



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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NUMBER 1

1995 Convention Preview



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President's column

Preparations are well under way for the 31st annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society, to be held May 4 through May 7 in Corning, New York. Our convention host, Richard L. Pope (PF-740) has planned a full and exciting program, which is outlined beginning on Page 3. The weekend agenda and your convention registration form are also enclosed in this issue. Also included are a color brochure from our convention headquarters, the Best Western Lodge on the Green, along with a hotel registration card.

Start making your plans now to attend what we hope will be the biggest turnout ever!

This is also a good time to start putting aside books and other items for the convention auction. In addition to eight nice first editions donated by Raymond L. Murray (PF-546), we will also auction the remaining Alger collection of Bill McCord (PF-360), who passed away just two weeks after last year's convention. Helen McCord has graciously donated the balance of her husband's collection of Algers and other boys books with the entire proceeds to be retained by the Society. It is our intention to conduct two separate auctions — our annual convention auction with the entire proceeds to be donated to the Society; and a special members' auction of higher-quality books and other related items in which the Society will receive a commission of 15 percent of the proceeds. You may send items for either auction directly to Dick Pope (his address is listed on the convention registration form) or bring them to the convention in May.

I am pleased to announce the Society's receipt of a \$1,000 bequest from the late Bill McCord. To my knowledge, this is the first time a member has left a monetary bequest to the Society in his or her will. As the 1990 convention host and an attendee at many other conventions, Bill's affable nature and generosity were omnipresent. Now, after his passing, his generosity continues. We plan to discuss during the annual business meeting how Bill's magnanimity should be acknowledged.

Because of a serious illness in her family, our esteemed president, Mary Ann Ditch (PF-861) has asked me to pen her column for this issue of *Newsboy*.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Corning. In the meantime, please keep Mary Ann and her family in your thoughts.

Your partic'lar friend,
Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)
Executive Secretary

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 Robert E. Kasper, 585 E. St. Andrews Drive, Media, PA 19063. (610) 566-5917

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 (PF-265).
- Horatio Alger or, The American Hero Era*, by Ralph D. Gardner (PF-053).
- The Fictional Republic: Horatio Alger and American Political Discourse*, by Carol Nackenoff (PF-921).
- Publication Formats of the 59 Stories by Horatio Alger, Jr. as Reprinted by the John C. Winston Co.*, by Bob Sawyer (PF-455) and Jim Thorp (PF-574).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt*, by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co.*, 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 Robert E. Kasper, 585 E. St. Andrews Dr., Media, PA 19063. The above rates apply to all want ads, along with ads offering 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 or "Letters to the Editor" to *Newsboy* editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 923 South Lake St., Apt. 6, Mundelein, IL 60060.

'On the Mark in Corning'

1995 H.A.S. convention preview

by Richard L. Pope (PF-740)

Make your own paperweight, witness incredible feats of magic, fly in a glider, see 100 waterfalls, visit the world-famous Corning Glass Center, see a superb collection of Western art, tour 50 wineries, visit the grave of Mark Twain, see antique airplanes built by the man who served as the model for Tom Swift, and that's just for openers!

The greater Corning area is a vacationer's paradise. Situated in the Southern Tier of upstate New York close to the Pennsylvania border, Corning is the gateway to the beautiful and geologically unique Finger Lakes region.

Jackie and I are getting ready to welcome you to what we hope will be the largest assembly of Horatio Alger Society members in a long time for our 31st annual convention May 4th-7th. Corning is an easy drive from Boston, New York City, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Toronto. Since our little city is home to two major Fortune 500 companies (Dresser-Rand and Corning Incorporated), we have excellent and frequent air service provided by USAir to our nearby Elmira/Corning Airport.

There is so much to do and so much to enjoy in the Corning area that you might want to give some thought to coming early or staying on. Early May is a particularly nice time of year in Corning, and you won't have the hassle of hordes of tourists.

Officially, our convention will begin with registration at the Best Western Lodge on the Green in the adjacent town of Painted Post, starting at 10 a.m. on

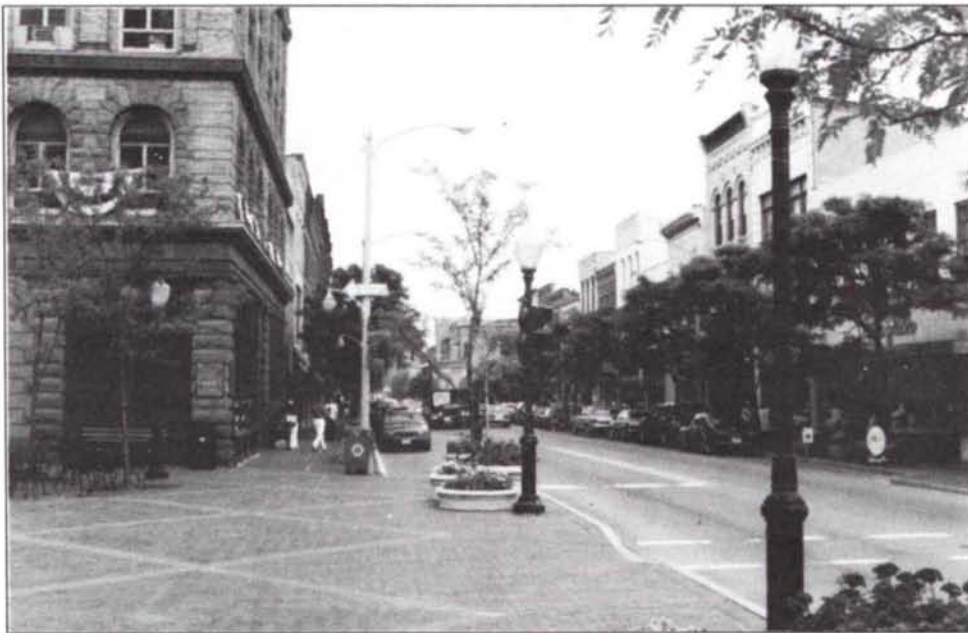
Thursday, May 4. For early arrivals we have something special planned at lunch time on that date as you can tell from the enclosed supplement, which details the convention schedule.

A color brochure for Lodge on the Green along with the hotel's registration card are enclosed in this issue of *Newsboy*. Please send your reservations directly to the hotel as soon as possible; the special Horatio Alger Society convention room rate is \$49, single or double.

After the lunch break, registration will resume in the H.A.S. hospitality room and continue all afternoon.

The early arrivals can begin to have fun on Thursday afternoon, visiting area points of interest. Thursday

dinner is on your own, but we have another optional event in store for you Thursday evening. The agenda for both Friday and Saturday is quite full, as you can tell from the enclosed supplement. We are in the process of lining up some interesting speakers and some very special entertainment.



Corning, New York's historic Market Street will welcome members of the Horatio Alger Society for the 31st annual H.A.S. convention May 4-7, 1995.

