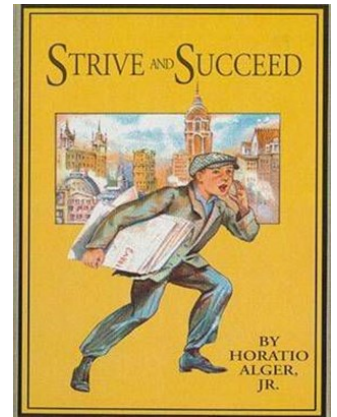




THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY

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



Volume LXII

July-August 2024

Number 4

In This Issue . . .

- More Convention News, Including Photographs, Auction Results, and Directors' Meeting Report
- *The American Union*, by Peter Walther
- Book-Reading Experiences, by Michael Dirda



At the convention banquet are, clockwise from left: Keith Thompson, Lisa Chase, Scott Chase, Liane Houghtalin, Debby Jones, and Nathan Thompson. (Photograph by Carol Nackenoff)

President's Column

I write with the news that Bill Gowen, who has been our outstanding *Newsboy* editor for more than thirty years, has had to relinquish his position. He is battling cancer and will not be able to return to his longtime home in Lake Zurich, Illinois. Fortunately, he has good friends who have been helping out in various ways. Bill hopes (and we hope) that he will be able to leave the rehab facility where he has lately resided, and relocate to assisted living.

Jack Bales, Reference and Humanities Librarian Emeritus at the University of Mary Washington and a former *Newsboy* editor (1974-1986) has agreed to take over as *Newsboy* editor. He will continue to experiment with the formatting of our publication over the next few issues, but he has done a fine job with his first issue, when he was temporary editor. While we will need to revisit the Vice Presidency in light of Jack's new responsibilities, we think the role of editor is one it takes a very special person to fill, and I for one am delighted Jack was interested in assuming this role.

I just completed a short research trip to Yale University, where my very able Swarthmore student research assistant and I spent a couple of days in the Divinity School Special Collections reading room. We were going through material pertaining to the Presbyterian Mission Home in San Francisco that was so active in rescuing young Chinese females from household enslavement and/or prostitution in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Run by amazing women, the Mission Home forged relationships with the juvenile court, immigration officials, police, and judges, often gaining custody of their young charges, educating them, and preparing them for marriage to Chinese men who were lawfully within the country during an era of increasingly harsh anti-Asian immigration laws. This is for a chapter in my book project on organized Progressive Era women and their interactions with the state.

After library hours one day, we walked around the main campus at Yale and, at the request of my research assistant, took a look in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library (where I had done some archival research some years ago). While I am not

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HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. (1832-1899) and to encourage the spirit of Strive and Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes. Our members conduct research and provide scholarship on the life of Alger, his works, and his 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 the Horatio Alger Society, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176.

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography. For additional information on the Horatio Alger Society, including a biography of Alger and details on his works, see the Society's website at <https://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 approximately 3-1/2 inches wide), \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to "Horatio Alger Society," to *Newsboy* Editor Jack Bales at 422 Greenbrier Ct., Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5517. His email address is jbales@umw.edu.

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 members for the sale only of such material. Send free "Alger for sale" ads to the editor at the above address.

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Annual Fund-Raising Auction Summary

Donation from Deidre Johnson (PF-596)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
Rick Brant: 100 Fathoms Under by John Blaine w/DJ	Dirda, Michael	\$4.00
Rick Brant: Sea Gold by John Blaine w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$3.00
Rick Brant: Smugglers Reef by John Blaine w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$12.00
Ken Holt: The Riddle of the Stone Elephant by Bruce Campbell w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$5.00
Ken Holt: The Secret of Skeleton Island by Bruce Campbell w/DJ	Dirda, Michael	\$10.00
Beverly Cleary. Ramona's World. Signed copy. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$30.00
Canfield Cook. Secret Mission. "A Lucky Terrell Flying Story." w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$15.00
Walter Farley. The Black Stallion Mystery. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Fitzhugh, Percy Keese. Westy Martin in the Yellowstone. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Zane Grey. The Redheaded Outfield. w/DJ	Dirda, Michael	\$2.00
Harold Sherman. Fight 'Em Big Three. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Harold Sherman. Goal to Go. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Harold Sherman. Number 44. w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$2.00
Mildred Wirt. Dan Carter, Cub Scout. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00

Donation lots sold: 14. Total bids: \$99.00

Donation from Jack Bales (PF-258)

Alger, Horatio. Ned Newton. H. M. Caldwell.	Kasper, Robert	\$20.00
Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd, Caveman. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd, Caveman. w/DJ (2nd copy)	Kasper, Robert	\$10.00
Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd and the Waltzing Hen. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd and the Waltzing Hen. w/DJ (2nd copy)	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd and the Oak Island Treasure. Signed copy. w/DJ	Chase, Scott	\$25.00
Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd and the Oak Island Treasure. w/DJ (2nd copy)	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd and the Oak Island Treasure. w/DJ (3rd copy)	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd and the Buffalo Bill Bath Tub. w/DJ	Booth, Terry	\$5.00
Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd and the Purring Egg. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Winfield, Arthur M. The Putnam Hall Rivals. "Putnam Hall Series"	Hoffman, Richard	\$2.00
Edwards, Leo. Jerry Todd and the Oak Island Treasure. w/DJ (4th copy)	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Horatio Alger: Slow and Sure JCW Library Edition w/Oval Pastedown	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Horatio Alger: Facing the World ALB Hunter Format	Jones, Debby	\$6.00
Horatio Alger: Jed, the Poorhouse Boy JCW Standing Boy	Dirda, Michael	\$2.00
Horatio Alger: Shifting For Himself P&C Lion Format	Bales, Jack	\$3.00
Horatio Alger: Risen From the Ranks P&C Flying Wheel	Dirda, Michael	\$7.00

Donation lots sold: 17. Total bids: \$117.00

Donation from David Vaughan (PF-831)

Flying Adventurers Juvenile Aviation Series Books in America, 1909 - 1964 by David K. Vaughan	Sipes, Bob	\$35.00
Flying Adventurers Juvenile Aviation Series Books in America, 1909 - 1964 by David K. Vaughan	Chase, Scott	\$35.00
Flying Adventurers Juvenile Aviation Series Books in America, 1909 - 1964 by David K. Vaughan	Looney, Jeff	\$35.00

Donation lots sold: 3. Total bids: \$105.00

Donation from Michael Nabholz (PF-1146)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
Appleton, Victor Tom Swift and His Aquatomic Tracker G&D Pictorial cover	Jones, Debby	\$2.00
Atwater, Montgomery. The Ski Lodge Mystery. Random House. w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$18.00
Atwater, Montgomery. Snow Rangers of the Andes. Random House. w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$15.00
Barbour, Ralph Henry. Four Afoot. D. Appleton	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Barbour, Ralph Henry. Four in Camp. D. Appleton	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Blank, Clair. Beverly Gray at the World's Fair. ALB w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$40.00
Burtis, Thomson. Rex Lee, Ace of the Air Mail. G&D	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Carter, Russell Gordon Red Gilbert's Floating Menagerie Penn Publishing. w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$35.00
Carter, Russell Gordon. Red Gilbert's Flying Circus. Penn Publishing	Looney, Jeff	\$10.00
Chaffee, Allen. Adventures on the High Trail. Milton Bradley Co.	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Clifton, Oliver Lee. The Camp Fire Boys at Log Cabin Bend. G&D	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Clifton, Oliver Lee. Camp Fire Boys' Tracking Squad. Barse and Hopkins	Looney, Jeff	\$2.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Clue of the Broken Blade. G&D. Yellow spine DJ	Jones, Debby	\$12.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Disappearing Floor. G&D. Yellow spine DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$15.00
Dixon, Franklin W. A Figure in Hiding. G&D. Yellow spine DJ	Jones, Debby	\$12.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Flickering Torch Mystery. G&D. Yellow spine DJ	Jones, Debby	\$7.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Hidden Harbor Mystery. G&D. Yellow spine DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$15.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Melted Coins. G&D. Yellow spine DJ	Jones, Debby	\$5.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Mystery of the Aztec Warrior. G&D. Pictorial cover	Jones, Debby	\$2.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Mystery of the Flying Express. G&D. Yellow spine DJ	Jones, Debby	\$10.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Secret Warning. G&D. Yellow spine DJ	Jones, Debby	\$22.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Sinister Sign Post. G&D. Yellow spine DJ	Jones, Debby	\$10.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Twisted Claw. G&D. Yellow spine DJ	Jones, Debby	\$12.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Twisted Claw. G&D. Pictorial cover	Jones, Debby	\$2.00
Hanes, De Witt. The Big Opportunity. ALB	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Holland, Rupert Sargeant The Boy Scouts of Birch Bark Island JBLippincott w/DJ	Booth, Terry	\$10.00
Leddy, Cave. Arizona Luck. ALB	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Leddy, Cave. The Canyon King. ALB	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Leddy, Cave. The Grizzly Trail. ALB w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Leddy, Cave. The Lost Heard. ALB w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Leddy, Cave. River Gold. ALB	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Leddy, Cave. The Spy in the Caboose. C&L	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
McIntyre, John T. Ashton-Kirk, Special Detective. Penn Publishing. w/pastedown	Kasper, Robert	\$17.00
Rathborne, St. George. The Rival Canoe Boys. David McKay	Kasper, Robert	\$15.00
Rathborne, St. George. Shifting Winds. David McKay	Kasper, Robert	\$20.00
Rathborne, St. George. The Young Fur Takers. M. A. Donohue	Looney, Jeff	\$4.00
Shirreffs, Gordon D. The Haunted Treasure of the Espectros. Chilton Ex-lib	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Shirreffs, Gordon D. Mystery of Lost Canyon. Chilton Ex-lib w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Shirreffs, Gordon D. The Mystery of the Lost Cliff Dwelling. Prentice Hall. Ex-lib w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$9.00
Wyckoff, Capwell. The Sea Runners' Cache. ALB w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$7.00
Shirreffs, Gordon D. The Manhunter. Fawcett World Library. Signed copy	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Shirreffs, Gordon D. The Secret of the Spanish Desert. Chilton Ex-lib	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Wyckoff, Capwell. The Search for the City of Ghosts. ALB w/DJ	Booth, Terry	\$12.00
Wyman, L. P. The Battalion Captain. ALB	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Wyman, L. P. Blind Man's Inlet. ALB	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Wyman, L. P. The Haunted House Mystery. ALB	Jones, Debby	\$4.00
Wyman, L. P. The Mystery of Eagle Lake. ALB	Jones, Debby	\$2.00

