



# THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

# NEWSBOY



*Horatio Alger, Jr.*

1832 – 1899

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

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NUMBER 3

## Convention issue

# 'Frank and Fearless in Fredericksburg'

- \* Convention report  
-- Page 3
- \* Directors meeting report  
-- Page 8
- \* Treasurer's report  
-- Page 11
- \* Strive & Succeed Award  
-- Pages 12-13
- \* Auction summary  
-- Pages 14-17



Beheshta Nassari is presented the Strive & Succeed Award from convention host Jack Bales. See feature story on Page 12

## Remembering bibliographer, collector Tom Davis

-- Bart Nyberg's *Letter to the Editor*, Page 18

## The Arnold Adair Series by Laurence La Tourette Driggs

-- Conclusion, Page 21

## President's column

Good day from Fort Lauderdale,

As I write this, our south Florida community is reeling in disbelief and grief-stricken over the collapse of the Champlain Condominium Tower in Miami Beach. By the time you read this the cause may be understood and the number of casualties known, but for now, there are just questions and heartache. It reminds me of a column I wrote nearly four years ago, in the lead-up to my 2018 convention, when I had to report on the massive devastation in the Florida Keys from Hurricane Irma.

\* \* \*

As this is my initial instalment for **Newsboy**, I believe the first order of business is to extend a heart-felt "thank-you" to our outgoing president, Cary Sternick, not only for his exemplary stewardship of our organization, but especially the sacrifices he made by staying at the helm during the past tumultuous year of COVID-19.

Next, I would be remiss if I did not express our gratitude to outgoing treasurer, Barry Schoenborn, for his years of dedication and invaluable service. As he hands off the baton to our new treasurer, Rob Kasper, please join me in wishing him health and happiness in the future.

This issue will take a look back at our splendid Fredericksburg convention in this, our 60th anniversary year. Mere words of appreciation do not fully do justice to the tireless work that our gracious host, Jack Bales, put into this gathering, both in the planning stages and during the convention itself. I was particularly captivated by his anniversary slide-show presentation, which gave insights into the Society's distant past, as well as a chance to see some of our current members in much earlier times.

I'll not go further into the details of the convention here, as our esteemed **Newsboy** editor, Bill Gowen, has prepared a comprehensive review for this issue. Suffice to say, we thoroughly enjoyed our time in Fredericksburg and look forward to a repeat next year, as our host has generously agreed to welcome us back in 2022.

In view of our declining membership in recent years, it's remarkable that our editor finds enough articles to fill these pages every issue. **Newsboy** has grown from an informal newsletter serving a slim cadre of specialist book collectors, to a scholarly journal of enviable reputation, supplying informative in-depth articles on a broad spectrum of juvenile literature to both the academic

(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**.

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**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](mailto:hasnewsboy@aol.com).

## 2021 convention report

# Meeting again after two years!

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

For those of us who enjoy attending the annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society (my first came in 1983 in Columbus, Ohio), last year was a major disappointment. Of course, we were not alone, as the COVID-19 pandemic swept everything before it in 2020. Virtually all public gatherings were canceled or restricted in scope, restaurants and hotels changed the way they operated, and schools, churches and all other ways of life in the United States affected, with aftereffects likely to remain for years.

So it was with our Gettysburg convention, which had been planned for years by Bob Eastlack (PF-557).

So, after a one-year forced hiatus, our convention was back, with "Frank and Fearless in Fredericksburg," hosted by Jack Bales (PF-258) on June 3-6, 2021. It was so nice to be able to meet old friends once again, rather than having to deal with phone calls, texting and emails as our means of communication.

The weather on the first weekend of June was pleasant, though overly warm for the season. Several Particular Friends arrived a day early to partake in Jack's informal get-together at his home, with wonderful food catered by his friends at the University of Mary Washington.



Host Jack Bales gives his PowerPoint presentation on the 60-year history of the Horatio Alger Society. Photo by Bill Gowen

### Thursday, June 3

The official convention got under way on the traditional Thursday afternoon, with the hospitality room at the Hampton Inn and Suites all set up for us by 1 p.m., registration packets and refreshments right inside the door. Books for the auction were also starting to arrive,

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## A few thoughts on 'Frank and Fearless in Fredericksburg'

By Jack Bales (PF-258)

**Important Note:** Before I provide any "thoughts" about the 2021 Horatio Alger Society convention, I want to announce that I will also be hosting the 2022 convention. Due to hotel scheduling difficulties, the date is a bit later than usual. Please mark your calendars now for **Thursday, June 23 to Sunday, June 26, 2022** — the dates for "Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg."

\* \* \*

While driving home late Saturday night after our June 5 convention banquet, two things ran through my mind: 1), I thought it was a successful convention and everything had gone smoothly, and 2), the reason it went well was due to the help and assistance of quite a few individuals.

I started planning the convention in July 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I bounced plenty of ideas off Rob Kasper of nearby Richmond, Virginia. Rob even drove to Fredericksburg more than just a few

times to check out hotels and hotels with me, wander through the stores downtown, and sample the food at various restaurants. In fact, we decided to schedule the Friday night dinner at Brock's Riverside Grill after we had lunch there one Saturday and talked to manager Jason Smith. We had a room to ourselves that Friday evening, where we got to welcome **Strive and Succeed Award** recipient Beheshta Nassari and her family (her father, Mohammad Hashim, is on the left in the Page 1 presentation photo).

Many thanks to those who contributed so generously to fund that monetary honor — and to Bob Eastlack, who provided a very nice copy of Alger's *Strive and Succeed* for her.

I contacted most of the hotels and motels in the Fredericksburg area. Some persons did not respond or if they did, just emailed vague replies weeks later. While visiting a few places, the managers did not answer all

*(Continued on Page 6)*



## Editor's notebook

You are witnessing history on this page (sort of). In my three decades-plus editing **Newsboy**, this is only the second issue we've expanded to 24 pages — and at the same time, I believe this is my shortest notebook ever — thanks to all the good stuff contained within these two dozen pages. I hope you agree.

I hope you read Bart Nyberg's **Letter to the Editor** on Pages 18-19. In it, he offers his tribute to Thomas B. (Tom) Davis, who passed away on May 10 at his home in Newark, Delaware. Davis was Ed Mattson's computer expert and collaborator on two major bibliographic projects of which we are all familiar — *A Collector's Guide to Hardcover Boys' Series books* (1997) and the updated edition of Bob Bennett's Horatio Alger, Jr. bibliography, published in 1999.

Now, I want to put in a "plug" for an upcoming feature article scheduled for the July-August **Newsboy**: Keith Thompson's "Alger and Base Ball" (yes, that's the way the sport was spelled in its formative years). If you enjoyed Keith's "Alger and Algebra" in the January-February issue, you are in for a treat, since he is a lifetime baseball fan (Detroit Tigers) with family ties to the sport on the professional level.

Keith attended the recent convention in the company of his daughter-in-law, Melissa Givey, who became an H.A.S. member (PF-1151) while there, also winning the special "Welcome to Fredericksburg" gift basket drawing that concluded the annual banquet. They are featured in this photo. Congratulations, Melissa!



Keith Thompson and daughter-in-law Melissa Givey enjoy some moments of pleasant conversation during Saturday night's annual banquet. Photo by Bill Gowen

## MEMBERSHIP

### New members

Melissa Givey (PF-1151)

11 Leisurely Lane

Bellport, NY 11713

Melissa is the daughter-in-law of Keith Thompson (PF-035, who accompanied him to the 2021 convention, where she became a member.

James Alger (PF-1152)

714 Galloway Terrace

Winter Springs, FL 32708

Phone: (321) 200-6888

Email: jaa123@icloud.com

Chester Good (PF-1153)

4716 Corona Circle

Rocklin, CA 95677

Phone: (408) 439-5113

Email: cgood31@aol.com

Chester is the oldest son of Keith Thompson's mother's youngest sister, and he joined the Horatio Alger Society after learning of Keith's recent article, "Alger and Algebra," for **Newsboy**. Chester's daughter, Rene, lives with him, and she enjoyed reading Horatio Alger's stories as a youth.

### Change of address

Dr. Paul Rich (PF-837)

President – Policy Studies Organization  
Westphalia Press

1367 Connecticut Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20036

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pauljrich@gmail.com; www.ipsonet.org



# Convention report

(Continued from Page 3)

with Eastlack bringing the second installment of the Jim Thorp collection, the first having been successfully auctioned online by himself last summer after his convention had been canceled.

As for the Hampton Inn staff, they couldn't have been more courteous and helpful in all respects. And I must personally thank Bales, who drove me in the morning on a "photo-op" tour of Fredericksburg's historic downtown, the battlefield and other locations, all to provide images for this and upcoming issues of **Newsboy**.

The annual Board of Directors meeting was convened at 4:30 p.m. in a meeting room down the hall, with Executive Director Bob Sipes' report on Pages 8-10.

We had dinner on our own, and the lone rainstorm of the weekend decided to intervene. A small group of us went to a nearby place (unnamed) that had a funny moment when raindrops started filling Bob Huber's dinner plate from a leak in the roof. The wait staff was forced to move us to a nearby table that violated their social distancing policy, but they had no choice.

Following dinner, we retreated to the hospitality room to socialize, while Bob Sipes and Rob Kasper sorted the Jim Thorp consignment, entered into Bob's computer. Several of us also assisted with the many other donation and consignment books brought for the auction.

## Friday, June 4

Following breakfast, expertly served in the hotel dining area under social distancing rules by the hotel's



**New H.A.S. member Terry Booth and his wife, Carol, get together with Brad Chase prior to Friday morning's opening convention session.**

Photo by Bill Gowen



**Bob Petitto and James King enjoy Wednesday's reception for early convention arrivals at the home of host Jack Bales.**

Photo by Bill Gowen

kitchen staff, the main program started at 9 a.m. in the hospitality room, which was also our meeting room.

Jack Bales made his opening "Welcome to Fredericksburg" remarks, and then the presentations began, with Bales remaining at the podium to offer his talk titled "The Horatio Alger Society: A Sixty-Year Retrospective, 1961-2021." His PowerPoint slides showed images reproduced from vintage **Newsboy** issues, or from his personal collection, including photos of H.A.S. co-founders Forrest Campbell and Kenneth Butler, progressing all the way through the years showing many of the great Partic'lar Friends who have since left us.

Jeff Looney (PF-903) followed with his talk, "My Book Collection: Origins and Outcomes," showing us examples of key items from his collection.

After a brief break, we moved quickly to the annual business meeting, run by Vice President James King. The loss of the 2020 convention was acknowledged, with special thanks to Bob Eastlack, whose extensive planning bore no fruit except for the Jim Thorp collection. Bob personally drove to New Hampshire to pick up and fill his car with boxes of books, which he eventually organized into a successful Internet auction.

The official order of business started with the annual financial report, which after a few adjustments is shown on Page 11. A donation of \$5,000 to the Society from the Horatio Alger Association of Famous Americans was made for Rob Kasper's updating of the that organization's official Alger biography, with input from Brad Chase and Jack Bales. This donation will be reflected on the new fiscal year's financial report. Kasper is taking over as treasurer (an appointed position), following years of faithful service in the post by former H.A.S.

(Continued on Page 7)

## President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

community and enthusiasts alike.