The annual Horatio Alger Society book sale is scheduled for Saturday morning, as is customary. Because of local interest in these authors, be sure to bring books by Howard Garis, L. Frank Baum, Mark Twain or Edgar Rice Burroughs in addition to your Algers and series books. There are several local collectors of Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Tarzan, Tom Swift and Uncle Wiggily. We will be advertising the book sale in local newspapers.

Saturday night will be our annual banquet and auction of donated books and other items to raise money for our Society. Please be thinking ahead about items you may wish to donate. If you want to send them to us in advance, please have them here at least one week prior

(Continued on Page 4)

Editor's notebook

As you can read elsewhere in this issue, we have an exciting weekend planned for our 31st convention May 4-7 in Corning, N.Y. Our hosts, Jackie and Dick Pope (PF-740) have been working on the program and are hoping for the biggest turnout in history.

When you look at the agenda (enclosed on the yellow sheet) be advised that this is preliminary. Dick may shuffle a couple of events around if it works out better that way. One big event Dick and Jackie have planned is their gourmet breakfast for our traditional Sunday "farewells." This will be held at their home just outside of Corning and we're hoping that most of those attending the convention will stop by for a while before hitting the road. Dick realizes that many members will have long drives ahead that day but he promises this will be one of the highlights of the weekend!

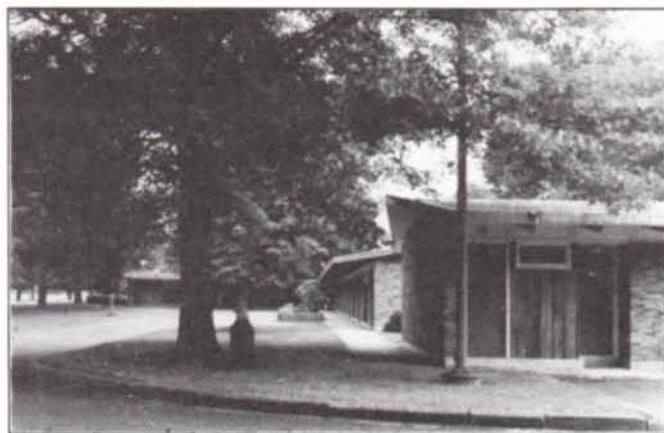
In another item related to the convention, Executive Secretary Rob Kasper outlines in his guest column (in which he is filling in for President Mary Ann Ditch) that there will be two categories of auctions at the convention, the annual H.A.S. fundraiser of donated items (with all proceeds going to the Horatio Alger Society) and a members' auction in which partic'lar friends put up books or related items for which the Society receives a 15 percent commission. Those at Grand Rapids last year will remember how this worked.

If you plan to send Dick Pope your auction items in advance, be certain you earmark for which auction they are intended. I'm guessing that many members will choose to send their donated items ahead and bring the members' auction (15 percent commission) items with them.

Also, don't forget to send your convention registration form (attached to the enclosed the blue sheet) directly to Dick Pope. The registration card for the Best Western Lodge on the Green is also enclosed; mail that with your reservation directly to the hotel. Remember, the new cost of a stamp for postcards is 20 cents!

In a related event to our convention, Don Phelps is hosting a book fair in Plymouth, Massachusetts the previous weekend (April 28-30).

The event will be held at the Sheraton Inn of Plymouth Conference Center, and it will provide many collectors an opportunity "double their pleasure" and take in two big events on successive weekends. Several H.A.S. members have told me they plan to attend both and Don has informed me that he will be coming to our convention if



Lodge on the Green in Painted Post, N.Y. is the site of the 1995 Horatio Alger Society convention.

'On the Mark in Corning'

(Continued from Page 3)

to the convention.

Early Sunday morning, Jackie and I will be hosting a "gourmet" breakfast at our home in the woods. We hope just about all of the convention attendees will be able to join us for what we hope will be a nice wrap-up to a memorable convention. You'll be able to see our collections of walking sticks, old and rare books and American art, as well as enjoy our ponds and waterfalls.

We hope you will enjoy your visit to this historic city and region, at the same time renewing old acquaintances and meeting new friends..

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at (607) 936-6610 in the evening.

he's still able to walk after his busy weekend! If you want more information about Don's show, call him at (508) 866-5915. For more information see the full-page ad on the back cover of this issue of *Newsboy*.

In other business . . .

Several copies of the November-December 1994 *Newsboy* were missing pages 4 and 25 because of a printing error. Even though I thought I had caught the erroneous issues, a few slipped through. If you need a free replacement, write to Executive Secretary Robert E. Kasper at his address on Page 2.

We did catch a couple of mailing label errors from the last issue, which was the first sent out using our new membership database. Hopefully, the fact that you are reading this issue means your address is OK.

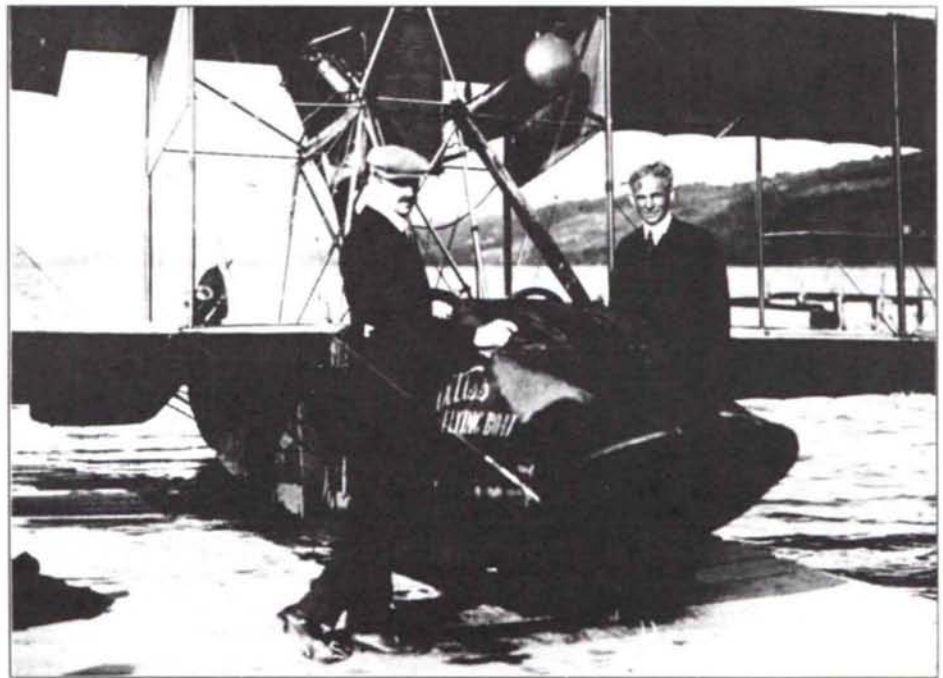
A new Merriwell format . . .

