



**THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY**  
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
**NEWSBOY**



*Horatio Alger, Jr.*  
1832 - 1899

A magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr.,  
his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

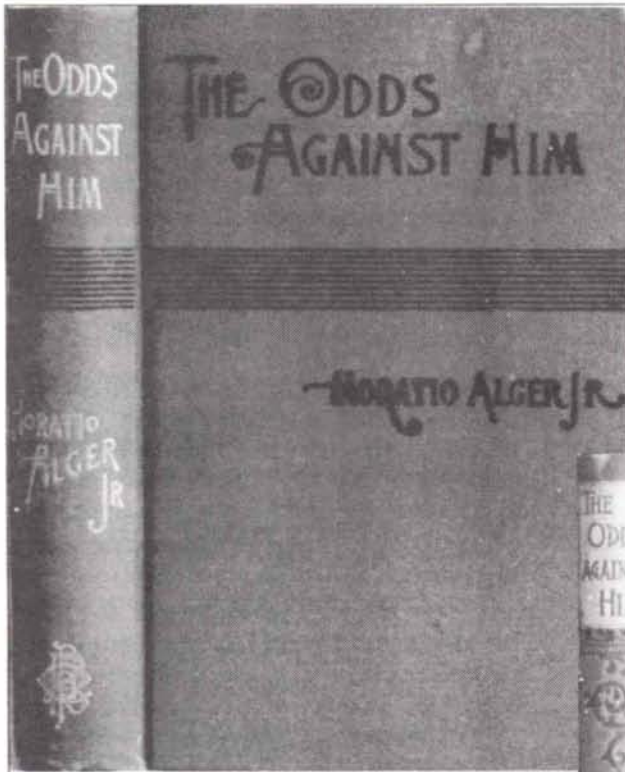
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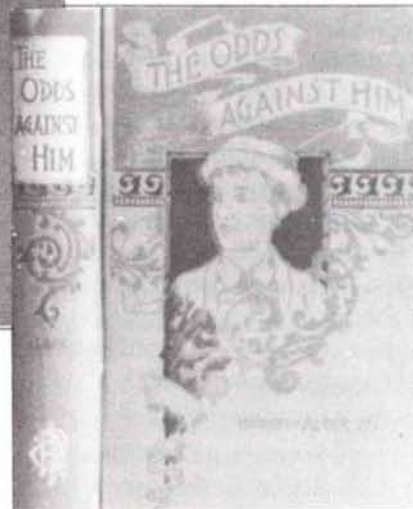
# 'Forging Ahead in Philly'

-- '93 convention preview, Page 3



'The Odds Against Him'

-- See Page 5



## President's column

### Make your reservations now

Enclosed in this issue of *Newsboy* you will find complete convention information, including your registration form and motel reservation information (the blue sheet) and locator map and agenda (the yellow sheet) plus the auction book list and bid sheets. Our convention host, Murray Levin, has been working very hard the last few weeks and has produced a full and interesting program.

It should be noted here that the Ramada Inn is holding 40 rooms for the Society but cannot guarantee them (as well as the special H.A.S. convention rates) after March 29, 1993. In other words, the motel will release the rooms on a first come-first serve basis 30 days prior to our convention. If you make your reservations after March 29 it is possible that the motel could be full and you will have to find alternative accommodations. Of course, there are other, more expensive motels nearby but it's not much fun to be away from the center of activity.

Also enclosed are mail bid sheets for the Alger collection donated by Mr. Ralph Anderson (PF-144). The best 26 books were selected for mail bids so that members unable to attend the convention would have a chance to improve their collections. There will be approximately 100 other books of lesser quality in the auction. Most of these books will be placed in box lots and will be available for live bids only. Please remember that the entire proceeds of this auction will go to the H.A.S. treasury, so be generous with your bids!

As you can see from the enclosed agenda, there is a lot of free time on Friday and Saturday afternoons. This was deliberately planned so that members can take in the local sights. Not only are there lots of used bookstores, flea markets and other places to find that elusive Alger title, but plenty of historical places to visit also. In the March-April *Newsboy* we'll have more details on the many tourist attractions in and around Philadelphia.

Remember, by the time you get your next issue of *Newsboy* (the first week of April), the convention motel will not be able to guarantee rooms for H.A.S. members. Make your plans now so you won be disappointed.

Your partic'lar friend,  
Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)  
585 E. St. Andrews Drive  
Media, PA 19063

### HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

*To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive and Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes -- lads whose struggles epitomized the great American dream and flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans.*

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*Newsboy*, the official newsletter of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any 12-month period is \$20, with single issues of *Newsboy* costing \$3.00. Please make all remittance payable to the Horatio Alger Society. Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to Executive Secretary Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, MI 48910.

*Newsboy* is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography.

#### BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY H.A.S.

- "Horatio Alger, Jr., A Comprehensive Bibliography," by Bob Bennett.
- "Horatio Alger or, The American Hero Era," by Ralph D. Gardner.
- "Publication Formats of the 59 Stories by Horatio Alger, Jr. as Reprinted by the John C. Winston Co." Compiled by Bob Sawyer (PF-455) and Jim Thorp (PF-574).
- "Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt," by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- "The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.," by Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales (PF-258).

*Newsboy* ad rates: Full page, \$32.00; one-half page, \$17.00; one-quarter page, \$9.00; per column inch (1 inch deep by approx. 3 1/2 inches wide), \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to Horatio Alger Society, to Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, MI 48910. The above rates apply to all want ads plus non-Alger books for sale. However, it is the policy of the Horatio Alger Society to promote the exchange of Alger books and related Alger materials by providing space **free of charge** to our members for the **sale only** of such material. Send such ads to Carl T. Hartmann or directly to editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 923 South Lake St., Apt. 6, Mundelein, IL 60060.

## 'Forging Ahead in Philly'

by Murray D. Levin (PF-851)

I am pleased and proud to be the host of the 1993 convention of the Horatio Alger Society. I chose the title "Forging Ahead" for several reasons. First, of course, because it is the title of a wonderful Alger book; secondly, the convention will be held close to historic Valley Forge; and third and finally, because I am convinced that under the inspired and capable leadership of our president, Rob Kasper (PF-327), H.A.S. is indeed forging ahead.

The 1993 convention will take place April 29 - May 2 in conveniently located Fort Washington, Pa., at Exit 26 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. For those traveling by transportation other than their own automobiles, listed on Page 20 are public transportation options available with local and toll-free phone numbers that may prove useful. Fort Washington is very convenient to major historical attractions in Philadelphia and Valley Forge.

Fort Washington itself features Fort Washington State Park, which commemorates the site of George Washington's northern defense line against the British in 1777; Hope Lodge, a Colonial Georgian mansion which was headquarters for General John Cochran after the Battle of Germantown, and features historic furnishings, paintings and ceramics; and The Highlands, a Georgian mansion on 43 acres built by Anthony Norris, who was active in both state and federal government, and which includes formal gardens and crenelated walls built in 1813 that overlook Whitemarsh Valley.

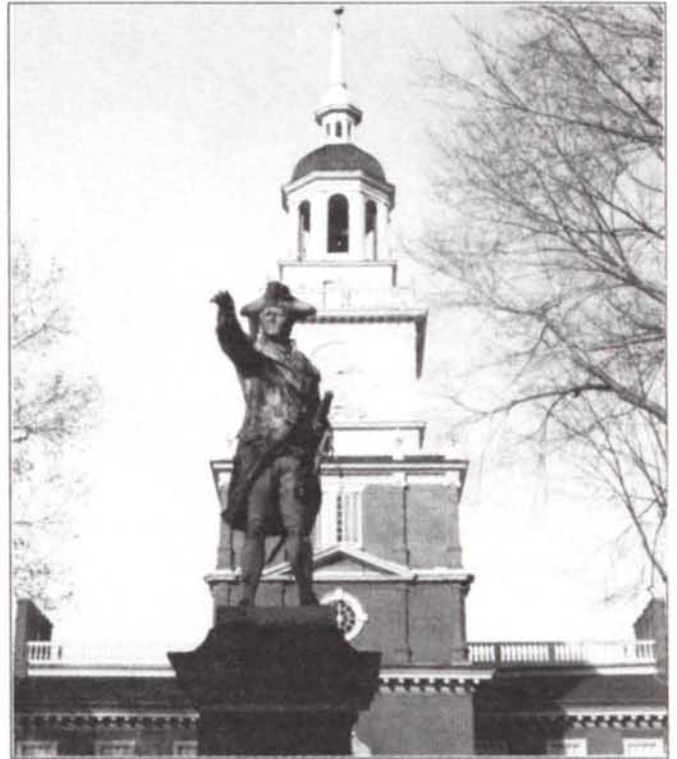
I have, along with the help of Rob Kasper, Bill Gowen and others, arranged for an exciting schedule of events. We will kick things off with a most unusual event -- a private Thursday night tour of world-renowned Beth Sholom Congregation in nearby Elkins Park, Pa. It is the only synagogue in the world designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and it is the last work he designed. Additionally, there will be a dessert reception there.

On Friday morning we will be treated to an informative program currently being planned by **Newsboy** editor Bill Gowen. In the evening, there will be a super submarine sandwich party, followed by the annual business meeting and two exciting auctions.

Saturday morning is our annual H.A.S. book sale, so please bring plenty of books to sell. We are expecting a large turnout, so this is your best opportunity of the year to buy and sell Algers and other books.

Saturday afternoon will be free and it will be a great opportunity to sightsee, or hit area bookstores. You are also welcome to come to my house to see my collection at that time as well.

Saturday night will be the annual H.A.S. banquet and



**Independence Hall and the Commodore Barry statue are prominent fixtures of "America's most historic square mile," in downtown Philadelphia.**

awards. Included will be the presentation of the Strive and Succeed Award to a deserving newsboy or newsgirl. This event will be held in the Palace of Asia, a beautiful restaurant located adjacent to our convention hotel, the Ramada Inn.

Sunday morning is our getaway day, and you are welcome to enjoy a free continental breakfast in the Palace of Asia as you say your good-byes.