But we're not entirely spoiled for choice. There are articles of import and interest waiting to be written by collectors such as yourselves, our members. Collectors whose pet interests give them unique knowledge on authors, series, publishers and bibliographic histories that are perhaps nowhere else to be found. Are you a Capt. Brereton specialist? Know just about all there is to know about Oliver Optic? Have you encyclopaedic knowledge of the vast Frank Merriwell oeuvre? Then, you have a story to tell, and we want to read it.

Anyone inspired to so share his or her knowledge is invited to contact our editor for information on meeting the journalistic standards of the publication. Now, dip your quills and good luck!

An area in perhaps greater need of activity and discourse is our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Horatio-Alger-Society/146015956296>. It is gener-

ally agreed that this site alone offers the best chance for critically growing our membership. Our board of directors has authorized the posting of announcements of upcoming **Newsboy** articles to attract interest, and the site will be updated more regularly, but we need contributions from members like you. Stop by and comment on a post, or add a new one yourself. Check in often and contribute. It's fun, easy and more importantly, you will be contributing to the vitality of the Society.

Let's make this a year of growth. If you know someone who likes to read, mention the Horatio Alger Society. Suggest he or she re-read a book from their childhood and ask if that doesn't whet their appetite for more.

With that I will leave you with wishes for a happy and healthy summer.

Your Partic'lar Friend,  
James King (PF-1123)  
711 East Plantation Circle  
Plantation, Fla. 33324  
(954) 473-6927  
E-mail: jamesreed9@gmx.com

## A few thoughts on 'Frank and Fearless in Fredericksburg'

(Continued from Page 3)

of my questions or said they would get back to me but never did. Others told me that because of the pandemic, their meeting rooms were closed.

Chris Jones of the Hampton Inn and Suites in Fredericksburg, however, responded immediately and said he would be happy to host the convention and that he was looking forward to working with me. In the months since my first inquiry, I emailed him dozens of times, and in every single instance he responded right away with answers to all of my questions. That's the major reason we'll be back there in 2022.

Besides Rob, I was also able to talk things over with longtime H.A.S. member Liane Houghtalin of Fredericksburg. I really liked her idea of a drawing for a "Welcome to Fredericksburg" gift basket. Brand new H.A.S. member Melissa Givney was the winner, and her name was drawn by our banquet speaker, Scott Harris, Executive Director of the University of Mary Washington Museums. Scott, by the way, was a terrific and animated keynote speaker, and in his PowerPoint presentation he made a broad comparison of President James Monroe's life to themes found in Horatio Alger's novels.

Speaking of our banquet, Sodexo Catering Services at the University of Mary Washington did a first-rate job. I met with Heather Hosey of UMW Dining Services several times over the past year — once we even met up at the

Hampton Inn so she could see the venue herself and ask Chris Jones a few questions. Sodexo also provided the box lunches on Friday — all seamlessly prepared and delivered by staff members. (I particularly thought Don Young did marvelous work, quietly ensuring that all was in perfect order during the Saturday evening meal).

Early on in my planning, I thought a tour of the Fredericksburg Civil War battlefield would be an excellent activity for Saturday afternoon. Unfortunately, the pandemic had closed all federal buildings, including the National Park Service's local visitors' center. I tried contacting a few persons but did not receive any replies. Fortunately, a friend of mine, retired National Park historian and author Don Pfanz, came to the rescue, and from the minute he started talking he kept our attention with his encyclopedic knowledge of the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg. Later on I emailed to thank him and his reply was, "Glad to do it, Jack. I can't remember when I've enjoyed a tour more."

And I, too, certainly enjoyed being the host of "Frank and Fearless in Fredericksburg." But as **Newsboy** editor Bill Gowen recently emailed me, "We have only scratched the surface in things to see in the Fredericksburg area," and at the Horatio Alger Society's business meeting I agreed to host the 2022 convention here. I look forward to planning the 2022 "Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg."



**Banquet keynote speaker Scott Harris presents the life parallels between President James Monroe and Horatio Alger hero “Ragged Dick” Hunter.** Photo by James King

## Convention report

*(Continued from Page 5)*

president and convention host Barry Schoenborn.

The meeting turned to the nomination of officers and directors. James King, as sitting vice president, was nominated for President, with the vice president held open for the present. Director nominations covered two openings for two-year terms, to be filled by Bob Petitto and Scott Chase; and two openings for three-year terms, to be filled by James Keeline and Debby Jones.

Acceptance of the nominated slate of officers was moved by Jeff Looney and seconded by Jack Bales, with ratification by voice vote.

A discussion of future conventions was held, as Bales announced with he was willing to host us again in 2022. Following a brief discussion, Dick Hoffman moved to accept Bales' offer, the motion was seconded by Brad Chase and carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at about 10:30 a.m., allowing for an early start to the auction prior to lunch.

Following an excellent box lunch from the staff at Sodexo Catering Services at UMW, at noon, the auction resumed. Auctioneer Bob Huber moved swiftly through the nearly 200 consigned and donated lots, which took about four hours to clear all the tables of books and other items.

This turned out to be our most successful auction in years, with consignment and donation bids totaling nearly \$6,600, and the Society netting \$2,362.25, much more than double the results of recent years.

The big difference was the increase of donated books, which raised \$1,203 for the Society, whose sincere thanks go to the donors' generosity. Full auction results are on

Pages 14-17. Following a break to freshen up, we headed by car pools to dinner at Brock's Riverside Grill, where we had a room set aside for dinner.

The major event, of course, was the presentation of the **Strive & Succeed Award**, which went to recent local high school graduate Beheshta Nassari, who attended with her family. Beheshta's story is so fascinating that we have reproduced on Pages 12-13 the feature article appearing on Page 1 of the Fredericksburg **Free Lance-Star** the day prior to the convention.

### Saturday, June 5

Following breakfast, we met in the our meeting/hospitality room for the annual book sale, which had more to offer than usual, thanks to an excellent selection offered by Jeff Looney and several other members.

Socializing continued until lunch time (on our own), which was followed by the guided tour of the Fredericksburg battlefield, led by retired NPS historian Don Pfanz. With official tours still suspended due to the pandemic, Pfanz, a personal friend of our host, was a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic tour guide.

The rest of the afternoon was free time, which allowed us to rest up for the banquet, with the hotel staff doing an excellent job of "formalizing" our meeting room for the occasion.

Following dinner, Bob Sipes announced the successful auction results, leading up to the H.A.S. annual awards, as follows:

**Richard R. Seddon Award:** Rob Kasper, the previous winner in 2019, presented the award to Keith Thompson, whose spirit and genuineness personify the late Dick Seddon (PF-324), a beloved early member of the Horatio Alger Society from Andover, Mass.

**Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award:** There were two plaques presented (it usually goes to the previous convention host). Jack Bales presented Wendy and Bob Sipes their award for hosting the 2019 convention in Shelbyville, Indiana (their fourth Hoosier State convention). The second award, presented by Bob Sipes, went to Bob Eastlack in recognition of his many months of preparation for "Gettysburg Campaign," which wasn't to be, due to circumstances way beyond our control.

Our guest speaker, Scott H. Harris, the executive director of the University of Mary Washington's museums, and specifically the director of the James Monroe Museum, presented a compelling PowerPoint talk titled "Statesman and Bootblack: The Progress of James Monroe and Ragged Dick."

Following the talk we hung around the room to reminisce about the weekend, with the hope we will all return on June 23-26, 2022 for "Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg." Host Jack Bales is already making plans for a bigger and better meeting next year!



Membership	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Individual	85	85	91	94	101	104	112	114	115	112	115
Sustaining	16	13	11	13	15	11	11	13	14	8	1
Life*	8	8	8	8	8	6	7	7	8	8	9
Honorary	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4
Institutions	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>138</b>

\* Jack Bales is a life member who asked to change his membership and has subsequently paid as a Sustaining Member.

## Horatio Alger Society Board of Directors Meeting

Fredericksburg, Virginia — June 3, 2021

### In Attendance:

James King, Vice President

Robert G. Sipes, Executive Director

Robert Kasper, Treasurer (incoming)

William R. Gowen, Editor

Robert G. Huber, Webmaster

Robert D. Eastlack, Director

Robert M. Petitto, Director

Jack Bales, Director; host

James D. Keeline, Director\*

\* Attended via digital presence

### Absent:

Debby Jones, Director

Michael Morley, Director

Joseph Strang, Director

Cary Sternick, Outgoing  
President

Barry Schoenborn, Treasurer

James King, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 1630.

Bob Sipes, in Barry Schoenborn's absence, presented the annual financial report. Gross income for the previous 12 months was \$11,242.71 and expenses were \$9,986.10 resulting in a net income of \$1,256.61 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2021. This is a large increase from the loss of \$1,481.33 realized for fiscal year ending April 30, 2019 and \$1,865.28 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2020. The increase can be attributed in part to the auction proceeds from the 2020 email auction managed by Bob Eastlack since his convention planned for Gettysburg, Pa., was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other than \$122.39 in planning expenses by Eastlack, there were also no actual convention expenses in light of the cancellation. Total cash on hand includes \$6,849.31 in checking deposits and \$9,075.48 in a certificate of deposit for a total of \$15,924.79. The full Treasurer's Report is on Page 11.

While our year-over-year membership losses have normally been small, with a few slight gains, 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. We discussed the previous approval of a \$5.00 increase in membership dues and voted (motion

by James King, seconded by Jack Bales, approved by All) to repeal the increase. Increasing membership dues will be assessed and if the H.A.S. Board decides to proceed, the proper process per the Bylaws will be followed.

The regular *Strive & Succeed Award* fund income for the previous 12 months totaled \$1,000.71. This is an increase over the previous year; however, the stipend to the recipient selected by the convention host remained at \$1,000. It was noted that there were no separate *Strive & Succeed Award* donations made online; however, a couple of online dues renewals contained *Strive & Succeed Award* donations.

Robert Sipes, Executive Director, reported total membership at 106. This includes 85 individual members, 16 of which are Sustaining members, 8 Life, 4 Honorary and 9 Libraries. There were 4 new members, 1 re-instated member and 12 drops during the previous 24 months for a net loss of 7 members. Total membership by category is presented in the table, above.

The drop in membership is primarily due to the passing of some of our aging members. I was recently notified by EBSCO that the University of Minnesota library has decided not to renew. EBSCO could offer no reason. As greater than 75 per cent of our membership are seniors, this problem will continue without membership growth.

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 4 members who are greater than 6 months in arrears. This can skew the membership numbers and affects the overall cash flow.

Sipes also 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 197 Facebook members that have liked the H.A.S. page and receive updates. This is up 15 from 2019. Many of these Facebook members are not H.A.S. members. The level of activity on the page is low; however, when a member posts some content, there is a small level of activity implying that increased content would result in increased activity. Increased activity requires increased posts that are interesting and thought-provoking. We did discuss and approve the posting of **Newsboy** teasers to the HAS Facebook page. Bill Gowen will provide Robert Sipes with the teasers to post.



The Horatio Alger Society’s Board of Directors meets at Fredericksburg, Va., on June 3, 2021.

Photo by Bill Gowen

Robert also discussed our relationship with EBSCO. (You can locate additional information regarding our relationship in past H.A.S. Board meeting minutes). To date, we have not received any income from EBSCO. However, we have uploaded all issues back to and including the Jan./Feb. 1992 issue and continue to upload current issues as they are released. During an email exchange with EBSCO regarding a subscriber, Robert asked about the status of any income and what we should expect when EBSCO subscribers purchased bulk access. They are investigating but have yet to provide a formal response.

