



# THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

# NEWSBOY



*Horatio Alger, Jr.*

1832 – 1899

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

VOLUME LIX

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021

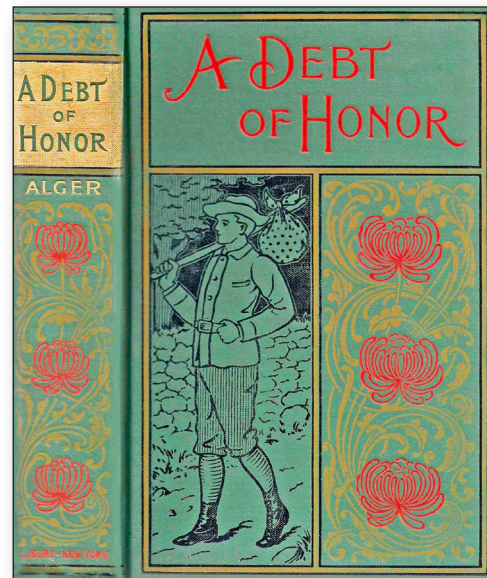
NUMBER 6

## *A Debt of Honor:* Confirming an Alger first edition

\* \* \*

Latest convention preview

-- See Page 3



## *An overlooked Horatio Alger-like gem:*

Hugh McAlister's  
'Worth While Books' series

-- See Page 9

*The happiest of holidays from the Horatio Alger Society!*

## President's column

As this, the 60th year of the Horatio Alger Society draws to a close, we reflect on the unprecedented times we've seen, experiences we've shared, and friends we've lost these past 12 months.

At present our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of the recent tornadoes that left a trail of destruction across six states. Our hearts go out to the Kentuckians who have lost so much ... and so many loved ones. For them, the road ahead is long and bleak.

For a year that started with a riot in our capitol and an epidemic that continues unabated, our own story was one of hope and renewal. After a dormant year in 2020, our annual convention returned with a bang, its success due in no small part to the tireless efforts of host Jack Bales and his cadre of "Virginians" who nobly assisted him. Attendance was up, our expansive auction was a resounding success, and we even added a few new members, thanks chiefly to the Thompson clan.

Was it fate that we should honor an Afghan refugee this year? It seems poignant that in Beheshta Nassari we found the personification of her country's brightest hopes and aspirations for the future, on the very eve of its collapse and demise, as our **Strive and Succeed Award** recipient.

We too, have reason to mourn, as this year saw the loss of some of our most notable stalwarts. Avid collector Jim Thorp was a proud father and family man, as well as a long-serving and loyal friend of this society who hosted a memorable convention in 1984. We are eternally grateful for his camaraderie through the years.

Mike Morley touched many lives in his nearly three decades as a member. Our former president will be remembered for his long service to the Board of Directors and for hosting a splendid convention in 2008, but mostly for being a fine, convivial fellow who made everyone feel valued and welcome.

J. Randolph Cox was legendary, his knowledge prodigious, his areas of expertise far-reaching, and his authorship prolific. That a man of so many disparate interests and demands upon his time should remain a loyal member of our society for over 40 years is in itself remarkable, and we are all the richer for his friendship and counsel.

Ed Mattson's friend and editorial colleague, Tom Davis, was a long-serving member (PF-976), and an ardent collector whose computer and organizational skills were vital in the

(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.*

### OFFICERS

JAMES KING	PRESIDENT
OPEN	VICE-PRESIDENT
ROBERT E. KASPER	TREASURER
ROBERT G. SIPES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JACK BALES	(2022) DIRECTOR
OPEN	(2022) DIRECTOR
SCOTT CHASE	(2023) DIRECTOR
ROBERT PETITTO	(2023) DIRECTOR
DEBBY JONES	(2024) DIRECTOR
JAMES D. KEELINE	(2024) DIRECTOR
LEO "BOB" BENNETT (1932-2004)	EMERITUS
RALPH D. GARDNER (1923-2005)	EMERITUS

### PAST PRESIDENTS

KENNETH B. BUTLER	MARY ANN DITCH
JACK ROW	JOHN CADICK
DR. MAX GOLDBERG	CARL T. HARTMANN
STEVE PRESS	ARTHUR P. YOUNG
JUDSON S. BERRY	CAROL NACKENOFF
LEO "BOB" BENNETT	ROBERT G. HUBER
JERRY B. FRIEDLAND	ROBERT R. ROUTHIER
BRADFORD S. CHASE	MICHAEL MORLEY
ROBERT E. SAWYER	LAWRENCE R. RICE
EUGENE H. HAFNER	ROBERT G. SIPES
D. JAMES RYBERG	BARRY SCHOENBORN
GEORGE W. OWENS	JEFF LOONEY
WILLIAM R. WRIGHT	RICHARD B. HOFFMAN
ROBERT E. KASPER	CARY S. STERNICK

**Newsboy**, the official newsletter of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any 12-month period is \$25 (\$20 for seniors), with single issues of **Newsboy** \$4.00. Please make remittance payable to **Horatio Alger Society, 4940 Old Main St., Unit 402, Henrico, VA 23231**.

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

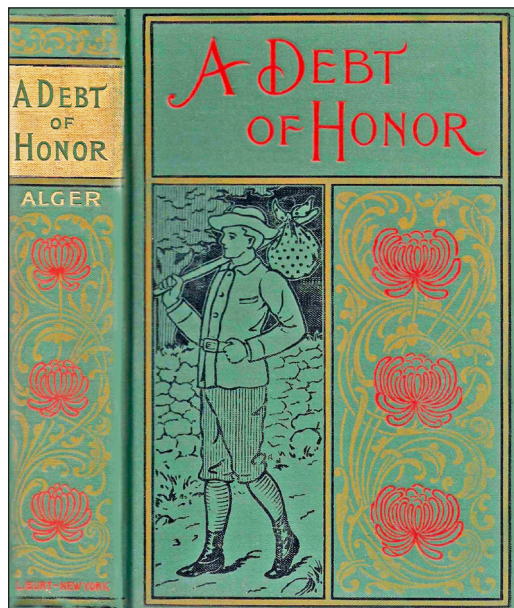
**Newsboy** is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography. You are invited to visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at [www.horatioalgersociety.net](http://www.horatioalgersociety.net).

