



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.

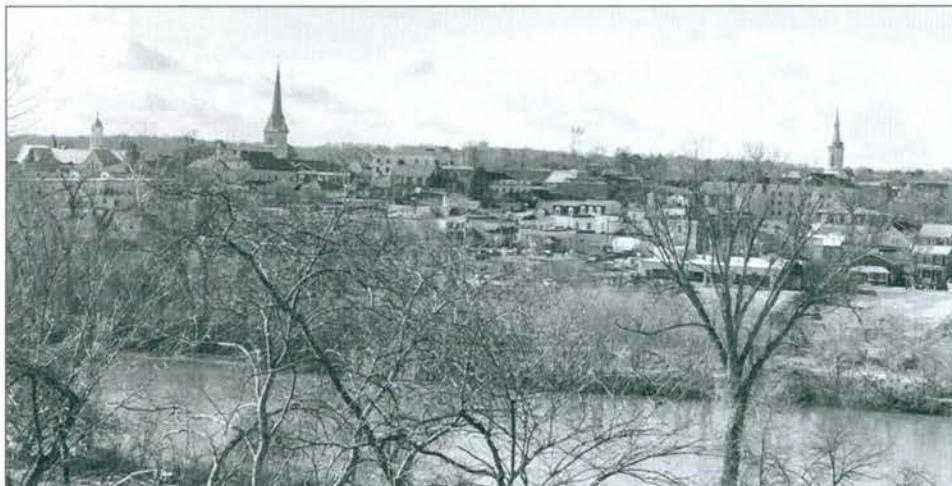
VOLUME LXII

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024

NUMBER 1

2024 convention preview

'The Fredericksburg Fourth'



The Fredericksburg skyline, viewed across the Rappahannock River from Chatham Manor.

- * Preview article
- * Schedule of events
- * Registration form

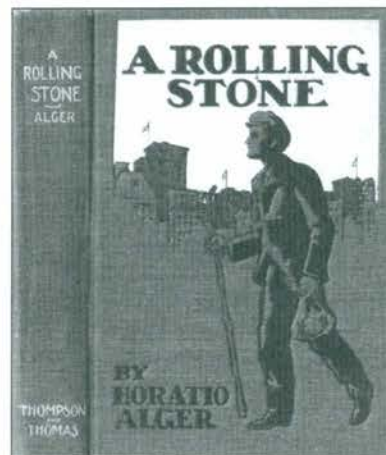
-- See Page 3

THOMPSON & THOMAS

338 Wabash Ave., CHICAGO

*Often overlooked, this
publisher deserves respect*

-- Conclusion, Page 9



President's column

As I shovel snow for the second time this week and brave temperatures that drop into the teens in Philadelphia, I find it hard to think about warm, sunny spring weather for our upcoming convention in early May. But it will be upon us soon enough, and I urge you to reach out to some of your H.A.S. friends and acquaintances who have not joined us for several years, encouraging them to come to Fredericksburg May 2-5 (or May 1 if they can join for the Wednesday reception at host Jack Bales' home.)

Why not pick up the phone and see how they are doing while you're at it? And, of course, make your own hotel and convention registrations soon. Jack has provided more information on the convention schedule enclosed with this issue, and there are some really promising talks planned (including one by a former Swarthmore student I know who now teaches at the University of Mary Washington). American history buffs, coin collectors, as well as series juvenile book collectors should find stimulating presentations. I look forward to seeing everyone — for me, that will be my fourth convention in upcoming weeks (the other three are academic conferences for which I need to write papers).

I have lately been noticing quite a spate of exhibitions related to children's literature and/or illustrators for children's books. (N.B.: **Publishers' Weekly** disseminates news of children's industry book and illustrator exhibits.) The Brandywine River Museum of Art in Chadds Ford, Pa. (not far from me) is currently hosting an exhibit titled "Rooted: Family and Nature in Contemporary Children's Book Illustration."

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi (Hattiesburg) looks fantastic, with original materials and "a book collection of more than 180,000 volumes of historical and contemporary children's literature dating from 1530." Also included are critical works, biographies, bibliographies, etc. If any of our members have been there, please tell me. Ditto for the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature in Abilene, Texas, which collects, tours, and exhibits on a rotating basis original art from children's literature.

And for those who might venture afar, last

(Continued on Page 6)

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive & Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes. Our members conduct research and provide scholarship on the life of Horatio Alger, Jr., his works and influence on the culture of America. The Horatio Alger Society embraces collectors and enthusiasts of all juvenile literature, including boys' and girls' series books, pulps and dime novels.

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Changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to **Horatio Alger Society, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176.**

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography. You are invited to visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at www.horatioalgersociety.net.

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 **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

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 those free "Alger for sale" ads to the editor at the above address, where you can also send "Letters to the Editor" by regular mail or by e-mail to hasnewsboy@aol.com.

'The Fredericksburg Fourth'

Convention plans begin to finalize

By Jack Bales (PF-258)
Convention Host

Plans for "The Fredericksburg Fourth" have shaped up nicely, and with this **Newsboy** is enclosed a tentative schedule for this year's annual convention. As I mentioned in the last issue, the dinner for Friday, May 3, will be at Hope Heroes Southern Kitchen, just a few miles from our hotel, the Hampton Inn. I met with owners Trent and Dee Dee Stinson in early January and enjoyed talking with them as well as with a couple of the employees.

Lexis, a server, stopped by my table to chat for a bit, for example, and she—and others—are enthusiastic about the purpose of Hope Heroes. "HOPE" stands for "Helping Other People Eat," and the restaurant donates three to five percent of its profits to "Hub of Hope," a nonprofit organization that provides meals for individuals and families in the Fredericksburg area in need of food. In fact, according to its web page, "As of January 2023, they have served more than 200,000 meals to children, families, veterans, and seniors."

While there, I chose quite a few items from the menu and had a superb lunch. I also made a donation to "Hub of Hope," and as I walked out I felt that this was an excellent place to have our Friday evening meal.

As I have detailed in quite a few pre-convention **Newsboy** articles over the past few years, Fredericksburg is home to numerous historic homes and buildings. One of my favorites is Chatham Manor. Located in Stafford County and overlooking the Rappahannock River and

the city of Fredericksburg, Chatham was a colonial plantation and is the only private home in America that hosted both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. It served as a Union headquarters and hospital during the Civil War; in fact, present-day visitors looking across the river can see buildings in Fredericksburg that were present when Clara Barton and Walt Whitman attended to wounded soldiers at Chatham.

Chatham is now owned by the National Park Service, and I've arranged for a park ranger-led tour of the property on Saturday afternoon.

Horatio Alger Society members may recall chapter 9

of *Ragged Dick*, "A Scene in a Third Avenue Car," in which Dick is falsely accused of stealing a woman's purse. From the text: "The conductor's hand forthwith dove into Dick's pocket, and drew out a rusty jack-knife, a battered cent, [and] about 50 cents in change." Liane Houghtalin (PF-699), a professor of Classics at the University of Mary Washington whose area of



A National Park Service ranger will lead a tour of historic Chatham Manor during the Saturday afternoon of the convention. Chatham was a Union headquarters during the Civil War as well as a hospital where, among others, Clara Barton and Walt Whitman attended to wounded soldiers during and following the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Photo by Jack Bales

academic expertise is ancient coins, will turn her attention to the coins of Alger's day on Friday morning when she will discuss "Ragged Dick's Pocket Change."