My article on the books of Gilbert Patten in the September-October 1994 issue reproduced the traditional cover design for the Frank Merriwell hard-cover books

(Continued on Page 8)

The real Tom Swift

The work of American aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss is preserved at the new and expanded Glenn Curtiss Museum



Glenn Curtiss, left, is visited by Henry Ford at the Curtiss Flying School on Keuka Lake in Hammondsport, N.Y. in the summer of 1913.

by William R. Gowen (PF-706)

Those of us who grew up reading the adventures of Tom Swift and still have a fascination with America's pioneers in science and transportation will have a field day at a place like the Glenn Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport, N.Y., less than an hour's drive from Corning, site of the 1995 H.A.S. convention.

Some of Curtiss' claims to fame include:

- The "Fastest Man on Earth" title by riding a V8-powered motorcycle 136.36 mph on Jan. 23, 1907.

- He made the first pre-announced, publicly-witnessed flight in America aboard the "June Bug" on July 4, 1908.

- He designed and built the world's fastest airplane at the time, the "Rheims Flyer," which reached a speed of 46.5 mph on Aug. 29, 1909.

- He was given the title "Father of Naval Aviation" after selling the U.S. Navy its first airplane, the Curtiss Hydroaeroplane Model A-1, on July 1, 1911. This plane had the first retractable landing gear.

- Curtiss invented (1912) and patented (1915) the world's first operational flying boat (another Tom Swift connection). He was awarded the Collier Trophy for the flying boat as well as the 1911 Hydroaeroplane.

- In 1914, he designed the classic JN4-D "Jenny," a World War I trainer which became the centerpiece of the postwar "barnstorming" era.

- He again collaborated with the Navy in designing and building the classic NC series of flying boats, the NC-4 becoming the first aircraft to complete a crossing

of the Atlantic Ocean on May 27, 1919.

These are just a few of the career highlights of this important inventor, many of whose creations are on display at the museum. In addition to examples of several of the above-mentioned aircraft, there is a large collection of Curtiss motorcycles and the stylish "Aerocar," a predecessor of today's motor home (remember Tom Swift's House on Wheels?).

If you have visited the museum in previous years, be advised that it has moved from its old and cramped location on the second floor of the village hall at the corner of Main and Lake Streets in downtown Hammondsport. The Curtiss Museum now has modern, expanded quarters on New York Route 54, one-half mile south of Route 54A (Main Street).

Your visit will include a video presentation, "The Glenn Curtiss Story," shown every half hour throughout the day.

The museum's hours during the time of the H.A.S. convention are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3.50 for age 65 and older and \$2.50 for students. Children age 6 and under are admitted free. For information call the Glenn Curtiss Museum at (607) 569-2160.

The Hammondsport/Keuka Lake area is also the birthplace of New York's commercial wine industry, and winery tours are available. For information, write The Keuka Winery Route, 9976 County Route 76, Hammondsport, N.Y. 14840, or call (607) 868-4851.

The Alger repository moves forward

by Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)

On November 19, 1994, I had the great pleasure of visiting Founders Memorial Library at Northern Illinois University (NIU), located in DeKalb, Illinois. This is, of course, the site of the newly formed repository of the works of Horatio Alger, Jr.

At the invitation of Samuel Huang, Head of Rare Books and Special Collections at NIU, I departed from Chicago that crisp Saturday morning accompanied by *Newsboy* editor William Gowen. On our arrival,

promptly at 10 a.m., we were enthusiastically greeted by Sam, who immediately initiated a tour of the Rare Books and Special Collections Department. As many of you remember, Sam was present at the 1994 Grand Rapids convention and ably represented NIU in outlining its desire to become the official H.A.S repository.

Shortly after our arrival we were joined by Arthur P. Young, Director of University Libraries. It was quickly evident that Dr. Young shares Sam's enthusiasm in attaining the goals and objectives of the repository resolution.

During our tour we were able to view the Alger collection of Raymond L. Murray (PF-546), a longtime Society member from North Carolina. Raymond had just donated his collection to the repository and it was in the process of being catalogued.

Raymond also donated eight first editions to the Society to be auctioned during the annual convention in Corning, N.Y.

We also viewed the massive Albert Johannsen dime novel collection housed in the rare book room. It was interesting to see early (1860s) Beadles & Adams dime novels from Johannsen's library as well as records of his meticulous research and other notes. The Alger reposi-

tory can only complement this fine collection of 19th century juvenile fiction.

In addition to 11,000 dime novels, NIU has impressive collections of many juvenile authors, including (in addition to Alger) Optic, Castlemon, Henty and Twain, along with a rapidly growing collection of 20th century boys series books.

During our visit we discussed many topics concerning the repository. Sam and Arthur had several fine ideas about the growth and direction of the repository, includ-

ing the establishment of an endowment for the collection and creating an annual stipend for Alger research. These topics and other ideas will be discussed in Corning by representatives from NIU.

As our visit drew to a close, I became cognizant of NIU's keen interest in the goals and objectives set forth in the resolution and

of Sam's and Arthur's dedication in achieving these goals. Although I never had any doubts about our decision to select NIU, I was now firmly convinced that the correct choice had been made.

The final draft of the Deed of Gift Agreement is reproduced on Page 6. The 18 months of hard work by the resolution committee is ended; the hard work of the membership is just beginning. I direct your attention to the last sentence of the agreement:

"The Horatio Alger Society, in turn, will promote the repository within the membership, encouraging members to donate books and collections to Northern Illinois University."

If you have books or collections to donate or if you want additional information about the Alger repository, write to:

University Libraries, Rare Books and Special Collections Department, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2868.



Northern Illinois University's Founders Memorial Library is the location of the official Horatio Alger repository.

MEMBERSHIP

New members:

Ralph J. Carlson (PF-955)
2236 Creek Road
Sandy, UT 84093 (801) 942-6459

Ralph, a radio broadcaster by profession, also collects old radios and enjoys running (he has run in 27 marathons). His other hobby is poetry. He learned about the Society from the Horatio Alger Association of Famous Americans, and he currently has 41 Alger titles in his collection.

Alys Collmer (PF-956)
2801 Wooded Acres Drive
Waco, TX 76710 (817) 772-1897

Alys and her husband Bob (PF-866) hosted the 1992 H.A.S. convention at Baylor University. She learned about the Society first-hand by attending the 1991 Indianapolis convention and says she became "hooked." Her other hobbies are hiking, backpacking and reading.