**Newsboy** ad rates: Full page, \$32.00; one-half page, \$17.00; one-quarter page, \$9.00; per column inch (1 inch deep by approx. 3 1/2 inches wide), \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to "Horatio Alger Society," to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

The above rates apply to all **want ads**, along with ads offering non-Alger books for sale. However, it is the policy of the Horatio Alger Society to promote the exchange of Alger books and related Alger materials by providing space **free of charge** to our members for the **sale only** of such material. Send those free "Alger for sale" ads to the editor at the above address, where you can also send "Letters to the Editor" by regular mail or by e-mail to [hasnewsboy@aol.com](mailto:hasnewsboy@aol.com).

# *A Debt of Honor: Confirming a first edition*

By Scott B. Chase (PF-1106)



The A.L. Burt gold/tulip first-edition cover of Horatio Alger's *A Debt of Honor*.

Image courtesy of Rob Kasper

The first edition of *A Debt of Honor* by Horatio Alger, Jr. is one that has eluded my collection for many years. Compared to other more valuable and sought-after titles, this one, published by A. L. Burt, really shouldn't have been as difficult as it was to find.

Finding books with two of the key Bennett first-edition points<sup>1</sup>, book title on the spine blind-stamped against a gold background and ALGER in gold, was not very difficult. It was finding the correct street address for A.L. Burt, 97-99-101 Reade Street, that failed every time.

I acquired a book online recently that had the gold background and ALGER in gold so I was encouraged. When I finally got the book in hand, I checked the ads in the back; yes, only 14 pages of ads, correct according to Bennett, BUT wait, the first 10 pages of ads are missing! And, the pages of ads that are in the book don't have the address for A. L. Burt! So, maybe this book is a first edition, maybe it isn't. How to know for sure? Bennett states that "Several copies of the first edition have been noted with either the first ten or the last ten pages of advertisements missing."<sup>2</sup> So, there was still hope for this book to be a Bennett first edition.

I didn't want to just assume that this book was a first edition, but  
(Continued on Page 4)

## 2022 convention preview

### *The historic sites and rural beauty of Spotsylvania, Virginia*

By Jack Bales (PF-258)

Although the 2022 Horatio Alger Society convention is billed as "Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg," the convention hotel is in adjoining Spotsylvania County. Therefore, I think it is only appropriate that in one of my pre-convention **Newsboy** articles, I should cover some of the attractions of this area.

Spotsylvania County, located along Interstate 95 midway between Washington, DC and Richmond, Virginia, was named for Alexander Spotswood, governor of Virginia from 1710 to 1722. He founded a mining and smelting ironworks company in 1725, the remnants of which are still present.

The county is known as the "Crossroads of the Civil War," as three major battles were fought in the area, including one of the war's bloodiest, the May 1864 Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. Eighteen thousand Union and 12,000 Confederate soldiers lost their lives. During this confrontation between the armies of Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee, 18,000 Union and 12,000 Confederate soldiers lost their lives. The other two battles that took place in the area were at Wilderness, where 29,800

soldiers died, and Chancellorsville, at which 24,000 soldiers perished.

Those interested in the Civil War can stop by the Spotsylvania Visitors' Center, the Chancellorsville Visitors' Center, and the Stonewall Jackson Shrine, a National Park Service site located at Guinea Station in the county. The National Park Service maintains more than 4,400 acres of Civil War battlefields in the county.

Just recently I walked around the historic Spotsylvania Court House District off of Courthouse Road (Route 208), which is listed in The National Register of Historic Places and has been designated a Virginia Historic Landmark.

Sites include the 1855 Jail, Spotsylvania Court House and adjacent one-story Works Projects Administration (WPA) building, historic churches, Civil War Trail sites, and Confederate Cemetery.

Just a few minutes from the historic district is the Spotsylvania Courthouse Village (<https://www.spotsyvil-lage.com>). Quoting from its website: "Our downtown has wide, tree-lined brick sidewalks, park benches and

(Continued on Page 5)

## Editor's notebook

As another year nears its end, we can give thanks during this holiday season that we survived in this era of a global pandemic and political unrest both here and abroad. I'll leave the "year in review" to our president, James King, who so eloquently summarizes 2021 in his column.

But now, I want to discuss dust jackets, a topic with which we are all familiar. Back when I began collecting books seriously in the 1970s, the usual statement from the so-called "experts" was that a book with an intact jacket usually doubled (more or less) the value of the book as a collectible.

Well, how times have changed! Many of us have followed the several months' eBay auctions by Partic'lar Friend Keith Thompson, who sold dozens of books and made lots of money doing so. Even he was surprised at the high prices many of his books brought, most particularly those by Ralph Henry Barbour, Howard Garis and the Stratemeyer Syndicate. In October, he told me he expected to get around \$25 for a typical dust-jacketed Barbour, not the hundreds of dollars most of the books eventually realized. One bidder in particular (not a member of the Horatio Alger Society) informed him that he was purchasing these books to help a southern university to build a prime special collection of vintage children's books. He spent many thousands of dollars toward that task.

I bought two Barbours from Keith, each for less than \$100, and felt myself lucky. The first was a hockey-based school story (I didn't even have the title, let alone the jacket), but I spent a reasonable \$90 since it was one of the earliest of Keith's auctions, and the word hadn't quite spread. The second book, *The Five Dollar Dog*, was near the end of his auctions and I spent around \$75. I believe it was of borderline interest to many of the bidders, who seemed to favor sports-related stories, so I regard that as a good deal.