She recently emailed that the period during which Alger wrote the story is rather fascinating, "since it follows some interesting changes in currency laws that would have affected the newsboys. I will have some show-and-tell coins and at least one coin give-away from the period itself."

I am sure we'll all enjoy Liane's lively PowerPoint presentation. Incidentally, she will once again sponsor

(Continued on Page 5)

Editor's notebook

Enclosed with this issue is the official convention registration form, plus the schedule of events for "The Fredericksburg Fourth" in May. Please note that there's no inflation in 2024 — the registration fee of \$130 and the hotel room rate of \$89 (plus tax) have not been increased from last year! I hope this gives you the incentive to join us, not only our regular attendees but those of you who have not attended a convention recently. I promise you will have a great time!

Let me add here a plug for our annual fund-raising auction. This is our major source of income, along with your membership dues, and I hope you will be in a generous mood in sending host Jack Bales books or items for the Friday afternoon auction at the Hampton Inn in Fredericksburg.

Please email Jack at jbales@umw.edu with your intentions.

Curt Teich Postcard Archives: The digital era has turned many old memories extinct, or nearly so — the phone booth, Kodak film and the picture postcard, the latter a souvenir mailed by a relative or friend from a famous vacation spot, originally costing just one of those 1-cent green-colored stamps to mail; or later, the 2-cent red or 3-cent purple stamp. The postal card rate today is more than 50 cents! But why bother, when you can send a text message or a snapshot taken moments earlier?

This is the story of the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, which until a few years ago resided in a small county-run museum about five miles from my home in an old farm building located in Lakewood Forest Preserve.

It was known as the Lake County Discovery Museum, located just east of the village of Wauconda. Curt Teich and Company was a Chicago-based printer of postcards, posters, stationery and maps from its founding in 1898

until its sale in 1978. The company produced millions of images in the postcard form, and kept reference copies of each image, along with original production notes and materials. During World War II, Curt Teich produced over three million maps for the U.S. Army.

After the business was sold, son Ralph Teich donated the entire Teich collection, contained in five semi-truck trailers, to the then-new Discovery Museum. In 2016, the archives were transferred to the Newberry Library in Chicago, which eased fears that the collection would be forgotten or lost following the county's closing of the Discovery Museum a few years earlier.

It was part of a multimillion-dollar renovation of Lakewood and other facilities run by the Lake County Forest Preserve District, the upgrades continuing to this day. Forest preserve districts are taxing bodies charged

with preserving as much green space as possible as the Chicago area's growth has inevitably expanded.

Following the closure of the museum, the collection was placed in deep storage. Fortunately, the Newberry came to the rescue.

Reproduced on this page is Teich's postcard



of the Mary Washington Home which, along with dozens of other Teich-produced Fredericksburg views, can be found inexpensively on eBay.

Curt Teich and Company was the dominant picture postcard maker from the 1930s through the early 1970s. The cards are very distinctive. They came in full color, printed on linen-finished stock. Most have a light-yellow border, about three-16th inches wide. The copyright notice on the reverse uses the condensed corporate name "CURTEICH."

Most famous of the Teich designs are the "city name" editions, with "Boston," "Chicago" or other cities large or small spelled out in stylized hollow letters with a "Greetings From" introduction. Inside each letter are tiny images of local historic buildings or attractions. A highly collectible subset is the souvenir mailing folder, in which 8 to 10 postcards are hinged accordion-style, with the city title card used for the cover.

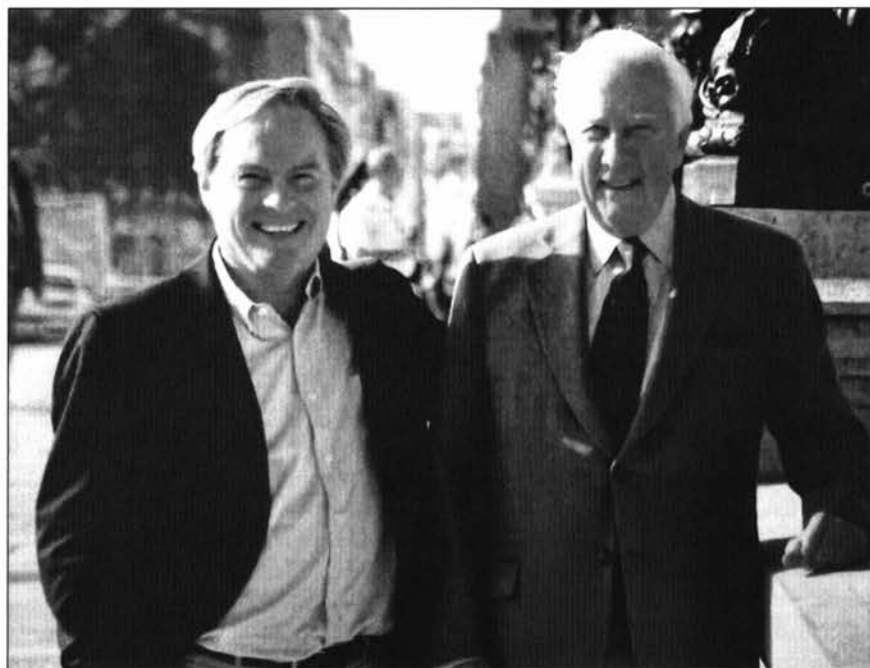
Convention preview

(Continued from Page 3)

a drawing for convention attendees to win a gift basket of “made in Virginia” items and will have her well-stocked candy bowl on hand in the large meeting room.

Speaking of *Ragged Dick*, many Alger readers particularly like this volume and others that are set in the author’s New York City during the latter half of the 19th century. University of Mary Washington Associate Professor of History Will Mackintosh is a cultural and social historian of the 19th-century United States. He offers courses, among other topics, on urban history, the history of the book, and the history of capitalism.

On Friday morning, he will talk about New York City during the Gilded Age of the 19th century. I have known Will for a long time, and even held a “meet and greet” for him at my home when he was running for Fredericksburg City Council (he won resoundingly). And — small world! — he received his



Mike Hill and historian David McCullough in Paris, France, in 2019. As the convention keynote speaker, Mike will compare themes in Horatio Alger’s books to those in the works of McCullough. (Photo by Rosalee McCullough)

undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College, where he was a student in one of H.A.S. President Carol Nackenoff’s classes.

Our keynote speaker is a longtime friend of mine, Mike Hill. The Library of Congress once profiled Mike for its blog and referred to him as the “hero to the historians.” The blog noted that “after nearly forty years in the business, Mr. Hill has established

himself as a premier investigator.” Mike has assisted numerous well-known authors and filmmakers with their works, including David McCullough, Jon Meacham, Michael Beschloss, Evan Thomas, Senator John McCain and Ken Burns. He won an Emmy Award for his work as a co-producer on Burns’ popular television series, *The Civil War*.

During a recent lunch, Mike told me that when McCullough was asked if there was an overriding theme in his books, the author replied that it was “overcoming adversity.” That comment has always resonated with Mike (I’m sure it would have with Horatio Alger, too!), and during a PowerPoint presentation Saturday evening, Mike will discuss “Algerian” themes in the works of David McCullough.