I will be pleased to provide you with directions to Renninger's Antique Market in Adamstown, Pa. It is one of the largest indoor antique centers in the United States and shouldn't be missed as it is only one hour from the convention site and is also located right off the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

To make reservations for the convention itself, please use the tear-off registration form (at the bottom of the blue information sheet enclosed with this issue of **Newsboy**). If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (215) 886-4750. If I am not home when you call, my wife, Michele, will be happy to try to answer your questions.

Making your motel reservations has never been easier. Just call 1-800-2-RAMADA by March 29 and ask for the special Fort Washington, Pa. Horatio Alger Society rate of \$48 per double room and \$60 for a mini-suite.

This rate is very reasonable for the Philadelphia area

*(Continued on Page 20)*

## Editor's notebook

### Nice jackets for wintertime . . .

Most of us started collecting boys and/or girls series books way back when not many of us cared whether or not the book included a dust jacket. That phase of the hobby has changed, of course. Gil O'Gara (PF-627) noted in the October 1992 **Yellowback Library** that "Hike and the Aeroplane," that scarcest of all boys' books, last April brought \$19,250 at New York's Swann Auction Galleries. Of course, the 1912 Sinclair Lewis authorial debut book (written under the pseudonym "Tom Graham," had a dust jacket that was kept pristine by the fact that the book was also enclosed in a slipcase.

That is an extreme example, but in the case of American 20th century fiction, the dust jacket is everything. Bob and Arne Hayman's antiquarian books column in the Jan. 4 issue of **AntiqueWeek** states that copies in jacket sell for several times more than their counterparts without jacket. In the case of certain writers like Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and William Faulkner, the premium for a D.J. copy is as much as 10 times that of a non-jacketed copy.

Although dust jackets for first-edition Algers are for the most part an unknown quantity, the rest of the series book field has been hit by "D.J. madness." A Tom Swift, Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew or Leo Edwards book without a jacket is nearly worthless in many collectors' eyes. It's one of the reasons the cost of the hobby has been rising at an alarming rate.

So, if we have to have jackets on our books for them to be considered complete, what's wrong with sharing a little new information that has just come to light?

It pertains to the first state of Grosset & Dunlap dust jackets that came on the scene around 1908. The best-known examples are the early G&D Rover Boys books and other Edward Stratemeyer-controlled properties that were switched over to G&D from Chatterton-Peck following settlement of the famous C-P vs. Stratemeyer lawsuit in the spring of 1908. The books' dust jackets were uncoated paper (similar, but heavier, than newsprint), with lettering and illustrations in a single color (green, in the case of the Rover Boys and red for the Stratemeyer-Alger completions). These jacket designs were identical to the covers of the books themselves.

We believed that multiple-color jacket printing by G&D came along in 1910, the year the Tom Swift Series made its debut with the famous "quadrant style" dust jackets which were produced first, on uncoated paper,

and then on glossy white paper, with lettering and illustrations (identical to the book covers), printed in red and green ink.

Until now.

Thanks to information received from Tom Swift collector Neil J. Morrison of Quincy, Mass., we now know that the first Tom Swift quadrant D.J. does not have red and green lettering on uncoated paper, but was printed in **red only**. Morrison obtained a copy of "Tom Swift and his Airship" in this scarce format last summer as proof that it does exist (see illustration at right).

Subsequently, I was able to obtain photocopies of the jackets for the Stratemeyer-Alger completion "From Farm to Fortune" (from Brad Chase) and the Stratemeyer-controlled "Jack North's Treasure Hunt" (from John Dizer) all in uncoated paper -- again with red printing only.

The book advertisements on all three jackets list only the Tom Swift breeder set (the first five titles, which were copyrighted in 1910). Below is what Morrison (and this editor) believe is the proper sequence:

- Tom Swift titles 1-5

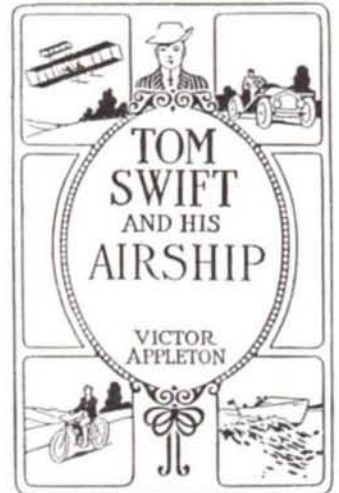
came out in 1910 with one-color uncoated dust jackets, continuing G&D's one-color printing policy that had dated back at least to 1908. The Tom Swift advertisement on the back of the jackets lists only these five titles.

- In 1911, the Tom Swift Series added five new titles. At this time, the D.J. remained uncoated paper, with 10 titles now listed on the back cover of the jacket. But instead of red only, the printing is in red and green.

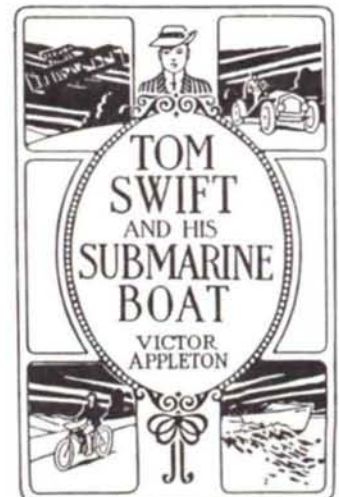
- In late 1911 or early 1912, a more durable, coated paper stock was used for the jackets, which for the Tom Swift quadrant jackets continued until 1917 with the publication of the 20th title of the series.

Other G&D series starting after 1912, like The Mov-

(Continued on Page 20)



First jacket format



Second jacket format

# Taking a look at 'The Odds Against Him'

by Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)

"The Odds Against Him" was first published in 1890 by the Penn Publishing Company, located in Philadelphia. This was the first of seven Alger titles published by Penn during the period 1890-1906.

The first printing (Example 1) is bound in olive green cloth with black stamping on the cover and gold stamping on the spine. The cover size is 5 1/4" by 7 1/2". The title page is dated 1890

and there are no advertisements in the

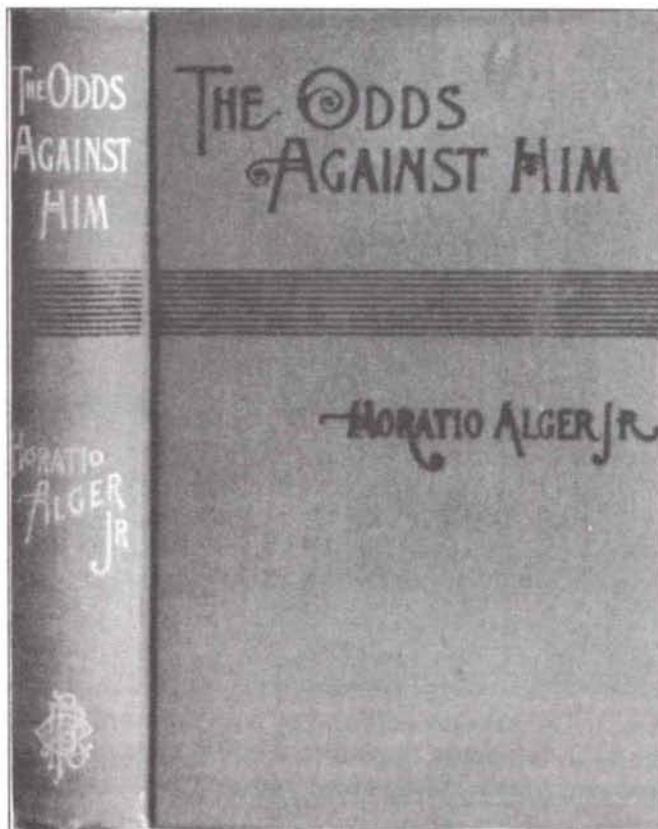
*Alger at first glance*

back of the book. This printing contains 11 illustrations (including the frontispiece) which is more than any other Alger first edition. It is interesting to note that the illustrations in this edition are printed on each page of text and are an integral part of each signature. The illustrations in almost all other Alger first editions are printed on glossy paper and were tipped in (glued between the pages) after the signatures were bound together.

The second edition is the less familiar "Boy's head" binding (Example 2) attractively printed in gold, green and red colors. There are two states of the second edition. The first state is identical to the first edition (except for the binding) and contains the 1890 title page.

The second state is dated 1891 and contains six pages of advertisements, including a full-page ad for this title. In this printing, the number of illustrations is reduced from 10 to 5, and they are printed on the more common glossy stock. Since the original 10 illustrations (excluding the frontispiece) were numbered, Penn had to account for five fewer pages by resetting the chapter headings and most of the page numbers. Someone at Penn must have anticipated the reduction in illustrations since most of the chapters listed in the table of contents in the first edition do not match up with the corresponding pages. The table of contents is correct in the second edition, second state, and subsequent printings.

In 1893, Penn produced a third edition bound in tan cloth with red and brown stamping, picturing a boy in a boat rowing on a lake (Example 3). This is the same binding used for the first edition of "The Young Boatman" (1892). This edition contains five illustrations and seven pages of ads, including a full-page ad for "The Young Boatman." "The Odds Against Him" is not



**Ex. 1: The front cover and spine of Penn Publishing Company's first edition of Horatio Alger, Jr.'s "The Odds Against Him." It is in olive-green cloth with black lettering on the front cover and gold lettering on the spine.**

listed. The copy I examined had a title page dated 1893 but I would speculate that an edition with an 1892 title page was probably issued, since this binding was available in July 1892.

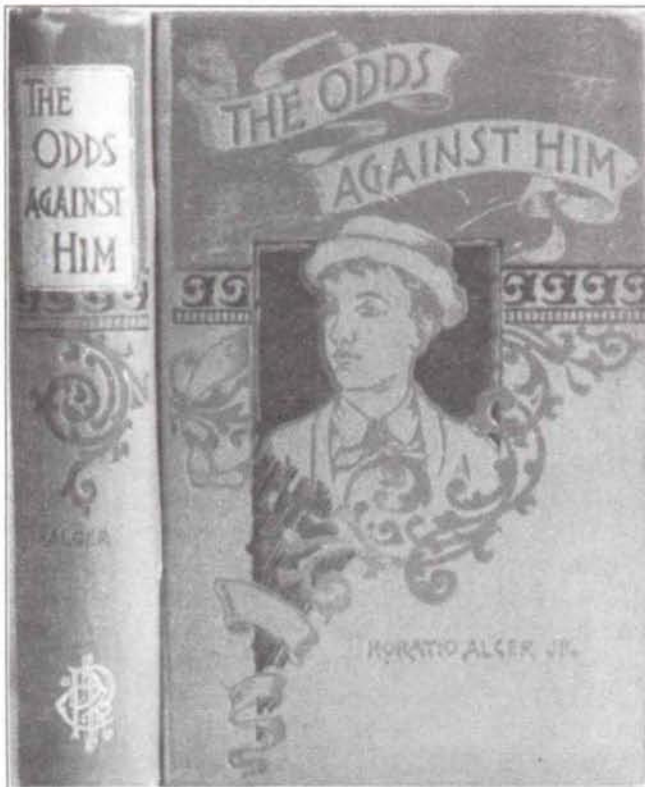
The fourth edition was also published in 1893 with printings continuing through at least 1899. This binding is a rough-textured blue-gray cloth with silver rope-like designs surrounding the title stamped in silver against a black background (Example 4).