The H.A.S. repository remains robust. Northern Illinois University continues to provide scans and other reproductions to H.A.S. members upon request. The table, below, shows the endowment net principal for the past few years. The minor fluctuations are due to the financial markets and the number of fellowships provided during fiscal year.

There were 2 fellowships provided in 2018, none in 2019 or 2021 (likely due to the ongoing pandemic). Regarding the 2020 fellowship, I provide the following excerpt from curator Sarah Cain’s email regarding the fellowships.

“A fellowship was awarded in 2020, but due to COVID the researcher did not feel comfortable traveling to NIU to perform her research. Due to the unique circumstances concerning the pandemic, she was awarded an extension year and must complete her research before May 2022. Her research focuses on the Children’s Aid Society’s (CAS) emigration of New York City orphans to Upstate New York farms during the period 1853-1929.” The following quote is from her application materials:

“Late in the summer of 2019, while conducting research in the CAS archives at the New-York Historical Society, I

found the following letter, from an Upstate father who had been notified by the CAS of his son’s presence in New York City, in the organization’s 62nd Annual Report (1914):

*Dear Sir: I immediately got in communication with my son, D\_\_\_ C\_\_\_, after your letter to me, and sent him money to come home. I was agreeably surprised to hear his explanation of how he came to seek your home. He was always a great reader of the Alger books for boys, and your society and the work done for the young and friendless is often spoke of and highly recommended. While in New York he thought he would investigate them, and he writes that he found them all that can be desired and fully up to the high recommendation of the Alger Series. I thank you for your kindly interest in him. From what he writes, I know your institution is doing a world of work for the young who find themselves without friends and in need of assistance in your great city. Yours sincerely,  
C. H. C\_\_\_, 315 Temple Street, Syracuse, NY*

“This letter opened up a new avenue for my larger project — and it revealed an underexplored aspect of child emigration research, more generally: children’s agency and the role of pop culture in the phenomenon. In the fall of 2019, I pursued that new avenue, initiating a study of the pro-migration messaging present in the novels of Horatio Alger, Jr. Working with a QCC undergraduate research assistant, I have spent the 2019-2020 academic year reading and coding all of the novels in Alger’s *Ragged Dick*, *Tattered Tom*, and *Luck and Pluck* series, and

(Continued on Page 10)

NIU HAS Endowment	Jun-21	Jun-19	May-18	May-17	May-16	May-15	May-14
Net Principal	\$61,406.13	\$59,334.66	\$49,513.38	\$45,752.93	\$50,764.39	\$52,667.43	\$45,790.37

Category	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	May '12 - Apr '13	May '11 - Apr '12
Print Run	130	130	130	140	140	155	160	160	160	160
Number of Color Issues	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	1
Print Cost per Issue (each)	\$2.65	\$2.78	\$2.53	\$2.78	\$2.81	\$3.22	\$2.23	\$2.82	\$2.36	\$2.29
Total Cost per Issue (each)	\$5.08	\$4.05	\$4.25	\$4.20	\$4.31	\$4.55	\$3.67	\$4.21	\$3.74	\$3.86

## Horatio Alger Society Board of Directors Meeting

*(Continued from Page 9)*

we plan to read and code eight additional texts from the Brave and Bold and Pacific Series this summer.”

Jack Bales offered to host the 2022 HAS Convention again in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The 2022 convention will be held later than usual on 23-26 June. During the 2021 Convention, the 2022 convention was approved for the second weekend in June, but due to event conflicts in Fredericksburg that affected hotel availability, Jack proposed the later dates, which were approved by an H.A.S. Board meeting via teleconference on July 6, 2021. Jack already has the convention well in hand, with logistics, hotel pricing and more.

There was no Nominating Committee Report as a committee was not formed. However, due to prior discussion, we spent little time in nominating Bob Petitto and Scott Chase to 2-year terms and Debby Jones and James Keeline to 3-year terms to round out the proper sequencing of the Board. Robert Kasper was nominated to take over as Treasurer from Barry Schoenborn. There was discussion concerning the website administration, and Bob Huber agreed to assume the webmaster role from Barry, with some help from Robert Sipes and James Keeline. All nominations were approved by the H.A.S. Board and the nominations were ratified by the membership during the annual business meeting on Friday morning.

Jack Bales, convention host, reported that the current registered attendance was 19 and that he would cover any

additional conference expense. Bob Sipes presented the list of those receiving awards for this year.

The **Newsboy** Report was given by William R. Gowen, Editor. The print run for **Newsboy** is currently 130 copies. Due to the declining membership a reduction to 120 copies was approved, beginning with the May-June 2021 issue.

The total annual expense for producing **Newsboy** has remained relatively stable during the past decade, as shown in the above chart. The primary reason is managing the print run based on membership to balance increases in postage and printing costs. Total cost per issue decreased slightly in FY 2019-20 due to minimal editor's expenses and no bi-annual envelope purchase. Total cost per issue raised considerably in FY 2020-21, primarily due to our bi-annual envelope purchase and the need for the editor to purchase a new scanner. The old scanner lasted 9 years, but we will account for the expense in this single fiscal year.

An honorarium of \$200 each to the Executive Director and **Newsboy** Editor was approved, as there were no honoraria provided in 2020.

Robert Sipes stated that all necessary business filings were completed on time.

Vice President King adjourned the meeting at 1900.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert G. Sipes*

Robert G. Sipes

*Executive Director*

*Horatio Alger Society*

*Please join us in Fredericksburg again next year —  
and remember the dates — June 23-26, 2022*



# TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1, 2020-April 30, 2021

## INCOME

Dues income.....	\$2,380.00
Strive & Succeed Award fund income .....	1,000.71
Internet auction income .....	7,820.00
Merchandise and advertising:	
Advertising Income.....	17.00
Total Merchandise and advertising Income.....	17.00
Miscellaneous Income .....	25.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$11,242.71</b>

## EXPENSES

Newsboy expenses:	
Printing.....	2,068.78
Postage.....	1,033.44
Envelopes .....	171.97
Editor's expenses .....	688.48
Total Newsboy expenses .....	\$3,962.67
Canceled 2020 convention planning expenses:	
Host misc. gain/loss.....	122.39
Total convention planning expenses .....	\$122.39
Internet auction consignment payouts.....	\$5,865.00
Administration:	
PayPal charges.....	5.05
Web Hosting/Domain.....	18.99
Bank charges.....	12.00
Total administration expenses.....	\$36.04
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$9,986.10</b>
<b>NET INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$1,256.61</b>

Certificate of deposit (CD).....	9,075.48
Total checking/savings .....	\$15,924.79
Total Current Assets.....	\$15,924.79
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$15,924.79</b>

## LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Equity:	
Opening balance, equity.....	\$4,763.05
Retained earnings .....	9,905.13
Net income .....	\$1,256.61
<b>TOTAL EQUITY .....</b>	<b>\$15,924.79</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY .....** \$15,924.79

*Submitted by Barry Schoenborn, Treasurer, April 30, 2021*

### Balance sheet as of April 30, 2021

## ASSETS

Current assets (checking/savings)	
Checking account .....	\$6,849.31



The statue of Revolutionary War hero Hugh Mercer on Washington Avenue Mall in Fredericksburg. Photo by Bill Gowen

# The Free Lance-Star

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

## MODERN-DAY HORATIO ALGER STORY EARNS HER A SCHOLARSHIP

# Afghan woman perseveres to earn diploma

BY CATHY DYSON

© 2021 The Free Lance-Star

At first, the teenager from Afghanistan was so shy and withdrawn that she barely made eye contact with anyone outside her family.

As Beheshta Nassari learned a few words of English, she slowly found her voice and the courage to express her heart's desire. Whenever her mentor, Kathleen Renfroe with Catholic Charities, came to visit, Nassari would tell her:

"I want to go to school."

"I want to go to school."

"I want to go to school."

Renfroe got the message, but it wasn't a simple matter of enrolling Nassari at James Monroe High School. She was 18 when her family came to the United States three years ago, after locals in her city of Jalalabad realized her father had worked as an interpreter for the military. Things got dicey — schools were attacked, pets killed and property vandalized — and it became clear that the Nassari family had to escape.

Beheshta Nassari knew the alphabet when her family arrived in Virginia, but couldn't otherwise speak or write the language. She immediately took English classes and at one point even walked from her home in Mayfield to a church in downtown Fredericksburg for a more intensive course.

By early 2020, counselors at James Monroe told her and Renfroe she could enroll, but would not be able to stay in

school past age 21, as is state law. That meant Nassari would have to double up on courses and complete her junior and senior requirements in just over a year.

And not any normal year, but in the middle of a pandemic.

"Throughout all of this, Beheshta has kept her head high and devoted almost all her free time to her classes" — to the point her mother feared she would suffer from exhaustion, Renfroe said. "Beheshta had long waited to attend high school and was determined to make this opportunity count."

Nassari graduated last week and has set her sights on becoming a dentist. She'd especially like to treat Afghan

patients, especially women whose culture dictates they see only female physicians.

Even with a diploma in hand, the 21-year-old is still amazed by the opportunities she's been given, considering she couldn't even walk outside her Afghan home without her brother or father at her side. Asked what she'd like to share with readers, Nassari took a deep breath and proclaimed:

"This is my advice,"

she said in a quiet but determined voice. "Never give up. If you want it, one day you will achieve."

**"STRIVE AND SUCCEED"**

Others have noticed the motivation of the young woman with long black hair and earrings decorated with the colors of the American flags. She wears one pair or another featuring stars and stripes just about every day.



Beheshta Nassari exits FredNats Stadium with her fellow James Monroe High School graduates.

Photos by Mike Morones, © 2021 The Free Lance-Star

When members of the Horatio Alger Society, which is holding its annual convention in Fredericksburg this coming weekend, looked for a student to honor who embodied the self-reliance, perseverance and strength of character Alger wrote about, counselors nominated Nassari.

“From my interactions with Beheshta, she is a very respectful and kind individual,” said Tiffany McGillivray, counselor at James Monroe. “She holds true to her faith and values her family. She is diligent in her studies . . . [and] I wholeheartedly believe she is a deserving student for this award.

Jack Bales, emeritus librarian at the University of Mary Washington, is hosting the Alger event. He contacted other society board members, who agreed that Nassari is the perfect choice for its “Strive and Succeed” award and scholarship of at least \$500.

Bales read every single one of more than 100 books penned by the author in the mid-19th century. The belief that hard work leads to success struck a chord with him and his eight brothers and sisters, who all had jobs in high school and worked their way through college.

As he’s learned the background of this year’s award winner, Bales has come to believe that Nassari’s story rivals any of the obstacles faced by characters in Horatio Alger’s books.

“She clearly out-Algers Horatio Alger,” he said.

### HER INDEPENDENCE

Nassari had asked Renfroe to join her during a recent interview because she’s still nervous about her English. As the two sat at Renfroe’s kitchen table, Nassari talked about the extreme restrictions she faced as a female in Afghanistan.

Her parents, Mohammad Hashim and Hadesa Nassari, always encouraged their seven daughters to go to school, just as they did their three sons. But their attitude was not the norm in a country where girls faced arranged marriages at age 15 or 16 and had little contact with the outside world.