I’m also in the middle of organizing a panel discussion for Friday morning, and I’ll have more on this in the next **Newsboy**. Besides a tentative schedule, you will find in this **Newsboy** a convention registration form. I am pleased to announce that the Hampton Inn is once again offering the low room rate of just \$89 per night. Meal costs have gone up a bit, but the registration fee is also the same as last year, too.

More details and a final schedule will be enclosed with the March-April **Newsboy**. I look forward to seeing old friends and new at “The Fredericksburg Fourth,” here in Fredericksburg, Virginia, from Thursday, May 2 to Sunday, May 5, 2024.



H.A.S. convention host Jack Bales and Hope Heroes Southern Kitchen co-owner Trent Stinson. The Friday evening dinner will be held at the Hope Heroes restaurant.



An image from the website of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

September, the Chen Bochui International Children's Literature Museum opened in Shanghai, integrating the reading experience with document display and "creative research." I cannot say whether the various Alger novels that were translated into Chinese 10-20 years ago are there; some English language books are on display.

Wouldn't it be nice if there were a museum devoted to juvenile series books for boys and girls, with some interactive features, talks, features on authors, illustrators, and publishers? These could be both historical (where our hearts and collections tend to be) and more contemporary. Ireland hosted an exhibit, "Nancy Drew at 90," which moved online because of Covid-19, but I do not think there is a good substitute for touching, learning, and reading in a physical exhibit.

Recently, I saw a web announcement from 2020 under the header "Series Book Museum" and titled "Vintage Juvenile Series Books from the Stratemeyer

Syndicate and Beyond." Editor Bill Gowen was aware that James Keeline (PF-898) came up with this idea years ago, so Bill contacted James, who concluded that my web search probably led me to his website (currently under development) at <https://seriesbookmuseum.org>. James has agreed to write a piece for the March-April **Newsboy** about how this idea came about, including its history dating back more than a decade, but a physical museum now seems impractical for reasons he will explain.

Final disclosure: As this column goes to press, we have just returned from a cold weather escape—a beautiful 10-day vacation viewing flora and fauna in rain forests and cloud forests in Costa Rica. It definitely helped with the winter blahs! Best wishes to all, and I hope to see you in Fredericksburg in May!

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)
302 S. Chester Road
Swarthmore, PA 19081
Email: cnacken1@swarthmore.edu

MEMBERSHIP

New members

David Lynch (PF-1158)
15220 Fontana St.
Leawood KS 66224

Samuel T. Ebersol (PF-1159)
780 Lime Quarry Road
Gap, PA 17527

Official H.A.S. addresses

Direct all official correspondence, including changes of address, to:

Horatio Alger Society
1004 School St.
Shelbyville, IN 46176

Send all dues renewal payments to:

Horatio Alger Society
c/o Robert E. Kasper
4940 Old Main St., Unit 206
Henrico, VA 23231

MORAL AND RELIGIOUS.

HORATIO ALGER, JR.



T. S. Arthur.

Henry Ward Beecher,
Edward Everett Hale.**MORAL AND RELIGIOUS.**

HORATIO ALGER, JR.

This young and successful author was born in Massachusetts, township of Revere, Jan. 13, 1834, and graduated at Harvard University when only eighteen years old, and from the Cambridge Theological School several years later. For five years he was a teacher in Cambridge and elsewhere, and at the same time was connected editorially and otherwise with various periodicals of New York and Boston. On returning from his visit to Europe in 1861, he located himself at Cambridge, and was again employed in literary pursuits. In 1864, he took charge of a Unitarian church at Brewster, Mass., and during this year published "Frank's Campaign," his first juvenile. In 1866, he removed to New York city, where he still resides. Revisited Europe in 1873.

Up to the present time he has published nineteen books, as follows: "Ragged Dick Series," 6 vols.; "Tattered Tom" Series, 4 vols.; "Luck and Pluck" Series, 6 vols.; "Campaign" Series, 3 vols. These are all deeply interesting, highly moral and instructive — hundreds of thousands of them having been read by our young folks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Bill,

Add this title to my article on The Appleton-Century Merger Puzzle (*Newsboy*, September-October 2020):

Barbour, Ralph Henry; *Grantham Gets On*, 1930.

There are four copies of this title on ABE, lined up according to price. The second entry is slightly different from the others, in that instead of the cover lettering angling up to the right, it angles slightly down.

It is also in black, while the others are in blue. The seller lists the book as published by Appleton-Century, but make no other statements about it. It is obviously a reprint binding, and I am assuming it is internally a first edition. I will attempt to contact the seller to confirm.

Take care,
Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879)
4657 Mason St.
Omaha, NE 68106
lewarcher@aol.com

Hello Bill:

Alger historians have always been interested in evidence of where he was and what he was doing at definitive moments of his life. Thus, I have attached a copy of his reply to one H. W. Fay who has written requesting a photograph. Alger's reply is dated March 17, 1892 and advises Mr. Fay to direct his request to photographer M. Downe of Second Avenue.

A little research reveals that Herbert W. Fay was a notable collector of photographs of famous people. His Portrait Collection (1864-1945) of 50,000 items, acquired by Northern Illinois University in 1966, occupies over seven linear feet of shelving. Mr. Fay was born in DeKalb County, Illinois.

The lot that I acquired includes a photograph of Alger, unmounted, acquired Feb. 20, 1928. The verso is inscribed "Alger, Jr. from Herbert R. Mayes." Also two cards (above images) from the game of "Authors."

Sincerely,
Keith H. Thompson (PF-035)
P.O. Box 67
Bellport, NY 11713

Long-time member selling complete Alger collection

Includes Alger books, memorabilia and flat art

I'm Barry Schoenborn (PF-1087). You may remember me as Past President, Vice President, Treasurer, H.A.S. website creator and recipient of the Dick Seddon Award. My wife and I are moving – to Bulgaria! – in September 2024. Wish us luck!

My **entire Alger collection** (plus other books) is for sale. That includes a few rare ones, firsts, and a lot of nice more common ones.

HUNDREDS OF BOOKS!

Watch for future **Newsboy** ads. Here are a few of the items:

HARD-TO-FIND (FOR THE SERIOUS COLLECTOR):

- *Ned Newton*, Arthur Lee Putnam.
(Bought in 2007 from Bob Routhier). *Fragile!* **\$800.00**
- *A New York Boy*, Arthur Lee Putnam.
(Leather-Clad paperback edition). **\$850.00**
- *Bertha's Christmas Vision*, Brown, Bazin, 1856.
(In custom case. From HAS 2008 auction). **\$1,050.00**
- *Nothing to Do, A Tilt at Our Best Society*, 1857.
Horatio Alger (anonymous) **\$1,100.00**
- "Nothing" BONUS SET:
Two companion pieces for *Nothing to Do* — *Nothing to Wear*,
An Episode of City Life, Rudd & Carleton, 1857; *Nothing to Say*, Q.K. Philander Doesticks, PB, Rudd & Carleton, 1857.
Loose boards, spine damage. **\$250.00**
- *Silas Snobden*: Complete serialization
in an acid-free museum box **\$350.00**
Bonus: Buy this and get the CD of the Alger musical "Shine"
for free!!!

BOUND PERIODICALS

Various years, with many complete Alger serializations
Valuable, for the serious collector. Please contact me for complete list.