Several H.A.S. members spent far more than I did, and I can't blame them, because nearly all the Barbours were in prime condition and would likely never show up again. I bid on one title, *Danger Ahead!*, because it had a stunning dust jacket and would have completed a two-volume series with jackets. I made a very generous bid, and it was blown out of the water by the ultimate price. At that point, I decided to more or less remain

(Continued on Page 5)

## A Debt of Honor: Confirming a first edition

(Continued from Page 3)

rather I wanted to somehow prove or show beyond a reasonable doubt that it really was a first edition, or that it wasn't. Not having a complete Bennett first edition on hand to compare this book against, I had to resort to other methods.

This book has four pages of ads, pages 11, 12, 13, and 14, with a total of 13 books listed on the four pages. I started by identifying the first Burt publication date for each of the 13 books. If the dates for all 13 books were before 1900, the publication date for the first edition of *A Debt of Honor*, then this book was a solid candidate to be a first edition.

I found information for nine of the 13 books. Their publication dates ran from 1887 to 1896, and one other book that didn't have a publication date had an inscription dated 1894. I couldn't find publication dates for three of the books, so I was stuck, and I needed a different method.

While searching for publication dates, I came across the book *Sarah Dillard's Ride* by James Otis.<sup>3</sup> The entire book was available to read online, including the ad pages in the back. It was published by A. L. Burt in 1899. It had the 97-99-101 Reade Street address with 26 pages of ads in the back of the book. Comparing the ads in *Sarah Dillard's Ride* to the four pages of ads in my copy of *A Debt of Honor*, the books on every page, for all four pages matched exactly! They were in the same sequence, the text was the same, the pages were even numbered the same; they were identical in every way. That clinched it. All 13 books advertised in my copy of *A Debt of Honor* were available and advertised in a book with the 97-99-101 Reade Street address.

So, beyond a reasonable doubt, I confirmed that nothing about this book violated Bennett's first edition points and thus this copy of *A Debt of Honor* is a Bennett first edition. It is puzzling why Burt omitted the first 10 pages of ads in this and other books, but information available via the internet helped me do the research to confirm that I now own another Alger first edition!

### NOTES

1. Bob Bennett. *A Collector's Guide to the Published Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.* 1999. Newark, DE: MAD Book Company, p. 53.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Website: <[https://www.google.com/books/edition/Sarah\\_Dillard\\_s\\_Ride/E01DAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Sarah_Dillard_s_Ride/E01DAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover)>

## Convention preview

(Continued from Page 3)

lamps that create a neighborhood of times gone by." A village pavilion offers festivals and other entertainment. Some shops and restaurants line the streets, and with construction still going on, more businesses are moving in.

Thousands of people every year enjoy the facilities at the Lake Anna State Park. Others like relaxing with friends at the Lake Anna Winery or Mattaponi Winery, or perhaps touring the A. Smith Bowman Distillery. To learn about African Americans in Spotsylvania County, stop by the John J. Wright Museum and Cultural Center, which is in the renovated building of the "only high school that served African American children in the county from 1909 to integration beginning in 1968" (from its website). A 1930s one-room school for African-American children (closed in 1943) is at the county's Marshall Center.

The county's Visitors' Center is just off Interstate 95's exit 126 at 4704 Southpoint Parkway in Spotsylvania. You can also (1) go to the website at <https://www.spotsylvania.va.us> and (2) hover your computer mouse over "Visitors" in the upper right (you can also click on it).

In these various pre-convention **Newsboy** articles, I have emphasized there is much to see and do in this tourist-friendly area of Virginia. I hope those attending "Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg" can take advantage of at least a few of the various attractions. I look forward to seeing Horatio Alger Society members, spouses, and guests at our convention, held from Thursday, June 23, to Sunday, June 26, 2022.

## Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

on the sideline as a spectator.

But the book that really surprised me came last month, when Keith had just a few books to list after the bulk of the titles had been sold. It was Howard Garis' *Larry Dexter in Belgium*, a Stratemeyer Syndicate-controlled book published in 1915 by Grosset & Dunlap. I have that title but not the jacket, so I watched the auction progress over a week, and was shocked – shocked! – to see the final bid reach just over \$664.

Folks, this is a nice, collectible book, but it's not all THAT scarce. The Barbours, most of them originally selling for more than twice the retail price and usually having fewer print runs than a typical G&D product,



**The Confederate Soldiers Memorial in the Spotsylvania Court House Confederate Cemetery. Some 600 CSA soldiers who lost their lives on the Civil War battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania Court House and The Wilderness are buried here.** Photo by Jack Bales

can justify much higher auction prices. But a Larry Dexter? Once again, the winning bidder was the man who was buying books on behalf of a college library, so that case may not be typical. To me, that book is worth anywhere between \$40 and \$60 in jacket, depending on your bank account and eagerness to add it to your collection.

But as the late collector extraordinaire Bob Chenu once wrote in one of his articles, "It's the old law of supply and demand." Yet, I wish Bob were alive today to witness the world of eBay and prices that he would never pay.

Yes, it was "supply and demand." The winning bidder had competition, or he wouldn't have spent \$664. The real winner is Keith Thompson, and we should all tip our (baseball) caps to him for running some of the most successful boys' book auctions ever seen on eBay. What a great holiday gift for him and his family!

## President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

creation of two essential references: *A Collector's Guide to Hardcover Boys' Series Books*, and the updated version of Bob Bennett's Alger bibliography, *A Collector's Guide to the Published Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.* Considering how often we all reach for these valued "authorities" for our hobby, his contributions cannot be underestimated.

And our members' contributions to these pages similarly cannot be underestimated. It is you who breathe life into this publication. Whether it's Scott Chase's scholarly "Adrift in New York" and his latest article in this issue, Rob Kasper's monumental "Letters from Horatio" series, or Keith Thompson's "Alger and Base-ball" and "Alger and Algebra" articles, we are grateful for the scholarship. Our own David K. Vaughan has regaled us with insightful series synopses; in 2020 it was the Steve Canyon series, this year it's the exciting Arnold Adair series.

Our eulogies are often composed by a member who knew the decedent well and this year we thank Carol Nackenoff (Mike Morley), Brad Chase (Jim Thorp), and James Keeline (Randy Cox), for their loving tributes.