The first printing of the fourth edition uses Arabic numerals (i.e., 1893) on the title page with later printings switching to Roman numerals. I have seen copies dated 1897 and 1899 in Roman numerals. Undoubtedly, there are others.

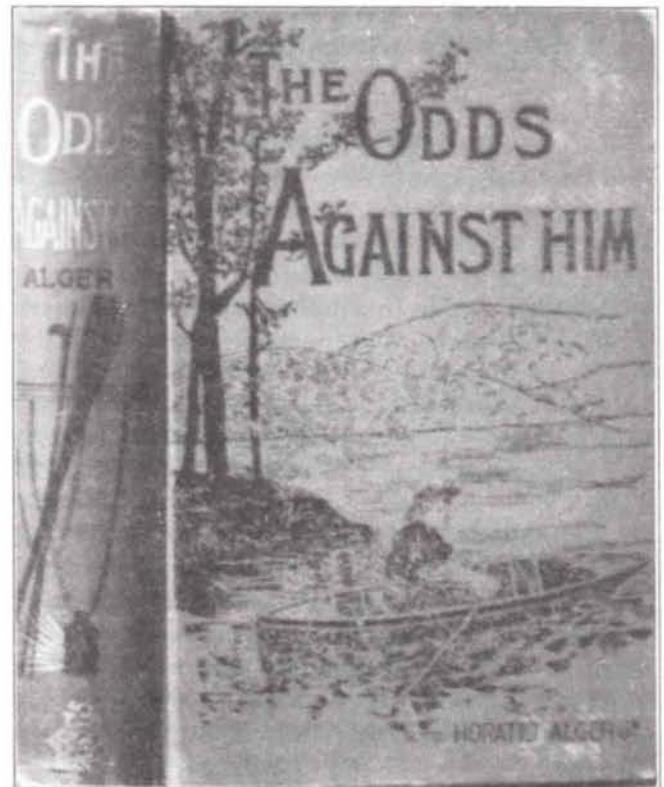
The fifth and last edition (not pictured) is the same format used for the first edition of "Forging Ahead" (Penn, 1903). It depicts two sitting boys reading in front of a group of trees. The tan binding is stamped in red,

(Continued on Page 6)

**Editor's note:** This is the first in what is hoped will be a continuing series of articles examining in depth the first editions of Horatio Alger, Jr. In this first article *Newsboy* looks at the five Penn editions of "The Odds Against Him."



Ex. 2: The second edition has a much more colorful tan cover depicting a boy's portrait in red and green. Gold is also present on the spine.



Ex. 3: The third edition, also in tan covers, has a new design in red and brown of a boy rowing a boat. The title on the spine is in gold.

## Taking a look at 'The Odds Against Him'

(Continued from Page 5)

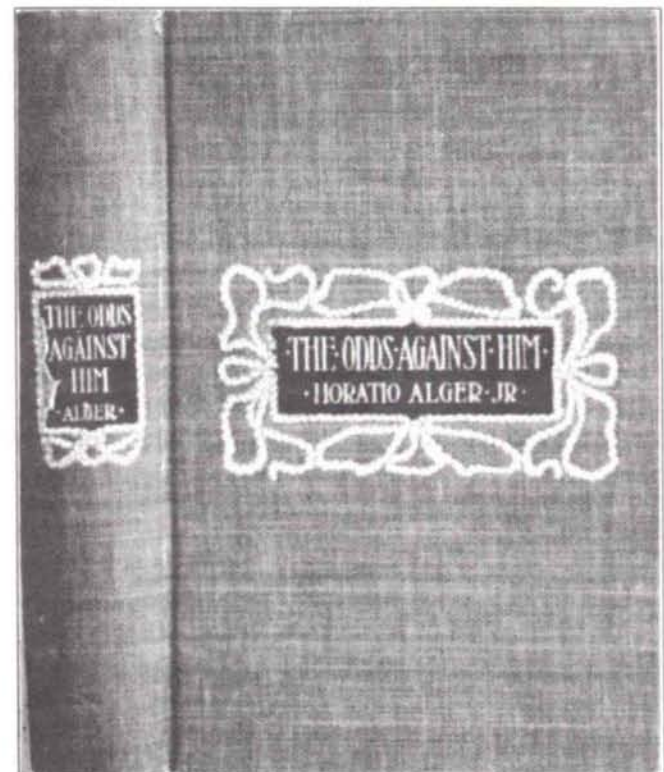
green and gold (popular colors at Penn) and has black lettering on the spine.

The earliest printings contain the Penn logo in black script at the bottom of the spine. In 1905, the script was changed to block letters.

In later editions, Penn eliminated all coloring on the cover and switched to gold printing on the spine. I have seen a 1911 edition in this format and I would guess there are others.

Although this title is not the hardest Penn title to obtain (I believe the first edition of "The Young Boatman" takes that honor), it is certainly not common. All Penn editions, including reprints, are difficult to locate, even in the Philadelphia area. I have all seven Penn titles in one form or another, and only one was purchased locally. If you are lucky enough to possess this hard-to-find Alger title, you should now have some idea where your copy fits into the publishing sequence.

Acknowledgement for assistance for this article goes to Milt Ehlert (PF-702) and Jerry Friedland (PF-376).



Ex. 4: The fourth edition is bound in blue-gray cloth with silver lettering and decorations.



"SHELL OVER ALL THE MONEY YOU'VE GOT"  
(See page 95)

## The Odds Against Him

OR

Carl Crawford's Experience

BY

Horatio Alger Jr

PHILADELPHIA

THE PENN PUBLISHING COMPANY

1890

The frontispiece and title page for Penn Publishing Company's first edition of "The Odds Against Him."

## Alger and Reader's Digest

by John T. Dizer (PF-511)

In the "Campus Comedy" section of the October 1992 *Reader's Digest* appeared the following item:

*"This steak could stand to be a little more rare," I overheard a fellow student say.*

*"Pipe down," whispered her companion.*  
*"Once a year is rare enough!"*

The contributor received \$400 from *Reader's Digest* for this item. I was annoyed. I have been using the same story for years and years. I never got \$400 but I have received lots of, "Dad, we've heard that a hundred times."

So where did I get the story? From Alger, of course. It came from "Only an Irish Boy," which first appeared in the *New York Weekly* in 1874 and in hard cover in 1894.

In Chapter 7, Andy Burke, our young, impoverished and hungry hero, "obtained a place" with "two maiden ladies of very uncertain age." The ladies (the Misses Priscilla and Sophia Grant) had fired their "gardener and out-of-door servant of all work," who "in his drunken folly had actually gone as far as to call Miss

Priscilla 'darling' and offer [sic] to kiss her."

Regardless of their age and marital status, the ladies were excellent cooks and Andy had a hearty appetite. The ladies invited Andy to eat.

"Shall I give you some meat?"

"Thank you, ma'am."

"Will you have it rare or well done?"

"Well done, ma'am. I have it rare enough, anyhow."

"Sophia, Andrew has made a joke," said Priscilla, with a decorous smile.

And so he had. I've always liked the joke; so did *Reader's Digest* and so did Alger, apparently. No one knows where Alger got the story though I strongly doubt that it was original with him. There should be some profound observations we could make and I can think of a couple:

1. Alger had more humor in his books than some writers have given him credit for. *Newsboy* needs a well-researched article on Alger's humor.

2. Why don't Alger readers gussy up some oither examples of Alger's humor, send them to *Reader's Digest* and rake in \$400? The stories are supposed to be "true and unpublished" but apparently the editors don't read Alger!

## MEMBERSHIP

### New members:

Sean Bourke (PF-906)  
Box 96  
1040 Brussels 4  
Belgium (32 - 2) 725-6357

Sean is a European civil servant whose other collecting interests include American series books in both English-language and foreign editions; and collecting crime novels. His other hobby is book repair and binding. He learned about the Society from other collectors and through **Yellowback Library**.

Truman Holland (PF-907)  
315 South Royal St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Truman is another collector who heard about the Society from Gil O'Gara (PF-627) in **Yellowback Library**. His other collecting interests include Stratemeyer, Frank Merriwell, Hal Keen and Catty Atkins.

E. Merlin Squyres (PF-908)  
Rt. 1, Box 298-B  
Natchitoches, LA 71457 (318) 357-1527

Merlin, a certified public accountant who has been collecting Algiers for about a year, also collects antique office furnishings such as staplers, pencil sharpeners, etc. He learned about the Society through a local antique dealer.

Fred K. Fox (PF-909)  
13150 El Capitan Way  
Delhi, CA 95315 (209) 634-7544

Fred is a writer-editor-publisher of old-car magazines, who also collects old cars, mainly Studebakers. He also has a series book collection of over 2,000 titles, specializing in World War II, auto-related and California-related series. He learned about H.A.S. through **Yellowback Library**.

James L. Bush (PF-476)  
2520 Lay St.  
Des Moines, IA 50317 (515) 262-2702

James has decided to renew his membership after being out of the Society for several years. He currently has 94 Alger titles. Welcome back!

### Change of address:

Florence O. Schnell (PF-344)  
Methodist Manor House, Room 131  
1001 Middleford Rd.  
Seaford, DE 19973

Florence notes that she has not moved to Berkeley Springs, W. Va. as listed in the new H.A.S. roster.