Ballou's
The Argosy
Gleason's
Golden Days
Harper's
Munsey's
Our Young Folks
Student and Schoolmate

UNBOUND PERIODICALS

(About 82 numbers)

Harper's Weekly
Harper's New Monthly Magazine
Gleason's Pictorial
Gleason's Monthly Companion
The Argosy
Boy's Home Weekly
Student And Schoolmate
Ballou's
Our Young Folks
Various Newspapers
Various Periodicals
Non-Alger Unbound Periodicals

EXTENSIVE PAPERBACK COLLECTION

All but the hardest to find. Please contact me for list.

ORDINARY ALGERS

Many firsts. Many workaday items. Watch for the next ad.

OTHER ITEMS

I'm also selling 20th century firsts – Steinbeck, Hemingway,
etc. – and 400-year-old books – Chaucer, Raleigh, etc.

* * *

Payment

Check, PayPal, Zelle

Shipping

Buyer pays shipping

Recommended shipping:

USPS Media Mail for common books

USPS Priority Mail for more expensive books

Contact

Barry Schoenborn
618 Hummingbird Drive
Lodi, CA 95240-7893
Email: barry@wvswrite.com

Phone:

(530) 575-6345 (cell)

(530) 265-4705 (land line)

Thompson & Thomas:

Often overlooked, this publisher deserves respect

By James D. Keeline (PF-898)
(Second of two parts)

Introduction: In the first part of this article, basic background was given of the partnership between Charles Cline Thompson and Clinton Eugene Thomas, who formed the firm Thompson & Thomas in Chicago in 1897. They worked together for several years, and in 1902, they assembled a library of 17 boys' books. They weren't given a formal title, but the catalogs characterized them as "A Strong Line of Boys' Books."

* * *

The 1902 Thompson & Thomas offering featured books by several collected authors. Five of the stories were by Horatio Alger, Jr. and four by Edward S. Ellis. Two of the latter used his "Lieut. R. H. Jayne" pseudonym. Other authors were represented by a single volume each (see list on page 10).

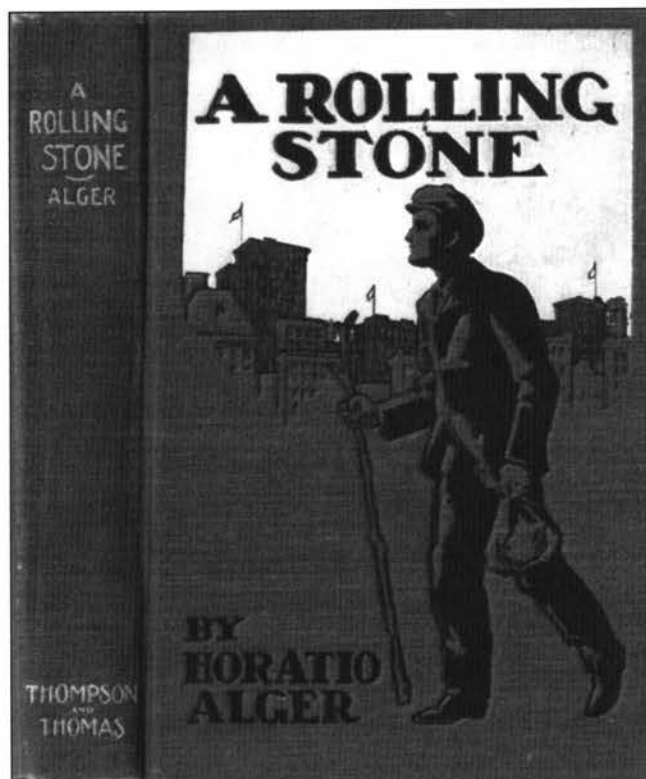
In the 1908 Thompson & Thomas catalog, some of the titles received new covers, new titles and new typesetting, the cover size increased slightly to 5½ inches wide by 8 inches tall. Several of the titles were grouped into series. The Ellis titles became the "Campfire Series." The Alger titles were called "Four Famous Alger Books." The remainder of the series was called the "Sea and Land Series."

These books were subsequently republished by M.A. Donohue starting in 1914. The "Sea and Land Series" name was reused by Donohue. The Graydon, White, Foster, and "Optic" titles were published as the "Adventure and Jungle" series. These publisher library names were mainly used on advertisements.

The recently discovered letters in a private collection between Edward Stratemeyer and Thompson & Thomas gave some insights about the arrangements for *The Young Naval Captain* and *Blue Water Rovers*. Most of these letters were from the publisher. The later letters included here were from the Stratemeyer Syndicate Records Collection at New York Public Library, which are mostly carbon copies of outgoing correspondence. This portion is mainly from 1905 and later.

As the first letter, below, shows, the publisher had some prior contact with Stratemeyer and the author thought he could supply them with some stories.

Normally, publishers requesting stories from



***A Rolling Stone; or, The Adventures of a Wanderer*, is the lone Horatio Alger first edition included among the five Alger books published by Thompson & Thomas in 1902.**

Stratemeyer wanted something to be published under his own name. However, on multiple occasions Warren F. Gregory, the manager of publisher Lee & Shepard, told Stratemeyer that they expected him to only publish stories under his own name with them. An exception was made for the Minute Boys Series (1898-1899) published by Estes & Lauriat and later, Dana Estes & Co. (two of the Estes imprints). To honor this, when he offered stories, he could only do some under his established pen names, "Arthur M. Winfield" and "Capt. Ralph Bonehill," or another name that would later be used by his Stratemeyer Syndicate:

May 27, 1902

Edward Stratemeyer, 203 N. 6th St., Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:—

I am sorry that I did not have an opportunity to arrange with you while I was in New York for some stories which you suggested that you might be able to furnish us. We would like to have your proposition on a contract to furnish us five stories. We would be willing that you use either the Winfield or Bonehill nom de plume. We would like to have whatever stories you could furnish us at once, or within sixty or ninety days, and contract

(Continued on Page 11)



Thompson & Thomas boys' books

Horatio Alger, Jr., 1832-1899

The Western Boy; or, Tom the Bootblack

First serialized in *The New York Weekly* (30 June 1873–15 Sept. 1873). The first book edition was published in 1878 by G.W. Carleton & Co. as *The Western Boy; or, The Road to Success*. The 1908 Thompson & Thomas reprint edition was published as *Tom the Bootblack; or, A Western Boy's Success*.

Phil, the Fiddler; or, The Story of a Young Street Musician

Written for book publication. First published by A.K. Loring in 1872.

Slow and Sure; or, From the Street to the Shop

First serialized in *The Student and Schoolmate* (Jan. 1872–Dec. 1872). The first book edition was issued by A.K. Loring in 1872.

A Rolling Stone; or, The Adventures of a Wanderer

First serialized in *The Argosy* (24 Feb. 1894–June 1894) as by "Arthur Lee Putnam." This is the first book edition. The 1908 Thompson & Thomas reprint edition was published as *Wren Winter's Triumph; or, The Adventures of a Wanderer*.

Paul, the Peddler; or, The Triumphs of a Young Merchant

First serialized in *The Student and Schoolmate* (Jan. 1871–Dec. 1871). The first book edition was published by A.K. Loring in 1871.

Edward S. Ellis, 1840-1916

The Cave in the Mountain: A Sequel to In the Pecos Country [as Edward S. Ellis].