Even a letter to the editor can constitute a substantial and informative contribution, as those by Jack Bales, James Keeline, Bart Nyberg, Rob Kasper and others will attest. Perhaps no one has contributed more in the past couple of years than our esteemed colleague, Jack Bales, and not merely due to his convention host duties. He regularly writes letters to the editor, hosts "mini-conventions," and even finds time to write about his beloved Chicago Cubs. His latest, *The Chicago Cub Shot for Love*, makes a great stocking-stuffer for the baseball fan in your life!

Finally, just a friendly reminder that it's not too late to make a contribution to our **Strive & Succeed Award** fund for this calendar year. All donors will be listed in the next issue. Will your name be among them?

In closing, I pray this year ends on a positive note for you and your family, and with that I bid you a blessed Christmastide, joyous holiday season, and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year.

Your Partic'lar Friend,  
James King (PF-1126)  
711 East Plantation Circle  
Plantation, Fla. 33324  
(954) 473-6927  
E-mail: jamesreed9@gmx.com

## PCA goes virtual; submission deadline now Dec. 23

The call for papers deadline has been extended one more time and now closes on December 23 for the Popular Culture Association's Children's/Young Adult Series Books and Dime Novels area of interest for the PCA annual conference, which will be held via a virtual platform from April 13-16, 2022.

The annual conference has been changed from an in-person event in Seattle into a virtual (online) conference for the second straight year due to the ongoing COVID-19 world pandemic. The 2021 conference in Boston was also switched to a virtual event for the same reason.

"Exciting and energetic, our 2022 event promises great conversations," said PCA President Sue Matheson. "Back by popular demand, the platform that hosted last year's virtual conference will be even more user-friendly. We are working to ensure there will be more opportunities to view panels, visit with old friends and publishers, and network with new colleagues."

The Children's/Young Adult Series Books and Dime Novels section has two distinct but related areas of interest: juvenile series books of all types and eras, including 20th-century publications like those of the Stratemeyer Syndicate (Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Tom Swift, etc.) and its non-Syndicate contemporaries; as well as more recent and ongoing series (Harry Potter, Twi-

light, Choose Your Own Adventure, etc.); and the series books' precursors: early popular publications for mass audiences of all ages (dime novels, nickel weeklies, story papers, etc.). Papers addressing either or both of these areas will be considered.

All potential participants are requested to submit a 250-word abstract as soon as possible. First-time participants within this division are encouraged to also submit a 1-to-2 page proposal, including a bibliography, along with the abstract. Due to the short lead time, email communication to the below address is welcomed from potential members desiring feedback on a proposal topic prior to making a formal submission.

Registration for the conference itself is also now open. If you have already submitted a paper and had it approved, we encourage you to register before the end of the year in order to take advantage of the early-bird discount. You can register here: <https://pcaaca.org/conference/2022/register-2022-virtual-conference>

If you have any questions about submission procedures or the conference itself, send all inquiries to:

Demian Katz, Area Co-chair  
Villanova University  
Email: demian.katz@villanova.edu

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

In my last article published in *Newsboy* (*Letters from Horatio – Part 3*), in the September-October 2021 issue, I incorrectly identified “Ellis D. Robb” as “Ellis H. Robb.” Ellis D. Robb (1869-1943) was born in Eldora, Iowa, to Benjamin D. Robb and Mary J. Parker. He married Adelaide Smith in 1892 and the couple had two children and three grandchildren. Robb worked at the Hardin County (Iowa) Bank and later as a national bank examiner. He served as a councilman in Eldora and later as mayor. He was heavily involved in local and civic affairs and was instrumental in soliciting \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie for the construction of the Eldora Public Library, built in 1902.

In 1923, Robb moved to Atlanta to become chief national bank examiner of the 6th Federal Reserve District and held that position until he retired in 1937.

Robb was a voracious autograph collector and history buff and collected for most of his adult life. He especially coveted autographs of politicians, businessmen, authors, stage actors and celebrities. The Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center possesses the bulk of his collection, consisting of 43 scrapbooks filled with photographs, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, letters, notes and other ephemera. Many of the items pertain to the Robb family history and genealogy. A smaller collection (91 items) of noted Iowans, mostly politicians, resides at the University of Iowa Special Collections in Iowa City.

Despite reading, analyzing and transcribing Alger letters for many years, it’s still tantalizingly difficult to accurately decipher his handwriting, especially any notes or letters written after 1894, when his already-poor penmanship began to deteriorate. One idiosyncratic characteristic of Alger’s writing is that he rarely “crossed his t’s” (except when signing his name), which, in many cases, makes a “t” look like an “l” or “h” or any number of other letters. Alger’s lowercase “p” is almost indistinguishable from a lowercase “f.” If Alger were to write the words “grand” and “general” side-by-side, you would not be able to differentiate them.

His uppercase letters are problematic also. A capital “D” might look like an “A” (or an “H”) and a capital “M” could be a “W” or “N.” In some instances, his scrawl is so bad that I can’t make out a word even when every other word in the sentence is legible and I understand the context. A good example can be found in the second sentence of the Robb letter. Half the people I showed the letter to thought the third word was “gratified” and the other half thought it was “grateful.” Perhaps

the two small dots above the word would suggest the former but, really, either word works.

I don’t recall where I purchased this letter or, of course, the circumstances of how it got separated from Robb’s massive collection, but I’m glad it was liberated. Although the Kenan Research Center in Atlanta is open to researchers, a large portion of its holdings (including the Ellis Robb Collection) is not digitized, so an examination of its contents must be made in person. I suspect unknown Alger letters are hidden away in other institutions, waiting to be “discovered.”