Change of address:

Beatrice Fortner (PF-565)
36 Marietta Place
Alton, IL 62002 (618) 463-2370

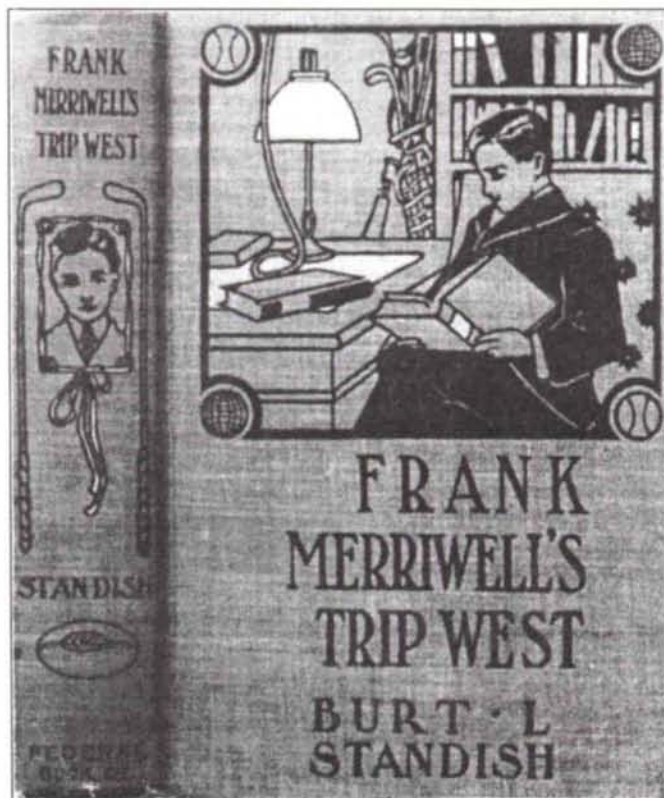
Floyd M. Hunt (PF-785)
931 Sako Lane
Mesquite, TX 75181

Daniel A. Wujek (PF-930)
402 Acacia Drive
Daytona Beach, FL 32127-6102
(Winter address)

Robert W. Finnan (PF-947)
P.O. Box 84
Malverne, NY 11565 (516) 593-6494
(New phone number; corrected middle initial)

Arthur Sherman (PF-910)
14029 W. Wagon Wheel Drive
Sun City West, AZ 85375 (602) 214-0000

Robert J. Banks (PF-253)
420 Main St.
Graniteville, SC 29829



Federal's alternate binding for its reprints of the first six Frank Merriwell titles is little known to collectors.

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

as published by Street & Smith, Federal and David McKay (a boy standing in profile in front of a schoolhouse, facing to his right).

The above example, unearthed near Washington D.C. by Joe Slavin (PF-880), reveals that Federal (which reprinted the six hard-cover S&S titles of this series) also published the books in a medium-green cover that depicts a boy sitting at a desk reading a book. The lamp shade and desk pad are light yellow and the lettering on the front and spine is in black.

The book's pages (*i.e.*, Street & Smith listed as the publisher on the title page) are identical to other Federal reprints that I have seen.

All this proves is that there are many surprises out there in bookland. It's possible there are more Alger cover variations awaiting discovery. Happy hunting!

Donations received:

Wallace Palmer (PF-612)
Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524)
John Cadick (PF-858)

Michael A. Donohue:

A profile of a publisher and his Horatio Alger, Jr. products

by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)

Michael A. Donohue started his first book manufacturing business in partnership with Alfred J. Cox in 1861 when Donohue was a young man of 20.¹ Over subsequent years he was in partnership with several other men until 1901, when almost 60, he formed the M.A. Donohue & Co. business with his four sons.²

The business remained as such and was active in book publishing until the early 1970s.³ It should be noted that M.A. Donohue & Co.

was one of over 70 publishers to produce

Alger at first glance

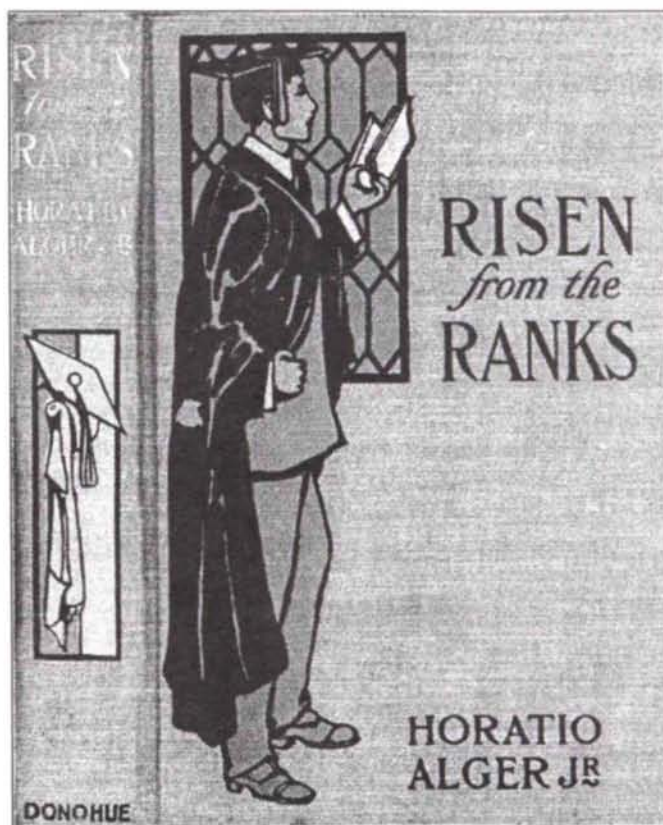
stories written by Horatio Alger, Jr.⁴ In my study of Donohue Algers, I've found that Donohue produced 35 different Alger formats from 1904 through at least 1934. That printing period is based upon my inspection of more than 260 inscription dates found written in Algers published by the M.A. Donohue & Co. firm.⁵

Donohue Algers were produced in paperback, quality hard-covers and in poor quality cardboard covers, several of these formats selling for as little as 10 cents. Some covers have appliqué (pasted-on pictures), which gained popularity with publishers of boys' books during the first decade of this century. Most Donohue Algers have imprinted illustrations on the covers, some having several bright colors with gold lettering on the spine.

Donohue produced 59 Alger titles in hard-cover and about the same in paperback, a few of which are very hard for collectors to find. For example, "Wren Winter's Triumph," a reprint title of the original "A Rolling Stone" published by Thompson & Thomas in 1902, was published under this new title only by Donohue (in a very rare format).⁶ Indeed, Alger collectors consider themselves lucky to locate a copy of "Wren Winter's Triumph" today.

Donohue: The man and his business

Michael Ambrose Donohue, Sr. was born in Gort County, Ireland on Sept. 25, 1841, son of John and Bridget (Connelly) Donohue. He came to the United States in 1952 at age 11 and learned the bookbinding trade.⁷ The 1862 Chicago city directory has the first appearance of a Donohue business, listing Cox & Donohue as a book-



M.A. Donohue & Co.'s "Graduate Format," which includes at least 10 Alger titles published around 1908.

binding partnership located at 23 Clark Street.⁸

After moving to several locations, the Cox & Donohue partnership broke up in 1871, with Cox joining Isaac Henderson in another bookbinding business.