Donation lots sold: 47. Total bids: \$385.00

Donation from Bill Gowen (PF-706)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
H. Alger – Dean Dunham, S&S Medal Library No. 50 – VG	Sipes, Bob	\$4.00
H. Alger– The Young Acrobat, S&S Medal Library No. 42 – VG	Chase, Scott	\$22.00
H. Alger– Joe's Luck, S&S Alger Series, No. 14 – VG	Kasper, Robert	\$5.00
H. Alger– Tony the Tramp, S&S Alger Series, No. 5 – VG	Kasper, Robert	\$5.00
E. Stratemeyer– Shorthand Tom, S&S Alger Series, No. 106 – Fair/Good	Dirda, Michael	\$10.00
E. Stratemeyer -- Larry, the Wanderer, S&S Alger Series, No. 109 -- VG	Kasper, Robert	\$7.00
E. Stratemeyer – The Young Lumbermen, S&S Alger Series, No. 111 — VG	Kasper, Robert	\$10.00
E. Stratemeyer – The Young Bandmaster, S&S Alger Series, No. 119 — VG	Kasper, Robert	\$10.00
E. Stratemeyer – The Young Auctioneer, S&S Alger Series, No. 104 — VG	Jones, Debby	\$12.00
Lt. Lounsberry — Lt. Carey's Luck. S&S Medal Library.No. 4, missing back cover , G+	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Victor Appleton – The Movie Boys Under Fire, Garden City PB – VG	Looney, Jeff	\$6.00
Victor Appleton – The Movie Boys in Earthquake Land, Garden City PB – VG	Dirda, Michael	\$7.00
Victor Appleton – Tom Swift in the Land of Wonders, G&D in VG DJ	Kasper, Robert	\$15.00
Victor Appleton – Tom Swift and his Sky Racer, G&D in G DJ (spine chip)	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Victor Appleton – Tom Swift and his Motor Cycle, G&D in VG DJ	Kasper, Robert	\$10.00
Victor Appleton – T. Swift and his Motor Cycle (2nd copy), G&D in VG DJ (spine fade)	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Victor Appleton – Tom Swift and his Air Ship, G&D in VG DJ	Dirda, Michael	\$8.00
Victor Appleton – Tom Swift and his Air Scout, G&D in VG DJ (spine fade)	Sipes, Bob	\$31.00
Leo Edwards – Jerry Todd and the Bob-Tailed Elephant, G&D in VG- DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Leo Edwards – Trigger Berg and the Treasure Tree, G&D (no DJ), very scarce, VG	Sipes, Bob	\$4.00
Leo Edwards – Trigger Berg and the Sacred Pig, G&D (no DJ), very scarce, VG-	Sipes, Bob	\$3.00
Leo Edwards – Jerry Todd's Poodle Parlor, G&D in VG DJ, scarce late title	Looney, Jeff	\$15.00
Leo Edwards – Jerry Todd's Cuckoo Camp, G&D in VG DJ, scarce late title	Looney, Jeff	\$50.00
Canfield Cook – The Flying Jet (Lucky Terrell Series), G&D in VG DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$5.00
Victor St. Clair – Blue Water Rovers, Thompson & Thomas, 1st ed. VG-	Jones, Debby	\$6.00
Hollis Godfrey – Jack Cullerton's Engine, Little, Brown, very scarce, VG	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Harry Castlemon- -- Frank Before Vicksburg, J.C. Winston (1890s reprint), G+	Dirda, Michael	\$5.00
James Willard Schultz --The Quest of the Fish-dog Skin (Native Amer) H-Miffli., VG	Sipes, Bob	\$22.00
Margaret Sutton -- Judy Bolton Series – Box lot of 12 titles, all mid-1930s thick eds with excellent white-spine DJs, pub. 1932-1939.	Jones, Debby	\$200.00

Donation lots sold: 29. Total bids: \$494.00***Donation from Carol Nackenoff (PF-706)***

Horatio Alger: Ben's Nugget (2 copies) HTC Sports format	Jones, Debby	\$2.00
Salted Caramel Sauce by Robert Smythe (Carol's Neighbor)	Kasper, Robert	\$7.00

Donation lots sold: 2. Total bids: \$9.00***Consignment from Keith Thompson (PF-035)***

Horatio Alger: Digging For Gold, P&C, 1st edition	Chase, Scott	\$8.00
The Flag of Our Union 1854 Bound volume	Kasper, Robert	\$300.00

Consignment lots sold: 2. Total bids: \$308.00. H.A.S. commission: \$61.60

Donation from Terry Booth (PF-1150)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
Young Folks Favorite Authors Game No. 1120 c1897	Looney, Jeff	\$60.00
Rex Lee's Mysterious Flight by Thomson Burtis G&D w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$15.00
Tom Swift and His Motor Cycle G&D w/DJ duotone	Sipes, Bob	\$20.00
Tom Swift and his Electric Rifle G&D w/DJ color	Sipes, Bob	\$31.00
Tom Swift and his Undersea Search G&D w/DJ duotone	Sipes, Bob	\$36.00
Rex Lee Rough Rider of the Air by Thomson Burtis G&D w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$15.00
Wings of Adventure by Eustace Adams G&D w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$12.00
The Flying Windmill by Eustace Adams G&D w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$12.00
On the Wings of Flame by Eustace Adams G&D w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$15.00
The Mysterious Monoplane by Eustace Adams G&D w/DJ	Looney, Jeff	\$12.00
Don Sturdy and the Harpoon Hunters G&D w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$35.00
Tom Swift and his Photo Telephone G&D w/DJ duotone	Looney, Jeff	\$25.00
Tom Swift Among The Firefighters G&D w/DJ	Kasper, Robert	\$20.00
Tom Swift and his Air Scout G&D w/DJ duotone	Sipes, Bob	\$10.00
Tom Swift Among The Firefighters G&D w/DJ duotone	Sipes, Bob	\$10.00
Tom Swift and his Electric Runabout G&D w/DJ duotone	Sipes, Bob	\$20.00
James Craig: The Desert Patrol Reilly & Lee	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
James Craig: On The Yukon Trail Reilly & Lee	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
James Craig: Curlie Carson Listens In Reilly & Lee	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00

Donation lots sold: 19. Total bids: \$363.00

Donation from Jeff Looney (PF-1150)