Peter C. Walther (PF-548)  
11 Apple St.  
Gloversville, NY 12078

E. Christian Mattson (PF-067)  
1 Center Road, A1  
Towson, MD 21286 (410) 825-8967  
(New ZIP code and new area code)

Percy S. Dean (PF-753)  
8010 Esperanza Way  
Boynton Beach, FL 33436 (407) 736-1296  
(New area code)

John Heine (PF-764)  
4841 Allied Road  
San Diego, CA 92120 (619) 583-1483  
(Phone number in roster is incorrect)

Mark A. Preston (PF-453)  
9 High Street, Apt. 2  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Donald E. Shoemaker (PF-760)  
2158 N.W. Mast Place  
Lincoln City, OR 97367 (503) 994-8545

Dr. Paul Rich (PF-837)  
c/o The Hoover Institution  
Stanford, CA 94305 (415) 723-2050

### Moving?

If you are changing your address or phone number, or if your current H.A.S. roster listing is incorrect, send your new address and phone number immediately to Executive Secretary Carl Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, MI 48910.

# Mechanics of the Stratemeyer Syndicate

*... as related to the Tom Swift® series*

*(Part 2 -- 1954-present)*

by James D. Keeline (PF-898)

The mechanics of the Stratemeyer Syndicate during the Tom Swift Jr. era were noted by several changes from the method pioneered by Edward Stratemeyer and continued by his daughter Harriet Adams after his death in 1930.

By this point, Harriet Adams had additional confidence and played a more active role in providing detailed plot outlines on a chapter-by-chapter basis. New emphasis was placed on the actual title of the volume and the invention with which young Tom would amaze his readers. A widely promoted emphasis was placed on the scientific accuracy of Tom's inventions. Actually, the goal was to avoid obvious errors such as violating the second law of thermodynamics (e.g., energy is always lost; perpetual motion machines are not possible) and other logical errors.

The Syndicate hired a number of Ph.D. scientists to edit the books with respect to aviation terminology and science issues in addition to the usual editing for grammar and punctuation. Despite this, the Tom Swift Jr. series has not predicted any major world inventions. This did not stop thousands of "baby boomers" from avidly reading and enjoying these volumes. This is why they are collected today. Of course, when readers realized that some of the books referred to "Old Tom," those readers began to collect the original Tom Swift series as well.

## The Tom Swift Jr. Adventures

During the Stratemeyer Syndicate's transition years, preparation was made to begin a new, more modern Tom Swift series.

The "old" Tom Swift series was mothballed in 1941. Andrew E. Svenson joined the Syndicate in 1948. In late 1951, work began on the initial volumes of the Tom Swift Jr. series. The first five volumes were published in 1954. Of that series, volumes two and three are credited by John T. Dizer (from a personal interview with Syndicate partner Nancy Axelrad) and others to a John "Johnny" Almquist, who is related to the earlier John Arthur Almquist. Johnny Almquist also wrote a Tom Swift Jr

theme song in 1955 that was never used.<sup>1</sup>

There is some controversy as to what role Johnny Almquist played in the second volume, "Tom Swift and his Jetmarine" (1954). Letters from the Syndicate files indicate that Richard Cohen of New York City wrote and was paid for the text of "Jetmarine." In the same file, letters thank H. William Paine Jr. of East Orange, New Jersey for his work as editor for "Tom Swift and his Flying Lab" and "Jetmarine."<sup>2</sup>

These letters would seem to imply that Johnny Almquist had no visible connection with this volume, of which he is credited. The Syndicate files do contain extensive information supplied by Johnny Almquist for what has become the fifth volume of the Tom Swift Jr. series, "Tom Swift and His Atomic Earth Blaster" (1954). Apparently, he conceived this story in detail and presented it to the Syndicate Partners, Harriet Adams and Andrew Svenson.

For these early volumes, science and technical details were checked by Robert H. Snyder and Don Grote. Later, Thomas Mulvey would edit Tom Swift Jr. books for scientific content. He wrote two volumes in the series: "Tom Swift in the Caves of Nuclear Fire" (1956) and "Tom Swift and his G-Force Inverter" (1968).<sup>3</sup>

By the fifth volume of the series (the aforementioned "Atomic Earth Blaster"), Tom Swift Jr. had a permanent author. James Duncan Lawrence, who now lives in Summit, New Jersey, was the ghost for 24 of the next 25 volumes through 1967. Although Almquist proposed the title, Lawrence claims to have written it as his first Tom Swift Jr. assignment.

The internal mechanics of the Syndicate had changed by the time work on the Tom Swift Jr. series had begun. In the "old series," the main focus was the story. With Tom Jr., the first effort in many cases was the invention that would surround the title of the story. Here, the proposal sheets in the files have pages with 20 or more similar title/inventions.<sup>4</sup> The titles were voted upon by the Syndicate staff, including the secretaries. After a title was chosen, a story would be written around the title/invention.

Anne Hagan, an editor at Grosset & Dunlap, had some input and worked closely with the Syndicate as evidenced by letters in the files. She even suggested a few titles for the series.<sup>5</sup>

The inventions were very integral to the story. Usually a weak story line would surround Tom Jr.'s latest invention. That new device often proved to be exactly what was needed to detect and capture a band of submarine pirates or some other threat to America or

*(Continued on Page 10)*

**Editor's note:** This article is excerpted from a paper given at the 22nd annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association on March 21, 1992 at Louisville, Kentucky. Part 1 appeared in the November-December 1992 *Newsboy*. **Tom Swift** is a registered trademark of Simon & Schuster, Inc., registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

## Mechanics of the Stratemeyer Syndicate

(Continued from Page 9)

humanity. The science consultants for the Syndicate, like Thomas Mulvey and Don Grote, would scour science magazines in search of new scientific discoveries and proposed inventions to expand upon and exploit in the Tom Swift Jr. series.<sup>6</sup> Despite all of this, the stories have yet to predict a present-day invention which is very similar to any one of Tom Swift Jr. inventions.

The Syndicate continued to spread misinformation about the identity of Victor Appleton II and the other Syndicate ghosts. In a letter, the H.W. Wilson company asked for information about Mr. Appleton for a volume of **Current Biography**. The July 1958 reply signed by Merrilyn Johnson [sic] was a creative distortion:

*"The Stratemeyer Syndicate is the literary agent for Victor Appleton II. This is a pseudonym, since the author also writes in other fields.*

*"Mr. Appleton is related to the author of the old Tom Swift series, and was born and lived most of his youth in the eastern part of the United States. His interest in things scientific was developed and encouraged by his mentor and namesake through childhood and early adult life. Mr. Appleton soon became a loyal devotee of the original Tom Swift.*

*"In college, the author enjoyed creative writing, and soon after graduation, he determined to carry on the Tom Swift*

*tradition. Thus the Tom Swift Jr. series was started.*

*"Traveling widely in search of new and interesting locales for Tom's adventures, Mr. Appleton also reads extensively to keep up to date on developments in this fast-moving technical age. In addition, the author has frequent discussions with a top-notch scientists to familiarize himself with the most advanced thinking in the field of invention. The inventions of young Tom himself are keeping ahead of the world of modern*

*science and his exploits are currently leading him farther and farther into outer space."*

(Syndicate Files)

Around the same time, Harriet Adams was claiming to personally have written all of the Nancy Drew and Bobbsey Twins books.

The Tom Swift Jr. series ended following the publication of the 33rd title in 1971 with some minor groups of paperback reprints as late as 1978.

By 1970, a postmortem was performed by the Syndicate on the Tom Jr. series examining what mistakes not to repeat. NASA's moon landing in 1969 clearly had

an effect on the series -- that of halting its popularity. A new series was suggested designed to take the Tom Swift name far into the future:

*"In 32 books he has probed the earth to the nth degree, under and over it, into outer space. He has improved on his inventions, made new ones only to keep, I believe, a short decade ahead of a very prominent rival, NASA.*

*"I would propose that Tom Swift Jr. take a giant stride*

### SUGGESTED TITLES FOR TOM SWIFT JR. #5 (1954)

TOM SWIFT AND HIS SOUTH POLE DRILL

TOM SWIFT AND HIS POLAR DRILL

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ANTARCTIC DRILL (OR DRILLER)

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC ICE DRILLER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC ICE BLASTER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ICE CAP DRILLER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS SUPER-SPEED ICE DRILL

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC EARTH BLASTER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC IRON SCOOPER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS POLAR HYDRO-DRILL (HYDROGEN)

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC EARTH DRILLER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC DRILL

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC MINE DRILLER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS MAMMOTH DRILLER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC TORCH

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC BLAZER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC EARTH BLAZER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS SUBTERRANEAN BLAZER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS SUBTERRANEAN DRILL TORCH

TOM SWIFT AND HIS SOUTH POLE SCORCHER

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC BLAZE DRILL

TOM SWIFT AND HIS SUBTERRANEAN SCORCH-O-DRILL

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ATOMIC TERRO-DRILL

**A Tom Swift Jr. proposal sheet for 1954 shows 20 or more title suggestions. In this case, the title was changed from the originally selected "Tom Swift and his Atomic Ice Blaster" to "Tom Swift and his Atomic Earth Blaster."**

forward to an unmentioned century where his "machines" (32 books old) are taken for granted, where his inventions are truly the realm of "fantastic possibility and probability," i.e. futuristic, technically sound, far in advance of American and Russian technology...stories where, e.g. the atmosphere-making machine (solartron) has been mass produced and operating on various planets and teams of scientists are busily preparing to visit other galaxies where "space traffic" exists. I do not wish to suggest that Tom Swift Jr. enter the realm of pure science fiction which would jar the continuity of the series. I do suggest, however, that the potential of his inventions be finally unleashed and the knowable consequences of today's scientific progress be put into print!" (Syndicate files)

