

0.00%

14

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)
IN

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Item 1. Security and Issuer

This Amendment No. 33 to Schedule 13D on the Common Stock of Thomas Industries Inc. (the "Issuer") is being filed on behalf of the undersigned to amend the Schedule 13D, as amended (the "Schedule 13D") which was originally filed on March 23, 1993. Unless otherwise indicated, all capitalized terms used herein but not defined herein shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Schedule 13D.

Item 2. Identity and Background

This statement is being filed by Mario J. Gabelli ("Mario Gabelli") and various entities which he directly or indirectly controls or for which he acts as chief investment officer. These entities, except for Lynch Corporation ("Lynch") and Lynch Interactive Corporation ("Interactive"), engage in various aspects of the securities business, primarily as investment adviser to various institutional and individual clients, including registered investment companies and pension plans, and as general partner of various private investment partnerships. Certain of these entities may also make investments for their own accounts.

The foregoing persons in the aggregate often own beneficially more than 5% of a class of a particular issuer. Although several of the foregoing persons are treated as institutional investors for purposes of reporting their beneficial ownership on the short-form Schedule 13G, the holdings of those who do not qualify as institutional investors may exceed the 1% threshold presented for filing on Schedule 13G or implementation of their investment philosophy may from time to time require action which could be viewed as not completely passive. In order to avoid any question as to whether their beneficial ownership is being reported on the proper form and in order to provide greater investment flexibility and administrative uniformity, these persons have decided to file their beneficial ownership reports on the more detailed Schedule 13D form rather than on the short-form Schedule 13G and thereby to provide more expansive disclosure than may be necessary.

(a), (b) and (c) - This statement is being filed by one or more of the following persons: Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc. ("Gabelli Partners"), Gabelli Asset Management Inc. ("GBL"), Gabelli Funds, LLC ("Gabelli Funds"), GAMCO Investors, Inc. ("GAMCO"), Gabelli Advisers, Inc. ("Gabelli Advisers"), Gabelli Securities, Inc. ("GSI"), Gabelli & Company, Inc. ("Gabelli & Company"), Gabelli & Company, Inc. Profit Sharing Plan (the "Plan"), MJG Associates, Inc. ("MJG Associates"), Gabelli Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation"), Mario Gabelli, Lynch, and Interactive. Those of the foregoing persons signing this Schedule 13D are hereafter referred to as the "Reporting Persons".

Gabelli Partners makes investments for its own account and is the parent company of GBL. GBL, a public company listed on the New York Stock Exchange, is the parent company for a variety of companies engaged in the securities business, including those named below.

GAMCO, a wholly-owned subsidiary of GBL, is an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended ("Advisers Act"). GAMCO is an investment manager providing discretionary managed account services for employee benefit plans, private investors, endowments, foundations and others.

GSI, a majority-owned subsidiary of GBL, acts as a general partner or investment manager to limited partnerships and offshore investment companies and as a part of its business may purchase or sell securities for its own account. It is the immediate parent of Gabelli & Company. GSI is the Investment Manager of Gabelli Associates Fund, Gabelli Associates Fund II, Gabelli Associates Limited, ALCE Partners, L.P., and Gabelli Multimedia Partners, L.P. GSI and Marc Gabelli own 45% and 55%, respectively, of Gabelli Securities International Limited ("GSIL"). GSIL provides investment advisory services to offshore funds and accounts. GSIL is an investment advisor of Gabelli International Gold Fund Limited, Gabelli European Partners, Ltd., and Gabelli Global Partners, Ltd.

Gabelli & Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of GSI, is a broker-

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dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("1934 Act"), which as a part of its business regularly purchases and sells securities for its own account.