Barbour, Ralph Henry. Under the Yankee Ensign. D. Appleton Company	Sipes, Bob	\$4.00
Beach, Edward L. An Annapolis Second Classman. Penn Publishing Company	Sipes, Bob	\$17.00
Beach, Edward L. Ralph Osborn, Midshipman at Annapolis. W. A. Wilde Company	Sipes, Bob	\$7.00
Dawson, Elmer A. Buck's Winning Hit. (Buck and Larry Baseball Stories.) Grosset and Dunlap	Bales, Jack	\$2.00
Dixon, Franklin W. The Search for the Lost Flyers (Ted Scott Flying Stories.) Grosset and Dunlap. w/DJ	Booth, Terry	\$8.00
Hancock, Irving. The Square Dollar Boys Smash the Ring. Henry Altemus Company	Sipes, Bob	\$3.00
Heyliger, William. Bill Darrow's Victory. Grosset and Dunlap	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Heyliger, William. Jerry Hicks and His Gang. Grosset and Dunlap	Sipes, Bob	\$3.00
Heyliger, William. Jerry Hicks Explorer. Grosset and Dunlap	Jones, Debby	\$2.00
Heyliger, William. Jerry Hicks Ghost Hunter. Grosset and Dunlap	Dirda, Michael	\$4.00
Heyliger, William. Ritchie of The News. D. Appleton-Century Company	Sipes, Bob	\$31.00
Morgan, Helen. Blue Mauritius: The Hunt for the World's Most Valuable Stamps. Atlantic Books	Dirda, Michael	\$2.00

Donation lots sold: 12. Total bids: \$85.00

Donation from Art Young (PF-941)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
Alger, Horatio. Six Alger books in the Ragged Dick Series, produced by the Horatio Alger Association, in slipcase. Very good condition.	Jones, Debby	\$80.00
Alger, Horatio. Student & Schoolmate. Bound 1867 volume containing Ragged Dick.	Jones, Debby	\$120.00
Alger, Horatio. Ragged Dick. Special edition published by the Easton Press	Chase, Scott	\$25.00
Alger, Horatio. 3 Alger miniatures, including Robert Lawson, Annie Graham, and The Young Patriots. Red binding	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Basbanes, Nicholas A. A Splendor of Letters: The Permanence of Books in an Impermanent World. Inscribed to Art Young. w/DJ	Chase, Scott	\$20.00
Collins, Max Allan, and James L. Traylor. Spillane: King of Pulp Fiction.	Looney, Jeff	\$15.00
Costigliola, Frank. Kennan: A Life Between Worlds. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Downs, Robert B. Books That Changed the World. 2nd ed. Inscribed to Art Young.	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Ellman, James. MacArthur Reconsidered. Gen. Douglas MacArthur as a Wartime Commander	Sipes, Bob	\$2.00
Guelzo, Allen C. Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President. w/DJ	Hoffman, Richard	\$8.00
Grannis, Anna J. A Christmas Snowflake. w/DJ	Chase, Scott	\$22.00
Jurdem, Laurence. The Rough Rider and the Professor. w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Mayes, Herbert R. Alger: A Biography without a Hero. With dust jacket. Very good	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Stevenson, Robert Louis. Kidnapped & Treasure Island. Illustrated by N. C. Wyeth	Kasper, Robert	\$20.00
Tolkien, J. R. R. The Hobbit. Seventy-fifth anniversary edition, w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$22.00
Tolkien, J. R. R. The Lord of the Rings, "illustrated by the author," shrink-wrapped	Sipes, Bob	\$10.00
Horatio Alger: Ben Logan's Triumph G&D	Kasper, Robert	\$15.00
Miniature book: The Joy of Collecting Children's Books by Alla Ford	Chase, Scott	\$35.00
Miniature book: A Midas of the Street by Alma Woodward	Chase, Scott	\$28.00
Alger, Horatio. Dean Dunham, Medal Library No. 50. S&S	Kasper, Robert	\$10.00
Miniature book: The Story of the Horatio Alger Commemorative Postage Stamp	Jones, Debby	\$25.00
Alger, Horatio. 3 Alger miniatures, including Robert Lawson, Annie Graham, and The	Nackenoff, Carol	\$12.00
Alger, Horatio. 3 Alger miniatures, including Robert Lawson, Annie Graham, and The Young Patriots. Green binding	Booth, Terry	\$9.00
Alger, Horatio. 3 Alger miniatures, including Robert Lawson, Annie Graham, and The Young Patriots. Brown binding	Looney, Jeff	\$8.00

Donation lots sold: 24. Total bids: \$508.00

Donation from Bob Huber (PF-941)

Alger, Horatio. Ben Logan's Triumph. S&S, no. 96.	Kasper, Robert	\$7.00
Alger, Horatio. Bernard Brooks' Adventures. ALB (Green, tulip format.) 1st ed.	Nackenoff, Carol	\$5.00
Alger, Horatio. Both Sides of the Continent. S&S paperback, no. 20.	Kasper, Robert	\$5.00
Alger, Horatio. Making His Mark. Polyglot Press. Paperback	Jones, Debby	\$2.00
Alger, Horatio. Phil the Fiddler. Nautilus facsimile first edition, ex-library.	Dirda, Michael	\$2.00
Alger, Horatio. Strive and Succeed. ALB (Capped head format, horse.) w/DJ	Chase, Scott	\$90.00
Alger, Horatio. Timothy Crump's Ward. Polyglot Press. Paperback	Jones, Debby	\$2.00
Alger, Horatio. Tom Brace. S&S, Medal Library, No. 122.	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00
Chase, Bradford S. Thomas D. Hurst and His Publication of Horatio Alger Books, w/DJ	Sipes, Bob	\$5.00

Donation lots sold: 9. Total bids: \$123.00

Consignment from Rob Kasper (PF-327)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
Denison, Mary A. Barbara's Triumphs. Munsey's Popular Series No. 4, Frank A. Munsey, Publisher, 1887, first edition in wraps, missing rear cover, otherwise intact.	Sipes, Bob	\$11.00
The American Educational Readers, Fifth Reader (New York: Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor and Co., 1873), contains Alger's "Carving a Name" on page 75.	Jones, Debby	\$2.00
Life's Select Readings (1893; John W. Iliff & Co.), contains Alger's "Carving a Name" on page 314.	Jones, Debby	\$2.00
Swinton's Fourth Reader (New York: Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor and Co., 1883), contains Alger's "Carving a Name" on page 246.	Jones, Debby	\$4.00
Alger, Horatio. The Young Adventurer, Loring, 1st edition	Sipes, Bob	\$25.00
Alger, Horatio. From Farm Boy to Senator, Ogilvie 1st edition, Green	Jones, Debby	\$17.00
Alger, Horatio. The \$500 Check, United States Book Company, 1st edition HC	Looney, Jeff	\$55.00
Alger, Horatio. Struggling Upward, P&C, 1st edition	Sipes, Bob	\$12.00
Alger, Horatio. Frank Hunter's Peril, HTC, 1st edition	Dirda, Michael	\$2.00
Alger, Horatio. Slow and Sure. Loring, later issue, green cloth	Nackenoff, Carol	\$12.00
Alger, Horatio. Dean Dunham (Street and Smith HC)	Sipes, Bob	\$20.00

Consignment lots sold: 11. Total bids: \$162.00. H.A.S. commission: \$32.40

2024 Auction Summary

Donation auction total (all proceeds to H.A.S.)	\$2,288.00
Total bids, consignment auction	\$470.00
H.A.S. commission, consignment auction	\$94.00
Total bids, all auctions	\$2,758.00
H.A.S. proceeds, all auctions	\$2382.00



A highlight of each of the four Fredericksburg conventions has been Liane Houghtalin's drawing for attendees to win a gift basket of "made in Virginia" items. Nathan Thompson (PF-1162) was the lucky winner at the May event, and here he holds the basket while Liane (PF-699) provides some history of the drawing. Interestingly enough, Nathan's wife, Melissa Givey, won the basket the first year. (Photograph by Carol Nackenoff)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Dime Novels and Juvenile Series Books area is accepting proposals for presentations at the next Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association annual conference, to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from April 15-18, 2025. Submissions typically open in September and close in December. See <https://pcaaca.org> for more information about the conference.

The area has two distinct but related areas of interest: juvenile series books of all types and eras, including 20th-century publications like those of the Stratemeyer Syndicate and its imitators (Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Tom Swift, etc.), as well as more recent and ongoing series (Harry Potter, Twilight, Choose Your Own Adventure, etc.); and the series books' precursors: early popular publications for mass audiences of all ages (dime novels, nickel weeklies, story papers, etc.) Papers addressing either or both of these areas will be considered.

Papers may cover (but are not limited to) any aspect of the following topics: authors, publishers, major characters, themes, readership, bibliography or research methods, social commentary, early or noteworthy genre forms, print culture, special collections, and representation of gender, race, class, etc.

Participants do not need to be academics or professional writers; undergraduate submissions are welcome but require sponsorship by a faculty advisor, as per PCA policy.

All participants are requested to submit a 250-word abstract with title. First-time participants with this division are encouraged to submit a 1-2 page proposal, including a bibliography, along with the abstract. Email communication is welcomed from potential members desiring feedback on a proposal topic prior to making a formal submission. Early submission is strongly encouraged.