Sincerely,  
Rob Kasper (PF-327)  
4940 Old Main St., Unit 402  
Henrico, VA 23231

Dear Bill:

I was in personal attendance at Game 1 and Game 2 of the World Series in Houston and Game 3 in Atlanta, which went on to win the championship. My son, Nathan, and I had round-trip \$275 United Airlines fares from Newark to Houston to Atlanta and back to Newark. Nathan plans these things as early as possible, as tickets, hotel rooms and airfares become available. He had World Series tickets for all of the Giants, Chicago, Boston and New York games, face-value tickets for Houston, but we had to pay through the nose for Atlanta, even though Nathan is a season ticket-holder in Atlanta. They simply would not let him personally buy tickets, because he has a New York address.

We had a very successful trip, skillfully avoiding some bad weather in the beginning but enduring some along the way. For me, it is a culinary opportunity, particularly in the Houston area. We also reprised our Galveston visit, this time with a more detailed investigation of the old historic sections. For Nathan, it was his 51st major-league ball park and his 76th World Series game. For me it was my 33rd major-league ball park and my 29th World Series game. For us, baseball is all about being at the park.

While in Atlanta, we also visited the Ty Cobb Museum in Royston, Georgia, and the Joe Jackson Museum in Greenville, South Carolina.

The liquidation on eBay of my Stratemeyer Syndicate and Ralph Henry Barbour books was pretty much completed several weeks ago. I am still amazed with the high prices many of the books brought, and I am happy you were able to add a few titles to your collection.

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

# Horatio Alger, Jr. and The Yankee Blade

**Introduction:** In this latest of our Alger contributions to **The Yankee Blade** (published on 11 March 1854), this is the slightest of material and suggests to me that the editors needed fillers on occasion and so they arranged for Alger to supply such as were required. The “Carl Cantab” stories in both the **American Union** and **True Flag** were much longer, but here in **The Yankee Blade**, they frequently ended before they hardly began. As to the plot (such as it was) most of you can probably figure out the outcome with only the title itself to give you the necessary clues.

One curious detail needs to be addressed. Around the halfway point Alger says that “We were passing Vinton’s, and I invited her to enter and take some refreshment.” I consulted my trusty **Boston Directory** for 1856 and sure enough, there were two confectioners by that name: Charles A. Vinton at 212 Washington Street



and George W. Vinton at 343 Washington Street. We would imagine that a “confectioner” would be akin to a tea shop in England or perhaps a Dunkin’ Donuts or Starbucks over here.

We have no way of knowing which Vinton’s Alger was referring to, but it doesn’t matter. Washington Street, then as now, is a major thoroughfare in downtown Boston. It just goes to prove once again that Horatio Alger knew his Boston.

Peter C. Walther (PF-548)  
8 November 2021

[Written for the Yankee Blade.]

## THE VEILED LADY.

BY CARL CANTAB

Friendly reader, you must be informed that I am a bachelor in lodgings, and having some property, and consequently not being under the necessity of working except as inclination prompts, I spend a good part of the time in looking out of the window at the throng of passers by.

For many days I had observed a lady pass by whom I always recognized by a green sash which she invariably wore.

Gradually I came to feel an interest in this lady, and to speculate upon her appearance. That her form was graceful and elegant I could see, but owing to a thick veil I had never been able to catch a glimpse of her face.

One afternoon, being determined to put a period to my suspenses, I sallied forth about the hour when the mysterious lady might be expected to pass, having matured a plan which I thought well suited to further my purpose.

I had provided myself with a lady’s gold pencil, which I had purchased at a jeweller’s the day before. When the lady passed, I dropped it purposely, and then picking it up, addressed her with the inquiry whether she had dropped it.

She replied in the negative in a low voice.

“At all events, madam,” I continued, “since it is a lady’s

pencil, and therefore more suitable for your use than mine, I resign it to you.”

The lady simply thanked me, and took it.

Emboldened by her acceptance, I ventured to make another request.

We were passing Vinton’s, and I invited her to enter and take some refreshment.

I am aware that this was a singular proceeding on my part, but I had not yet been able to look through the folds of her impenetrable veil.

She made no difficulty about acceding to my request, but entered without hesitation.

We sat down to a table, and issued our orders.

“At length,” thought I, and my heart beat at the thought, “she must lift that odious veil, and disclose the charms that lie beneath.”

I was not disappointed. She did so. But oh Heavens! What was my consternation when I beheld a face scarred with the wrinkles of seventy years, and a nose surmounted by a pair of green spectacles.

As I was gazing at her with stupefaction, she deliberately took from her pocket a box, opened it, inserted in it the thumb and finger of her dexter hand, and, horror of horrors, *took a pinch of snuff!*

I left her as soon as politeness would permit, and I am a bachelor in lodgings yet.

**MORAL.** — Trust not to appearances.



# Hugh McAlister's 'Worth While Books' series



## *An overlooked Horatio Alger-like gem*

By Terry J. Booth (PF-1150)  
(First of two parts)

Saalfield published the first six volumes of its "Worth While Books for Boys" series in 1930. The series was so identified in the circular text surrounding the head in circle icon on each book's spine. That icon also appeared on the front, spine and rear of the dust jacket. The DJ back then had a description of the series and objectives, plus a summary of each book. The last two series titles were published the following year, with "Hugh McAlister" being credited as the author of all eight books.

However, "Hugh McAlister" was the publisher's house name for multiple authors: Alabama sisters Alice Alison Lide (1890-1955) and Margaret Alison Johansen (1896-1959), credited with six titles; and the other two titles by James A. Braden (1872-1954), a well-known Ohio author who had at least nine other boy's books published by Saalfield of nearby Akron between 1902 and 1913. More information about these authors will be provided in Part 2 of this article.