Gabelli Funds, a wholly owned subsidiary of GBL, is a limited liability company. Gabelli Funds is an investment adviser registered under the Advisers Act which presently provides discretionary managed account services for The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc., The Gabelli Asset Fund, The Gabelli Growth Fund, The Gabelli Convertible and Income Securities Fund, Inc., The Gabelli Value Fund Inc., The Gabelli Small Cap Growth Fund, The Gabelli Equity Income Fund, The Gabelli ABC Fund, The Gabelli Global Telecommunications Fund, Gabelli Gold Fund, Inc., The Gabelli Global Multimedia Trust Inc., The Gabelli Global Convertible Securities Fund, Gabelli Capital Asset Fund, Gabelli International Growth Fund, Inc., The Gabelli Global Growth Fund, The Gabelli Utility Trust, The Gabelli Global Opportunity Fund, The Gabelli Utilities Fund, The Gabelli Blue Chip Value Fund, The Gabelli Mathers Fund, The Gabelli Woodland Small Cap Value Fund, The Comstock Capital Value Fund, The Comstock Strategy Fund, and The Gabelli Dividend and Income Trust (collectively, the "Funds"), which are registered investment companies.

Gabelli Advisers, a subsidiary of GBL, is an investment adviser which provides discretionary advisory services to The Gabelli Westwood Mighty Mitessm Fund.

The Plan, a qualified employee profit sharing plan, covers substantially all employees of GBL and its affiliates.

MJG Associates provides advisory services to private investment partnerships and offshore funds. Mario Gabelli is the sole shareholder, director and employee of MJG Associates. MJG Associates is the Investment Manager of Gabelli International Limited, Gabelli International II Limited, Gabelli Performance Partnership, and Gabelli Fund, LDC. The Foundation is a private foundation. Mario Gabelli is the President, a Trustee and the Investment Manager of the Foundation.

Lynch is a public company traded on the American Stock Exchange engaged in manufacturing. Interactive is a public company listed on the American Stock Exchange and is a holding company with operating subsidiaries engaged primarily in the rural telephone industry. Lynch and Interactive actively pursue new business ventures and acquisitions. Lynch and Interactive make investments in marketable securities to preserve capital and maintain liquidity for financing their business activities and acquisitions and are not engaged in the business of investing, reinvesting, or trading in securities. Mario J. Gabelli is a director, officer and a substantial shareholder of Lynch and Interactive.

Mario Gabelli is the majority stockholder and Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of Gabelli Partners and GBL, and the Chief Investment Officer for each of the Reporting Persons. Gabelli Partners is the majority shareholder of GBL. GBL, in turn, is the sole stockholder of GAMCO. GBL is also the majority stockholder of GSI and the largest shareholder of Gabelli Advisers. Gabelli & Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GSI.

The Reporting Persons do not admit that they constitute a group.

Gabelli Partners, GBL, GAMCO, and Gabelli & Company are New York corporations and GSI and Gabelli Advisers are Delaware corporations, each having its principal business office at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580. Gabelli Funds is a New York limited liability company having its principal business office at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580. MJG Associates is a Connecticut corporation having its principal business office at 140 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830. The Foundation is a Nevada corporation having its principal offices at 165 West Liberty Street, Reno, Nevada 89501. Lynch is an Indiana corporation having its principal business office at 50 Kennedy Plaza, Suite 1250, Providence, Rhode Island 02903. Interactive is a Delaware corporation having its principal place of business at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580.

For information required by instruction C to Schedule 13D with respect to the executive officers and directors of the foregoing entities and

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other related persons (collectively, "Covered Persons"), reference is made to Schedule I annexed hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

(f) - Reference is made to Schedule I hereto.

Item 3. Source and Amount of Funds or Other Consideration

Item 3 to Schedule 13D is amended, in pertinent part, as follows: GAMCO used approximately \$1,588,598 of funds that were provided through the accounts of certain of their investment advisory clients (and, in the case of some of such accounts at GAMCO, may be through borrowings from client margin accounts) in order to purchase the additional Securities for such clients, since the most recent filing on Schedule 13D.