Please send all inquiries to:

Matthew Short
Northern Illinois University
mshort@niu.edu

Emily Hamilton-Honey
SUNY Canton
hamiltone@canton.edu

Editor's Notebook

This is my second issue of *Newsboy*, and as I mentioned before, it's all been a work in progress. There are a few details that need ironing out, but by the September-October issue I should be getting the hang of everything. Editor Emeritus Bill Gowen (PF-706) and I talked a few weeks ago, and he gave me some excellent advice, which I appreciate a great deal.

H.A.S. member James Keeline (PF-898) has sent me some material that has been very helpful. I am grateful for his timely assistance.

In the May-June *Newsboy*, I mentioned that David Kirk Vaughan (PF-831) received the Newsboy Award for his fine *Flying Adventurers: Juvenile Aviation Series Books in America, 1909-1964* (McFarland, 2023). Scott Chase (PF-1106), however, received the award (see page 15), and I apologize for this mistake.

Back when I edited *Newsboy* in the 1970s and 1980s, I enjoyed including news from H.A.S. members or "letters to the editor." I have always felt that members enjoy hearing what others are collecting, reading, or even just how they are spending their time. Feel free to email me at jbales@umw.edu.

I recently heard from Deidre Johnson, (PF-596), who wrote that "I'm so sorry to hear Bill Gowen is having health problems. He's been a phenomenal editor (and researcher) for years. Thank you for taking on the challenge while he's incapacitated." She added she is working on an article on "Florence Revere Pendar, who wrote short stories with child protagonists for some unusual outlets, such as *Baldwin's Monthly*, which was put out by a New York clothing store but carried fiction for children (along with ads for its merchandise)."

I have corresponded with Bart Nyberg (PF-879) for a long time, and he writes: "I have been after the first format for the first three 'Air Combat' books by Thomson Burtis for many years, and I recently found the one I still lacked, *Four Aces*. So there is another long-time want removed from the want list."

Saturday's program at the convention featured a lengthy discussion of the dime novel and story paper digitization projects of Villanova University (Villanova, Pennsylvania) and Northern Illinois Uni-

(Continued on page 19, second column)

Membership	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Individual	82	80	79	85	85	91	94	101	104	112
Sustaining	15	15	13	16	13	11	13	15	11	11
Life*	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	7
Honorary	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
Institutions	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10
Total	103	101	100	106	107	113	116	123	124	134

Horatio Alger Society Board of Directors' Meeting Fredericksburg, Virginia—May 2, 2024

In Attendance:	Debby Jones, Director
Carol Nackenoff, President	Keith Thompson, Director
Richard Hoffman, Vice-President	James Keeline, Director*
Robert Sipes, Executive Director	NIU Attendance:
William R. Gowen, Editor	Matthew Short, Asst. Prof.*
Robert Kasper, Treasurer	Gwen Gregory, Assoc. Dean*
Jack Bales, Director, Host	Beth McGowan, Librarian*
Scott Chase, Director	Absent:
Liane Houghtalin, Director	Bob Huber, Webmaster

*Attended via digital presence

Carol Nackenoff, President, called the meeting to order at 1430 and turned it over to the virtual attendees from Northern Illinois University to discuss their proposal for the 2025 H.A.S. convention.

Matthew Short opened with a presentation describing the facilities, schedule, costs, and ideas for presentations and meals. The facilities aligned with past NIU conventions, and the scheduling and costs aligned with recent conventions. A 2025 convention committee consisting of Jack Bales, Bill Gowen, Carol Nackenoff, Bob Petitto, and Bob Sipes was created to work with Matt Short in support of the convention.

During the business meeting Friday morning, the H.A.S. Membership approved NIU as the location for the 2025 H.A.S. convention.

Robert Kasper presented the annual financial report. Gross income for the previous 12 months was \$12,979.90 and expenses were \$7,512.63 resulting in a net income of \$5,467.27 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2024. This is a substantial increase from the previous year and is due to a consulting fee of \$5,000.00 from the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. (H.A.A.). If we remove the one-time fee from the H.A.A., the H.A.S. still had positive income of \$467.27 primarily due to

an increase in auction income from the 2023 convention. A variance report showed that the *Newsboy* costs were consistent with the previous year, the auction income increased, and administrative costs increased mostly due to website hosting fees. Consignment and donation auction items are of considerable importance and are greatly appreciated by the H.A.S. There were no convention expenses as Jack Bales covered any deficiency. Financial assets as of 30 April 2024 equal \$29,154.12.

While our year-over-year net income has remained relatively stable (not considering special income), we need to promote our annual convention and auction to ensure our convention breaks even and the auction proceeds result in gains rather than losses. In support of this we must concentrate on increasing membership, promoting the Sustaining membership option, and continuing to solicit high-quality auction material for future conventions.

The regular *Strive & Succeed* fund income for the previous 12 months totaled \$1,141.69. This is a slight increase over the previous year; however, due to the additional income from the H.A.A., the stipend for 2024 was increased on a one-time basis to \$2,000. It was noted that there were no separate *Strive & Succeed* donations made online; however, a couple of online dues renewals contained *Strive & Succeed* donations.

Robert Sipes, Executive Director, reported total membership at 103. This includes 82 individual members, 15 of which are Sustaining members, 8 Life, 4 Honorary, and 9 Libraries. There were 6 new members and 4 drops during the previous 12 months for a net gain of 2 members. As greater than 75% of our membership are seniors, membership growth is necessary to achieve a balance. Total membership by category is presented in the table at the top of this page.

Robert Sipes commented that we carry members who are past due on membership dues for months before dropping them. Most end up catching up their dues; however, we currently have nine members who are greater than six months in arrears. This can

NIU HAS Endowment	May-24	May-23	Jun-22	Jun-21	Jun-19	May-18	May-17	May-16	May-15	May-14
Net Principal	\$88,318.54	\$76,843.00	\$77,991.92	\$61,406.13	\$59,334.66	\$49,513.38	\$45,752.93	\$50,764.39	\$52,667.43	\$45,790.37

Category	May '23 - Apr '24	May '22 - Apr '23	May '21 - Apr '22	May '20 - Apr '21	May '19 - Apr '20	May '18 - Apr '19	May '17 - Apr '18	May '16 - Apr '17	May '15 - Apr '16	May '14 - Apr '15	May '13 - Apr '14
Print Run	115	120	125	130	130	130	140	140	155	160	160
Number of Color Issues	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	2
Print Cost per Issue (each)	\$3.16	\$2.99	\$3.09	\$2.65	\$2.78	\$2.53	\$2.78	\$2.81	\$3.22	\$2.23	\$2.82
Total Cost per Issue (each)	\$5.22	\$5.21	\$4.49	\$5.08	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$4.20	\$4.31	\$4.55	\$3.67	\$4.21

skew the membership numbers and affects the overall cash flow.

Robert Sipes reviewed our online social media presence. The H.A.S. Facebook page is slowly growing in membership. However, due to low level of membership activity on the page, our overall reach is very limited. We currently have 216 Facebook members that have liked the H.A.S. page and receive updates. This is up seven from 2023. Many of these Facebook members are not H.A.S. members.

Robert also discussed our continued presence in the *Fine Books & Collections* annual Collector's Resource Guide. This is published annually as part of one of *FB&C's* quarterly issues and is available online through their website.

Robert discussed our relationship with EBSCO. To date, we have not received any income from EBSCO. However, we continue to upload current issues as they are released. Robert continues to communicate with EBSCO as necessary, but to-date no income has been received through their bulk access subscription service.

The H.A.S. repository remains robust. The table at the top of this page shows the endowment net principle for the past few years.

There was a fellowship that was awarded in 2023 to Kelly Ross, an Associate Professor at Rider University. Applications are currently being reviewed for 2024.

Robert stated that all necessary business filings were completed in 2023 and would be filed as necessary in 2024.

The *Newsboy* report was given by William R. Gowen, Editor. The print run for *Newsboy* is currently 115 copies where it will remain. The total annual expense for producing *Newsboy* has remained relatively stable during the past decade. The primary rea-

son is managing the print run based on membership to balance increases in postage and printing costs. Total cost per issue increased in FY 2023-24 due to editor's expenses including monthly publishing software subscription fees and a dues envelope purchase. (See second table above.)

The Webmaster's report was presented by Carol Nackenoff in Bob Huber's absence. Bob keeps the *Newsboy* issues and convention information updated. He also spends much time responding to questions from the public, mostly regarding the value of Alger books.

Jack Bales provided the convention host's report. As the convention hotel is undergoing renovation, there were complications with the meeting room for the daily functions. Due to these complications, the meeting room was comped. Partial refunds were offered to attendees with no one accepting. The resultant excess funds will be placed in an H.A.S. Convention Cost Overrun account to help offset future convention cost overruns. Jack also discussed the Strive & Succeed Award winner and her gracious thank-you note to him.