That same year, Donohue became a partner in the Donohue, Wilson & Henneberry bookbinding firm. In 1878, Wilson decided to leave the firm and he and William Kingsbury created their own bookbinding business. Messrs. Donohue and Henneberry continued their bookbinding business under the name of Donohue & Henneberry, changed their location several times and in 1887 moved to 407-425 Dearborn Street and added printing services. Four years later, the firm expanded to include publishing as well as printing and binding.⁹ In 1890, Donohue & Henneberry joined with John Lovell as part of the United States Book Company trust, which lasted only three years.¹⁰

All four of Michael Donohue Sr.'s boys were actively involved with their father in the book business over the years. William F. Donohue, Michael Donohue's second son, was treasurer of the Donohue & Henneberry firm in 1890. However, in 1892, he and E.O. Weeks set up the Donohue & Henneberry firm on the third floor of 415 Dearborn Street apparently to publish books. In 1894, M.A. Donohue, Jr. joined his brother William in that firm as a clerk, then cashier and finally as assistant

(Continued on Page 10)

Editor's note: This article is excerpted from Brad Chase's new book, "Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co." The book is available for \$12.95 plus \$1 postage by writing to Bradford S. Chase, 6 Sandpiper Rd., Enfield, CT 06082.

Michael A. Donohue

(Continued from Page 9)

manager in 1899.¹¹

It should be noted that in 1900, the Donohue & Henneberry firm gave up the **publishing** side of its business.¹² This is significant because in that year, another Donohue firm was created, which carried out publishing activities as well as the selling of books at the same Dearborn Street address. It was called Donohue Brothers, it succeeded Donohue, Henneberry & Co. and was operated by at least two of the Donohue sons, William and Michael, Jr. Contributing to this development was the purchase that same year by Donohue Brothers of the stock and plates of the William Allison Company book publishing firm of New York.¹³

As noted, the boys shed the Donohue, Henneberry & Co. name in 1900 when they became Donohue Brothers and concentrated on publishing and selling books (very likely printed and bound by their father's firm).

Donohue Brothers existed for about one year when, in March 1901, *The Publishers' Weekly* reported that Michael A. Donohue, Sr. bought out his long-time partner Henneberry and combined the Donohue & Henneberry firm (which at that time had a **printing and binding** business) with the **publishing and selling** business of Donohue Brothers.¹⁴

It was the merger of these two companies, Donohue & Henneberry and Donohue Brothers, in 1901, that formed the M.A. Donohue & Co. business which now carried a full range of activities, including printing, binding, publishing, selling and distribution for many, many years. It was, of course, this firm that produced *Algers* starting about 1904.

In summary, Michael A. Donohue, Sr. was associated with publishing companies in Chicago as follows:

1. Cox & Donohue; 1861 to 1871 (Clark St., LaSalle St.).
2. Donohue, Wilson & Henneberry; 1871 to 1878 (Madison St.).
3. Donohue & Henneberry; 1878 to 1901 (Madison St., Monroe St., Wabash Ave. and 407-425, 429 Dearborn St.).
4. Donohue, Henneberry & Co.; 1892 to 1900 (415 Dearborn St.).
5. Donohue Brothers; 1900-1901 (407, 415-425 Dearborn St.)
6. M.A. Donohue & Co.; 1911 (407-429 Dearborn St.); 1911 to the 1970s (701-733 South Dearborn St.).

I sense that Michael A. Donohue was a true self-motivated, independent sort of fellow. At age 21 he was a principal partner in a bookbinding firm and, over the years, survived as his partners went into business with others, finally establishing his own firm with his sons as principal members of the management team.

For years, the Donohue men, including grandsons,

occupied the key positions of company authority, thereby effectively excluding "outsiders" from participating in management of the firm. Independence is additionally reflected in Donohue's apparent resistance in submitting Donohue catalogs regularly to trade publications as many other publishing companies did during that period. Mr. Donohue was also not listed as a member of the American Publishers' Association in 1904.¹⁵

Another side of Michael A. Donohue was his family life. He was married in Chicago in 1863 at age 22 to a Miss Jane Furey, who was also born in Ireland.¹⁶ They eventually had seven children, four boys and three girls. All four boys apparently worked throughout their lives in Donohue firms, starting as cashiers and clerks, then advancing to higher-level positions. The three girls did not work in the firm, which likely reflects the customs of the time.

In 1915, just before Michael A. Donohue, Sr. died, he was president of the firm, and his four sons were officers: John was vice president, William was secretary, Michael, Jr. was treasurer and Edgar was general manager.¹⁷

In 1898, a couple of years before Donohue started M.A. Donohue & Co., the Donohue family home was located at 4547 Grand Blvd. (now Martin Luther King Drive) in Chicago. Before that, Donohue and his family lived on Union Avenue, Winter Street, Vernon Avenue and, in 1886, at 4601 Lake Ave. I suspect that each of these moves to a new address was a step up in prestige and a better residential location as Donohue's economic circumstances improved. I understand Grand Boulevard was really grand in those days, with a wide grassy strip down the middle and lined with three- and four-story brick or brownstone mansions.¹⁸

Before Michael A. Donohue, Sr. produced as much as one *Alger*, he was apparently a very successful man. Like *Alger's* heroes, he had come from modest means, he had worked very hard and was continuing to move in the direction of gaining even more success. Donohue was a director of the Federal Life Insurance Company and belonged to the Colonial Club and the Hinsdale Golf Club. His recreation interest was given as golf. When he died, there was a requiem high mass celebrated at the Corpus Christe Church in Chicago.¹⁹

Of interest, perhaps, is that there were three Michael A. Donohues: Michael A. Donohue, Sr., Michael A. Donohue, Jr., and Michael A. Donohue III. Michael, Jr. attended Chicago public schools and in 1902 married Adah Maley of Chicago. They had four children; their second child being Michael III. Michael, Jr. was listed as treasurer of the M.A. Donohue & Co. firm in 1917. On Oct. 5, 1915 when Michael, Sr. died, the sons (and then, grandsons) carried on as principal partners until their deaths or retirements.²⁰

In 1976, Gilbert K. Westgard II (PF-024) spoke with

TO RENT

DESIRABLE SPACE AT ATTRACTIVE RATES
IN THE DONOHUE BUILDING & ANNEX



701-733 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET



The M.A. Donohue Building and Annex in Chicago as advertised in *Publishers Weekly* in 1912, top; and the building today in a view from the southwest.

Marcus and Richard Donohue, grandsons of Michael, Sr. about the firm and its business.²¹ According to the Westgard interview, when William, the last surviving son, retired as president in 1949, Richard (the son of Michael, Sr.'s oldest son John) became the fourth and last president of the company.

The presidency of the firm, therefore, passed from Michael, Sr. to his eldest son John, then to William and finally to Richard, the son of John, the oldest of Michael, Sr.'s boys. This was a succession which truly followed the family line. The two grandsons indicated that their 1976

activity involved managing the Donohue building and leasing rooms to small independent printers.