Just sitting at the table with a male photographer — as



**Beheshta Nassari chats with mentor Kathleen Renfroe, who helped her enroll at James Monroe.**

she did during the interview — would have been grounds for death if her father or brother wasn’t present, she said.

Nassari wanted no part of being practically a prisoner in her own home or a wedding at an early age.

“I still say knowledge is my marriage,” she said.

As she and her family have gotten used to American culture, Renfroe noticed how the girls, especially, have come out of their shells. Initially, the sisters catered to their teenage brother, Sebghat, who also graduated last week from James Monroe.

They did his laundry and waited on him when he came home from classes or track practice. But as time went on, Renfroe noticed the girls discovering the joys of independence — and equality.

“One day he came home and wanted water, and Beheshta said, ‘You have legs, go get it yourself.’”

Nassari smiled at the thought that she, a young woman from Afghanistan, could drive a car, work in a Walmart and attend Germanna Community College as part of her coursework to becoming a dentist.

“You can do anything you want in this country,” she said.

### LOCAL CONVENTION

The Horatio Alger Society is celebrating its 60th anniversary with an annual convention, held through Sunday at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Spotsylvania County. Called “Frank and Fearless in Fredericksburg,” the convention marks the first time the event has been held in the local area.

The group began as an organization of Alger book collectors, but over time, members’ interests have broadened to include all juvenile literature, including boys’ and girls’ series books, pulp magazines and dime novels. Members also conduct research on Alger’s life, works and his influence,

said Jack Bales, who’s hosting this year’s convention.

The schedule includes presentations about the 19th century author whose books usually featured poor boys who sold newspapers, shined shoes or worked in stores to support themselves or their families. There’s also time for socializing with fellow members, tours of local historical sites and a banquet honoring its “Strive and Succeed” award winner, Beheshta Nassari of James Monroe High School.

The annual Horatio Alger Society book sale, held from 9-10 a.m. Saturday at the Hampton Inn’s hospitality room, is open to the public.



# Consignment/donation auction summary

## Consignment from Jim Thorp (PF-574)

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Chester Rand</i>	H.T. Coates, first ed.	Dick Hoffman	\$40.00
<i>Andy Grant's Pluck</i>	H.T. Coates, first ed.	James King	\$20.00
<i>Young Bank Messenger</i>	H.T. Coates, first ed.	James King	\$25.00
<i>Mark Mason's Victory</i>	A.L. Burt, green tulip	Jack Bales	\$5.00
<i>The Train Boy</i>	G.W. Carleton, first ed.	Rob Kasper	\$100.00
<i>Ben Logan's Triumph</i>	Cupples & Leon, first ed.	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>The Young Miner</i>	A.K. Loring, first ed.	James King	\$40.00
<i>Wait and Win</i>	A.L. Burt, first ed.	Debby Jones	\$28.00
<i>In Search of Treasure</i>	A.L. Burt, first ed.	Dick Hoffman	\$5.00
<i>The Young Salesman</i>	H.T. Coates, first ed.	Bob Huber	\$2.00
<i>Mark Manning's Mission</i>	A.L. Burt, first ed.	Jack Bales	\$5.00
<i>Ragged Dick</i>	A.K. Loring, early ed.	Bob Sipes	\$15.00
<i>The Telegraph Boy</i>	A.K. Loring, first ed.	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Fame and Fortune</i>	A.K. Loring, 2nd state	James King	\$5.00
<i>Sam's Chance</i>	A.K. Loring, first ed.	James King	\$10.00
<i>Phil, the Fiddler</i>	Loring, first ed., mauve	Bob Huber	\$2.00
<i>Phil, the Fiddler</i>	Loring, 1st ed., green	James King	\$35.00
<i>Rupert's Ambition</i>	H.T. Coates, first ed.	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Frank Hunter's Peril</i>	H.T. Coates, first ed.	Bob Huber	\$2.00
<i>Jed, the Poorhouse Boy</i>	H.T. Coates, first ed.	James King	\$40.00
<i>Wait and Hope</i>	A.K. Loring, first ed.	Brad Chase	\$50.00
<i>Out for Business</i>	Mershon, first ed.	Scott Chase	\$20.00
<i>The World Before Him</i>	Penn Publishing	Debby Jones	\$12.00
<i>Ben's Nugget</i>	P&C, brown apple	Debby Jones	\$15.00
<i>The \$500 Check</i>	Lovell, first HC ed.	Scott Chase	\$110.00
<i>A Rolling Stone</i>	T. & Thomas, first ed.	Debby Jones	\$9.00
<i>The Backwoods Boy</i>	J.R. Anderson	Brad Chase	\$5.00
<i>The Disagreeable Woman</i> ; reprint;			
Carol Nackenoff: <i>The Fictional Republic</i>		Debby Jones	\$5.00
Westgard: <i>Alger Street</i>	Canner (boxed ed.)	Liane Houghtalin	\$15.00
<i>S. Snobden's Office Boy</i> ; Doubleday;			
<i>Cast Upon the Breakers</i>	Doubleday	Jack Bales	\$5.00
Three Algiers with d/j	Media Books	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>Herbert Carter's Legacy</i>	Winston, stand. boy, d/j	Terry Booth	\$65.00
Three misc. Donohue, Whitman Algiers, with d/js		Gerald Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Farm Boy to Senator</i>	Berkeley Ed., with d/j	Rob Kasper	\$300.00
<i>Luke Walton</i>	Winston, with d/j	Brad Chase	\$70.00
<i>The Young Miner</i>	Winston, with d/j	Bob Sipes	\$125.00
Four misc. Algiers	Winston, with d/js	Terry Booth	\$30.00
Two misc. Algiers	A.L. Burt, with d/js	Bob Sipes	\$55.00
<i>Herbert Carter's Legacy</i> ;			
<i>The Telegraph Boy</i>	Winston, with d/js	Brad Chase	\$95.00
Three misc. Algiers	Winston, with d/js	Terry Booth	\$30.00

Four misc. Algiers	Hurst, with d/js	Bob Sipes	\$12.00
Four misc. Algiers	Hurst, with d/js	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
Four misc. Algiers	Hurst, with d/js	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
Three Algiers with d/js	Winston, Donohue	Gerald Sipes	\$17.00
<i>Tom, the Bootblack</i>	Burt, Boys' Home Lib.	K. Thompson	\$1,200.00
Chase; A. L. Burt, T. D. Hurst bibliographies		Brad Chase	\$10.00
<i>The Young Adventurer</i>	Aldine, Garfield Lib.	Scott Chase	\$130.00
<i>Tom Brace</i>	S&S, Medal Library	Bob Huber	\$50.00
<i>The Western Boy</i>	First ed., leather rebind	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>The Erie Train Boy</i>	Berkeley Ed., 1st HC	James King	\$120.00
<i>Joe, the Hotel Boy</i>	C&L	Liane Houghtalin	\$2.00
<i>Mabel Parker</i>	<i>Archon Books</i> ;		
Scharnhorst, ed.: <i>Lost Tales of Horatio Alger</i>		Jack Bales	\$5.00
Small Alger plates and convention souvenirs		Debby Jones	\$22.00
<i>Robert Lawson</i>	Westgard, mini. ed.	Scott Chase	\$12.00
Kilmeade: <i>Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates</i> ;			
E. S. Gardner: <i>Sulky Girl</i> (Perry Mason myst.)		Jeff Looney	\$2.00
<i>The Sun Series</i> (9 vol.)	Hardcover ed.	Debby Jones	\$45.00
Boxed set of Brad Chase Alger bibliographies		Terry Booth	\$20.00
Set of Brad Chase Alger bibliographies (w/o box)		Jack Bales	\$15.00
Optic: <i>Lake Shore Series</i> (L&S, 6 vols., reprints)		Debby Jones	\$65.00
Optic: <i>Lake Shore Series</i> (L&S, 6 vols., 4 in d/j)		Bob Sipes	\$90.00
Optic: <i>Blue and Gray Series</i> (L&S, 11 vols.)		Debby Jones	\$50.00
Optic: <i>Our Young Folks</i> ; H. Mayes: Alger biblio.		Debby Jones	\$22.00
Optic: <i>Stand by the Union</i> L&S, signed		Bob Petitto	\$350.00
Optic: <i>Desk and Debit</i> L&S, signed (?)		Bob Sipes	\$70.00
Optic: <i>Rich and Humble</i> L&S		Debby Jones	\$12.00
Optic: <i>In Doors and Out</i> L&S		Bob Sipes	\$15.00
Optic: <i>Young America Abroad Series</i> , 6 vols.		Debby Jones	\$50.00
Optic: <i>Boat Builder Ser.</i> (4 vol.); <i>Yacht Club Ser.</i> (1)		Debby Jones	\$95.00
Optic: Four misc. M. A. Donohue reprints		Gerald Sipes	\$16.00
Optic: <i>Starry Flag Series</i> , 6 vols.		Debby Jones	\$78.00
Optic: <i>Boat Club Series</i> , 6 vols.		Debby Jones	\$40.00
Optic: <i>Upward and Onward Series</i> , 3 vols.		Debby Jones	\$22.00
Optic: Two L, L&S titles, early printings		Bob Petitto	\$5.00
Optic: <i>Army and Navy Series</i> , 6 vols.		Debby Jones	\$15.00
Optic: <i>Great Western Series</i> , 6 vols.		Debby Jones	\$20.00
Optic: <i>Yacht Club Series</i> , 3 vols.		Debby Jones	\$15.00
Optic: Five misc titles by various publishers		Gerald Sipes	\$30.00
Horatio Alger commemorative plate		Debby Jones	\$5.00
Various Alger paperback reprint editions		Debby Jones	\$5.00
Misc. Horatio Alger ephemera		Debby Jones	\$2.00
Two misc. reprint eds. of <i>Phil, the Fiddler</i>		Bob Huber	\$2.00
Bob Bennett bibliography inscribed to Jim Thorp		Rob Kasper	\$13.00

**Lots sold: 82**

**Total bids: \$4,189.00**

**Commission to H.A.S.:**

**\$922.25**

# Consignment/donation auction summary

## Consignment from Brad Chase (PF-412)

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>The Erie Train Boy</i>	Hurst, small ed.	Debby Jones	\$20.00
<i>Mark, the Match Boy</i>	Loring, 1st. (Bennett)	James King	\$75.00
<i>The Backwoods Boy</i>	J. R. Anderson, first ed., (Gardner first ed.)	Bill Gowen	\$75.00
<i>Frank's Campaign</i>	Hurst, small ed.	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>Jack's Ward</i>	Superior, paperback	Rob Kasper	\$5.00
<i>Miss Toosey and Laddie</i>	H.C. Caldwell	Debby Jones	\$7.00
First Day of Issue covers	Assorted group	Liane Houghtalin	\$7.00
<i>Roy Rogers and the Raiders of Sawtooth Range</i>		Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Gardner: Road to Success</i>	Alger bibliography	Jack Bales	\$5.00
Alger playing cards	Convention souvenir	Bill Gowen	\$2.00
<i>Striving for Fortune</i>	Convention souvenir	Dick Hoffman	\$5.00
<i>Works in Progress</i> — contains Silas Snobden		Debby Jones	\$2.00
Chase: Boxed set of Alger bibliographies		Gerald Sipes	\$20.00