Carol Nackenoff presented the Nominating Committee report recommending Jack Bales as Vice-President along with Rob Kasper and Debbie Jones for Board members. All in attendance thanked Dick Hoffman, outgoing VP, and Debby Jones and James Keeline, outgoing Board members, for their time and efforts. Dick Hoffman motioned to accept the nominees and the motion was unanimously approved. Subsequently at the H.A.S. Business meeting on Friday, the nominees were unanimously approved by the attending H.A.S. membership.

Scott Chase for the Membership committee requested approval to publish H.A.S. advertisements in *Yellowback Library* and *Dime Novel Round-Up* to attract new members. The H.A.S. Board members

(Continued on page 19, first column)

Horatio Alger Society Celebrates Prolific Author

(Editor's note: Prior to the May H.A.S. convention, I submitted a press release to the local newspaper. It was edited and published in the *Fredericksburg, Virginia Free Lance-Star* on May 2, 2024. It is reprinted here with the permission of the Free Lance-Star.)

The Horatio Alger Society will hold its annual convention for the fourth year in a row in Fredericksburg May 2–5, at the Hampton Inn and Suites.

A highlight of the Society's program is a panel titled "Book Collecting: Then (Before the Internet), Now, and in the Future." One of the panelists will be Michael Dirda, the Pulitzer Prize-winning weekly book columnist for *The Washington Post* and a contributor to numerous other periodicals.

Other Society events include presentations, a tour of Chatham Manor in Stafford County, and an auction of books and other items. A book sale will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Hampton Inn's Spotsylvania Room and is open to the public.

The keynote speaker at Saturday's convention banquet will be Mike Hill, a historical researcher for authors and filmmakers, including David McCullough, Jon Meacham, Michael Beschloss, Evan Thomas, Senator John McCain, and Ken Burns. Hill won an Emmy for his work as a co-producer on Burns' documentary series *The Civil War*. In his presentation, Hill will discuss "Algerian" themes in the works of David McCullough.

Jack Bales, Reference and Humanities Librarian Emeritus at the University of Mary Washington, returns as this year's convention host.

Alger, who lived from 1832-1899, wrote more than 100 books which usually featured poor boys who sold newspapers, shined shoes or worked in stores to support themselves or their families. By the end of the books, the young men would wind up in respectable positions,

well on their way to prosperity. The titles of the volumes themselves reflected this theme, such as *Struggling Upward*, *Making His Way*, *Shifting for Himself*, and *Strive and Succeed*.

The Horatio Alger Society was founded in 1961 as an organization of Alger book collectors. It has evolved over the last 60 years as collectors' interests have broadened, and it now includes collectors of all juvenile literature, including boys' and girls' series books, pulp magazines and dime novels. The members conduct research on Alger's life, his works, and his influence on American culture and politics for the society's bimonthly publication, *Newsboy* (the occupation of many of the authors' protagonists).

In keeping with Alger's ideals of hard work, self-reliance, perseverance, and strength of character, the Society presents its annual monetary "Strive & Succeed Award" to a local high school student who possesses these traits and who could be a typical "Alger hero" in one of the author's books.

This year the scholarship will be presented to Quinn Enriques of Fredericksburg. Quinn has battled significant health issues after she contracted COVID-19 at age 14. She was diagnosed with Amplified Muscular-Skeletal Pain Syndrome, which is a neurological condition in which the nervous system amplifies pain signals to the brain.

"Quinn spent the first half of her sophomore year in bed," her mother, Jacqueline, said, "struggling to do even the simplest school assignments due to the pain and COVID-induced migraines and brain fog."

Although she has steadily grown stronger, Quinn experiences symptoms of long COVID and has to deal with exhaustion and memory loss. Yet with the help of her instructors and through her own persistence and hard work, she has been able to keep up with her classes. She will graduate this spring and is looking forward to studying international business and languages in college.

**In Which W.T.A. Writes for a Boston Weekly,
Warren T. Ashton Appears and Then Disappears
[The *American Union*: Summer 1852 to Spring 1854]**

By Peter C. Walther (PF-548)

(Concluded from March-April issue)

Early in its history the *Union* advertised no continued stories over one month in duration¹ and a year later eschewed them altogether.² One notices that the May 1, 1852 paper also included an extra “May-Day Supplement, 1852” that was offered *gratis* to the *Union* family of readers. Both have been preserved. Some may regard pieces entitled “The Duties of an Editor” and “Editing a Weekly Paper” as merely interesting reading, but a few *aficionados* like myself consider them suggestive and highly informative.³

Now and again the paper published sketches and poetry by authors who had reached a reputation of some distinction. A few examples might suffice. Edgar Allan Poe’s “Annabel Lee” turned up at least two times,⁴ as well as a reprinted parody of “The Raven.”⁵ A coupling of Tennyson’s “The Charge of The Light Brigade” with yet another parody entitled “The Charge of the Bright Brigade” appeared within weeks of one another.⁶ In recent years scholars⁷ have unearthed some sensational Louisa May Alcott stories, buried and almost forgotten for well over a century in issues of the *Union* from the late 1850s to the mid-1860s. Some have disappeared altogether yet a considerable number of these lurid tales have been tracked down and have recently been reprinted. An amusing send-off of the classic “The Night Before Christmas” debuted as “The Night After Christmas” by some anonymous wag.⁸ Such literary classics as these were simply copied from other newspapers.

Mark Twain came in for his fair share of attention in the columns of this weekly and weighed in with at least four examples that I have seen: “The Story of Joseph,” “The Facts in the Great Landslide Case,” “The New Crime,” and “The Wit-Inspirations of the ‘Two-Year-Olds,’”⁹ similarly copied from other papers.

It is fascinating to read the accounts of the disappearance of Dr. Parkman and the murder trial of Professor Webster as reported on a weekly basis in the early issues of *American Union*.

Over a span of years it would seem that the *American Union* was bullish enough to negotiate buy-outs of some of its competitors. “We have pur-

chased the subscription list of the ‘Boston Weekly Bee’—that paper being now merged in the ‘American Union’”¹⁰ was a prime example. The *Union*’s merger with the *Star Spangled Banner* has been detailed elsewhere.¹¹ By 1863¹² the *Union*’s management had assumed control of *The Flag of Our Union* as well as *Ballou’s Dollar Monthly*, due no doubt to the foresight and business acumen of Messrs. Elliott, Thomes & Talbot. The newspaper never reprinted back numbers as correspondent “L.N.” was dutifully informed.¹³ An original tale by one James Franklin Fitts (related to R. B. Fitts perhaps) was published in the *Union*,¹⁴ as well as a laudatory review of Horatio Alger’s enduring, and to some endearing, *Ragged Dick*.¹⁵

With some hubris the *American Union* puffed: “It [the *Union*] has a larger circulation in New England, than any weekly newspaper published in that section of the country; and its contributors include the names of the most talented American writers.”¹⁶ Some punkins! One can’t help but wonder if modesty, humility and self-effacement ever graced the inside of an editor’s office; from a business perspective such traits certainly wouldn’t have sold newspapers.

As should be readily apparent in this brief account of the *American Union*, I have tried to rely exclusively and wherever possible on any reliable sources that were available to me, that is to say mostly the issues themselves. Not having access to any publisher’s ledgers or record log books, if indeed they even still exist, attempting to identify many of the *Union*’s authors has proven quite impossible, as well as a detailed accounting of its month-to-month operations. Author anonymity appeared to be a hallmark in many a weekly during the nineteenth century and certainly well beyond. The inadequate number of surviving issues although somewhat healthy must be deputized as proxies for their missing brethren in attempting to clarify some cohesiveness. I have tried to present a composite overview of this publication based on the material that could be unearthed.

The secondary sources should be consulted advisedly and used with caution. Regarding the initial run of the firm’s existence (the Fitts-Graves regime of 1848-1861), little serious attention has been given to it, researchers having largely ignored these formative years. Mary Noel in her invaluable *Vil-*

(Continued on page 16)

7 Ways to Take Your Book-Reading Experience to the Next Level

(Editor's note: Michael Dirda, the weekly book columnist for The Washington Post, was a guest at the recent convention. The first part of his article on "the special editions, conferences and exhibitions that offer another window into the books and authors you love" included his observations on the convention and appeared in the May-June Newsboy. The concluding part is published below. The article appeared on May 31 and is reprinted with permission of The Washington Post.)

Dust jackets

How do you feel about dust jackets, sometimes called dust wrappers or book covers? For most of their history, the British Library and the Library of Congress have stripped off the jackets from the books on their shelves. In *The Book Blindness: Annals of Vandalism at the British Library*, John Clute reveals, through his study of 115 illustrated examples, how much information is lost because of this shortsighted practice. As this eminent collector and scholar of fantastic literature writes, "Every dust-jacket is a ceremony of passage between world without and text within."