Westgard has also recently pointed out to me that the Dearborn Street addresses of the Donohue firms need clarification. In an earlier article for *Newsboy* and in my book on Donohue Algiers, I assumed that the 407-429 Dearborn St. and 701-733 South Dearborn St. addresses were separate locations, believing that the firm had moved three blocks south on Dearborn St. in 1911. According to Westgard, the location did not change but Chicago merely revised its street-numbering system around that time.

Therefore, the 701-733 S. Dearborn St. Donohue Building and annex, which still stands today, was home for various Donohue businesses for three-quarters of a century, dating back to when the Donohue & Henneberry firm made its move to the 400 block of Dearborn Street. Later, the 400 block of Dearborn Street was renumbered as the 700 block of South Dearborn Street.

Donohue and his Alger books

I have determined that M.A. Donohue & Co. published 35 different Horatio Alger reprint formats from 1904 through at least 1934.²² In this regard, a format is defined as a Donohue Alger book whose cover and spine combination is one of a kind. The various formats had multi-colored covers as well as black-and-white; imprinted covers with appliqués, both full and quarter-page; cloth-covered cardboard, plain cardboard and paper covers. The books varied from very high-quality cloth covers with gold lettering to thin, poor-quality books selling for as little as 10 cents. Collectors familiar with M.A. Donohue books of other authors know that the quality varied widely; generally, books produced in the 1930s were the cheapest quality, probably due to the Great Depression.

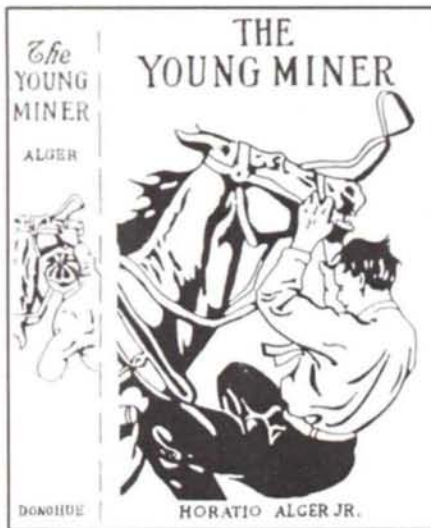
M.A. Donohue & Co. produced only one set of paperback Algiers, initially published around 1910 as part of the *Boys Alert Library* and containing well over 50 Alger titles.²³

Hopefully, my new book on the Donohue Algiers will be helpful to Alger collectors in providing detailed information about the various formats so that they can relate any one specific Donohue Alger to others in similar format groups.²⁴

In order to identify and differentiate between formats, I have given a name and number to each. When a cover/spine combination differs only in the size of the lettering or when the author's name was given as "Alger" in one instance and "Alger Jr." in another, they are considered different editions of the same format.

Differences in the color of the binding cloth or style of lettering were also considered of minimal significance in distinguishing between formats. Some of the 35 different

(Continued on Page 12)



Good-quality Donohue Alger formats, from left: "Horse" (format 14, around 1908-1911); "Sailboat" (format 8,) and "Accountant" (format 6). The latter two were produced in the 1907-1910 period.

Michael A. Donohue

(Continued from Page 11)

formats are on cloth and others on cardboard or paper covers. Some of the covers have elaborate multi-colored illustrations of boys doing things and others have very plain stick figure-type illustrations or contain black curvy-type designs.

Stepping back from the specifics of each format for a moment, it can be observed that Donohue essentially produced quality Alger books from 1904 into the next decade. But then, starting about 1911, he began to produce inexpensive, very poorly-constructed Algers, along with quality Algers. These were distributed nationally over the years to thousands of local outlets, including the 5-and-10-cent stores.²⁵

Judging from inscription dates and the number of these poor-quality editions which still exist today, I'd guess that from 1911 through the early 1930s, inexpensive reprint Donohue Algers flooded the young reading market, likely aimed at capturing the last of whatever broad-scale interest was left in reading the works of Alger.

Many Donohue Algers were originally covered with dust jackets, although few remain today.²⁶ I have concluded that at least five different dust jackets were used by Donohue on Algers, which means that Donohue very likely used the same dust jacket to cover many different Alger formats. I have found this to be true in the Donohue collections I have inspected.

Important to the researcher is the printed information contained on a dust jacket. For example, using the title lists and illustrations on Donohue d.j.'s plus similar information found in advertisements within the Donohue Alger books themselves, I have determined that there

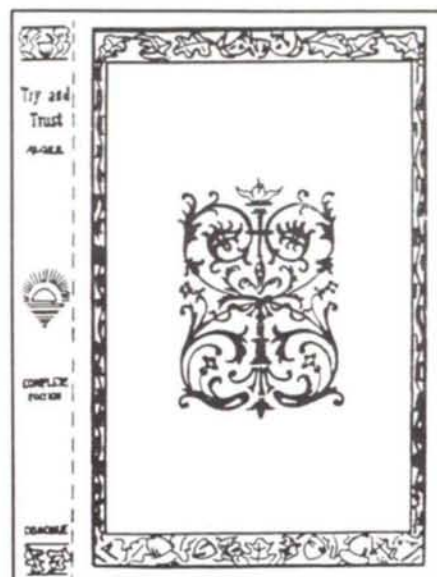
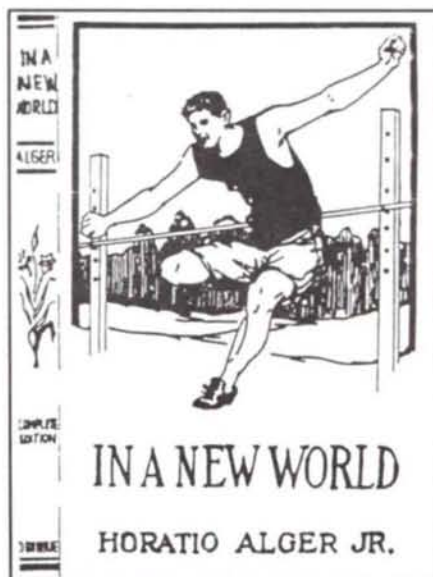
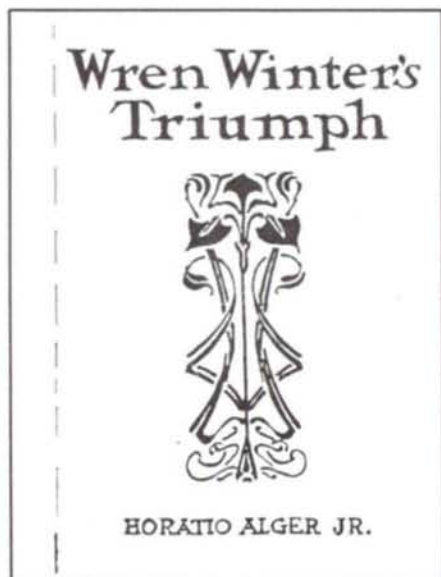
are at least seven omnibus series produced by Donohue which contain Alger titles.

It appears that the **Bound to Win Series for Boys** and the **Onward Series** were the higher-quality Algers, with individual copies costing 75 cents each. These two series included titles by other authors such as "Oliver Optic" (William T. Adams), James Fenimore Cooper and Edward S. Ellis, as well as Alger.