**Lots sold: 13** **Total bids: \$230.00**  
**Commission to H.A.S.: \$46.00**

## Consignment from James King (PF-1126)

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>The Nugget Finders</i>	J.F. Shaw, London	Brad Chase	\$20.00
<i>Rough and Ready</i>	A.K. Loring, first ed.	Scott Chase	\$5.00
<i>Risen from the Ranks</i>	A.K. Loring, first ed.	Scott Chase	\$5.00
<i>Struggling Upward</i>	P&C, first ed.	Bob Eastlack	\$2.00
<i>Mark Mason's Victory</i>	A.L. Burt, first ed.	Jack Bales	\$5.00
<i>Tom Turner's Legacy</i>	A.L. Burt, first ed.	Debby Jones	\$12.00
<i>Bernard Brook's Advent.</i>	A.L. Burt, first ed.	Jack Bales	\$5.00
<i>Young Captain Jack</i>	Mershon, first ed.	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Lost at Sea</i>	Mershon, first ed.	Gerald Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Joe, the Hotel Boy</i>	C&L, first ed.	Scott Chase	\$5.00
<i>Charlie Codman's Cruise</i>	S&S Alger Series	Dick Hoffman	\$5.00

**Lots sold: 11** **Total bids: \$79.00**  
**Commission to H.A.S.: \$15.80**

## Consignment from William Leitner (PF-381)

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Only an Irish Boy</i>	S&S Alger Series	Rob Kasper	\$5.00
<i>The Young Outlaw</i>	S&S Alger Series	Rob Kasper	\$5.00
<i>Hector's Inheritance</i>	S&S Alger Series	Gerald Sipes	\$9.00
<i>The Cash Boy</i>	S&S Alger Series	Rob Kasper	\$10.00
<i>Randy of the River</i>	S&S Alger Series	Gerald Sipes	\$9.00
<i>The Young Book Agent</i>	S&S Alger Series	Rob Kasper	\$5.00
<i>Strong and Steady</i>	S&S Medal Library	James King	\$10.00



**Auctioneer Bob Huber asks for an opening bid on Gilbert Patten's *The Boy Boomers*.**

Photo by James King

<i>Luck and Pluck</i>	A.K. Loring, first ed.	Scott Chase	\$15.00
<i>Jack's Ward</i>	A.K. Loring, first ed.	James King	\$35.00
<i>Tom, the Bootblack</i>	Hurst, small ed.	Debby Jones	\$10.00
<i>Amazing Stories</i> magazine	Burroughs content	Bob Sipes	\$20.00
<i>Blue Book</i> magazine	Burroughs content	Bob Sipes	\$20.00
Patten: <i>The Boy Boomers</i>	S&S, Boys' Own Lib.	Bill Gowen	\$60.00

**Lots sold: 13** **Total bids: \$170.40**  
**Commission to H.A.S.: \$42.60**

## Consignment from Keith Thompson (PF-035)

Title	Buyer	Price
<i>Gleason's Line of Battleship</i> , Vol. 1, 1868	Bob Sipes	\$163.00

**Lots sold: 1** **Total bids: \$163.40**  
**Commission to H.A.S.: \$32.60**

## Consignment from Jerry Friedland (PF-376)

Title	Buyer	Price
<i>Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Comp.</i> , 1854	Debby Jones	\$150.00
Street & Smith, <i>New York Weekly</i> , (1872-1873): Contains <i>The Western Boy and Brave &amp; Bold</i>	Bob Sipes	\$250.00

**Lots sold: 2** **Total bids: \$400.00**  
**Commission to H.A.S.: \$80.00**

## Consignment from Bob Huber (PF-841)

Title	Buyer	Price
<i>532 issues of Dime Novel Round-Up</i> , 1952-74	James King	\$100.00

**Lots sold: 1** **Total bids: \$100.00**  
**Commission to H.A.S.: \$20.00**

(Auction results continued on Page 16)

# Consignment/donation auction summary

## 2021 donation auction results

### *Donation from Ed Mattson (PF-067)* *(in tribute to Thomas B. Davis (1942-2021))*

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Strong and Steady</i>	A.K. Loring	Rob Kasper	\$40.00
<i>Canal Boy to President</i>	Anderson (2nd state)	Debby Jones	\$7.00
<i>Luck and Pluck</i>	P&C, flying wheel	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	A.K. Loring, first ed.	Bob Huber	\$2.00
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	A.K. Loring	Keith Thompson	\$20.00
<i>Long Rider and Tarzan</i>	Whitman, with d/j	Gerald Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Things to Do and Toymaking</i> , books for boys		Debby Jones	\$2.00
Bob Bennett Alger Biblio. (first edition, 1980)		James King	\$13.00
Bob Bennett Alger Biblio. (MAD update, 1999)		Keith Thompson	\$25.00
MAD Collector's Guide to Boys Series Books		Jack Bales	\$30.00
Tom Clancy: <i>Patriot Games</i> (signed)		Bob Sipes	\$12.00
Tom Clancy: <i>Cardinal of the Kremlin</i> (signed)		Bob Sipes	\$5.00
Tom Clancy: <i>Red Storm Rising</i> (signed)		Bob Sipes	\$5.00
Greene: <i>The Forgotten Star</i> (Dig Allen Series)		Jeff Looney	\$10.00
Striker: <i>Tom Quest Series</i> (8 books, 5 with d/js)		Gerald Sipes	\$35.00
Four <i>Gene Autry</i> books	Whitman, with d/js	Debby Jones	\$5.00
Finley: Three <i>Elsie</i> books	Dodd, Mead, with d/js	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Finley: Six <i>Elsie</i> books	Dodd, Mead	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Whitney: <i>The Saber-Tusk Hunters; The Rogue Elephant</i>			
	Reilly & Lee	Gerald Sipes	\$4.00
Collins: <i>Inventing for Boys</i>	F.A. Stokes	Jeff Looney	\$25.00
Two 4-in-1 Books (both G&D):			
Philip Lee Wright and J.P. Langley: <i>Pilots of the Air Mail</i>			
David Stone: <i>Yank Brown, Halfback</i>		Gerald Sipes	\$6.00
B.M. Bowers: <i>Big Book of Western Stories</i> (G&D);			
C.R. Schaare: <i>Pioneer Stories for Boys</i> (C&L)		Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Baseball Complete</i> , with d/j		Dick Hoffman	\$5.00
Donation:			
Bob Bennett Alger Biblio. (MAD update, 1999)		Rob Kasper	\$25.00
MAD Collector's Guide to Boys Series Books		Jeff Looney	\$28.00
MAD Collector's Guide to Boys Series Books		Scott Chase	\$28.00
MAD Collector's Guide to Boys Series Books		Debby Jones	\$28.00
<b>Total donation lots sold: 27</b>		<b>Total bids:</b>	<b>\$373.00</b>

### *Donation from Arthur P. Young (PF-941)*

Title	Buyer	Price
USPS News feature, 16mm film, on Horatio Alger	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
Horatio Alger decanter, signed by H. Welch, 1969	Debby Jones	\$15.00
Horatio Alger commemorative plate	Liane Houghtalin	\$10.00

Horatio Alger license plate	Debby Jones	\$2.00
Signature card of Harry Castlemon	Bob Petitto	\$60.00
Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society (includes Horatio Alger article)	Rob Kasper	\$15.00
Alger titles by Morton Enslin	Debby Jones	\$7.00
Nine Alger "Sun Series" titles	Scott Chase	\$10.00
<i>The Argosy</i> , Vol. 7, 1888-89	Debby Jones	\$152.00
<b>Total donation lots sold: 9</b>	<b>Total bids:</b>	<b>\$276.00</b>

### *Donation from Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)*

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>W. Sherwood's Probation</i>	H.T.C., first edition	Scott Chase	\$70.00
<i>The Western Boy</i>	G.W. Carleton, first ed.	Keith Thompson	\$65.00
Framed image and signature card of William T. Adams (Oliver Optic)		Debby Jones	\$35.00
<b>Total donation lots sold: 3</b>	<b>Total bids:</b>	<b>\$170.00</b>	

### *Donation from Jack Bales (PF-258)*

Title	Buyer	Price
Two books by Herbert L. Risteen (published by Cupples & Leon): <i>Montana Gold; Tomahawk Trail</i>	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
Six books by Herbert L. Risteen (published by Cupples & Leon): <i>Black Hawk's Warpath</i> <i>Chippewey Captive</i> , signed <i>Irish Silver</i> <i>Mohawk Trail</i> , signed <i>Montana Gold</i> , signed <i>Redskin Raiders</i> , signed	Bob Sipes	\$70.00
<b>Total donation lots sold: 2</b>	<b>Total bids:</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>

### *Donation from Bill Gowen (PF-706)*

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
Three books by Charles Pierce Burton (published by Henry Holt): <i>The Bob's Hill Braves</i> , first edition <i>Bob's Hill Meets the Andes</i> , first edition <i>The Bob's Cave Boys</i>		Jeff Looney	\$15.00
<i>Grit; The Store Boy</i>	S&S Alger Series	Rob Kasper	\$10.00
Mathewson: <i>Catcher Craig</i>	G&D, with d/j	Jeff Looney	\$20.00
Lilian Garis: <i>The Tower Secret</i> (Melody Lane Series)			
	G&D, with d/j	Jeff Looney	\$15.00
Victor Appleton: <i>Don Sturdy with the Big Snake Hunters</i>			
	G&D, with d/j	Gerald Sipes	\$5.00
F. W. Dixon: <i>Hardy Boys: The Secret of the Old Mill</i>			
	G&D, with d/j	Gerald Sipes	\$20.00



# Consignment/donation auction summary

Stuart: <i>Boy Scouts of the Air</i>	Reilly & Lee, with d/j	Bob Sipes	\$2.00	Capwell Wyckoff: <i>The Mystery of Gaither Cove</i>	Saalfeld, with d/j	Debby Jones	\$5.00
Thomson Burtis: <i>Rex Lee on the Border Patrol</i>	G&D, with d/j	Bob Sipes	\$10.00	Mark Stevens: <i>Tailspin Tommy</i>	G&D, with d/j	James King	\$18.00
Allen Chapman: <i>Ralph and the Train Wreckers</i>	G&D	Bob Huber	\$30.00	H. M. Sherman and H. Daniel: <i>Cameron McBain, Backwoodsman</i>	G&D, with d/j	Jeff Looney	\$5.00
Willard Baker: <i>Bob Dexter and the Club House Mystery</i>	C&L, with d/j	Bob Sipes	\$5.00	Irving Crump: <i>The Pilot of the Cloud Patrol</i>	G&D, with d/j	Bob Sipes	\$20.00
<b>Total donation lots sold: 10</b>		<b>Total bids:</b>	<b>\$132.00</b>	Gardner Hunting: <i>Barry Dare and the Mysterious Box</i>	A.L. Burt, with d/j	Bob Sipes	\$5.00

## Donation from Terry Booth (PF-1150)

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
Victor Appleton: <i>Tom Swift Series</i> , with dust jackets:			
... and his Wizard Camera	G&D	James King	\$15.00
... and his Great Oil Gusher	G&D	Jeff Looney	\$35.00
... and his Electric Runabout	G&D	Gerald Sipes	\$10.00
... and his Photo Telephone	G&D	Gerald Sipes	\$11.00
Webster: <i>Jack the Runaway</i>	C&L, with d/j	Gerald Sipes	\$2.00
Wyman: <i>D. Price's Victory</i>	A.L. Burt, with d/j	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
Webster: <i>The Young Firemen of Lakeville</i>	Saalfeld, with d/j	Debby Jones	\$12.00

Willard Baker: Two Bob Dexter books (C&L, with d/js):			
... and the Storm Mountain Mystery		Bob Sipes	\$10.00
... and the Sea Plane Mystery		James King	\$24.00
<b>Total donation lots sold: 14</b>		<b>Total bids:</b>	<b>\$177.00</b>

## 2021 auction summary:

Donation total (all proceeds to H.A.S.).....	\$1,203.00
Total bids, consignment auction.....	\$5,374.00
H.A.S. commission, consignment auction.....	\$1,159.25
Total bids, all auctions.....	\$6,577.00
H.A.S. proceeds, all auctions.....	\$2,362.25

# 'Frank and Fearless in Fredericksburg' — Attendance list

Jack Bales (PF-258)  
Fredericksburg, Va.