We know, for example, that H.G. Wells's 1895 book, *The Time Machine*, once bore a dust jacket that would have revealed how the novel was presented to the public before science fiction even had a name. But no dust jacket of that first edition survives. Bertrand Russell's *Icarus: Or the Future of Science* (1924) was written as a counter-blast to J.B.S. Haldane's *Daedalus: Or Science and the Future* (1924), but only the dust jacket reveals this important fact. When in 1937 Gollancz published Edgar Snow's *Red Star Over China* — it's about the communist rebellion in the 1930s — a photograph of the then little-known Mao Zedong dominated the front cover. That picture drives home the immediacy and newsworthiness of Snow's book. Without that cover, it's just another book.

Some of the mini-essays in *The Book Blindness* scrutinize dust jackets with the intensity that William Empson devoted to poems in *Seven Types of Ambiguity* — the cover of which Clute analyzes — while others situate a jacket in the cultural moment when the book first appeared. In either case, Clute's richly layered prose — freewheeling, punchy, recondite and often lyrical — mingles explication with elegy, semiotic assessment with jeremiad. Whatever works he investigates, whether Georges Simenon's *The Man Who Watched the Trains Go By* or Sigmund Freud's *Moses and Monotheism*, you come away seeing afresh.

Manuscript facsimiles

On June 29, 1896, at the Authors' Club in London, the creator of Sherlock Holmes delivered a speech outlining his views about storytelling. Collectors Glen and Cathy Miranker acquired Arthur Conan Doyle's original, eight-page manuscript at an auction in 2004 and have now produced a lovely facsimile edition of the handwritten sheets, along with a facing-page transcription and contextual essays by noted Doylean scholars Peggy Macfarlane Purdue, Andrew Lycett, Michael Meer and Daniel Stashower.

In *This Work of Storytelling*, Conan Doyle praises the writers he learned from — chiefly novelist Walter Scott and historian Thomas Babington Macaulay — and briefly discusses the Sherlock Holmes stories, which had apparently concluded with the great detective's deadly meeting with Professor Moriarty in *The Final Problem*. "I have been much blamed for doing that gentleman to death but I hold it was but justifiable homicide in self-defense since if I had not killed him he would certainly have killed me. For a man who has no particular natural astuteness to spend his days in inventing problems & building up chains of inductive reasoning is a trying occupation." Happily for readers, a few years later Conan Doyle would return to that "trying occupation" and produce many more cases for the sleuth of Baker Street.

Exhibitions

On another trip, this time to New York, I made

the rounds of the museums, particularly those hosting exhibitions with a literary focus. The Morgan Library displayed writings and watercolors by Beatrix Potter, with a natural emphasis on *Peter Rabbit* (through June 9); the Society of Illustrators exhibited art from the Vinson Collection, depicting Tarzan, John Carter, Dejah Thoris and other characters created by Edgar Rice Burroughs (through July 27); and the Grolier Club surveyed the history of dictionaries in “Hardly Harmless Drudgery: Landmarks in English Lexicography,” curated by Bryan A. Garner and Jack Lynch (through July 27).

But the Metropolitan Museum of Art mounted my favorite shows: a monumental pictorial survey of the Harlem Renaissance and “The Art of the Literary Poster.” Go see the former by all means, but don’t overlook the latter. Bright colors, bold typography, hints of Aubrey Beardsley, handsome men and women in period costume riding bicycles and reading books — these late-19th-century posters designed to advertise American books and magazines so entranced me that I bought Allison Rudnick’s accompanying catalogue and am looking forward to learning more about such artists as Will H. Bradley, Louis John Rhead and Edward Penfield.

Special illustrated editions

For many readers, Edgar Rice Burroughs’s most accomplished novels are the *Land That Time Forgot* sequence and the *Moon Maid* trilogy. The latter has just been published in a deluxe collector’s edition by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. Its three parts, which highlight incarnations of the same hero over a period of nearly 500 years, are exciting in different ways: *The Moon Maid* is a planetary romance similar to Burroughs’s *A Princess of Mars*; *The Moon Men* focuses on a rebellion against the lunar Kalkars, who have conquered the Earth; and *The Red Hawk* might almost be a western, set in an American Southwest where the weapons are swords, lances and bows. Lavishly illustrated with illustrations by contemporary artists, the set is housed in a handsome box. Besides being esthetically pleasing, this edition also restores cuts made when the *Argosy All-Story Magazine* texts were first assembled into a one-volume 1926 hardcover.

Author interviews

In *Being Michael Swanwick*, this eminent and eminently personable science fiction and fantasy writer (*Gravity’s Angels*, *The Iron Dragon’s Daughter*, much flash fiction) looks back on his career in a 300-page conversation with fellow sf author Alvaro Zinos-Amaro. In it, Swanwick praises the work of many older writers, reveals that *Galactic Pot-Healer* is his favorite Philip K. Dick novel (because of its humor) and keeps things consistently lively with his candor and wit: “David Hartwell [a noted editor] once wrote that the purpose of awards was to encourage people who couldn’t make a living at it to keep writing science fiction anyway.”



Scott Chase (PF-1106) received the Alger Society’s 2024 Newsboy Award from President Carol Nackenoff (PF-921) at the convention. The plaque notes that Scott was honored “in recognition of his exceptional dedication in advancing the legacy of Horatio Alger, Jr. through meticulous research and insightful articles published in *Newsboy* identifying new information about Alger’s first editions.”

For example, Scott’s ground-breaking research on the publication history of Alger’s rarity, *The New Schoolma’am*, titled “First Edition of *The New Schoolma’am*,” appeared in the January-February 2023 *Newsboy*. (Photograph by Liane Houghtalin.)



(The American Union, continued from page 13)

lains Galore cites the *Union* in passing as providing a template of sorts for the *Boston True Flag*,¹⁷ another contemporary Boston newspaper. The data she presents pertaining to the *Union* is undeniably scant, offering nothing in the way of history or contemporary criticism. Yet her entire canvas covers a broad range of newspeak, and anyone interested in this period and in this subject would do well to consult it. The great literary historian Frank Luther Mott in treating *The Flag of Our Union* called the *American Union* “. . . less distinguished.”¹⁸ Scant indeed.

Something more has been written about this weekly from the post-1861 perspective: specifically the Elliott & Thomes/Elliott, Thomes & Talbot/Thomes & Talbot regime as it related to one of their ventures, the “Novelette” Series, similar to the more well-known Beadle Dime Novel publications. Although during this latter period we are outside the purview of Oliver Optic related material as originally published in the *Union*, it is of some interest to note the publishers’ activities in the field of dime novel literature throughout the 1860s and 1870s. The *Dictionary of Literary Biography* is both chronically misleading and wildly imprecise in its minimal reference to the *American Union*.¹⁹ Madeleine B. Stern profiles a more sober treatment in her study of “Elliott, Thomes & Talbot” and offers some insights into their publishing activities, but of the *Union* itself practically nothing.²⁰ Her bibliography is especially valuable, yet regarding that colorful character William H. Thomes she relies on source material that had merely perpetuated the Thomes mystique of anecdotal adventuring and biographical bravado. The essay on the publishers generally, however, is one of the best accounts I know of.

We do have something of a valuable research tool to offer. Leona Rostenberg in 1943 uncovered hitherto unknown pseudonymous thrillers of Louisa May Alcott, quoting letters from publisher J. R. Elliott written to Alcott over a period of weeks during 1865 and 1866. Subsequently many of these stories have been published beginning with “Behind a Mask.”²¹

Besides his stories, we do not have as much to offer on William T. Adams’s *Union* association as we did for his editorial posting with the *Star Spangled Banner*. Adams was simply one of many of the *Union*’s corps of writers, and for his two-year stint he was a reliable and apparently popular contributor. Evidence of any personal activities in the columns of this newspaper is minimal. All we have in part is a letter by Adams written to editor Graves and published on September 18, 1852. The author recounts a short trip he took to Martha’s Vineyard. Furthermore, a poem “To Georgie” from March 11, 1854, would seem to indicate a personal acquaintance with the subject as Adams used his initials rather than a pseudonym.²² It would be a godsend to read any correspondence between Adams and either R. B. Fitts or William E. Graves, but if any letters have been preserved, I have not discovered any.

William T. Adams’s multiple contributions to this weekly have been elsewhere enumerated and some general observations should concern us here. We are fortunate indeed that many more issues of the *American Union* have survived than of the *Star Spangled Banner*, permitting a fuller reconstruction and a more composite record of the author’s activities during these early years. Hopefully my bibliography of the William T. Adams material in *American Union* will bear out this assessment. Adams served the *Union* in no editorial capacity whatever that we

know of; his straightforward assignments in the form of stories and sketches make his fiction there easier to tag and identify as opposed to his largely unavailable work on the *Star Spangled Banner*.