The other five series, some including medium-quality books and others having very poor construction, contained only Alger titles and were less expensive, selling for 10, 25 of 50 cents each, depending on the series. These other five Donohue series include **The Fireside Henty Series**, **The Victory Alger Series**, **The Alger Series for Boys**, **Famous Alger Series for Boys** and **The Famous Alger Books**. As of this point in my research, I have not been able to tie each of the 35 formats to a specific series. I should also mention that the listing of titles was sometimes completely different for the same-named series.

Donohue produced formats with two different sets of appliqués. They were introduced by the company around 1910, with one set covering the full front cover and the other covering only about a quarter-page in the center of the front cover. Appliqués on Donohue Algers were produced for at least 10 years after 1910 as well and appear on both the medium-quality and poorer-quality bindings. The appliqué illustrations were apparently used with little regard for the title of the book or the subject of the story.

According to Bennett, Donohue published 64 Alger titles.²⁷ After inspecting more than 900 actual Donohue Alger books, I have been able to confirm actual examples of only 59 titles and believe the other five do not exist. Those five are: "Andy Grant's Pluck and How He Won Out;" "Grit, the Young Boatman of Pine Point;" "The Tin



Poorer-quality Alger formats, from left: "Ribbons" (format 21, about 1911); "Athlete/3 Roses" (format 25, about 1911) and "Torch" (format 20, about 1910).

Box and What it Contained;" "The Young Acrobat of the Great North American Circus;" and "Mark Mason."

The first four of these apparently non-existent titles have the subtitle joined with the title. Only the shorter form was actually used on the cover, spine and title page of the many examples of Donohue Alger titles I've inspected and therefore know exist. As far as I can determine, "Mark Mason" was never published under that title by Donohue; however, I have examples of the title "Mark Mason's Victory" in six different Donohue formats. Dustjacket listings do carry the "Mark Mason" title but apparently are incorrect.

One interesting note regarding titles relates to "Tony the Hero" in Format 17. I have copies of both that title and "Tony the Tramp." Inside the book having this latter title, however, the title page and rest of the text is titled "Tony the Hero." I also have a copy of "Tony the Tramp" in Format 34 which contains that title on the outside cover, spine and on the dust jacket as well. However, the inside title page and text shows the title as "Tony the Hero," which is a similar format to that found in Format 17.

I've concluded that the story, "Tony the Hero" is the intended title and that the covers showing "Tony, the Tramp," which, of course, is the original name for the same story in its serial form (*New York Weekly*, June 26-Sept. 4, 1876) are in error in this particular usage.

M.A. Donohue & Co.'s Alger reprints, seemingly regardless of quality, were eagerly sought-after, not only by youngsters but by their parents and relatives as well. Many of the latter hoped that those who read Alger's stories would become inspired to strive and succeed, work and win and generally grasp the concept of self-betterment. This was a dynamic time in the life of our country. It was the first three decades of the 20th Cen-

ture, a time of great technical, mechanical and social growth; a time of mobilization and involvement in the first-ever World War; and it was a time for play during the pre-depression "roaring twenties."

Teachers, both Sunday school and academic, along with ministers, parents and grandparents, wrote dedications in Donohue Algers which reflect their beliefs that Alger's words were good for young eyes. Older people today, even after 60 or 70 years, still fondly remember reading Algers in their youth and being affected by the message. Many of those Algers, which must have influenced generations of Americans and, as a result influenced the development of our nation, were undoubtedly published by Michael Ambrose Donohue, Sr. and his Chicago-based family firm.

NOTES

1. Reuben A. Donnelley, *Annual Directory of the City of Chicago*, 1862. This source lists the Cox and Donohue business; the 1861 directory does not. Since the 1862 directory likely reflects events occurring in 1861 and, because several other sources refer to 1861 as the Cox and Donohue business start date, I conclude that their partnership and business started in 1861.

2. *The Publishers' Weekly, The American Book Trade Journal*, Volume LIX, No. 13, Whole No. 1522 of March 30, 1901, p. 902. Also in Capt. R.L. Dartt, "A Companion to G.A. Henty — A Bibliography," p. 60.

3. John H. Tebbel, "A History of Book Publishing in the United States," Vol. III, New York and London: R.R. Bowker Co., 1975, p. 272.

4. Ralph D. Gardner, "Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era." Mendota, Ill: The Wayside Press, 1964, pp. 361-362.

(Continued on Page 14)

Michael A. Donohue

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5. Bradford S. Chase, "Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co." Parts III-IV: Description and Presentation of Donohue Alger Formats. Enfield, Conn.: Sandpiper Publishing, April 1994, pp. 19-107.

6. Bob Bennett, "Horatio Alger, Jr.: A Comprehensive Bibliography." Mt. Pleasant, Mich.: Flying Eagle Publishing Co., 1980, p. 37.

7. Albert N. Marquis, "The Book of Chicagoans." Chicago, Ill.: A.N. Marquis & Co., p. 194. (Cited in Eleanor A. Campbell, "Genealogical Charts for the Family of Michael Ambrose Donohue." Census sheets and letter to Scott B. Chase detailing a genealogical search of the M.A. Donohue family. February 1986, p. 2).

8. Donnelley, 1862.

9. This material on Donohue business partners was taken from the **Annual Directory of the City of Chicago**. Various years from 1861.

10. Madeleine B. Stern, "Publishers for Mass Entertainment in 19th Century America." Boston, Mass.: G.K. Hall and Co., 1980, p. 120. My sources differ as to whether it was Donohue & Henneberry (Stern) or the Donohue, Henneberry & Co. firm (Tebbel) which joined Lovell in the U.S. Book Co. I chose Stern because her references seemed more credible.

11. Donnelley, 1890 through 1899.

12. Donnelley, 1900.

13. **The Publishers' Weekly, The American Book Trade Journal**, Vol. LVII, No. 15, Whole No. 1472 of April 14, 1900. p. 808.

14. **The Publishers' Weekly, The American Book**

Trade Journal, Vol. LIX, No. 13, Whole No. 1522 of March 30, 1901. p. 902.

15. **The Publishers' Weekly, The American Book Trade Journal**, Vol. LXVII, No. 4, Whole No. 1722 of Jan. 28, 1905. pp. 521-522.

16. Campbell: Chart 1.

17. Donnelley, 1915, p. 447. Cited in Campbell's letter, p. 1. There appears to be some confusion in the literature about the youngest son's name: **Edgar T.** or **Edward T.** I have used Edgar since it was given as such on the census charts and by family members in the Westgard interview.

18. Campbell: Letter, p. 1.

19. *Ibid.*, p. 2.

20. Tebbel, p. 272.

21. Gilbert K. Westgard II. Letter dated Sept. 17, 1986 to the author.

22. The initial classification of the Donohue formats was developed by the late William R. Wright of Chillicothe, Ohio. The author has summarized and modified the Wright system after being granted access to the large Wright Donohue library in order to gather and analyze Donohue format information.