Terry Booth (PF-1150)  
Kenilworth, Ill.

Carol Booth  
Kenilworth, Ill.

Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)  
Enfield, Conn.

Ann Chase  
Enfield, Conn.

Scott Chase (PF-1106)  
Pittsford, N.Y.

Lisa Chase  
Pittsford, N.Y.

Robert D. Eastlack (PF-557)  
Lebanon, Pa.

William R. Gowen (PF-706)  
Lake Zurich, Ill.

Richard B. Hoffman (PF-570)  
Washington, D.C.

Liane Houghtalin (PF-699)  
Fredericksburg, Va.

Robert G. Huber (PF-841)  
Hudson, Ohio

Debby Jones (PF-1092)  
Bellefonte, Pa.

Rusty Black  
Bellefonte, Pa.

Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)  
Richmond, Va.

James King (PF-1126)  
Plantation, Fla.

Jeff Looney (PF-903)  
Charlottesville, Va.

Judy Looney  
Charlottesville, Va.

James Looney  
Charlottesville, Va.

Robert M. Petitto (PF-1086)  
Carol Stream, Ill.

Bob Sipes (PF-1067)  
Shelbyville, Ind.

Gerald Sipes  
Shelbyville, Ind.

Keith Thompson (PF-035)  
Bellport, N.Y.

Melissa Givey (PF-1151)  
Bellport, N.Y.

**TOTAL: 24 H.A.S. MEMBERS: 17**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill,

Mary Ann and I were both surprised and saddened to learn of the death of Tom Davis, Ed Mattson's collaborator during the production of the Mattson and Davis *A Collector's Guide to Hardcover Boys' Series Books*. You and I remember working at odd times during the years 1996-1998 on upgrading what was known as the "South Florida Bibliography." This was a half-hearted attempt to update the late Harry Hudson's 1977 bibliography, but it was virtually unchanged from Harry's original, and for this reason of very little use to serious collectors.

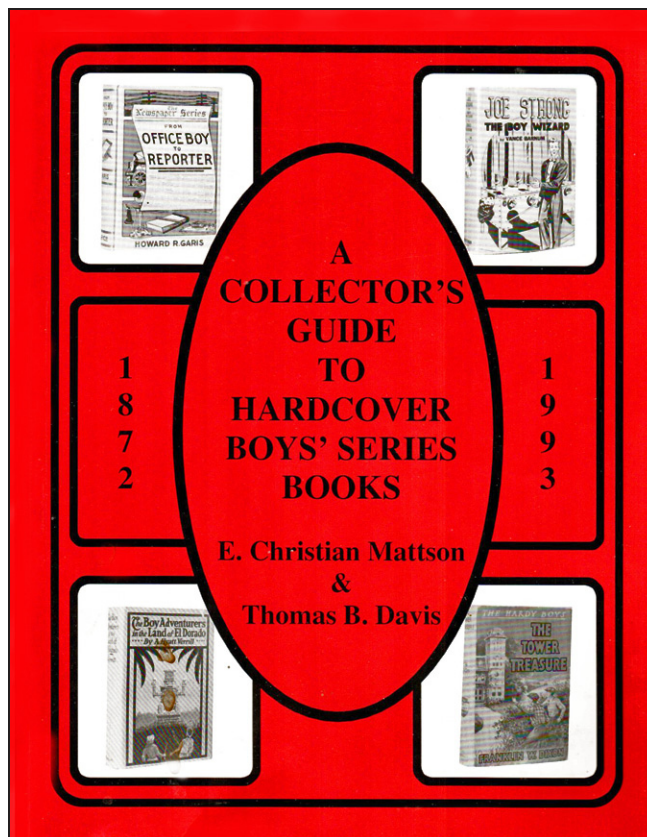
When Ed Mattson made the decision to put out a new version — and to help correct some of the errors that had crept in over the years — he asked you and I, along with Jeff Looney, Cary Sternick, Art Young and Randy Cox, for their input as well. We were sent mock-ups of their revised version, to which we continued to add further revisions. You and I passed the book back and forth by hand, as we lived within an hour's drive of each other in the Chicago suburbs. We then mailed it back to Tom so he could input the new information into his database. Yet, even this resulted in a first effort in 1996 that neither Tom nor Ed was satisfied with, although it was printed in a limited edition.

During that period, the work went on until both Ed and Tom felt it was as complete as could be expected. One of their innovations was assigning five-digit "MAD numbers" to the alphabetical listings, the numbers now a standard reference throughout our hobby. We sent Ed and Tom numerous new entries which were added in the format in which Harry had originally entered them and followed by Tom on his computer database.

Series that Harry had not listed included most notably the books of Robert F. Schulkers ("Seckatary Hawkins") and Henry A. Shute ("Plupy"), the latter which you and I personally checked out in the author's home town of Exeter, N. H. We also resolved the confusion regarding the early Roy Blakeley series issues, although it wasn't until just a few years ago that I was finally able to suggest *why* the format changes by the publisher (G&D) were made when they were.

As a result of all of these ongoing additions and corrections, in 1997 Ed and Tom published the 578-page updated version that has become known as the "Big Red Book." This version has cross-referenced lists of authors, artists, publishers and subjects, with introductory articles by yourself, Sternick, Mattson and Davis.

Yet, even that version has remained a work in progress, as myself and others have continued to discover numerous heretofore unknown series over the past two



decades-plus. But even with the *Guide's* limitations, Tom was instrumental in organizing all this material into a volume that could be understood and used by nearly anyone collecting or dealing in boys' books, especially those issued between 1895 and 1945.

Lists of the books of 19th-century authors such as Alger, Castlemon, Ellis, Otis and Optic appear at the rear of the book, but Sternick's fine volume on this earlier era has a much more complete breakdown of this material. Cary continues to add to his research with his greatly expanded online edition, realizing that any printed research project like this becomes out of date as soon as it comes off the press.

In 1999, Mattson and Davis published an updated version of Bob Bennett's 1980 Horatio Alger bibliography, with the personal approval of Bennett. A limited 100-copy first edition includes a signed bookplate by Bennett with the copy number, along with an introduction by Alger scholar Gary Scharnhorst.

Looking ahead, up-to-date research could still be done on the books that appeared after World War II; this was essentially the end of one era and the start of a new one, with only a few survivors from pre-war days still extant. Many of these series do not appear in any of our collections, so there is an open door here



Dear Tom,

Here's a list of updates for your files. Any questions, just give me a call.  
Bart

**MAD 04900 Barrow Brothers Series**

Reverse the order of volume 1 and volume 2.  
For format 1, change Volumes 1 - 3 to read All Volumes.  
Delete format 2, and add the following note:

The CBI lists volumes 4 and 5 as having been copywritten by Farrar & Rinehart in 1931, and they actually were. However, they were never issued under the Farrar & Rinehart imprint. It seems that Cosmopolitan printed all five books early in 1931, then began releasing them one at a time, possibly two or three months apart. Sometime during 1931, before volumes four and five were released, Cosmopolitan was acquired by Farrar & Rinehart. Since the last two volumes had not been released, Farrar & Rinehart applied for new copyrights, and they were issued. They did not, however, reprint the books or even modify the title page. They were issued as they had been printed. There is no evidence that Farrar & Rinehart ever reissued these titles under their own imprint.

**MAD 64000 Williams Series**

Artist, volume 1 - Walter Biggs  
Artist, volume 2 - Howard Heath  
Format 1, Appleton: Volume 1: 7-7/8 x 5-1/8, pictorial gray cloth binding, showing a cadet standing at attention near a tent. Illustration in black, white and light green. All lettering in white, with a device, black and white, on the spine between title and author.

Illustrations: Frontispiece and three on coated paper, in duotone.

Format 1, Appleton: Volume 2: 7-7/8 x 5-1/8, pictorial tan cloth binding, showing a cavalryman on horseback. Illustration in brown and white. All lettering in white. The spine carries a device of two crossed sabers.

Illustrations: frontispiece on coated paper, in duotone.

Note: A fourth edition of volume 1 has been observed. Same as (1), except all lettering in dark blue, and Appleton Boys Library has been added to the bottom of the front cover.

Formats (2) and (3) now become (3) and (4).

**MAD 53800 Skippy Dare Series**

Reverse the order of volumes 2 and 3.

**MAD 53700 Skimmer Series**

Format 1, Albert Whitman, volume 2, 3rd printing: 7-1/2 x 5-1/2, beige cloth binding, plain, with title and author in light orange outlined in black on cover. All spine lettering in black.

Illustrations: frontispiece and nine on coated paper, all black and white photographs.

Check notes for typos.

**MAD 20300 Comrades Courageous Series**

New subtitle, volume 1: A Story of Two Youths and the Frisco Earthquake  
New artist, volume 1: author's photograph.

New date, volume 1: 1907

New format, volume 1 only: 7-5/8 x 5-1/8, dark red pictorial cloth, showing several people fleeing fires during the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, in yellow, orange and black. All cover lettering in black, spine lettering in gold.

Illustrations: frontispiece on coated paper, from the author's photograph.

The former format 1 should now become format 2.

(I haven't seen volume 1 in format 2, but I assume Harry did. It is possible the book was revised, thus Harry's 1908 date and illustrations by Smith. I have volume 2 and it is as he described it. You may want to add this info as a note.)

**MAD 25450 Fighting for the Flag Series**

Remove "unknown" from the artist listing.

Add "Gibbs" under title listing to the artist sections.

Reverse the order of volumes 2 and 3.

Add this subtitle to A Medal of Honor Man: or, Cruising among Blockade

Runners.

Change the date for volume 2 to 1896; for volume 3 to 1897.

Remove "volume 1 only observed" from the format description.

**(NEW SERIES) The Gem Series (title assigned). Stories of search and adventure.**

Author: Samuel Scoville Jr.

Artist: Charles Livingston Bull (volumes 1 - 4); Raymond Lufkin (volume 5)

1. Boy Scouts in the Wilderness - 1919

2. The Blue Pearl - 1920

3. The Inca Emerald - 1922

4. The Red Diamond - 1925

5. The Snakeblood Ruby - 1932

Format 1 - The Century Co.: (volumes 1 - 4): 7-1/2 x 5, cloth binding, pictorial, various colors, different for each book.

Illustrations: frontispiece and three on coated paper.

Format 2 - Dodd, Mead & Co.: (volume 5) - no physical description at this time.