Item 4. Purpose of Transaction

Item 4 to Schedule 13D is amended, in pertinent part, as follows: On April 22, 2004, GAMCO sent a letter to the Issuer urging its Board of Directors to eliminate the Issuer's poison pill in light of the shareholders' support for GAMCO's proposal at the Issuer's annual meeting. In the letter, GAMCO also said that if the Issuer's Board of Directors does not eliminate the poison pill, next year GAMCO will consider voting for any opposition slate of directors who support the elimination of the poison pill. A copy of GAMCO's letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A. On April 22, 2004, GAMCO also issued a press release urging the Issuer to redeem its poison pill in light of the support for GAMCO's shareholder proposal at the Issuer's annual meeting. A copy of GAMCO's press release is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Item 5. Interest In Securities Of The Issuer

Item 5 to Schedule 13D is amended, in pertinent part, as follows: (a) The aggregate number of Securities to which this Schedule 13D relates is 3,452,629 shares, representing 19.93% of the 17,327,686 shares outstanding as reported on the Issuer's most recent Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. The Reporting Persons beneficially own those Securities as follows:

Name

Shares of
Common Stock
% of Class of
Common
Gabelli Funds

573,000
3.31%
GAMCO

2,863,729
16.53%
MJG Associates
15,900
0.09%

Mario Gabelli

0

0.00%

Mario Gabelli is deemed to have beneficial ownership of the Securities owned beneficially by each of the foregoing persons. GSI is deemed

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to have beneficial ownership of the Securities beneficially owned by Gabelli & Company. GBL and Gabelli Partners are deemed to have beneficial ownership of the Securities owned beneficially by each of the foregoing persons other than Mario Gabelli and the Foundation.

(b) Each of the Reporting Persons and Covered Persons has the sole power to vote or direct the vote and sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of the Securities reported for it, either for its own benefit or for the benefit of its investment clients or its partners, as the case may be, except that (i) GAMCO does not have the authority to vote 90,800 of the reported shares, (ii) Gabelli Funds has sole dispositive and voting power with respect to the shares of the Issuer held by the Funds so long as the aggregate voting interest of all joint filers does not exceed 25% of their total voting interest in the Issuer and, in that event, the Proxy Voting Committee of each Fund shall respectively vote that Fund's shares, (iii) at any time, the Proxy Voting Committee of each such Fund may take and exercise in its sole discretion the entire voting power with respect to the shares held by such fund under special circumstances such as regulatory considerations, and (iv) the power of Mario Gabelli, GBL, and Gabelli Partners is indirect with respect to Securities beneficially owned directly by other Reporting Persons.

(c) Information with respect to all transactions in the Securities which were effected during the past sixty days or since the most recent filing on Schedule 13D, whichever is less, by each of the Reporting Persons and Covered Persons is set forth on Schedule II annexed hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

(e) Not applicable.

Item 7.

Material to be Filed as an Exhibit

Exhibit A: Letter sent on April 22, 2004, from GAMCO to the Issuer's Chief Financial Officer and Secretary.

Exhibit B: GAMCO Press Release issued on April 22, 2004.

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: April 22, 2004

MARIO J. GABELLI
MJG ASSOCIATES, INC.

By:/s/ James E. McKee
James E. McKee
Attorney-in-Fact

GABELLI FUNDS, LLC
GABELLI GROUP CAPITAL PARTNERS, INC.
GABELLI ASSET MANAGEMENT INC.

By:/s/ James E. McKee
James E. McKee
Secretary

GAMCO INVESTORS, INC.

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By:/s/ Douglas R. Jamieson
Douglas R. Jamieson
Executive Vice President

SCHEDULE I

Information with Respect to Executive
Officers and Directors of the Undersigned

Schedule I to Schedule 13D is amended, in pertinent part, as follows:

The following sets forth as to each of the executive officers and directors of the undersigned: his name; his business address; his present principal occupation or employment and the name, principal business and address of any corporation or other organization in which such employment is conducted. Unless otherwise specified, the principal employer of each such individual is Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc., Gabelli Asset Management Inc., Gabelli Funds, LLC, Gabelli & Company, Inc., or GAMCO Investors, Inc., the business address of each of which is One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580, and each such individual identified below is a citizen of the United States. To the knowledge of the undersigned, during the last five years, no such person has been convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors), and no such person was a party to a civil proceeding of a judicial or administrative body of competent jurisdiction as a result of which he was or is subject to a judgment, decree or final order enjoining future violations of, or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to, federal or state securities law or finding any violation with respect to such laws except as reported in Item 2(d) of this Schedule 13D.

Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc.
Directors:

Vincent J. Amabile

Business Consultant

Mario J. Gabelli

Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment
Officer of Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc.,
Gabelli Asset Management Inc., and GAMCO
Investors, Inc.; Director/Trustee of all
registered investment companies advised by Gabelli
Funds, LLC; Chief Executive Officer of Lynch
Interactive Corporation; Vice Chairman of Lynch
Corporation.

Charles C. Baum

Chairman and Director of The Morgan Group, Inc.;
Secretary & Treasurer
United Holdings Co., Inc.
2545 Wilkens Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21223

Arnold M. Reichman

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Business Consultant

Marc J. Gabelli

President

Matthew R. Gabelli

Vice President - Trading
Gabelli & Company, Inc.
One Corporate Center
Rye, New York 10580
Officers:

Mario J. Gabelli

Marc J. Gabelli

Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Chief
Investment Officer

President

Henry Kiernan
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer

James E. McKee

Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Gabelli Asset Management
Inc.
Directors:

Raymond C. Avansino,
Jr.
Chairman
E.L. Wiegand Foundation
165 West Liberty Street
Reno, NV 89501

Mario J. Gabelli

John D.
Gabelli

See above

Senior Vice President

Paul B. Guenther

Chairman
New York Philharmonic
10 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, NY 10023

John C. Ferrara
Business Consultant

Dr. Eamon M. Kelly
Professor

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Payson Center for International
Development Technology Transfer
Tulane University
300 Gibson Hall
6823 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Karl Otto Pohl (1)

Frederic V.
Salerno

Vincent S.
Tese

Sal. Oppenheim jr. & Cie.
Bockenheimer Landstrasse 20
D-6000 FRANKFURT AM MAIN
Germany

See below

Lawyer, Investment Adviser and Cable Television
Executive
c/o Bear Stearns & Company, Inc.
245 Park Avenue, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10167

Officers:

Mario J. Gabelli

Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Chief
Investment Officer

Michael R. Anastasio,
Jr.

Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer
James E. McKee

Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

GAMCO Investors, Inc.
Directors:

Douglas R. Jamieson
Joseph R. Rindler,
Jr.
Regina M. Pitaro
F. William Scholz, II
William S. Selby

Officers:

Mario J. Gabelli

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Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment
Officer

Joseph R. Rindler,
Jr.
Chairman

Douglas R. Jamieson
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating
Officer

James E. McKee

Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Gabelli Funds, LLC
Officers:

Mario J. Gabelli

Chief Investment Officer
Bruce N. Alpert
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating
Officer

James E. McKee
Secretary

Gabelli Advisers, Inc.
Directors:

Bruce N. Alpert
John D. Gabelli
Joseph R. Rindler.
Jr.

Officers:

Bruce N. Alpert
Chief Operating Officer

James E. McKee
Secretary

Gabelli Securities, Inc.

Directors:

Robert W. Blake
President of W. R. Blake & Sons, Inc.
196-20 Northern Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11358

Douglas G. DeVivo
General Partner of ALCE Partners, L.P.

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One First Street, Suite 16
Los Altos, CA 94022

Joseph R. Rindler,
Jr.
See above

Officers:

Michael R. Anastasio

Thomas H. Mahoney

James E. McKee
Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

Vice President

Secretary

Gabelli & Company, Inc.
Directors:

James G. Webster, III
Chairman & Interim President

Irene Smolicz
Senior Trader
Gabelli & Company, Inc.

Officers:

James G. Webster, III
Chairman & Interim President

Bruce N. Alpert
Vice President - Mutual Funds

James E. McKee
Secretary

Lynch Corporation,
50 Kennedy Plaza, Suite 1250, Providence, RI 02903

Directors:

Mario J. Gabelli
See above - Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc.

Marc J. Gabelli

E. Val Cerutti

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See above - Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc.

Business Consultant, Cerutti Consultants
227 McLain Street
Mount Kisco, NY 10540

Avrum Gray

Ralph R. Papitto

Richard E. McGrail

Raymond H. Keller

Anthony R.