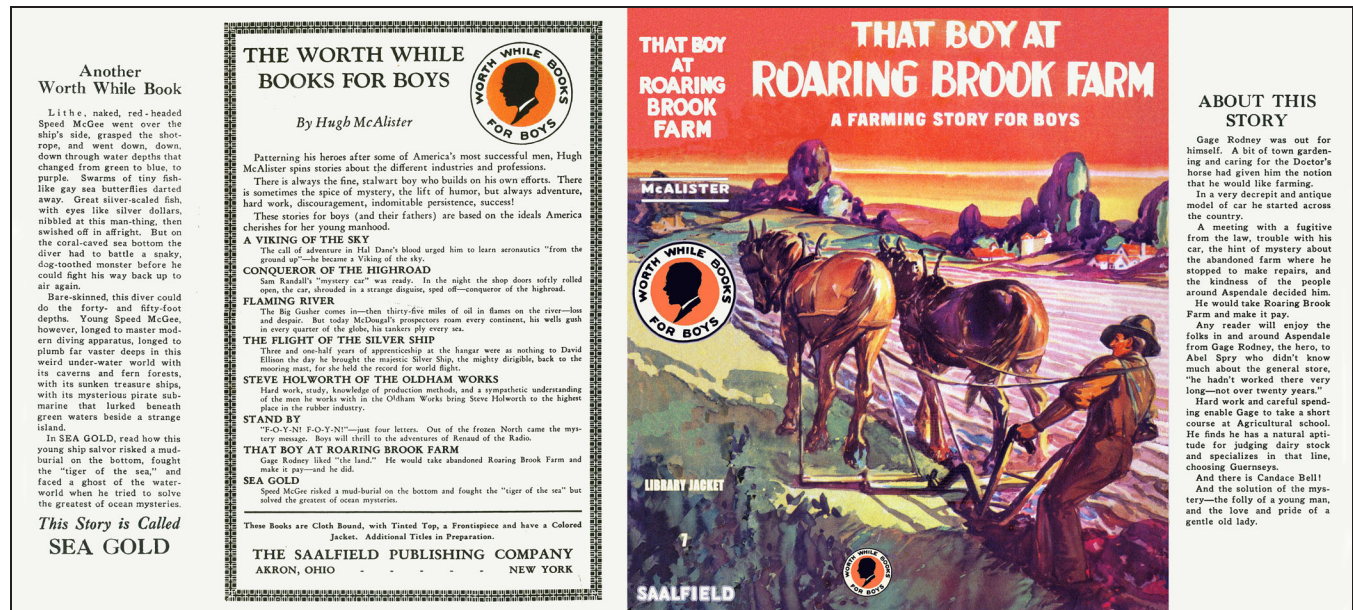
The Hugh McAlister books are of interest to series

collectors for many reasons. Their stories focus on older boys who overcame poor or difficult circumstances and, by persistence and hard work, had successful careers — the same theme as in Horatio Alger's books. Saalfield also paid greater than usual attention to the quality of the books' binding and paper, and gave each book a unique eye-catching dust jacket. The series was promoted separately from Saalfield's other early boys' series. Lastly, the quality of writing (discussed later herein) was a level above other series of the time.

My interest in the series began with the discovery of several of the series' striking and colorful dust jackets. As can be seen above, most are boldly designed with a bright palette, and some like the *Conqueror of the Highroad* and *Steve Holworth of the Oldham Works* covers — exhibit a strong art deco influence. Their artist(s) — sadly uncited — created images far different from the usual scenes on other juvenile series of their time.

Using the author's name as a guide, Mattson and Davis' *A Collector's Guide to Hardcover Boys' Series Books* (1997) gives a basic description of this eight-book se-

(Continued on Page 10)



Dust jacket and cover of the “Worth While Books for Boys” edition of 1931. The DJ lists all eight titles. The book’s dimensions were 7<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>” by 5<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>”.

# Hugh McAlister’s ‘Worth While Books’ series

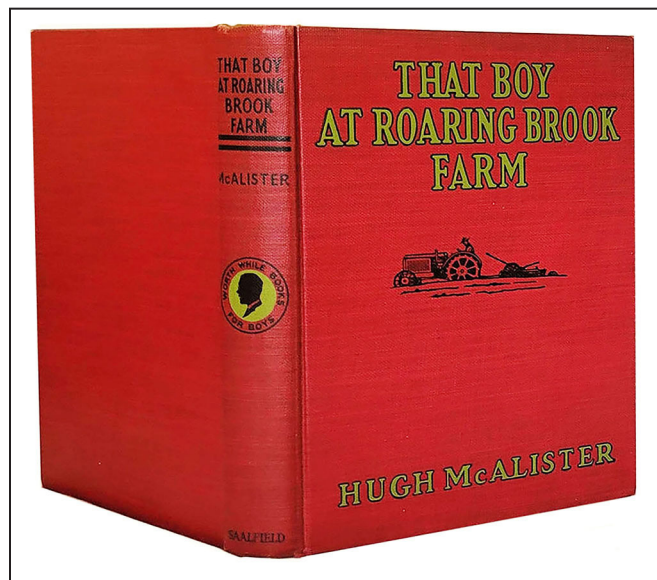
(Continued from Page 9)

ries (MAD 41300). However, the eight titles are there identified as belonging to Saalfield’s later “Mystery and Adventure Series,” with no mention made of the earlier “Worth While Books for Boys” identity.

First editions<sup>1</sup> of each book in the MAD Guide are correctly identified as having a red (maroon) binding, a front cover with colored lettering framed in black, and a black stamped occupational icon appropriate for the title (i.e., a tractor for a farm story). The cover lettering varies from light blue, green, yellow/gold, orange and silver, each color being both appropriate and the same for each title (i.e., *The Flight of the Silver Ship* uses silver). Each book has a black-and-white frontispiece illustration, it being repeated in all later editions as well.<sup>2</sup>