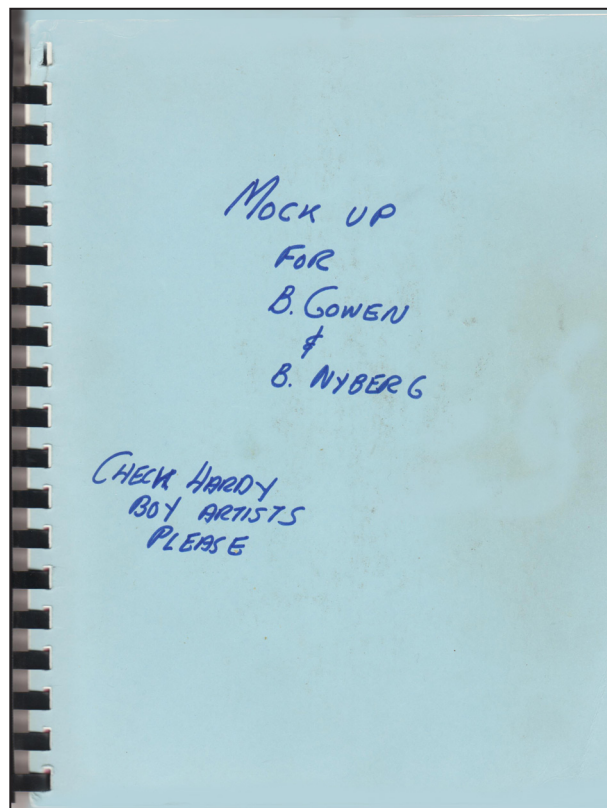
Note: The author was the grandson of Henry Ward Beecher.

for research into the period from 1945 to the present. The major series are well represented, but smaller groupings have escaped notice, as I recently found when examining the books of Felix Riesenberg, Jr., who wrote a six-volume series of books about the merchant marine that were issued between 1942 and 1949. They were unrecorded before my chance discovery. This is but one example of things that have turned up since 1997.

Should anyone decide to take on a new version of the Mattson & Davis Guide at some future date, Tom Davis' skills with the computer will be missed. We were fortunate to have his contributions when we did, and his friends and family should be proud of his work in this area. The *Guide* is a work to be proud of, and we who are collecting these books should be glad that Ed and Tom's friendship resulted in this work.

I am attaching a two-page letter (above) that I wrote to Tom (undated) that shows how some of the information was conveyed to him. Also, a photo of the cover of the workbook (at right) that we passed back and forth.

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





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill,

It's come to my attention recently that Arva Moore Parks passed away on May 10 of last year.

You may recall, she was the Florida historian and local celebrity who was the banquet keynote speaker at our 2018 convention about author Kirk Munroe and his wife, as pioneers of the Miami area.

She grew up in Miami during the 1940s and witnessed the city through its most transformative years.

Her keen interest in history came from the teachings of her father, a lawyer and transplant of the Great Depression.

A graduate of University of Miami (where she would later serve on the Board of Trustees), she started out teaching history at Miami Edison High (whose historic building she later helped to save), and thus began a career that would see her emerge as the preeminent historian and preservationist of south Florida. Her Master's thesis at U of M was on the early history of Coconut Grove, in which both Kirk Munroe and Commodore Ralph Munroe figured prominently.

She created the city of Coral Gables preservation program and then chaired its Historic Preservation Board, led the Coral Gables museum during its development and later ran it, and helped spearhead the initiative to save and restore the abandoned Biltmore Hotel, slated for demolition, as well as the historic Venetian Pool and the old Miami News Building, later dubbed the Freedom Tower for its role in the Cuban refugee crisis.

In addition to serving as president of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, she chaired the Florida Humanities Council, and worked to preserve Harry Truman's "Little White House" in Key West.

She served on civic boards and committees, chaired the Florida Endowment for the Humanities, and produced several films on Miami and Coconut Grove, for which she earned an Emmy Award from the Florida Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. These films

still play today on our local PBS affiliates.

But ultimately, it was through her numerous books on the history of Florida, south Florida, Miami, Coral Gables and Coconut Grove, that she came to be so widely known throughout the State.

In fact, her book: *Miami: the Magic City*, became designated as the official history of the city of Miami.

Arva Moore Parks' books on local history include:

- *The Forgotten Frontier: Florida through the Lens of Ralph Middleton Munroe*. (1977); revised 2004.

- *Miami: The Magic City* [American Portrait series] (1981); revised 1991, 1998.

- *Miami Memoirs*. John Sewell (1987).

- *Harry Truman and the Little White House in Key West*. (1991).

- *Miami. Then and Now*. [Then and Now series] (1992); (2002).

- *Miami, The American Crossroad: A Centennial Journey 1896-1996*. (1996).

- *The Pathway to Greatness. Building the University of Miami 1926-2001*. (2001)

- *George Merrick's Coral Gables: Where Your Castles in Spain are Made Real*. (2006).

- *Coconut Grove* [Images of America series]. (2010).

- *Legendary Locals of Greater Miami*. [Legendary Locals series] (2013).

- *George Merrick, Son of the South Wind: Visionary Creator of Coral Gables*. (2015).

This is merely an abbreviated biography and cannot fully do

justice to all the buildings she's saved, statues she's built, minds she's changed and the fortunes of cities she's revived. Her influence and legacy are head and shoulders above all other south Florida contemporaries, be they politicians, celebrities, or the wealthy and powerful movers and shakers of modern Florida.

We were indeed very fortunate that she considered our little group worthy of her time and attention at that late point in her life.

Sincerely,  
James King (PF-1126)  
711 East Plantation Circle  
Plantation, FL 33324  
jamesreed9@gmx.com



**Noted South Florida historian and author Arva Moore Parks presents the keynote address at the 2018 Horatio Alger Society convention in Fort Lauderdale.**

# The Arnold Adair Series by Laurence La Tourette Driggs

By David K. Vaughan (PF-832)  
(Second of two parts)

## *On Secret Air Service*

In the third and final title in the series, Arnold Adair finally joins an American flying squadron, thus completing his tour through the major allied air forces involved in the war: French, British, and American. Adair's association with the Americans in the final volume suggests why Driggs felt it necessary to write a third Arnold Adair adventure story so long (eight years) after the second title. It answers the question, how could an American pilot fly in the war without eventually joining an American flying unit? However, the squadron Arnold Adair joins is not a typical American flying squadron; it is a unit with a special mission: to deliver allied agents into German territory and to recover them as well.

Such clandestine flying missions were, in fact, conducted during the war. However, no American units were assigned that task exclusively. Flying allied agents into enemy territory was a risky undertaking, for landings had to be accomplished at night, on unfamiliar fields, usually farmer's fields, often in marginal weather and without the benefits of lights. Generally, night flying activities were not conducted by any side due to the hazards involved until the last year of the war. In this book, Arnold has advanced to the rank of Major and is the commander of the squadron.

As the story opens, Arnold is flying a patrol with two other men, Eddie Martin and Horace ("Lanky") Starr, over the German lines. Martin and Starr have crucial roles throughout the story. Even though Arnold Adair is the squadron commander, Eddie is leading the patrol because he is more familiar with the territory over which they are flying. They dive down to attack, but Lanky, who is the least polished pilot, is wounded. All pilots land safely, and Lanky is taken by ambulance to the American field at Toul, France. Adair says that he expects to be placed in charge of a new American flying squadron, being formed at Issoudun, an American pilot training field. He says that he had been flying with the British forces since "nearly a year ago," indicating that



this story begins in March 1918, just as American flying units are beginning to arrive in Europe. At this time, the Germans are launching a major offensive, hoping to capture Paris. This German offensive was an actual offensive activity in the war that was initially quite successful. The German forces moved to within 50 miles of Paris before their advance was halted.

After Lanky recovers from his wounds, he tells Arnold that he was flying with him to learn more about how combat aircraft work and that he is really a major in the intelligence service. Lanky wants Arnold to lead a squadron of pilots flying secret missions to gain intelligence and drop secret agents. They will be flying out of a field near a German prisoner of war camp. Lanky asks Arnold to select pilots who will be suitable for flying at night and dropping off agents. Lanky's father is General Starr, in charge of a Secret Service unit, who will directly oversee the squadron's operations.

During this time, Arnold learns about the background of Eddie Martin, who was raised in Luxemburg where

*(Continued on Page 22)*



# Arnold Adair Series

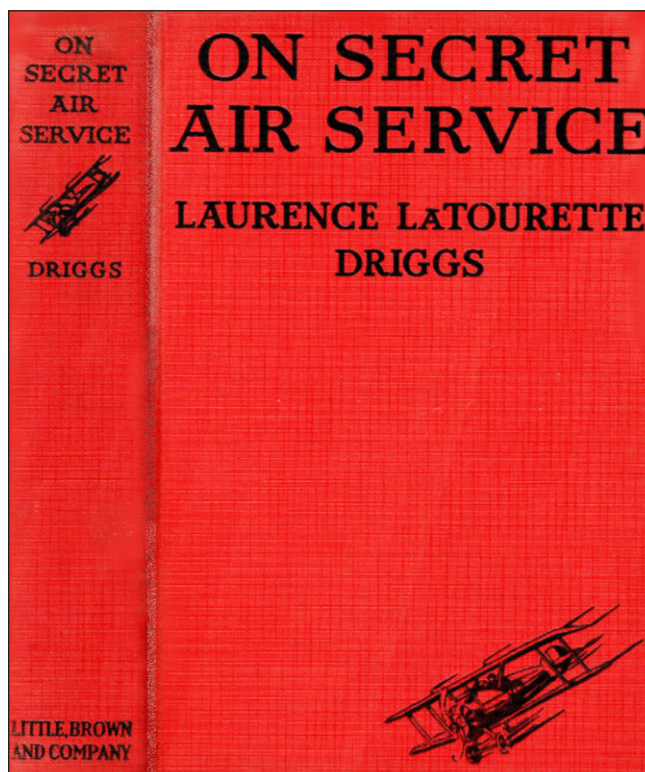
*(Continued from Page 21)*

he was known by the name of Edmund d'Orville. He escaped from Luxembourg when the Germans invaded early in the war. His father, Anthony d'Orville, was a Luxemburg banker; an adjoining estate was owned by Henri, the Count de Beaufort; Henri and Eddie's father were boyhood friends. When Henri married, his daughter, Madeleine de Beaufort, was a playmate of Eddie. It was assumed that they would eventually marry. However, when Eddie's father refused to advance money from an account held by the Count de Beaufort, the Count allied himself with the Germans when they entered the country and took control of Eddie's father's bank. When Eddie and his father tried to flee, his father was killed by the Germans. Eddie therefore understandably holds a deep grudge against the Count de Beaufort.

Before they engage in espionage work, they fly an aerial search for "Big Bertha," a German gun which is firing shells on Paris. This episode is based on an actual event, in which a large cannon fired shells toward Paris from a distance of 75 miles. This gun, located northeast of Paris, fired approximately 350 shells that hit within the city boundaries, killing 250 people and wounding 620. Although it was referred to popularly as "Big Bertha," it was actually a special cannon created for the unique task of firing long-range shells and today is known as the "Paris Gun." Sharp-eyed Eddie Martin successfully tracks the gun and drops a bomb on it, putting it out of commission. At this time, Arnold selects additional pilots to fly in the unit.