Pustorino

Gbar Limited Partnership
440 South LaSalle, Suite 2900
Chicago, IL 60605

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

President and Chief Operations Officer

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Professor Emeritus
Pace University
1 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

Officers:

Ralph R. Papitto

See above

Mario J. Gabelli
Vice Chairman

Richard E. McGrail
See above

Raymond H. Keller
See above

Lynch Interactive Corporation,
401 Theodore Fremd Avenue Rye, NY 10580

Directors:

Paul J. Evanson
President
Allegheny Energy, Inc.

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10435 Downsville Pike
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Mario J. Gabelli

Marc J. Gabelli
See above - Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc.

See above - Gabelli Group Capital Partners, Inc.

Salvatore Muoio
Principal
S. Muoio & Co., LLC
Suite 406
509 Madison Ave.
New York, NY 10022

Daniel Lee

Morris Berkowitz

John C. Ferrara
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc.
3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 1800
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

Consultant
Lynch Interactive Corporation
401 Theodore Fremd Ave.
Rye, NY 10580

See above

David C. Mitchell
Business Consultant
c/o Lynch Interactive Corporation
401 Theodore Fremd Ave.
Rye, NY 10580

Officers:

Mario J. Gabelli
Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Robert E. Dolan
Chief Financial Officer

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John Fikre

Vice President - Corporate Development, General
Counsel, and Secretary

(1) Citizen of Germany

Exhibit A:

April 22, 2004

Mr. Phillip J. Stuecker
Chief Financial Officer and Secretary
Thomas Industries Inc.
4360 Brownsboro Road
Louisville, KY 40207

Dear Mr. Stuecker:

We at GAMCO Investors, Inc. remain convinced that the elimination of poison pills is an important element of a positive approach to shareholder governance. In this context, we believe that the management and Board of Directors of Thomas Industries cannot ignore the voice of its shareholders. As you know, our resolution supporting the elimination of Thomas Industries' poison pill was approved by 63% of the shareholders voting at your annual meeting held today.

In light of the shareholders' mandate, we are providing you with an early notice of our plans for the next proxy season. If the Board of Directors does not eliminate Thomas Industries' poison pill, next year we will consider voting for any opposition slate of directors who support the elimination of the poison pill.

Congress and the SEC have been actively working on a number of fronts to restore investor confidence. The SEC has announced that it is considering modifying its proxy rules to give long-term shareholders access to a company's proxy materials to nominate directors where a company does not act on the results of the proxy process. It is time to hold companies accountable for their actions and restore the checks and balances in corporate boardrooms and executive suites. This is not the time for companies to build moats around themselves with poison pills and ignore the voice of their shareholders.

We trust that you will share this letter and our concerns with your senior executives and Board of Directors. If you have any questions regarding this matter, I can be reached at (914) 921-5294.

Sincerely,

James E. McKee
Vice President, General
Counsel and Secretary

JEM/jm

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Exhibit B:

For Immediate Release:
Contact: Douglas R. Jamieson
Chief Operating Officer
(914) 921-5020

For further information visit our
Website at: www.gabelli.com

Victory! Gabelli's Poison Pill Proposal Wins
Strong Shareholder Support

Rye, New York, April 22, 2004 - Gabelli Asset Management Company is pleased to announce that its resolution supporting the elimination of Thomas Industries Inc.'s "poison pill" was approved by 63% of the shareholders voting at its annual meeting held today.

"We are delighted that we are victorious this year in our endeavors to eliminate the poison pill. An identical proposal last year received support from only 18% of the votes cast. This year the shareholders have spoken. Gabelli has long advocated corporate governance initiatives against poison pills and stock option plans. Poison pills clearly upset the proper balance of power between shareholders and management as they allow the board to arrogate to itself the power to determine what is a fair price that a potential buyer must pay to acquire a company.

We hope that Thomas Industries' Board of Directors will listen to the firm voice of its shareholders after this windfall," said a representative of Gabelli.

Gabelli Asset Management Company, a subsidiary of Gabelli Asset Management Inc. (GBL:NYSE), provides investment management services to institutional and high net worth investors. Gabelli Asset Management Inc. has approximately \$28 billion in assets under management.