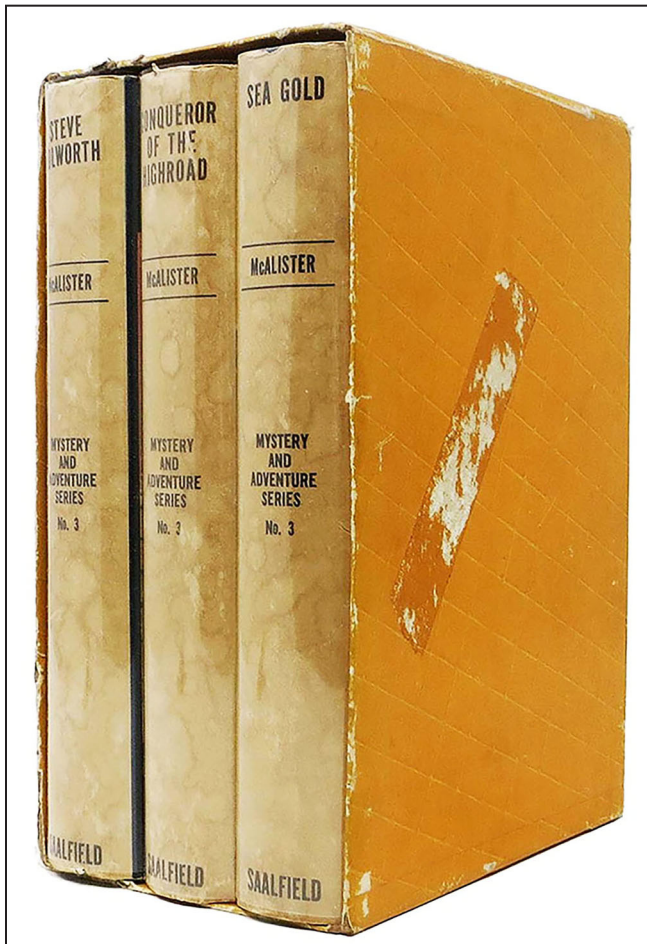
The spine has black lettering along with a black silhouetted head inside a black circular frame. As added evidence of Saalfield’s care, the background color for the head is the same as the cover color.

For some reason, Mattson and Davis’ source, which did not note the circular spine image, failed to note it



included “Worth While Books for Boys” in black text around the perimeter. All later editions have only black lettering on cover and spine, and lack the circular icon on the spine. But the circular head icon itself was retained in various formats for all later edition dust jackets, sometimes absent text, sometimes with the “Mystery and Adventure Series” text, as appropriate for the edition.

Each book title uses the same dust jacket image on all printings, but there are other major differences which identify the printings. There are two identifiable printings of the “Worth While Books for Boys” or first editions, only distinguishable by whether the rear dust



A “Mystery and Adventure Series No. 3” box set, introduced in 1936 and selling for 85 cents.

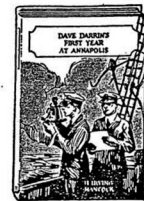
jacket panel lists six or eight titles. The eight-title jackets have two fewer lines of lead-in text to help accommodate the extra titles, as well as several shorter descriptions. The DJs with six titles lack the 1931 copyrighted titles (*That Boy at Roaring Brook Farm* and *Sea Gold*), but are otherwise the same, including lengthy front-flap book descriptions, and another book in the series described on the rear flap. For reasons noted later, subsequent editions (including the “Mystery and Adventure Series” edition) ceased listing series titles on the rear panel of the dust jacket.

#### Series history and distinguishing characteristics

Like many series during the Great Depression decade, the quality of binding and paper were reduced over time, and Saalfield also made changes to series identities, covers and jackets. Thanks to the Kent State University Special Collections library and its Saalfield records, photocopies of the McAlister pages from Saalfield’s 1931 to 1942 catalogs were able to be reviewed.<sup>3</sup> Based on them and some dated book

10 PUBLICATIONS OF THE SAALFIELD PUBLISHING COMPANY

### Books for Boys (Continued)



#### \* Mystery and Adventure Series No. 3

By Hugh McAlister

Mystery and adventure may be encountered in everyday occupations as the boys in these stories found.

- 1 The Mystery at Roaring Brook Farm
- 2 Flaming River
- 3 Conqueror of the Highroad
- 4 Stand By
- 5 A Viking of the Sky
- 6 The Flight of the Silver Ship
- 7 Steve Holworth
- 8 Sea Gold

12mo, 256 pages, frontispiece, cloth bound, colored jacket ..... Each \$ .25  
No. 1335 Three volumes in an attractive box ..... Per Box \$ .85

#### West Point Series No. 3

By H. Irving Hancock

Dick Prescott and Greg Holmes are not human wonders, but a pair of average American boys who have a hard enough time working their way through West Point.

- 1 Dick Prescott's First Year at West Point
- 2 Dick Prescott's Second Year at West Point
- 3 Dick Prescott's Third Year at West Point
- 4 Dick Prescott's Fourth Year at West Point

12mo, from 224 to 256 pages, illustrated, cloth bound, with colored jacket ..... Each \$ .25  
No. 1359 Three volumes in an attractive box ..... Per Box \$ .85

#### The Annapolis Series No. 3

By H. Irving Hancock

From plebe days until graduation the reader may follow the adventures of Dave Darrin and Dan Dalzell in the U. S. Naval Academy where they learn the spirit of the new Navy and prove their mettle.

- 1 Dave Darrin's First Year at Annapolis
- 2 Dave Darrin's Second Year at Annapolis
- 3 Dave Darrin's Third Year at Annapolis
- 4 Dave Darrin's Fourth Year at Annapolis

12mo, from 224 to 256 pages, illustrated, cloth bound, with colored jacket ..... Each \$ .25  
No. 1372 Three volumes in an attractive box ..... Per Box \$ .85

Saalfield’s 1936 catalog (page 10) listing of “Books for Boys” includes Hugh McAlister’s “Mystery and Adventure Series No. 3,” with the re-sequenced list of titles from the “Worth While Books for Boys” series. Prices are listed at 25 cents each and 85 cents per 3-book box. Also shown are two series picked up from the Henry Altemus Co.