23. Paul F. Miller (PF-351) of Vienna, Ohio, without hesitation loaned the author his whole collection of Donohue paperback Algers for study and analysis.

24. Bradford S. Chase, "Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co."

25. Tebbel, p. 506.

26. Hank Gravbelle (PF-584) of Redondo Beach, Calif. sent photocopies of Donohue dust jackets from his extensive Alger dust jacket collection for study and analysis.

27. Bennett, pp. 144-145.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

While doing some routine research on a book I recently acquired, I came across what I believe are two previously unrecognized series. Although I don't believe either was intended as a series, both contain a cast of continuing characters, the basic ingredient for series book status. They are as follows:

Hartley, George Inness, "Boy Hunters in Demerara," published by Century in 1921 and its sequel, "The Lost Flamingos," published by Century in 1924.

Longstreth, T. Morris, "The Silent Five," published by Century in 1924 and its sequel, "Coin and Crossbones," published by Century in 1925.

Here's how I got on the trail of these books. I recently acquired "Coin and Crossbones." My want list showed a listing for Longstreth's "The Silent Five," although at first I could not remember where I had heard of the title.

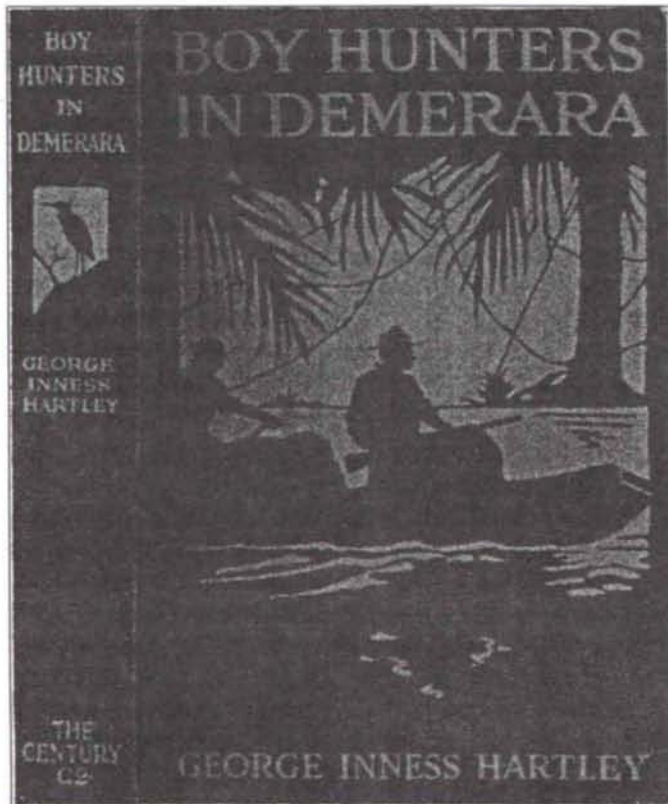
I could find no record of it in Hudson's bibliography, although another later series by Longstreth is included. I next turned to the **U.S. Catalogue**, which gave me the information on Longstreth listed above.

I was still puzzled, however, how I had come across Longstreth in the first place. Turning to my collection, I searched for a title published by Century from the mid-'20's with a dust jacket. Sure enough, on the back panel of the dust jacket for Barbour's "Spaniard's Cave" I came across the listing for Longstreth's "The Silent Five."

As I read through the other titles listed there, Hartley's "The Lost Flamingos" jumped out at me. It says, and I quote, "The boys naturalists of 'Boy Hunters in Demerara' go on a new expedition and find many thrilling experiences." I had acquired a copy of the earlier title a while back but had assumed it was only a solo title. It now appears that this is a genuine series.

The **U.S. Catalogue** lists Longstreth's "Coin and Crossbones" as a sequel to "The Silent Five." Not having

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



George Inness Hartley's "Boy Hunters in Demerara" is the first title of a two-volume series published by The Century Company in 1921 and 1924.

this title, I can't be one hundred percent sure that both books share a cast of characters, but it does seem reasonable to assume, if one is a sequel to the other, that this is indeed the case.

Actually, it was a lot of fun doing the detective work!

Sincerely,
Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879)
20W450 Rutgers Drive
Downers Grove IL 60516

THE SILENT FIVE

By T. Morris Longstreth

A summer boy's camp, hidden treasure, exciting adventure. Ill. \$1.75.

THE LOST FLAMINGOS

By George Inness Hartley

The boy naturalists of "Boy Hunters in Demerara" go on a new expedition and find many thrilling experiences. Ill. \$1.75.

Advertising blurbs from the back panel of a 1924 dust jacket from Barbour's "Spaniard's Cave."

Dear Bill:

Trusting that you are well in health and spirits. Per my last letter to you, which you were gracious enough to represent in a recent *Newsboy* issue, I was involved in collecting Alger short stories, articles, poems, etc., which had been printed in *Newsboy* since its inception in 1962.

Thanks to Brad Chase, who lent me his complete *Newsboy* collection dating back to 1962, I was able to complete this data, per attached. Please feel free to publish this in *Newsboy* since the last time this was done as a guide to members was over 20 years ago.

While working on this time-consuming task covering four volumes and over 880 pages, I compiled interesting data from my perusal of all the *Newsboys* ever issued. I would like to share this data with other members and hope you can reprint the following in future *Newsboys* (perhaps once every issue or every other issue). This data consists of the following:

1. All hardcover-only books by Alger, including year of publication and name of hero or heroine.
2. Titles and date first published on all Alger short stories reprinted in *Newsboy*. This was last done in the November 1970 *Newsboy* issue.
3. Listing of the 10 rarest Alger titles based on the number of times that these have been offered for sale in *Newsboy*, from 1962 to 1994.
4. List of 16 also-rare Alger titles based on *Newsboy* also offering these for sale.
5. Same as 3, above, for 20 of the most common Alger titles.
6. Same as 4, above, for nine other common Alger titles.
7. Sample of lowest prices for rare Alger books from 1867 to 1980, including the monumental bargain sale of first editions held by the Society on Tuesday, June 5, 1973 at 2 p.m.
8. Excerpts from Bettman's "The Good Old Days — They Were Terrible" showing how depressing life was during Alger's New York City (for the rich as well as the poor) as compared with today.

I would be willing to render a short lecture at the upcoming convention to members on how to do what I have had the pleasure of doing. Let me know if you would like to have copies of each of the above eight items for inclusion in future *Newsboys*.

Regards,
Angelo Sylvester (PF-928)
P.O. Box 53
Tamworth, NH 03886

Editor's note: We will be working with Angelo on aspects of his research in the coming months. The past issues of *Newsboy* contain much that is worth reprinting, which we plan to do selectively in future issues. In addition, an up-to-date *Newsboy* index is in the planning stages.



ADVENTURE
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