**Simon and Schuster**

Nearly a decade later, in 1979, the Syndicate moved all of its series book publishing to Simon & Schuster. Grosset & Dunlap, the previous main publisher, felt that it had an immutable right to the Syndicate works and sued Simon & Schuster and the Syndicate. This is understandable since all of the copyright registrations for Tom Swift and all other Syndicate series published by Grosset & Dunlap used the publisher's name as the copyright claimant. The author was listed as the pseudonym and the address corresponded with either the Stratemeyer's home address or the office of the Syndicate. The copyrights were renewed in a variety of ways depending on when the original book was regis-

tered and written.<sup>7</sup>

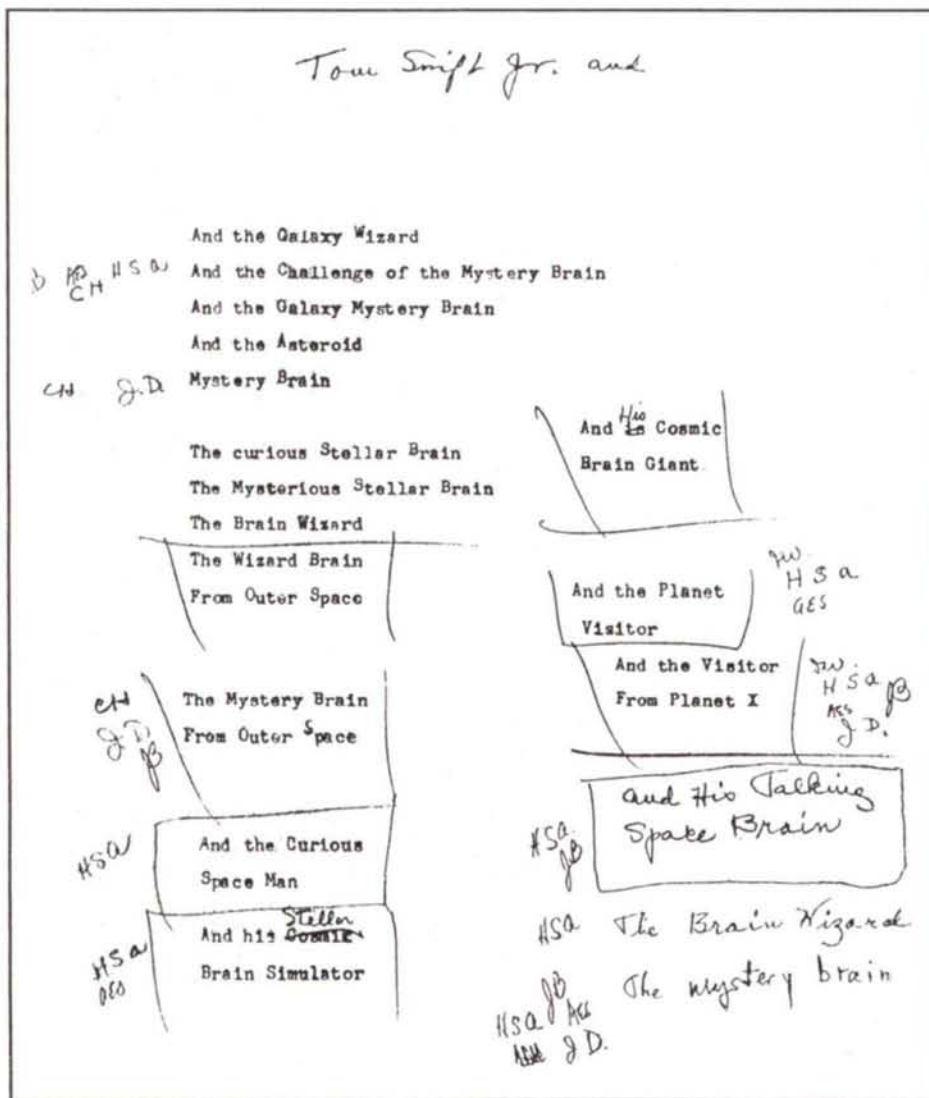
The infamous lawsuit, which confirmed Mildred Wirt's authorship of the Nancy Drew books,<sup>8</sup> left the future of Tom Swift in a quandary. One article about the lawsuit related the opinion that under a 1951 agreement, Grosset & Dunlap retained the rights to the Tom Swift Jr. series. It was the intent of the Syndicate at the time to revert all publishing rights over to Simon & Schuster. It

is possible that some of the rights to the Tom Swift Sr. series would be covered under the judgment, which also allowed Simon & Schuster to print new Syndicate series and allowed Grosset & Dunlap to reprint the old stories in their previously owned series in hardcover editions only.<sup>9</sup> This sets up the unusual situation that now exists with three sets of both the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books in print.<sup>10</sup>

The third Tom Swift "science fiction" series began in 1981 and lasted for 11 volumes. The writers of this series are not known, al-

though the name Wendy Barish is known to be an editor at Simon & Schuster. Wendy Barish worked both on Syndicate and many other non-Syndicate works, and is listed as the editor for all titles through and including Volume 12, "Chaos on Earth," which is probably a phantom, or unpublished, title.

Harriet Adams had been at the helm of the Stratemeyer



**Nearly everybody at the Syndicate, including secretaries, had a hand in the title selection process. On this proposal sheet for 1961, the most recognizable initials are H.S.A. (Harriet S. Adams) and A.E.S. (Andrew E. Svenson).**

(Continued on Page 12)

## Mechanics of the Stratemeyer Syndicate

(Continued from Page 11)

Syndicate for 52 years. She died in 1982, while watching "The Wizard of Oz" on television.<sup>11</sup>

This left an unstable situation at the Syndicate. Svenson, who was a major partner, had previously died in 1975. The remaining employees-turned-partners could not keep the Syndicate together and sold the entire operation to Simon & Schuster, along with all of the rights, including those for film and television,<sup>12</sup> of the Stratemeyer Syndicate in 1984. The files and archival collection were packed up and moved to a "Philadelphia warehouse." There lies the true secret of the Stratemeyer Syndicate.

The third Tom Swift series was never accepted by the public and was abandoned in 1984.

Since then, Simon & Schuster has published a new, fourth, Tom Swift series beginning in April 1991 under its Archway imprint. The series, with 11 titles in print as of the end of 1992, is produced by a handling company that devises plot outlines and hires ghost writers in the same fashion that the Stratemeyer Syndicate did!

Will this new series become popular with young readers or will it follow the road of the third Tom Swift series (which is now conveniently and justifiably forgotten or ignored by Simon & Schuster)? Content of the stories will determine its fate.

In the opinion of this researcher, the series has a charm and believable character that has not been seen in Tom Swift books since the first series. Good Luck Tom!

### NOTES

1. Lapin, Geoff. "Tom Swift's Theme Song." *Yellowback Library*. July-August 1985. p. 15.

2. Letters from Harriet S. Adams to Richard Cohen, dated July 2 and Aug. 14, 1952; and to H. William Paine Jr., dated Feb. 13, 1952. (Syndicate Files).

3. As related in Ernie Kelly's "Inside the Stratemeyer Syndicate" (*Yellowback Library*, December 1988, Page 9), an unknown ghostwriter was hired to write "G-Force Inverter." After doing a very poor job, Tom Mulvey was called in to rework the story. For this reason, this title is generally attributed to him.

4. In the example shown on Page 10 for title No. 5 in the series, there was a change of mind by the Syndicate. Originally chosen was "Tom Swift and his Atomic Ice Blaster" from among 23 suggested titles, but that was eventually rejected for a title below it on the list, "Tom Swift and his Atomic Earth Blaster."

5. The Syndicate's proposal sheet showing G&D editor Anne Hagan's successful suggestion for title No. 19, "Tom Swift and his Triphibian Atomicar," (copyright 1962) is shown at right.

6. The Tom Swift series was also supplied with story ideas from science magazines, most notably *Scientific American*. For example, a 1905 issue contains both an article about synthetic diamonds and the description of the trial flight by a "Dr. Barton" of a combination airplane and dirigible (like Tom Swift's Red Cloud of 1910). John T. Dizer has noted that Tom Swift no longer used this style of airship after 1914. It can be no coincidence that this followed a *Scientific American* article in that year titled "The Fallacy of the Combined Aeroplane and Dirigible Balloon."

7. For the old Tom Swift series, titles with copyright dates before 1913 were renewed (in 1939) as "Proprietor of Copyright in a work made for hire." For books with copyrights from 1913 through 1927 renewals were made (1940-1955) using "Victor Appleton" as the name of the author. For books 1928 through 1930, Harriet S. Adams and Edna Squier renewed the copyrights as daughters of Edward Stratemeyer writing under pseudonym. Later still, they were renewed as "Victor Appleton," the pseudonym of Harriet S. Adams and Edna Squier as co-authors for the titles published after Stratemeyer's death.

8. Farah, David. "Farah's Guide." Harper Woods, Mich. Self-published (1985, 1989). p. 248.

9. "Judge Rules in Dispute over Nancy Drew, Tom Swift, et al." *Publishers Weekly*. June 27, 1980. P. 14.

10. Today there are three Nancy Drew series and three Hardy Boys series in print. The Hardy Boys series is published by Minstrel Books and by Archway Books in the "Casefiles" series. The first 58 volumes in their revised form are still in print under the Grosset & Dunlap imprint. Nancy Drew has the same distribution with 56 titles printed by Grosset & Dunlap.

11. "Adams, Harriet Stratemeyer." "Something About the Author." Volume 106. Detroit. Gale Research.

12. Until recently, Columbia Pictures leased the film rights to Tom Swift. These were taken by producer Jeff Deitz when he left Columbia in late 1991. This was a project that 20th Century Fox and producer Frank McCarthy failed to complete in 1968.

Suggested Tom Swift titles for Book #19:

TOM SWIFT AND HIS TRIPHIBIOUS ATOMICAR  
 TOM SWIFT AND HIS ULTRATOMIC POWER PLANT  
 TOM SWIFT AND HIS GALVATOMIC POWER PLANT  
 TOM SWIFT AND HIS GALVATOMIC DYNOPANT  
 TOM SWIFT AND HIS TRANSPORTOMIC POWER PLANT

TOM SWIFT AND HIS TRIPHIBIAN ATOMICAR--title suggested by  
 Anne Hagan --6/6/61

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## Victor Appleton's nephew

### *James D. Lawrence and the Syndicate*

by John T. Dizer (PF-511)

The adventures of Tom Swift the First were recorded by Victor Appleton. All the 40 books say so. Of course, as we all know, Howard R. Garis was Tom's real amanuensis from 1910 into the 1930s, although he was not involved with the final books in the series.

Tom's last recorded adventures appeared as a "Better Little Book" in 1941. There has been much speculation that Tom was actively inventing in World War II -- as he was in WWI -- but that government bureaucracy prevented the publication of tales of his later triumphs.