It is probable that he wrote most of his stories for the *American Union* from his Dorchester home. He must have had at least a nodding acquaintance with George P. Burnham, R. B. Fitts, and W. E. Graves during the years 1852, 1853, and 1854. To what extent they may have remained lifelong friends is not known. Adams was certainly friendly enough with his editor (probably Graves) as the amiable mood of his letter (AU 8), published September 18, 1852, aptly demonstrates. Adams's dominant *Union* fiction comprised stories and sketches under two pen names. The "Warren T. Ashton" by-line was employed fifteen separate times; all have been found. Two that are currently lacking in their original *Union* printings have been reclaimed as reprints.²³ This Ashton material appeared using the heading "Original American Tales" as the *Union* systematically touted them. The more well-known "Oliver Optic" items on the other hand circulated under the guise of "domestic sketches" and many were also published in the collection *In Doors and Out*, making them much more accessible today than they would have been otherwise. All together there exist 29 confirmable Optic sightings in the *American Union*; two further sketches still remain to be found.²⁴ Further possible pen names used by William T. Adams for the *Union* are unknown to us at this time yet should not be entirely discounted. Ashton will be treated again separately as the author of Adams's first published book, *Hatchie, The Guardian Slave*.

In his listing for "The Fall Campaign," the editor's list of contributors included Warren T. Ashton and Oliver Optic.²⁵ He noted that "the names above are all real, with the exception of half-a-dozen *nommes de plume*, preferred by writers, for a certain class of their productions."²⁶ Such a distinction was certainly a matter of public record if the readers hadn't already figured it out for themselves.

William T. Adams's exodus from the fold of the *American Union* in May 1854 may in part be explained by the following item in the prospectus for the *Star Spangled Banner*: "The editorial services of a competent literary gentleman, who will devote himself exclusively to its columns, have been secured . . ."²⁷ Some questions remain; however after

this period we encounter no additional Optic sketches in the *Union*, although they became a popular commodity appearing in the *Banner* between June 1854 and August 1855.²⁸

In conclusion, I have profiled William T. Adams's association with the Boston weekly *American Union*, perhaps overloaded with necessary background data on the publication itself. As far as can presently be determined, his brief *Union* career constituted the time frame between the summer of 1852 and the late spring of 1854, a period just shy of two years. As hypothesized earlier, if there was any other previous or further *Union* activity we have no reckoning of it and can suggest nothing along those lines.

I wish to pay tribute to my late friend Victor A. Berch, whose assistance had been invaluable in matters pertaining to the research on this topic.

Although in terms of longevity Adams's *American Union* assignments represented a less demanding schedule than his editorial duties for the *Star Spangled Banner*, yet it can be suggested that his *Union* contributions had achieved, perforce by the very nature of his professional connection with R. B. Fitts, some measure of literary bounty. Many of these "Oliver Optic" sketches, not forgetting the "Warren T. Ashton" novel, survived in print long after their creator's death, thereby effecting a degree of literary permanence. Today we have but to turn the pages of *Hatchie*, *The Guardian Slave* and *In Doors and Out* to recognize it.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Publisher: R. B. Fitts and Company, Boston, November 4, 1848 to May 1, 1854; Graves and Weston, Boston, May 1, 1854 to February 25, 1861; Elliott and Thomes, Boston, February 25, 1861 to ca. March 1863; Elliott, Thomes and Talbot, Boston, ca. March 1863 to April 20, 1870; Thomes and Talbot, Boston, April 20, 1870 to September 18, 1875 (last issue noted).

Issues: First Series (to December 25, 1869): 1103; New Series (to May 3, 1873: last issue seen): 174.

Schedule: Weekly

Dates: November 4, 1848 to September 18, 1875 (last issue noted).

Size: Folio

Pages: Four

Price: Two Dollars Per Annum

Illustrations: Minimal

Contents: “We try from Week to Week to give our readers a judicious variety of Tales of Travel and Adventure, Domestic Scenes, Racy Incidents, Nautical Sketches, etc., etc., . . .” (March 24, 1860, 3). Also noteworthy are a weekly column of verse, editorials, book notices, events in and around Boston, humorous sketches, a Ladies’ Department, short articles of an informative nature, Birth/Marriage/Death notices, and a rather regular page-one feature “Original American Tales.”

“The ‘*American Union*,’ an instructive and entertaining Family Newspaper, and the ‘*Star Spangled Banner*,’ an elegant literary journal, containing 28 columns of interesting reading, embracing Original and Selected Stories, Nautical Sketches, Tales of Travel and Adventure, Legends, Anecdotes, Poetry, Wit and Humor, News, Miscellany, a Ladies’ Department, & etc. & etc., will be mailed to any address, one year, for *three* dollars paid in advance; a rare chance to obtain lots of reading, for a little money!” (*American Union*, September 13, 1856, 3).

“Neither of these papers publish any advertisements, and every article is set anew for their columns each week—neither of the papers being ‘made up’ from a daily. The ‘*American Union*’ publishes no ‘continued’ stories, consequently each number of the paper is complete in itself. It has a larger circulation in New England, than any weekly newspaper published in that section of the country; and its contributors include the names of the most talented American writers. The two papers are entirely distinct from each other—no article printed in the one appearing in the other. For originality, and variety of useful, instructive and entertaining matter, it is believed that these two papers are not excelled by any others in the United States, published at the same price” (Ibid).

“The *American Union*, published by R. B. Fitts & Co., Boston, has recently commenced a new volume with new headings and a complete suit of new type throughout. This paper is elegantly printed, and exceedingly well ‘made up,’ its peculiar features being the publication of short *domestic* stories, and a great variety of contents, making it especially a choice national family newspaper. It is ably edited by our esteemed friend, William E. Graves, Esq., and under the good business management of its publishers, cannot fail to maintain its present wide and constantly increasing popularity” (*Gleason’s Pictorial Drawing Room Companion*, December 25, 1852, 413).

Endnotes

¹ *Union*, October 25, 1851, 2.

² *Union*, September 18, 1852, 2.

³ *Union*, May 15, 1852, 2, and January 24, 1857, 4 respectively. Cf. to an editorial on “Editorials” published in the *Star Spangled Banner* for April 3, 1852 that was probably written by its in-house editor, William R. Hayden.

⁴ *Union*, October 22, 1853, 2, and February 2, 1856, 4.

⁵ *Union*, March 9 [sic], 1856, 3. For a short article on Poe himself published in this newspaper, see August 26, 1854, 2.

⁶ *Union*, February 3, 1855, 4, and March 17, 1855, 2 respectively. The parody was copied from the *Boston Transcript*.

⁷ Particularly the late Victor A. Berch. The late Madeleine Stern and Leona Rostenberg had inaugurated such research as early as 1943, and as recently as the 1990s had spearheaded further inquiries.

⁸ *Union*, January 25, 1862, 4.

⁹ *Union*, February 20, 1869, 2, June 11, 1870, 4, July 2, 1870, 2, and July 9, 1870, 2 respectively.

¹⁰ *Union*, October 9, 1852, 2.

¹¹ In the *William T. Adams Biography*: “In Which W.T.A. Assumes The Editorship Of A Boston Weekly, And T. Ashley Worthington, Oliver Optic And Others Offer Their Assistance.” See the *Boston Herald* dated October 22, 1856 for a lively advertisement promoting the *Star Spangled Banner/American Union* campaign.

¹² *Union*, March 14, 1863, 3, when at the same time they also advertised their series of “Brilliant Novelettes,” possibly those very yellow covered paper novels that Oliver Optic fulminated against in his early juvenile novel *In School and Out*.

¹³ *Union*, July 25, 1857, 3. Although it seems at one time at least they must have regretted it. As they had earlier noted: “Wanted—back numbers of the ‘*Union*’ for August 7th [1852], to supply subscribers. Cash will be paid at this office for copies bearing the above date” (September 11, 1852, 2). We too wish we had one. Two months later the *Boston Herald* subsequently noted: “Not a single copy of the ‘*American Union*’ could be had for love or money, at the depots, during the latter part of last week. We congratulate our friend Fitts upon the unparalleled popularity of his instructive and amusing weekly” (October 8, 1852).

¹⁴ *Union*, June 13, 1868. The story in question, “Annie Spencer’s Ghost,” appeared as a front-page narrative.

¹⁵ Ibid, 3. Horatio Alger had also been a contributor to the *American Union*. We have located all of his stories except one which has eluded us for some time: “Who Rung the Bell?” in the issue dated October 8, 1853.

¹⁶ *Union*, September 13, 1856, 3. This is the first surviving example here in which the *American Union* and the *Star Spangled Banner* are both advertised as contiguous publications.