The men in the squadron are flying captured German planes with German markings. This ruse allows them to fly with relative safety behind the German lines, but it is hazardous when they return to Allied territory, for they are vulnerable to attack by the allied airmen who do not know the purpose of their flights. The squadron's homemaking tasks are taken care of by Madame Ferrand, who has a retired professor husband and a young daughter.

Their first mission is a flight to Trier and then to Luxemburg. In this episode, Driggs provides authentic details about flying operations, such as what it is like to fly in bad weather, using a map which can be unrolled in the cockpit for easier use, the ability to see patterns on the ground, the need to wind a radio antenna in and out in order to send radio messages, and the need to filter gasoline during refueling from unofficial sources. At this point in the story, the discussion turns to economic factors and war; the war means good business for the munitions factories in Luxemburg; there is a munitions factory in Lille. There is also a discussion about money



and legal documents.

This interest in the money to be made from munitions may be linked to Driggs' own experiences with the Driggs family's involvement in aerial weapons. Driggs' cousin, Louis L. Driggs, was president of the Driggs-Seabury Ordnance Company, of Sharon, Pennsylvania. The company made versions of the Lewis machine gun, which was used by soldiers on the ground and which was mounted on Allied aircraft in 1917 and 1918. The company was later taken over by the Savage Arms Company of Boston.

When Arnold and his fellow pilots return to their clandestine airfield, they find that the family that has been taking care of the men's food and service needs has a new visitor, a French poilu (soldier) from Rheims. They soon discover that he is a spy and has been sending information to his German contact by releasing pigeons carrying messages, an actual means of sending messages during the war. The men in the unit release one of the pigeons and follow it to its destination. At this point in the story they learn that the German effort to take Paris has been repulsed.

Arnold flies a mission to deliver an agent behind German lines; however, their plane is intercepted by an Allied aircraft, and the agent is killed. Arnold makes an emergency landing at a German airfield but escapes before his identity is discovered. As their missions continue, they are aware that the allies are making progress in the war



LAURENCE LATOURETTE  
DRIGGS

Author of

ON SECRET AIR SERVICE



Few Americans are as familiar with the history of aviation as is Laurence LaTourette Driggs. He has long been regarded as one of the foremost authorities on aviation in this country. He is a member of the "Early Birds", an association of veteran aviators who learned to fly before the war. Probably no man in the world has so wide an acquaintance among the aviators of the War.

In 1918, as a guest of the British Air Ministry, Colonel Driggs visited practically every airplane squadron along the Front from the North Sea to Switzerland. He founded, and was the first President of the American Flying Club, which consisted of the American pilots who flew over the lines.

Born in Saginaw, Michigan, 1876, Mr. Driggs was educated in the University of Michigan and took his law degree in New York Law School in 1900. In 1904 he married Mary Ogden, and lives in New York City where his ancestors for ten generations have lived.

His first articles on aviation appeared in 1916 in the *Outlook*. Since then five of his aviation books have been published by Little, Brown & Company and his articles have appeared in the important magazines of this country and Europe.

The *Outlook* says: "Mr. Driggs probably knows more about flying than any other American writer. He organized the two great aviation contests held in 1919 — The New York-Toronto Airplane Race, and the New York-San Francisco Airplane Race." Colonel Driggs in 1920 organized the New York Federalized Air Service and was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel in command. He believes that flying is the great human achievement of this age, that airplanes are destined to supplant foot soldiers in future wars, and that airplane accidents soon will be a thing of the past.

Boston

LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY

Publishers

on the ground and the Germans are being pushed back. Eventually, in October, they hear rumors of an armistice.

As the war appears to be coming to an end, Arnold and General Starr engage in speculation about the role of aviation in the next war. When Arnold suggests the use of poison gas dropped from aircraft would "violate the rules of civilized warfare," the General responds,

Civilized warfare! Nonsense! Germany violated civilized warfare when she marched through Belgium without declaration of war. Germany was considered quite the most advanced nation in the world. When human passions are excited, my boy, treaties are torn up and men strangle their own brothers without considering whether or not such things are against the rules. (257)

When Arnold suggests that an army would be necessary to win a war, the General disagrees:

The airplanes could strike a dozen times before this army could reach its objective; every time it struck,

with poison gas, it could kill everything that breathed. If the army fought, it would need supplies and munitions. These cities where supplies and munition are made would be ruined by gas from airplanes. What's the sense of sending an army of men, marching along day by day, when an airplane can strike almost instantly and do immeasurably more damage? (259)

Although the general does not recommend the use of poison gas, saying he hopes such use would never be necessary, he concludes his discussion with Arnold by saying "The next war, Arnold, will be fought out in the air." This conversation would probably not have taken place in 1918, the year in which events are supposed to be taking place. However, the book was published in 1930, 12 years after the end of World War I, a time when aircraft and aerial weapons were improving significantly; the first actions of the Spanish Civil War, in which airplanes attacked civilian populations for the first time, were only six years in the future.

When Arnold expresses the view that he is not happy flying secret missions, saying "I am altogether unfitted to do such work," the General offers him an alternative: to "take a vacation" in neutral territory. The General, stating "the end of the war is in sight," offers to send Arnold into Luxemburg as a civilian to assist Eddie, who has been reported as dead. With Arnold's help, Eddie is able to reclaim his family inheritance and marry his childhood love.

### Assessment of the Series

All three titles are well illustrated. *The Adventures of Arnold Adair*, *American Ace* is nicely illustrated by seven drawings by Henry Watson and one photograph. *Arnold Adair with the English Aces* features four drawings by Henry Watson, and *On Secret Air Service* has four glossy illustrations drawn by Clayton Knight. The drawings by Knight, a World War I aviator himself, are technically accurate. The drawings by Watson are only approximately correct. All illustrations, however, help to convey the sense of aerial adventure that Driggs describes. The first two books of the series were also published in England by John Hamilton, Ltd., one with a different title. *American Ace* was published as *Arnold Adair with the French Aces* (because Adair flies with the French pilots). The books published in England were illustrated by Howard Leigh, a first-rate artist who had provided illustrations for several other books about flying published in England, including several early titles in W. E. Johns' *Biggles* series and the Hamilton edition of F. N. Litten's *Rhodes of the 94<sup>th</sup>*.

Generally, Driggs transmits the spirit of the culture and experiences of the World War I aviators  
(Continued on Page 24)

# Arnold Adair Series

(Continued from Page 23)

quite well. Driggs is less successful in describing the actual experience of flying in an open cockpit aircraft, probably because he was not a combat pilot in the war. Driggs devotes his energy to the subplot of each story and to the secret missions in *On Secret Air Service*. Given the purpose of the books, to entertain younger readers, it is not surprising.

Other writers of juvenile aviation books which took World War I as their subject, did so as well. Driggs is clearly interested in these subplots and provides extensive backstories for the characters who appear in them (the relationships between Arnold and "Bunny" von Bruck in *American Ace*, Major Duncan Stuart, Dr. Shubrug, and the Darkmoor family in *Arnold Adair with the English Aces*, and Eddie Marton as Edmund d'Orville in *On Secret Air Service*).

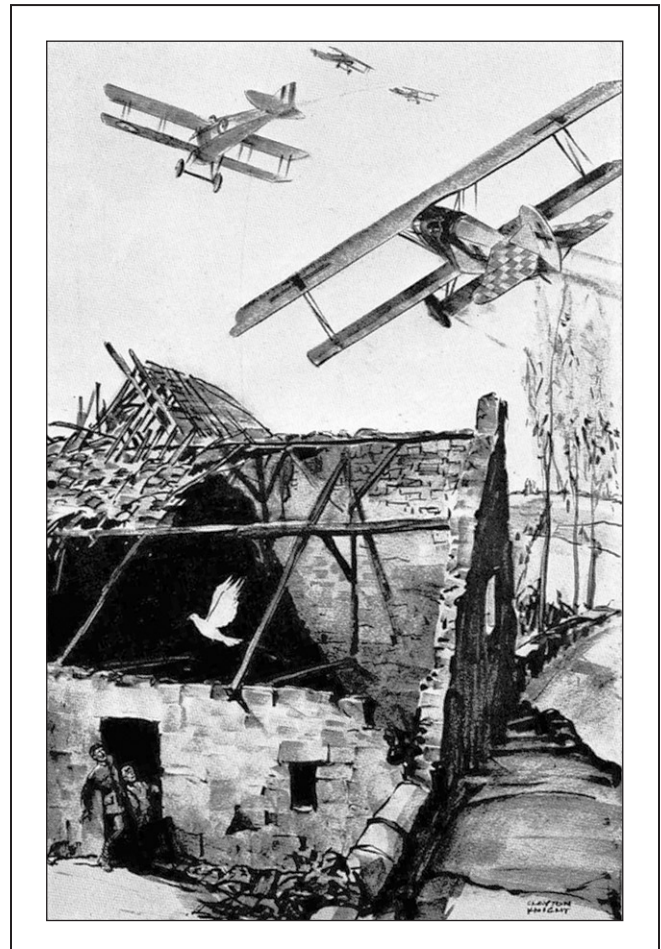
Driggs links the episodes in his books to actual events and time frames of the war. *Arnold Adair*, *American Ace* is set in the early years of the war (1914 to 1916); the events of *Arnold Adair with the English Aces* take place in the spring of 1917, and those of *On Secret Air Service* take place from May through November of 1918. His three books cover the entire span of the war and often refer to actual events in the war (attacks on Paris, the German Big Bertha gun, the Battle of Arras, Vimy Ridge, and the armistice) in relatively realistic fashion.

Driggs gives authentic glimpses into the lives of the airmen, especially in *Arnold Adair with the English Aces* — their sense of camaraderie and their off-duty activities. One aspect he was clearly interested in is the songs that they sing. In *On Secret Air Service* he prefixes every one of the 15 chapters with a segment of a song sung by the American and English airmen during the war. None of the men in that book sing these songs, but they mark the airmen's responses to the hazards of the war in the air from the beginning to its conclusion.

A typical example of the ironic humor is shown in this excerpt:

*The General got the Croix de Guerre, Parley-vous.*  
*The General got the Croix de Guerre, Parley-vous.*  
*The General got the Croix de Guerre,*  
*The son-of-gun, he wasn't there,*  
*Hinky Dinky Parley-vous.*

The comic irony of verses such as this one, in which a high-ranking officer stationed behind the lines receives a medal while the lower-ranking men who do the fighting do not, reflects the attitude of the airmen



**In another moment we saw our German bird steady herself for her landing.**

*On Secret Air Service*, page 190. One of four Illustrations by artist Clayton Knight; book published by Little, Brown and Company in 1930.

who risked their lives fighting the war. This situation, however, is not reflected in the actions and events of *On Secret Air Service*.

In summary, no other World War I series is as successful in blending imaginary aspects of a side plot with actual military events as the books of the Arnold Adair series. Driggs creates fully developed main and side plots, with details perhaps a little too complicated for younger readers to follow. But it is clear that he wanted his three books, spread out over a 14-year period, to offer not only accurate stories about the war in the air, but to provide incidents and anecdotes that reflected the spirit of the World War I aerial combat experience as he had known it.

In spite of its occasional narrative artificiality, no other World War I aviation series is as well-crafted and as full of the flavor of the era as Laurence LaTourette Driggs' Arnold Adair series.