Be that as it may, Tom had married Mary Nestor, possibly, it has been suggested, after her heroic Air Force exploits under the guise of "Nippy Weston." In the course of events, Tom Swift Jr. and his sister Sandra arrived and, heredity being what is, Tom Jr. rapidly equaled his father in engineering ability. Furthermore, the government had not put any restrictions on chronicling the younger Tom's achievements.

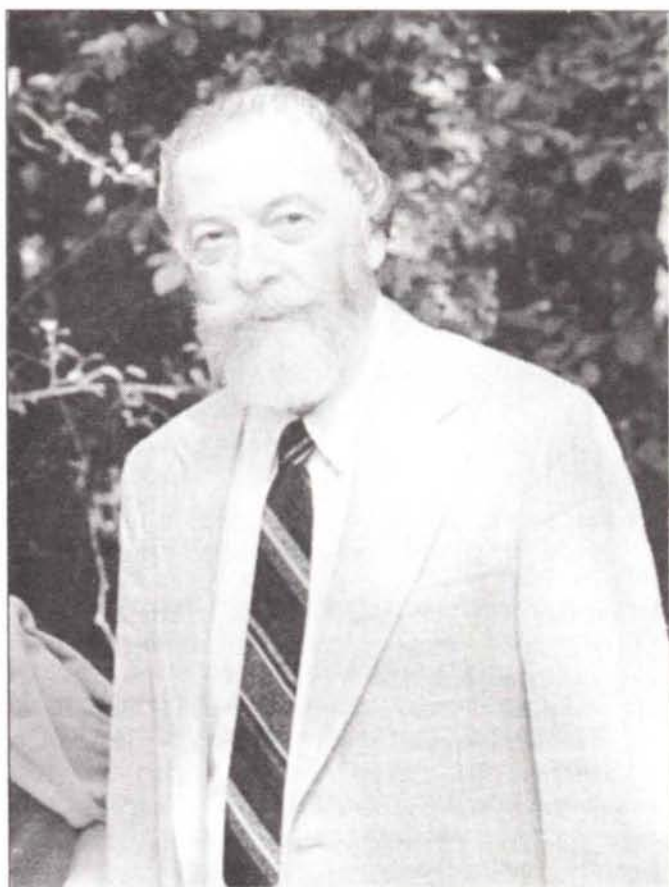
Never one to lose an opportunity of this sort, the Stratemeyer Syndicate in 1954 issued the first volumes of the Tom Swift Jr. series. Who should do the writing? Victor Appleton was still writing but had no interest. Victor Appleton II, nephew of Old Vic according to the Syndicate, was, however, both willing and available and his name appears on a total of 33 Tom Swift Jr. books. The books were well-researched, well-written in general and certainly well received.

As in the case of Tom Sr., Victor II had the help of well-qualified assistants, in fact, apparently seven of them. Six of the seven wrote only one or two titles, but the seventh author, James Duncan Lawrence, wrote 24 of the 33 books in the Tom Swift Jr. series. He left an indelible imprint on a generation of science and adventure-loving youth, who probably never knew his name.

So Jim Lawrence was principal scribe for Victor Appleton II, but how did it happen? What kind of training for inventing and adventure did he have and how did he happen to work with the Stratemeyer Syndicate?

I first met Jim Lawrence in 1963 when I visited the Syndicate with my oldest son and daughter. My particular interest (due, I suppose, to my age and engineering background) has always been the first Tom Swift series but we had all read most of the major Syndicate series. Harriet Adams had very kindly invited us to visit and

*Other authors...  
...other books*



**Author and editor James Duncan Lawrence**

we spent a very memorable afternoon talking to Mrs. Adams, Andrew Svenson and Jim Lawrence about Syndicate series and the authors.

I am still embarrassed at how much time all of them, and particularly Lawrence, spent talking to us and answering questions about the Tom Swifts and the others. At that time, Jim was in-house editor for the Stratemeyer Syndicate. He was working on the current Tom Swift Jr. volume. His large desk was covered with research material for the series. I noted *Scientific American*, as well as numerous science and engineering journals. It was obvious to the readers of Tom Swift Jr., both young and old, that the author was on the cutting edge -- or a little ahead of the cutting edge -- of current scientific/engineering knowledge.

It is common knowledge that the ideas for Tom's inventions were reviewed by Syndicate partners and outside consultants but the main thrust -- the tone of the series -- came from Jim Lawrence.

In later years he once said he followed Harriet Adams' outlines in his first Tom Swift Jr. books but was entirely on his own in the later ones. He talked to my children and me about his engineering background. He attended Annapolis but left because of a death in the family. He

*(Continued on Page 15)*

later received his engineering degree from Detroit Institute of Technology but spent his career essentially as a professional writer. He talked to us about Howard Garis and the original Tom Swift books and about his (Jim's) interest in the stories of L. Frank Baum. He was friendly, cordial and helpful and topped off the afternoon by giving my son Tom an autographed copy of a Tom Swift Jr. book (In answer to numerous questions, we did not name my son after Tom Swift!).

We have kept in touch over the years, mainly through phone calls. Jim wanted copies of some of his Tom Swift and Chris Cool books and I would send them when I came across the books. He would answer my questions and we would talk about his time at the Syndicate.

Lawrence spoke at the memorable Corning series book conference in 1986, along with Mabel Garis, Hal Goodwin, Margaret Sutton and Betty Cavanna, among others. The one thing I really wanted Jim to do was list his writings so that we would know without question what he had written for the Syndicate and elsewhere. In June 1986 he sent me the list of his writings which is reproduced with this article. It does not include anything after 1986, and Jim did write some Nancy Drews for Simon and Schuster after the Syndicate was sold, but the list is still quite complete and should be of help to researchers.

Backing up a bit, the first five Tom Swift Jr. books were all issued in 1954 as a "breeder set." Lawrence was working as a free-lance writer and heard about the new series from a *New Yorker* article. He contacted the Syndicate to explore writing for them. With both a technical and writing background, he was a natural Victor Appleton II. He started with Volume 5, "Tom Swift and his Atomic Earth Blaster," also published in 1954, and wrote all the rest through "Tom Swift and the Captive Planetoid" (Volume 29, 1967), except for "Tom Swift in the Caves of Nuclear Fire" (Volume 8, 1956), which Thomas Mulvey wrote.

I once asked Lawrence what his favorite Tom Swift was and he answered "Tom Swift and his Repelatron Skyway." This was No. 22 in the series and is a very imaginative book about an "aerial highway." It has both science and adventure and shows his writing at its best.

In 1962 Lawrence joined the Stratemeyer Syndicate, somewhat reluctantly, I believe, as a full-time writer and in-house editor. As you can see from the accompanying list, in addition to the 24 Tom Swift Jrs., he wrote at various times 15 Hardy Boys, nine Nancy Drews and three Bobbsey Twins.

One series Jim is particularly proud of is Christopher Cool/TEEN Agent. He created and developed the series entirely independently and wrote the first three books, which were all published in 1967 (the series was discontinued sometime after the sixth title appeared in 1969).

Lawrence left the Syndicate in 1967 on reasonably amiable terms (although there had been some friction with Andy Svenson) and he continued to do some writing for the Syndicate.

Jim was not able to tell me all the names of Victor Appleton II's helpers, so on another visit to the Syndicate in 1975 I asked Nancy Axelrad, then a partner, for help. She went to the card file and gave me her record of the authors. In spite of both Jim's and Nancy's help there remained a few unanswered questions. For example, one book was so poorly written that it was essentially rewritten by another author. Who should be credited? There was also a question as to actual authorship of a couple of books.

In recent years, both Ernie Kelly and James D. Keeline have come up with answers which seem to make sense. Following is a list of authorship, which I believe to be essentially complete and correct:

Title 1, William Dougherty; titles 2 and 3, John Almquist; title 4, Richard Sklar; titles 5 through 7 and 9 through 29, James Duncan Lawrence; titles 8 and 30, Thomas Mulvey; titles 31 and 32, Richard McKenna; and title 33, Vincent Buranelli.

I must note that Ernie Kelly says "Jim McKenna" for titles 31 and 32, while Lawrence said the final book was "...by Mulvey, probably." Buranelli (attributed by both Keeline and Kelly) seems more probable.

While all of the above authors can claim to be Victor Appleton II, nephew of the original Victor Appleton, there is no doubt that it is Jim Lawrence, writer of 24 of the 33 books, who gave the series its image, its enduring popularity and, you might say, its class.

**Final note:** Jim has had a long stretch in the hospital. If you have read and enjoyed his books, you may wish to send him a card. His address is: James D. Lawrence, 63 Tall Oaks Drive, Summit, NJ 07901.

### **Juvenile books by Jim Lawrence *Stratemeyer Syndicate***

#### **The New Tom Swift Jr. Adventures:**

- No. 5: Tom Swift and his Atomic Earth Blaster (G&D, 1954)
- No. 6: Tom Swift and his Outpost in Space (G&D, 1955)
- No. 7: Tom Swift and his Diving Seacopter (G&D, 1956)
- No. 9: Tom Swift on the Phantom Satellite (G&D, 1956)
- No. 10: Tom Swift and his Ultrasonic Cycloplane (G&D, 1957)
- No. 11: Tom Swift and his Deep-Sea Hydrodome (G&D, 1958)
- No. 12: Tom Swift in the Race to the Moon (G&D, 1958)
- No. 13: Tom Swift and his Space Solartron (G&D, 1958)
- No. 14: Tom Swift and his Electronic Retroscope (G&D, 1959)
- No. 15: Tom Swift and his Spectromarine Selector (G&D, 1960)
- No. 16: Tom Swift and the Cosmic Astronauts (G&D, 1960)
- No. 17: Tom Swift and the Visitor from Planet X (G&D, 1961)
- No. 18: Tom Swift and the Electronic Hydrolung (G&D, 1961)

*(Continued on Page 16)*

## Victor Appleton's nephew

(Continued from Page 15)