¹⁷ Mary Noel, *Villains Galore* (New York: Macmillan, 1954), 50. This volume is the most valuable genus study I know of devoted to the Nineteenth-Century Literary Weekly. The author treats her subject impartially yet sympathetically and avoids generalizations and sweeping assumptions that cannot be proven. Unfortunately the publishers chose to omit her illuminating footnotes and source material that formed a valuable asset to her thesis.

¹⁸ Frank Luther Mott, *A History of American Magazines, 1850-1865* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1938), 35. See also Mott’s footnote 43.

¹⁹ *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Volume 49, 155-56. For instance, it could hardly be classified, as Timothy D. Murray stated, as a “weekly adventure magazine.”

²⁰ Madeleine B. Stern, *Publishers for Mass Entertainment in Nineteenth Century America* (Boston: G. K. Hall & Co., 1980), 123-29.

²¹ Leona Rostenberg, "Some Anonymous and Pseudonymous Thrillers of Louisa May Alcott" in *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, 37 (1943), 131-40. The lengthy and detailed introduction by Madeleine Stern in *Behind A Mask* (William Morrow & Co., 1975) covers a lot of background material and is quite informative and helpful. See also *The Louisa May Alcott Encyclopedia*, edited by Gregory Eiselein and Anne K. Phillips (Greenwood Press, 2001), 95-96.

²² Adams had used his initials before during these years, twice that we know of. Signed "W.T.A.," he had commemorated in verse the death of his aunt and the birth of his daughter, both in

the columns of the *Star Spangled Banner*.

²³ "Aunt Mary" (AU 11) and "The Fourth Of March" (AU 19).

²⁴ See endnote 1. Consult the author listing in the *American Union Bibliography* for a more detailed accounting of these pseudonyms.

²⁵ *Union*, September 3, 1853, 3. Occasionally the *American Union* touted itself as a "literary journal" (May 7, 1853, 3.) A splitting of literary hairs it seems to me.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ *Star Spangled Banner*, May 13, 1854, 3.

²⁸ Some half dozen of these have been traced. I suspect there are others still awaiting discovery.

(Directors' meeting, continued from page 11)

approved.

Robert Sipes, as historian, discussed receiving some old pictures from a member and if consideration should be given to acquiring permission to post pictures to the H.A.S. Facebook page or website. A decision was made to place a line on the H.A.S. convention registration form stating that pictures would be taken during the convention and possibly published in *Newsboy* or posted online unless explicitly asked not to do so. Jack Bales agreed to update the convention hosting process documentation.

Carol Nackenoff appointed the Nominating Committee for the next year with Lianne Houghtalin as chair, Jack Bales as backup chair, and Terry Booth and James Keeline as members.

Motions carried to approve the Strive & Succeed Award at \$2,000 for 2024 and honorariums for the *Newsboy* Editor and Executive Director at \$200 each.

Various additional topics and issues were discussed at various times throughout the meeting.

President Carol Nackenoff adjourned the meeting at 1700.

Respectfully submitted,

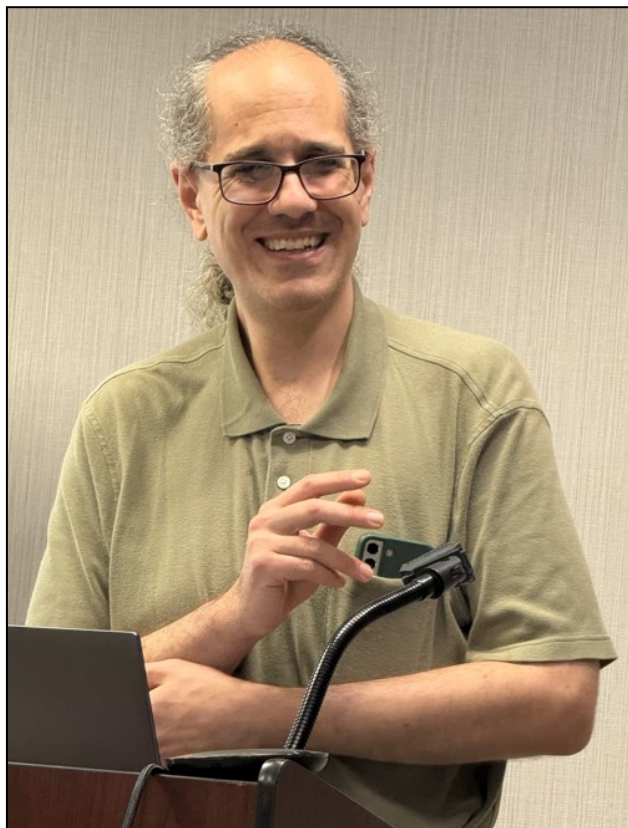
Robert G. Sipes

Robert G. Sipes
Executive Director
Horatio Alger Society

(Editor's Notebook, continued from page 9)

versity (DeKalb, Illinois). H.A.S. member Demian Katz (PF-1130) from Villanova came to Frederickburg, and he connected via Zoom with Matt Short (PF-1161) of NIU and host of next year's convention. It was an excellent presentation, and we also enjoyed talking with Demian—shown below—while he was on site. (Photograph by Carol Nackenoff)

—Jack Bales



(President's Column, continued from page 2)

generally a fan of extremely modern buildings, the Beinecke, designed by Gordon Bunshaft (1909-1990), is a stunning exception. The almost amber gold-colored windows framed by squares of marble allow in more light than one expects. The library's interior is stunning. A photograph of one side of the interior appears in this issue of *Newsboy*. The Beinecke houses more than a million books, millions of manuscript pages, and tens of thousands of maps, ephemera, photographs, posters, paintings, and more. Walking around the exhibit area one floor up from the entrance, one sees a towering display of books behind pressure-controlled glass. We walked up to one section of the display to find hundreds of different published versions of Scottish dramatist and novelist J.M. Barrie's works (b. 1860, d. 1937), and what we could see covered only *The Little White Bird*, *The Little Minister*, and some of the *Peter Pan* copies held by the library.

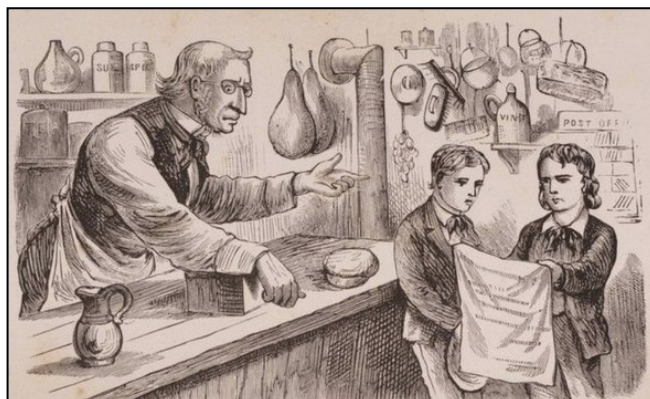
Does the Beinecke house any Algers? An Orbis search limited to the Beinecke's holdings reveals thirty-three Alger book titles, with some held in multiple copies. Some appear to be first editions (no visuals are available). Most visitors cannot touch the books in the Beinecke. Another reference comes up in Room 26 Cabinet of Curiosities, which contains recent acquisitions and textual curiosities from the collection. Here, an illustration in *From Farm Boy to Senator* (J.S. Ogilvie, c. 1882—counted in the 33 titles) is displayed under the title "Daniel Webster Learns a Lesson," with the date July 8, 2008, which may be the date of acquisition. I've shared this illustration with *Newsboy* readers.

The rest of my summer is packed with writing. I am finishing up a chapter for a Supreme Court annual (co-authored with a student of mine) on the recent Supreme Court cases *Loper Bright and Relentless*, which overturned the 1984 *Chevron* case—big news in the field of administrative law. I am reading a book on American debt relief—and writing a contribution for an online symposium on the book. I have a paper to revise and present at our Political Science convention in Philadelphia, various papers to read and comment on for a panel at that conference, and preparation for a roundtable at the same conference on a 2023 book in which I have a chapter. I will be preparing at least my first of six classes for my American Elections lifelong learning course at Swarthmore, and getting ready to leave on safari. But I am definitely going to squeeze in one day trip to Cape May when the weather looks good.

I wish all of you a pleasant remainder of the summer, and relief from brutal weather if you live in one of the parts of the country affected by excessive heat or hurricanes. —Carol Nackenoff



"To emphasize the beauty of these rare books [in Yale University's Beinecke Library], they were set up to be the centerpiece of the building. All the books were placed around the core like a large display case." (Photograph and text from Wikimedia Commons)



An illustration from Horatio Alger's *From Farm Boy to Senator* in Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The caption reads: "Is it a story?" — "No, Daniel; it is the Constitution of the United States."