First serialized in *Frank Leslie's Boys' and Girls' Weekly* (1875). The 1908 Thompson & Thomas edition was published as *Lone Wolf Cave*.

The Red Plume; or, A Friendly Redskin [as Edward S. Ellis].

First published by The Mershon in Co. 1900.

Through Jungle and Wilderness; or, Captured by Outlaws

[as "Lieut. R. H. Jayne" as part of "The Campfire Series"].

First serialized in *Golden Argosy* as "Perils of the Jungle: A Tale of Adventure in the Dark Continent" (24 July 1886–20 Nov. 1886). First book edition published by Mershon in 1899. The 1908 Thompson & Thomas edition was published as *The Boy Captives; or, Two Boys in the Woods* as by Edward S. Ellis.

Through Apache Lands; or, Ned in the Mountains

[as "Lieut. R. H. Jayne"].

First serialized in *The Argosy* as "In the Apache Country; or, On the Trail of Geronimo" (19 Jan. 1889–6 April 1889). First published as a book by Price-McGill in 1893. The 1908 Thompson & Thomas edition was published as *Ned in the Mountain; or, Through Apache Land* as by Edward S. Ellis.

William T. Adams, 1822-1897 [as "Oliver Optic"]

The Casket of Diamonds; or, Hope Everton's Inheritance

First published in *The Golden Argosy* as "The Casket of Diamonds; or, Hope Everton's Inheritance" (31 March 1888–14 July 1888) as by "Gayle Winterton."

Matthew White, Jr., 1857-1940

The Young Flagman; or, The Triumphs of a Young Railroader

First serialized in *The Golden Argosy* as "The Young Flagman; or, The Triumphs of a Young Railroader" (29 Nov. 1890–14 Feb. 1891). The 1908 Thompson & Thomas edition was published as *The Boy Railroader; or The Triumphs of a Young Flagman*.

Edward Stratemeyer, 1862-1930 [as "Capt. Ralph Bonehill"]

The Young Naval Captain; or, The War for All Nations

First serialized as "Holland the Destroyer; or America Against the World," as by "Hal Harkaway" in *Golden Hours* (24 Nov. 1900–12 Jan. 1901). The 1908 Thompson & Thomas edition was published as *Oscar the Naval Cadet; or, Under the Sea*.

George Waldo Browne, 1851-1930 [as "Victor St. Clair"]

Blue Water Rovers; or, The Cruise of the Silversail

First serialized in *Young Sports of America* (18 Jan. 1896–29 Feb. 1896). Serialized in *The Chicago Ledger* (18 Feb. 1899–25 March 1899). The title page shows Victor St. Clair's name as "St. Claire," probably a typographical error by the publisher.

W. Bert Foster, 1869-1929

The Treasure of South Lake Farm; or, a New England Boy's Struggle for Fortune

First serialized in *The Golden Argosy* (11 Oct. 1890–27 Dec. 1890).

William Dalton, 1821-1875

A Royal Smuggler; or, The Adventures of Two Boys in the Indian Archipelago.

First published as *The Nest Hunters; or, Adventures in the Indian Archipelago* by (London) Arthur Hall & Co. in 1863.

William Murray Graydon, 1864-1946

The River of Darkness; or, Under Africa

First serialized in *The Golden Argosy* as "Under Africa; or, The Strange Manuscript of the White Slave" (19 July 1890–18 Oct. 1890). The 1908 Thompson & Thomas edition was published as *Guy in the Jungle: A Boy's Adventure in the Wilds of Africa*.

Charles W. Willis, 1864-1933 [as "Allan Eric"]

A Yankee Crusoe; or, The Golden Treasure of the Virgin Islands

First published by Henry A. Dickerman & Son in 1900. The 1908 Thompson & Thomas edition was published as *The Boy Crusoe; or, The Golden Treasure of the Virgin Islands* as by "Allan Eric."

* * *

Editor's note: The initial Thompson & Thomas listings on this page were all copyrighted in 1902. The retitles of some of the titles in T&T's 1908 edition retained the original 1902 copyright. The M.A. Donohue reprint editions, ca. 1914, also used the 1902 copyright.

Thompson & Thomas

(Continued from Page 9)

to take the balance as fast as you could give them to us. If possible, we would also like to make a contract with you to furnish us about one or two stories a year in which we could use your name.

If you will make us favorable terms on the above propositions, we are sure that we can sell as many of these books as anyone in the market.

We would be pleased to hear from you by return mail.

We are sending you to-day by prepaid express, a copy of our edition of the "Hoosier School-Master." We have a contract with the owners of the copyright to publish this book on a royalty for a period of ten years, and our sales during the first year will easily run over 20,000 copies, as we have already sold fully three-fourths of that number, and the first year is not up until September.

Awaiting your reply, we remain

Very truly yours

THOMPSON & THOMAS

The responses from Stratemeyer in the form of carbons of his letters have not yet been discovered. This creates some gaps in the thread, but reasonable inferences can be made from what has been found.

Ever since his unsatisfactory dealings with Dana Estes over the Minute Boys Series in which he was obliged to sell the stories outright, Stratemeyer worked hard to only offer his stories on a royalty contract. Thus, for him to agree to sell one of his stories outright ran contrary to this.

Despite a promise to advertise the book heavily, this did not appear to be done:

June 2, 1902

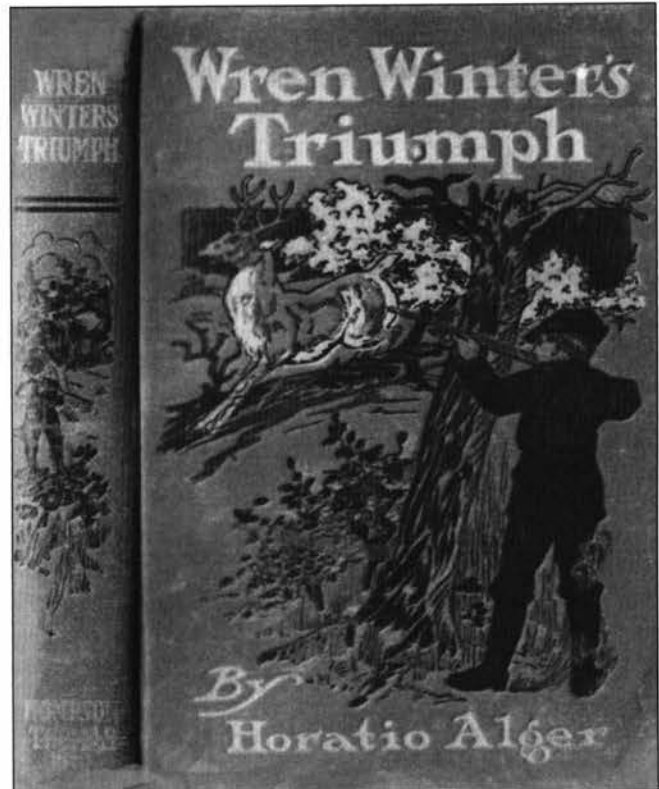
Edward Stratemeyer, Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:—

In reply to your letter will state that we do not feel like making you an offer on the Winfield or Bonehill books. We, however, will state that if you will make us as low a price as you have made others on the stories, for cash, we are sure that we can sell as many of them as any other firm. Kindly let us hear from you in regard to same, also make us a proposition on royalty.