- No. 19: Tom Swift and his Triphibian Atomicar (G&D, 1962)
- No. 20: Tom Swift and his Megascopel Space Prober (G&D, 1962)
- No. 21: Tom Swift and the Asteroid Pirates (G&D, 1963)
- No. 22: Tom Swift and his Repelatron Skyway (G&D, 1963)
- No. 23: Tom Swift and his Aquatomic Tracker (G&D, 1964)
- No. 24: Tom Swift and his 3-D Telejector (G&D, 1965)
- No. 25: Tom Swift and his Polar-Ray Dynasphere (G&D, 1965)
- No. 26: Tom Swift and his Sonic Boom Trap (G&D, 1965)
- No. 27: Tom Swift and his Subocean Geotron (G&D, 1966)
- No. 28: Tom Swift and the Mystery Comet (G&D, 1966)
- No. 29: Tom Swift and the Captive Planetoid (G&D, 1967)

### Christopher Cool/TEEN Agent:

- No. 1: X Marks the Spy (G&D, 1967)
- No. 2: Mission: Moonfire (G&D, 1967)
- No. 3: Department of Danger (G&D, 1967)

### Hardy Boys Mystery Stories:

- No. 37: The Ghost at Skeleton Rock (G&D, 1957)
- No. 38: The Mystery at Devil's Paw (G&D (G&D, 1959)
- No. 39: The Mystery of the Chinese Junk (G&D, 1960)
- No. 5: Hunting for Hidden Gold (rewrite; G&D, 1963)
- No. 16: A Figure in Hiding (rewrite; G&D, 1965)
- No. 17: The Secret Warning (rewrite; G&D, 1966)
- No. 18: The Disappearing Floor (rewrite; G&D, 1964)
- No. 24: The Short-Wave Mystery (rewrite; G&D, 1966)
- No. 58: Sting of the Scorpion (G&D, 1979)
- No. 59: Night of the Werewolf (Wanderer, 1979)
- No. 60: Mystery of the Samurai Sword (Wanderer, 1979)
- No. 62: The Apeman's Secret (Wanderer, 1980)
- No. 67: The Outlaw's Silver (Wanderer, 1980)
- No. 74: Tic-Tac Terror (Wanderer, 1982)
- No. 82: The Blackwing Puzzle (Wanderer, 1984)

### Nancy Drew Mystery Stories:

- No. 66: Race Against Time (Wanderer, 1982)
- No. 69: Clue in the Ancient Disguise (Wanderer, 1982)
- No. 71: The Silver Cobweb (Wanderer, 1983)
- No. 72: The Haunted Carousel (Wanderer, 1983)
- No. 74: The Mysterious Image (Wanderer, 1984)
- No. 77: The Bluebeard Room (Wanderer, 1985)
- No. 78: The Phantom of Venice (Wanderer, 1985)

Also, the following two short stories appearing in the anthology "Nancy Drew Ghost Stories" (Wanderer, 1983): "The Campus Ghost" and "The Curse of the Frog."

### The Bobbsey Twins:

- No. 9: The Music Box Mystery (Wanderer, 1983)
- No. 10: The Ghost in the Computer (Wanderer, 1984)
- No. 11: The Scarecrow Mystery (Wanderer, 1984)

### *Other juvenile books by Jim Lawrence*

#### The Thorne Twins:

The House that Ate People (Standard Publ. Co., 1982)

#### The A1 Gang:

The Cutlass Clue (NAL, 1986)

#### Binky Brothers:

Binky Brothers, Detectives (Harper & Row, 1968)

Binky Brothers and the Fearless Four (Harper & Row, 1970)

#### Single titles:

ESP McGee and the Haunted Mansion (Avon, 1983)

Davy Crockett and the Indian Secret (Books, Inc., 1955)

Barnaby's Bells (Macmillan, 1965)

### *Additional writings by Lawrence*

#### Paperback novels:

**The Dark Angel Series** (published by Pyramid, 1975+):

The Dream Girl Caper; The Emerald Oil Caper; The Gilded Snatch; The Godmother Caper.

**The Man from Planet X Series** (published by Pinnacle, 1975+); (Written under the pseudonym "Hunter Adams"):

The She-Beast; Tiger by the Tail: The Devil to Pay

Rebel Hawke (Fawcett, 1976)

Rebel Agent (Fawcett, 1976)

#### Hardcover:

How to Make Your Own Luck (Warner Books, 1981)

(Ghosted for Bernard Gittelson)

#### Radio shows (1949-54):

"Challenge of the Yukon;" "Green Hornet;" "Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy;" "The Silver Eagle;" "Sky King." Lawrence also scripted a couple of "one-shot" radio plays for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

#### Television scripts:

"In a Glass Darkly," a television play written for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., 1959; "Another World," 1968 (daytime soap opera); "Victorian Architecture," 1981, a film for New Jersey Public Television.

#### Newspaper comic strips (1957-85):

"Duke Handy" (advertising strip); "Joe Palooka;" "James Bond;" "Captain Easy;" "Friday Foster;" "Secret Heart;" "Solitaire;" "Buck Rogers;" "Barbara Cartland's Romances;" "Dallas;" "Can You Solve the Mystery?"

#### Comic book scripts:

"Dr. Strange;" "Captain Britain;" "Sock Jones," serialized in **Treasure Chest** magazine.

"Frank Fleet and his Electronic Sex Machine;" 1969-70, serialized in **Evergreen Review** in comic-book format under pseudonym.

#### Inter-active fiction computer games:

Seastalker (Infocom, 1984)

Moon Mist (Infocom, 1986)

# The Cheerful Heart

## A STORY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

How wearily the little newsboy plodded along the deserted and desolate streets on that Christmas Eve!

The cold rain was beating fiercely and a few tattered garments served but poorly to protect him from its rage. All day long had he been out amid the storm, and was now returning, weary and hungry, to his humble home. The street lamps were lighted, and as he passed by them you could see by the gleam that his face was pale and emaciated -- could see that, young as he was, something had been there already to attenuate his features, and give him that wan and desolate look which can be given only by some great affliction, some pinching want or overwhelming grief. You could tell at a glance that a dark shadow was resting upon his pathway -- a shadow out of which there seemed, just then, but little hope of his escape.

Born amid poverty and wretchedness, and left fatherless while yet in his cradle, his life up to that hour had been nothing but misery -- and the whole record of that life was written in his pale face and tattered rags. Yet with all this, as he passed along a close observer might have noticed a strange light in his clear, blue eye -- an expression of kindly cheerfulness, such as we may not often see in this world of care and grief -- for God's blessing was upon him -- the blessing of a cheerful heart.

The sorrow of his life, however deep and abiding, the gloom upon his pathway, however dark and fearful, dimmed not the light that burned so quietly, and yet so steadily within. Like the Vestal fire of old, it grew not dim, but threw its rays far out over the great gloom around him -- even now the cold storm beat upon him unheeded. There are waking dreams that come upon us sometimes when we least expect them -- bright dreams of love, and home, and Heaven -- beautiful visions of a future, all glorious with its burden of song and gladness! -- and such a vision, of such a future, now filled and crowded and blessed the heart of that forsaken boy.

He was dreaming as he walked along of better days to come -- of a time when the poverty in his pathway would depart, and the beautiful flowers should spring up to bless him with their presence -- of a bright home far away from that great city, upon whose cheerful hearth

the fire should not go out, and where hunger should never haunt him more.

And then into that dream of a better life -- into that vision of a cheerful home far off among the green hills -- came a pleasant face -- the face of his beloved mother. He could see her as she sat by the lattice at the quiet evening hour reading the sacred Bible, with the last red rays resting like a glory upon her brow, while the rose leaf trembled at the window, and the little violets folded themselves to sleep.

Very pleasant was the picture there passing before the gaze of that ragged child -- very glorious the panorama of green hills and bright flowers and singing birds -- very beautiful that humble cottage, half covered by the clustering foliage -- and his heart thrilled and heaved with a strange rapture never known before -- such rapture, such joy as the stricken poor can *never* know, save when some good angel comes down from the heaven and beckons them away from the haunt of woe and want in which they suffer, to the free air and the blessed sunlight.

But the dream had passed -- the sun had set -- the flowers faded -- the cottage disappeared. Of all that beautiful vision, so cheering and so glorious, no trace remained; no vestige of leaf or tree or bird; no letter of his mother's Bible -- no love-light of his mother's eye. The darkness came around him, and he found himself there amid the storm in the silent streets of that great and sinful city. So gathering his garments more closely about him, he hurried along to his home with a prayer upon his lip and God's sunlight in his heart.

Turning into an obscure street, a few steps brought him to the door of a wretched dwelling, which he entered. Follow now and behold a scene of want and penury, such as may be found sometimes in this world of ours -- a scene upon which men look with unconcern, but on which, thank God! the angels gaze with joy: a home where poverty struggles with a brave heart and is conquered.

Before the fire sat a pale, sad woman, upon whose features the traces of great loveliness were still visible, though sorrow had sharpened them somewhat, and ghastly want done much to dim their beauty. Upon her high and queenly brow the blue veins were clearly visible as the blood coursed through them with unwanted rapidity. Her large, dark eyes were dim with tears.

Some new sorrow had started afresh the sealed fountain of her grief -- and now she gazed silently upon the red embers in all the utter agony of despair, it might seem that hope had gone forever and God forsaken her.

"Mother! Dear Mother!" said the boy, as he entered all dripping with the rain. "I have come at last and I am

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*Editor's note:* This anonymously written short story appeared in the Oct. 19, 1861 issue of *Gleason's Literary Companion* (Vol. 2, No. 42) and was submitted by Gilbert K. Westgard II (PF-024). Because Horatio Alger, Jr. was also appearing in *Gleason's Literary Companion* at that time under his own name, as was his sister Olive Augusta Alger, Westgard says it is doubtful the story came from Alger's pen. However, since the lead character of it is that of a newsboy, it should be of interest to our readers.

## The Cheerful Heart

(Continued from Page 17)

tired and hungry."

"My son! My son!" replied the mother. "There is no morsel of food in the house," and her lip quivered. "We must starve! -- we must starve! God help us!" and her tears broke forth afresh.

Thus had it been for many a weary month. With scarcely food sufficient to support life that mother and her boy had struggled, and suffered, and wept, and prayed -- and now that the cold winter was coming on, no wonder that her heart shuddered and her cheek grew pale at the hopeless prospect ahead. How could they pass the dreary days and the long nights, the storm and the terrible cold, without food, and raiment, and shelter? And then where could they go when the heartless landlord should thrust them from their present wretched dwelling, as he had threatened to do on the morrow? Verily the gloom and the despair were great and fearful!

And yet even at that desolate hour an eye looked down from heaven at that friendless widow. There by the hearthstone -- by the dying embers an angel hovered -- an earthly angel, even in the guise of that cheerful child. For

*Earth has its angels, though their forms are moulded*

*But of such clay as fashions all below;*

*Though harps are wanting, and bright pinions folded,*

*We know them by the love-light on their brow."*

"Mother!" said he, "we will not starve. God has not forsaken us. There are better days to come -- better days to come, mother! I saw it in my dream. Oh! I had so bright a dream, and in it, I beheld your own dear self, and you were singing a pleasant song away in that blessed home. Oh! Mother, cheer up! Cheer up."

When the little boy lay down upon his wretched couch that dreary night he was changed. His mother's tears -- his mother's great despair had transformed him from a suffering child into a strong-hearted man -- from a weak and helpless dependant into an earnest and thoughtful worker. Henceforth his path was one of duty alone -- and no allurements, be it ever so bright, could turn him from it. Before him glittered forever a guiding star; and his intense, absorbing gaze, neither the cares nor the pleasures, nor the vanities of life could for an instant divert. Existence had for him but one object, and his utmost energies were taxed for its attainment.

Never did the sun rise in greater splendor than on the Christmas morning following that night of hunger, gilding the spires and domes of the city with its rays. The streets were already rapidly filling with the gay crowd seeking pleasure, and men walked as though new life had been given them by the general hilarity and the bracing air.

In the most crowded street was the newsboy, but not the disconsolate, wretched lad who had plodded his way through the storm the night before to a desolate home and a supperless bed. You would not have recognized him as he hurried along, eagerly intent upon his avocation, and his face all radiant with the great hope that struggled at his heart.

That night joy visited the forsaken fireside. They had paid the landlord his rent, and still had sufficient left wherewith to purchase food. It was a merry Christmas for them.

Years came and went. Great changes had taken place. The boy had grown to manhood. High honors were conferred upon him. Wealth flowed into his coffers -- his praise was upon every tongue. And at this very hour, upon the banks of the majestic Hudson, his mansion stands conspicuous among a thousand others for its taste and elegance.

He has but one companion -- his aged mother -- the lonely widow whom we saw some years since, gazing mournfully into the fire, and watching its flickering light. His influence is felt far and wide, and the poor and the wretched of every class and kind come around him with their blessings.

Thank God! Thank God! -- for every suffering son of man, who thus comes up from the deep shadow of despair into the blessed sunlight, and, turning, gives his word of cheer to the groping millions beneath him.

Thank God! Thank God, that scattered here and there throughout the world in many an humble home, may be found men and women, unto whom life presents but little of love, or hope, or joy, and yet who pass along amid its desolate paths without a murmur, sustained and soothed, and blessed by this alone -- **A Cheerful Heart.**

### 'Forging Ahead in Philly'

The Horatio Alger Society's 1993 convention is all set for April 29-May 2, 1993 in Fort Washington, Pa., just north of Philadelphia. You'll be able to visit historic sights like Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and Valley Forge and take part in a full schedule of H.A.S. activities, including auctions and the annual book sale!

To make reservations for the convention, use the blue registration form enclosed in this issue of **Newsboy**. Cost is \$45 per person.

For hotel reservations, simply dial **1-800-2-RAMADA** by March 29 to ensure getting the special H.A.S. convention rates of \$48 for a double room, \$60 for a mini-suite.

**Don't delay, make your convention and hotel registrations today!**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

I still have two sets of my first-edition Sun Series, which includes the following first-edition Alger stories: "Madelin the Temptress," "The Secret Drawer," "The Cooper's Ward," "Herbert Selden," "Manson the Miser," "The Gipsy Nurse," "The Discarded Son," "The Mad Heiress" and "Marie Bertrand."

I also have 104 copies of the Street and Smith Alger Series in paperbacks. I have had these bound in hard covers with the covers and backs of the books intact.

The Sun Series is offered for \$125 for nine books; the S&S Alger Series is \$1,400 for the 104 books.

Your partic'lar friend,  
Bob Sawyer (PF-455)  
4473 Janice Marie Blvd.  
Enchanted Acres  
Columbus, OH 43207  
(614) 491-5569

Dear Partic'lar Friends:

Since you attended the Horatio Alger Society convention in Waco last April, you might like to hear about another possibility of returning to the same place next fall.

The American Studies Association of Texas will hold its annual convention at Baylor University on November 18-20, 1993. I have been asked to put together a session entitled "Horatio Alger and the American Dream" from persons connected with the H.A.S. who are familiar with the campus. Even if you didn't attend last year's H.A.S. meeting here, you're still welcome to participate.

I'm looking for three papers each of approximately 9-10 double-spaced pages from an academic perspective dealing with Alger and whatever aspect of the American dream seems interesting. You should send the completed paper by March 15, 1993, to me at the address below.

You know that these academic gatherings are a little like Wimpee's duck dinner ("You bring the duck") so, if you get on the program, you are responsible for all the expenses of attending, etc. Sorry about the impoverishment!

Of course, we're looking forward to the Philadelphia meeting of the H.A.S. April 29-May 2.

Cordially yours,  
Robert G. Collmer (PF-866)  
Department of English  
Baylor University  
P.O. Box 97404  
Waco, Texas 76798-7404

### 100 years ago

There was an exciting runaway on Tejon Street. A horse belonging to Mrs. Wentz and hitched to a light buggy got away and ran down the street. Several carriages had narrow escapes from a collision but at the corner of Tejon and Huerfano streets, Tom Vaux, a young boy about 16, caught the animal and got into the buggy. The young fellow did a very daring thing and was congratulated upon his pluck by the crowd that had assembled.

Dear Carl:

I thought the members might get a laugh out of the attached clipping (above). It appeared in the Nov. 3, 1992 edition of our local newspaper, so would have been in 1892 when the incident took place.

You have only to add a few imaginary details to have another Horatio Alger hero. My imagination takes the following approach:

1. Tom's father moved the family to Colorado Springs in order that he might enter one of the local sanitoriums for curing his tuberculosis. Tom is left to take over the support of his mother and 8-year-old sister.

2. Mrs. Wentz's lovely 14-year-old daughter is in the buggy with her when the horse bolts. She is immediately enamoured of Tom.

3. Mr. Wentz comes upon the scene as Tom brings the horse to a stop. He invites our hero to accompany him home, where he rewards him with a purse containing \$100. Asking our hero to stay for dinner, Mr. Wentz is impressed with his deportment and manly behavior. Finding that Tom is in straitened circumstances, he offers him a place as a clerk in his counting house, at a salary that is more than double Tom's present income.

4. Tom takes his leave to go home and inform his mother of his good fortune. As Tom is leaving, Mr. Wentz, having noticed that Tom has outgrown his suit, hands him an order for his tailor to have a new suit made for him.

The conclusion I leave to your imagination, but I imagine that Tom will soon be given a position of trust in the firm.

Best regards,  
Forest P. Porter (PF-834)  
844 E. Uintah St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

## If you're not driving . . .

This year's convention, "Forging Ahead in Philly," is in an ideal location if you're driving, because it will be held just off Exit 26 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike about 10 miles north of Philadelphia.

But if you're not able to drive, Philadelphia is well served by public transportation. For example:

**Airlines:** All the major domestic and foreign carriers serve Philadelphia International Airport. These include American, United, Delta, Northwest and USAir, plus commuter and regional airlines. Check with your travel agent for schedules and fare information. The general number at Philadelphia International is (215) 492-3181.

**Airport transportation:** To get from Philadelphia International to the Ramada Inn in Fort Washington, your public transportation options are: Taxi, \$20; Limousine, \$65; Airport rail line, \$5.50.

**Train service:** AMTRAK's Metroliner service and other trains connect Philadelphia with the Washington-Baltimore area and New York and New England. For AMTRAK information call 1-800-872-7245.

**Commuter rail:** The SEPTA high speed rail commuter system covers Philadelphia and the suburbs. For information call (215) 574-7800.

**Rental cars:** Most of the major rental firms serve Philadelphia International Airport: Hertz, Avis, Budget, National and Dollar. For the lowest available rates it is best to make reservations through your travel agent at the same time you arrange air transportation.

## Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

ing Picture Boys and Boys of Columbia High (started in 1911), used the red/green on white coated paper format.

So those of you Tom Swift collectors who want absolute first printings of the first five titles, you'd better start hunting for the uncoated paper/red lettering-only quadrant-style jackets. Incidentally, when comparing that format with the second state, you'll notice that there are no clouds in the sky in the 4 illustrations in the red-only format and Tom's hat is missing its red band.

In the later formats, the illustrations, rules and oval on the front cover are in green and the title/author lettering is in red. Also, the clouds and Tom's hatband are now included in their accustomed red color.

**To summarize:** First editions of the first five titles come in uncoated paper with red printing only; first editions of the next five titles are in uncoated paper with red and green printing; and for titles 11 through 20, the first-edition jackets are coated white paper with red and green printing. Good bookhunting!



The Palace of Asia will be the site of the annual H.A.S. banquet on May 1.

## 'Forging Ahead in Philly'

(Continued from Page 3)

and even includes a daily continental breakfast. Even better, you do not need to pay for the room in advance unless you want to give a credit card number when you phone in your reservation to guarantee a late arrival.

Remember, dial 1-800-2-RAMADA and ask for the special convention rate. This rate can only be offered until March 29, so make your reservations as soon as possible. Because the March-April Newsboy will be mailed around April 1, this is the last time we can remind you of this deadline. Make your motel reservations now!

The convention itself has a registration fee of only \$45 per person, and includes all of the following:

- A stimulating guided tour and dessert reception at world-renowned Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Congregation Beth Shalom in Elkins Park, Pa.
- A full program including, on Friday, two auctions and an educational seminar; and Saturday morning's annual H.A.S. book sale.
- A super submarine sandwich party Friday night.
- Full use of the H.A.S. hospitality room throughout the convention.
- A sumptuous banquet and awards presentation at the Palace of Asia Saturday night.
- A special souvenir of the convention.

Please make your reservations as soon as possible. Make your check payable to Murray D. Levin when you enclose it with the blue registration form.

We can't wait to see you as we begin "Forging Ahead in Philly."