We would like first rate to have you write us a series of books under the Captain Ralph Bonehill nom de plume. We will spend considerable money advertising the first book, as you suggest, and feel confident that you will not be disappointed by our sales.

Kindly wire us as soon as you receive this letter what



***Wren Winter's Triumph* in the 1908 Thompson & Thomas edition. This was the retitled version of *A Rolling Stone*, which was published under that title in the original 1902 T&T listing of five Alger books.**

you will want in cash for the two stories, and follow the same up with a letter telling us the titles, so that in case we accept your proposition, we can have the titles entered in some large mail-order catalogues which will be completed in a short time, so that if we do not get them in now they will not appear for this fall or winter's trade.

Awaiting your reply, we remain

Yours truly,

Thompson & Thomas. {signed}.

Stratemeyer offered four stories, and the publisher selected two of them. One of the others was his "Rival Ocean Divers," a serial written for *Golden Hours* (5 Jan. 1901-3 Feb. 1901) as by "Roy Rockwood":

June 12, 1902

Mr. Edw. Stratemeyer, Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:—

We are in receipt of your proposition on the four stories. If satisfactory to you, we will take the "Young Naval Captain" by Ralph Bonehill, and "Blue Water Rovers" by Victor St. Clair, the former at \$250.00 and the latter at \$100.00. If you care to make us any better

(Continued on Page 12)

THOMPSON & THOMAS, 338 Wabash Ave., Chicago.



A Strong Line of Boys' Books.

The books selected for this series are all thoroughly American, by such favorite American authors of boys' books as Horatio Alger, Oliver Optic, Edward S. Ellis, Capt. Ralph Bonehill, and others, now made for the first time at a reduced price to bring them within the reach of all. Each volume is complete in itself handsomely printed on fine paper from large clear type and profusely illustrated by the most famous artists, making one of the handsomest and most attractive series of books before the public. Bound in fine silk cloth, attractive new original designs, size 5 3/4 x 7 1/4.

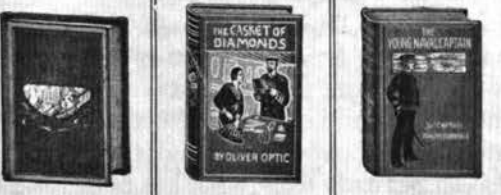
PRICE EACH.....\$1.00

THOMPSON & THOMAS, 338 Wabash Ave., Chicago.



List of Titles.

The Western Boy, or, Tom the Bootblack.....	Horatio Alger, Jr.
Phil, the Fiddler.....	Horatio Alger, Jr.
Slow and Sure.....	Horatio Alger, Jr.
A Rolling Stone.....	Horatio Alger, Jr.
Paul, the Peddler.....	Horatio Alger, Jr.
The Cave in the Mountains.....	Edward S. Ellis
The Red Plume.....	Edward S. Ellis
The Casket of Diamonds.....	Oliver Optic
The Young Flagman.....	Matthew White, Jr.
The Young Naval Captain, or, The War of All Nations.....	Capt. R. Bonehill
Through Jungle and Wilderness.....	Lieut. R. H. Jayne
Through Apache Land.....	Lieut. R. H. Jayne
Blue Water Rovers, or, The Cruise of the Silver Sail.....	Victor St. Claire
The Treasure of South Lake Farm.....	W. Bert Foster
A Royal Smuggler.....	William Dalton
The River of Darkness.....	Wm. Murry Graydon
A Yankee Cruise.....	Allan Eric

These pages are from the Thompson & Thomas catalog included in the 1905 *Publishers' Trade List Annual*. Twelve covers are shown. When the catalog was included in the 1908 *PTLA*, the right-hand page was re-set to show the new titles. The two "Lieut. R. H. Jayne" stories were retitled and used Ellis' own name.

Thompson & Thomas

(Continued from Page 11)

proposition on the other two to take them both, we would consider it, but we feel that unless you care to make some reduction, we will not take them at present.

We would like to add to the Bonehill series and get at least five books. We might be willing to do that also on the Winfield nom de plume, if you see fit to make us a better proposition on the "Rival Ocean Divers."

Kindly ship the two stories at once so that we can get them into type and get out our circular letter in time to get the fall trade. If it is necessary to make any changes in these stories for book publication, please let us know at once how long it will take, and send us any information that is necessary in regard to getting

out advertising matter.

Awaiting your reply, we remain

Yours very truly,

Thompson & Thomas. {signed}.

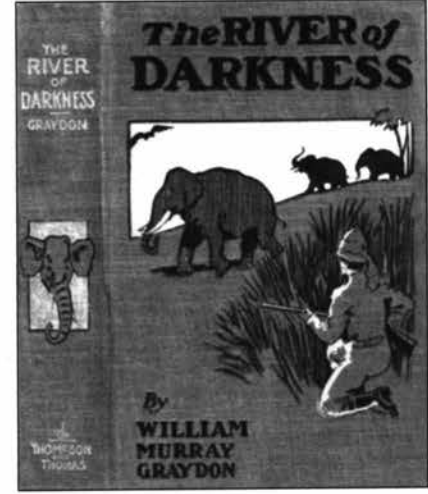
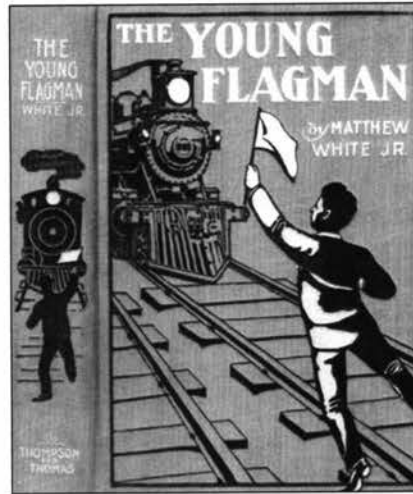
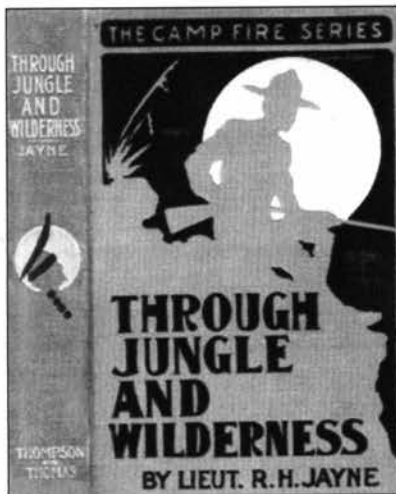
The publishers maintained their interest in having a story they could publish under his own name, since his fame had been rising:

June 28, 1902

Edward Stratemeyer, Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:—

In reply to your letter just received will state that as we have gone to so much expense already on this boys' line, do not feel like buying any more stories unless they are special snaps. However, if you can give us the right to use your own name on the "Rival Ocean Divers" instead of the Winfield nom de plume,



Three of the non-Horatio Alger or Stratemeyer-controlled titles issued by Thompson & Thomas in 1902.

we will accept your proposition. Otherwise, we would not care to use it unless you think you could afford to take \$100.00 for it.

Kindly send the two MSS, "The Young Naval Captain" and "Blue Water Rovers" as soon as possible, so that we can have them set up. We already have the cover stamp of one of them.

In regard to the series of Bonehill books on the lines that you suggest, we believe that they would be winners. Kindly make us your proposition on this series to take one book a year.

Awaiting your reply, we are

Yours truly,
Thompson & Thomas.

As noted here, Stratemeyer and George Waldo Browne (author of the "Victor St. Clair" story "Blue Water Rovers") edited it for book publication:

July 1, 1902

Mr. Edward Stratemeyer, Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:—

In reply to your letter just received will state that we received the MS. of the "Young Naval Captain" yesterday. We are very glad to note that you have re-edited the story and have arranged with Victor St. Clair to go through and revise his story for book publication. We will be very glad to put these stories out in as good style as possible, which, as you say, will help in future stories that we may arrange with you for.

We wrote you a day or two ago in regard to the other stories which you have.

Yours truly,
Thompson & Thomas.

The publisher wanted more details on the copyrights

for the stories they had agreed to publish. They also expressed an intention to add to the line of boys' books:

Aug. 8, 1902

Edw. Stratemeyer, Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:

You will find enclosed an envelope showing that we wrote you some time but the letter was misdirected.

Please let us know on what date the "Young Naval Captain" and "Blue Water Rovers" were copyrighted, so that we can have notice properly printed in our books.

We do not believe that we would care to accept your proposition on the other book now, although we realize the price is very reasonable. If you still have the story next spring, believe we will be glad to use it, as we expect to add a number of new titles about that time. If we would buy the story now it would be too late to get same into the different channels of trade. If you like, we will send you a settlement at once, \$100.00 cash and balance 60 day note.

Yours truly,
Thompson & Thomas.

The legal form of a copyright notice is familiar to readers: Copyright, *year*, by *claimant*.

If this was not followed carefully, the copyright protection could be jeopardized. They wanted enough detail about the prior publication of the stories. They sought details for this.

They gave partial payment for the stories and a promissory note for the balance as promised in the previous letter:

Aug. 15, 1902

Edw. Stratemeyer, Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed our check for \$150.00 and

(Continued on Page 14)

Thompson & Thomas

(Continued from Page 13)

60 day note for \$200.00. Kindly send copyrights of the story. We do not agree with you in regard to copyright notice: will say that your statement that the "Blue Water Rovers" was copyrighted as a serial in "Young People of America" in 1895, and "Young Naval Captain" was copyrighted under the title of "Holland, the Destroyer" in "Golden Hours" in 1900, is hardly sufficient. Please let us know in whose name the copyrights were taken out, as we prefer to have the original copyrights shown.

We would have taken the extra story that you had to offer, but hardly think that stories of the sea would sell as well as other adventure stories. We will want some more titles but would not care to publish any more this year, unless they were something very good at a low price, as it would not be possible to get them out in the time to do much with them this year. What would you take for the Ellis story, and what is it like?

Awaiting your reply, we remain

Yours truly,

Thompson & Thomas.

A couple years later, when Stratemeyer was organizing the book packaging operation he would call the Stratemeyer Syndicate, he offered several stories as the beginnings of proposed series that would be produced under his methods:

Sept. 23, 1905

Thompson & Thomas, Chicago.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

With this I send you an outline of books which you might use to advantage. The syndicate will promise to furnish you something that is "all right" in every particular, — as good as the books now used by Barnes, Dana Estes & Co., Mershon, Stitt, Saalfeld, and others I am not at liberty to mention.

We can furnish these books under the names of "Allen Chapman" or "Roy Rockwood" trade-marks, or under some new name which you could use exclusively so long as you brought out new books from year to year.

Our terms would be 10 per cent on the retail price, with an advance of \$100 of royalties on each book when issued. All books subject to the usual publishers' contract — the one now used by all leading houses.

I shall be in New York Monday or Tuesday and will call on you to talk it over. Perhaps I'll have other

M. A. DONOHUE & COMPANY, CHICAGO 21

Famous Books by Famous Authors

Bound in Cloth, Each Book Has Attractive Cover Design Stamped in Three Colors—Illustrated.



FAMOUS FAVORITE BOOKS FOR BOYS

The most attractive and highest class list of copyrighted books for boys, by authors of established merit, ever published. In this line will be found the works of Foster, Bonehill, Winfield, White, etc. The books are all copyrighted and cannot be found in any other editions. Printed from large clear type on superior quality of paper; profusely illustrated; each and every book has a specially illustrated cover design. Each book has a printed jacket. Bound in a very superior quality of cloth, the title printed in the front and back, in addition to the special illustrated designs.

THE YOUNG SPORTSMAN'S SERIES

By Capt. Ralph Bonehill

Rival Cyclists, or, Fun and Adventures Leo, the Circus Boy, or Life Under the Great White Canvas.
 Young Carlsen of Lake View, or, the Mystery of Hermit Island.

SEA AND LAND SERIES

Four Boys' Books by Favorite Authors

Oscar the Naval Cadet A Royal Smuggler William Dalton
 Capt. Ralph Bonehill A Boy Crusoe Allen Erie
 Blue Water Rovers Victor St. Clare

ADVENTURE AND JUNGLE SERIES

A Large well printed Attractive Edition.

Guy in the Jungle The Boy Railroad Matthew White, Jr.
 Wm. Murray Grayden Treasure of South Lake Farm
 Casket of Diamonds Oliver Optic W. Bert Foster

YOUNG HUNTERS SERIES

By Capt. Ralph Bonehill

Gun and Sled, or the Young Hunters Young Hunters in Porto Rico, or the Search for a Lost Treasure.
 Two Young Crusoes—By C. W. Phillips.
 Through Apache Land, or, Ned in the Mountains—By Lieut. R. H. Tayne

BRIGHT AND BOLD SERIES

By Arthur M. Winfield

Poor but Plucky, or the Mystery of a Flood By Pluck, not Luck, or Dan Granbury's Struggle to Rise.
 School Days of Fred Harley, or Rivals The Missing Tin Box, or Hal Carson's Remarkable City Adventure.

COLLEGE LIBRARY FOR BOYS

By Archdeacon Farrar

Julian Home, or a Tale of College Life St. Winifred's, or the World of School.

This page is from the M. A. Donohue catalog that appeared in the 1914 *Publishers' Trade List Annual*. It was also reprinted in some books as a post-text ad. Eight titles from Thompson & Thomas were grouped in two publisher libraries, "Sea and Land Series" and "Adventure and Jungle Series."

outlines to offer at that time.

Yours truly,

Edward Stratemeyer.

The stories offered will seem familiar. Although not picked up by Thompson & Thomas, most became the first books in new series published by Cupples & Leon. Some of the proposed stories were offered with Browne in mind as the author:

Sept. 30, 1905

Thompson & Thomas, Philadelphia.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

With this I send you the agreement on "The Young

Express Agent," written out in a style similar to all my other agreements. If satisfactory, kindly sign both, and have witnessed, and return to me, and I will have them fixed up and return one to you.

I have given the matter of the other two stories careful consideration, and I do not think I can offer you anything that will sell better than the following:

The Great Marvel Series.

By Roy Rockwood.

"Through the Air to the North Pole; Or, The Strange Voyage of the Rocket."

A mystery story of the Jules Verne style, for boys, to be followed by others, "Under the Sea to the South Pole," etc. Boys like this sort of thing, and if the same characters are used one book will help sell the others. At present the interest in air ships is great.

The Big Game Series.

By Captain Ralph Bonehill.

"Hunting Boys of the Rockies; Or, The Discovery of the Lost Mine."

Telling how several lads went after big game, elk, bears, etc., and of how they found a clue to a valuable lost mine and traced it up. To be followed by "Hunting Boys in Alaska", etc. I know this will be a go if rightly brought out.

The Great Lakes Series.

By Captain Ralph Bonehill.

"The Boys of Old Fort Dearborn; Or, The Indians of the Great Lakes."

Or this:

Rifle and Tomahawk Series.

"The Cabin in the Valley; Or, The Trapper Boys of the Old New York Frontier."

To be followed by a frontier story of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, etc.

Kindly let me hear from you soon regarding these stories, as I do not want to make contracts elsewhere until I know what you need.

Yours truly,
Edward Stratemeyer {signed}.

Nov. 10, 1905

Messrs. Thompson & Thomas, Chicago.

Gentlemen:

I received your letter from Mr. Thomas, stating he would see me when in New York and close up about syndicate books, but so far have not heard from him.

The Syndicate is now closing up contracts with various houses for books for next season, and if you are of a mind to go ahead with the project as outlined to Mr. Thomas, I shall be pleased to hear from you and

get down to details as soon as convenient. We expect to get out only a limited number of books next year and will not be able to furnish more after the contracts for that number are made.

Yours truly,
Edward Stratemeyer {signed}.

Dec. 28, 1905

Messrs. Thompson & Thomas, Chicago.

Gentlemen:

Not having heard from you regarding the Syndicate books I am writing to learn if you wish to go into the matter at all during the coming year. We are closing up all contracts fast. At present we can furnish only Bonehill, Chapman, Rockwood and Marline, also St. Clair, and possibly an Alger and an Ellis.

The story of "The Young Express Agent" has been used elsewhere, you having failed to make a contract as was agreed. We still have some good ideas if you wish them. We intend to push these Syndicate books very hard during the coming year.

Yours truly,
Edward Stratemeyer {signed}.

Jan. 3, 1906

Ed. Stratemeyer, Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of Dec. 28th, will state that we certainly owe you an apology. I expected as much as anything to have you write one or more books for us this year, and if I could have seen you the last time I was in New York, we would have closed up the deal.

There was one or two things in the contract, that hardly suited me, and I could not make up my mind as to what title to use.

I will be in New York in a few weeks and will let you know when I am there, so we can fix up a deal for next Fall. In the meantime you might write us and let us know what ideas you would suggest. It seems to us that something on the order of a business book might be best.

Yours truly,
Thompson & Thomas {initials}.

Stratemeyer had a long relationship with Cupples & Leon beginning in 1905, the same year he stopped communicating with Thompson & Thomas.

Considering the timing of this publisher library, negotiations for the Alger titles would have been made with his sister and literary executor, Olive Augusta Cheney.

Stratemeyer negotiated with Matthew White, Jr. for
(Continued on Page 16)

Thompson & Thomas

(Continued from Page 15)

the book rights for several titles in what became the Enterprise Books for Chatterton-Peck in 1907. These included works by W. Bert Foster (*Quest of the Silver Swan*), William Murray Graydon (*Canoe Boys and Campfires*), and one of Matthew White's **Golden Argosy** stories (*Two Boys and a Fortune*). These stories were edited for book publication. In the same fashion, Thompson & Thomas may have obtained the Foster, Graydon, and White stories from White. Since the "Optic" story was also published in **The Golden Argosy**, he was also likely the source for it.

Rights for *A Yankee Crusoe* may have been negotiated from Boston publisher Henry A. Dickerman or with the author. The copyright notice for this book mentions the prior publication and the book plates and cover dies were reused, so the publisher is the most likely source. Some copies with Thompson & Thomas on the bottom of the spine use Dickerman pages and title page. Obtaining the printing plant (page plates, cover dies, etc.) could only be done by working with the publisher.

It is not so clear from whom Thompson & Thomas secured rights for *A Royal Smuggler*. The copyright message for this volume is a little different:

Copyrighted 1902

By THOMPSON & THOMAS

Perhaps the publisher found the 1863 story from a British source. Since it was before the international copyright agreements, there was no U.S. copyright. The 1902 version did not use the same typesetting as the 1863 publication.

Thompson & Thomas underwent changes after these letters to Stratemeyer and following the publication of these books. The partnership was dissolved in June 1909 as noted in **Publishers' Weekly**. Although not stated, it is likely that Thompson had to buy out the interest held by Thomas.

The new firm was called Charles C. Thompson Company and remained in business until he died of pneumonia on January 27, 1914 at the age of 44. As noted in one of his obituaries, he was born in Albion, Wisconsin, on October 9, 1867, about five years after Stratemeyer was born. He first moved to Rutland, Illinois, where he was a bookseller. He moved to Chicago in 1897 when the partnership was formed.

His obituary in **The Chicago Tribune** focused more on the challenges to his business. In 1910, a petition for a receiver was prepared when he owed some \$88,000. Thompson persuaded his creditors to stand by him and he managed to repay all of his notes as they came due,

including arrangements for the last note of \$8,500 to be paid in April when the note was due. It also included a eulogy from an unnamed fellow publisher:

"Charles Thompson was as true a man as I ever knew. His uphill fight was an inspiration. He never wavered in his determination to rehabilitate his credit, hampered through a series of unfortunate circumstances rather than lack of business judgment."

Publishers' Weekly (Feb. 7, 1914) emphasized the authors they handled:

... gained fame as the producer of five humorous works written by former Gov. George W. Peck of Wisconsin, of which one, "Peck's Bad Boy," ran into numberless editions. He also published books for Opie Read and Forrest Crisley.

The association with the Peck's Bad Boy books caused Thompson and the publisher to be noted by Cary Sternick (PF-933) on his web pages. The common surname and only initials for the partner made him more difficult to trace.

After leaving the publishing firm, Clinton Eugene Thomas became a real estate promoter, first for Oregon land where he was listed in an ad as "President of the American Land and Livestock Company, formerly member of the well-known publishing house of Thompson & Thomas. Mr. Thomas stands well in business and social life in Chicago. Any bank or Dun's and Bradstreet's can furnish you with an A1 reference as to his commercial worth." (**Omaha World Herald**, Sept. 12, 1909).

Of course the ad only gave his initials, so that might have impeded any invited inquiry into his credit rating.

He may have visited Oregon but he didn't live there, apparently. In the 1910 census, gathered on April 26, he was listed in Chicago as a real estate agent. By July 8, 1911 he was the president and treasurer of the Tampa Land Company in Florida. He stayed in Florida for the rest of his life, running the C. E. Thomas Nursery. Through it he was credited with bringing avocado agriculture to Tampa. He had also experimented with citrus like grapefruit, oranges, and lemons and developing the varieties best suited for the climate and soil of the area.

Thomas died on Sept. 20, 1925 at the age of 56 after an eight-month illness which forced him into retirement. The person who provided information to the **Tampa Morning Tribune** for his obituary called the firm the "Thomas-Thompson Publishing Company of Chicago," and further claimed that he "spent many years as its head." The obituary also emphasized:

"Several present-day writers were given their initial introduction before the reading public by Mr. Thomas."