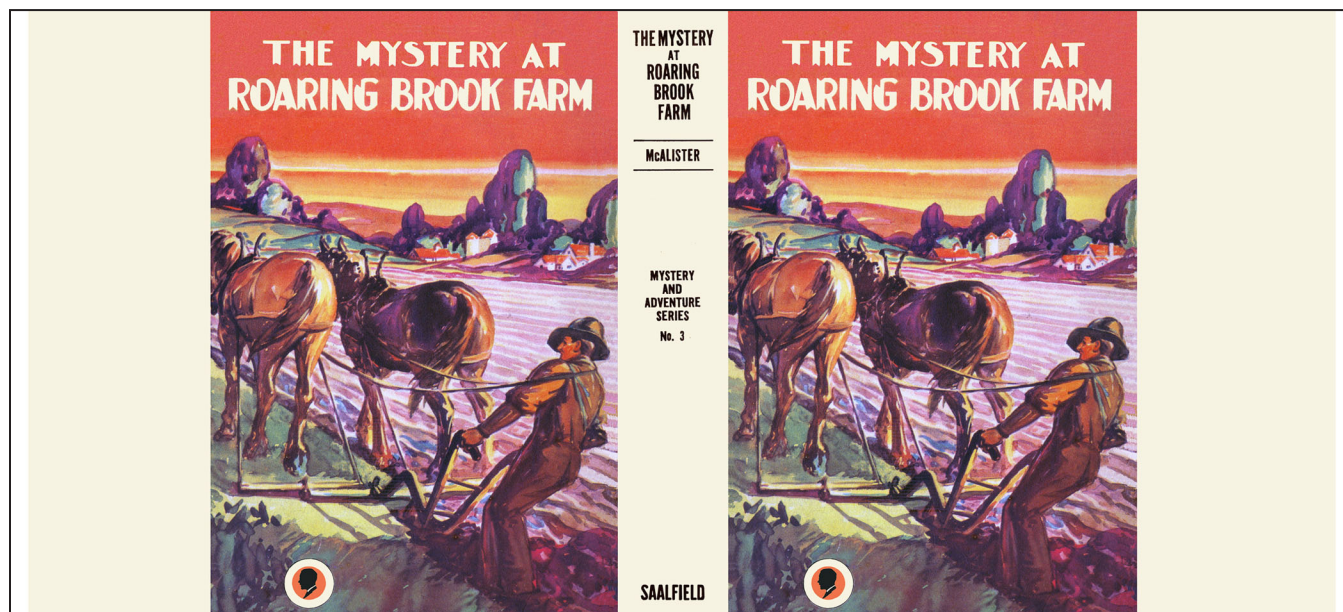
inscriptions, the series’ history in its various reincarnations is as follows:

•1930 — Worth While Books for Boys edition is published. The “breeder” set of six Worth While Books titles was copyrighted and issued this year, the six titles all listed on the rear of the earlier noted first printing DJs. This edition’s dimensions are 7 7/8” x 5 5/8” in size, and remains otherwise as earlier described. There is no 1930 Saalfield catalog to consult, but four books in the series were mentioned in a 5 July 1930, *Publisher’s Weekly* advertisement.<sup>4</sup>

•1931 — *That Boy at Roaring Brook Farm* and *Sea Gold* were copyrighted and issued this year in the first-edition format, with the DJs revised to show all eight titles.<sup>5</sup>

This edition was given an upfront two-page spread

(Continued on Page 12)



The “Mystery and Adventure Series No. 3” of 1936 is smaller at 7½" by 5" with pebble cloth book covers and the jacket with plain flaps (no advertising).

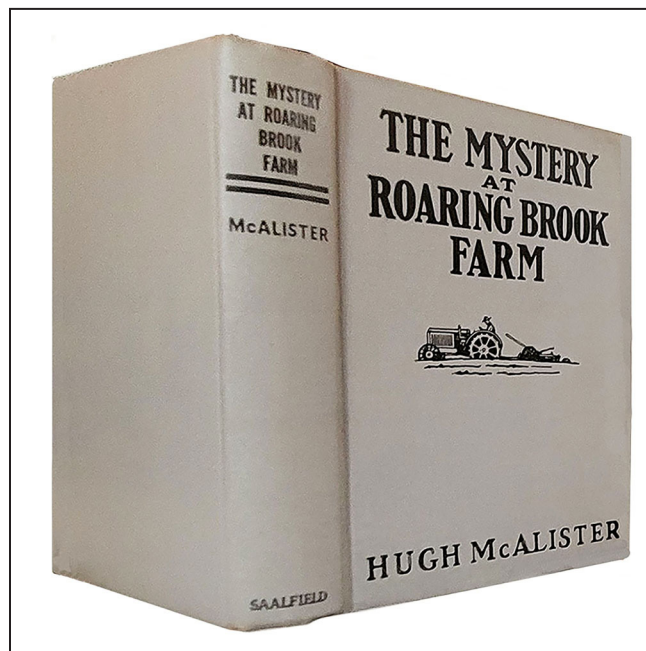
## Hugh McAlister’s ‘Worth While Books’ series

(Continued from Page 11)

in Saalfield’s 1931 catalog, priced at 60 cents, and also available in boxed sets of three.

•**1932**— Saalfield continued to give the “Worth While Books for Boys” edition favored treatment, with another double-page spread on pages 2 and 3 of its catalog. Boxed sets were no longer offered. Of special note, the publisher announced an increase of the series by two titles — *Mystery Wings*, a Yucatan archeological adventure by the above-mentioned Alabama sisters (Alice Alison Lide and Margaret Alison Johansen), and *Wings of Destiny*, an aviation adventure by George Durston (author of Saalfield’s Boy Scout series). Since neither title has any history of publication, nor can copies of either be found, they were likely never issued, perhaps victims of the Depression or an author issue.

•**1933** — The Saalfield catalog continues to list the Worth While Books edition, but now gives it only a half-page listing on page 3, with the series summary back to eight titles. The two never-issued titles are separately shown on the bottom half of page 2 in their own new two-title “Fiction for Boys” edition.



•**1934**— The Worth While Books edition was moved to a half-page listing on page 5, with *A Viking of the Sky*, *The Flight of the Silver Ship* and *Sea Gold* dropped. The catalog has other Saalfield title deletions, evidence the publisher was revising its marketing program. Even so, the series was still priced at 60 cents.

•**1935** — The five remaining Worth While Books edition titles were given only one-third of page 4, with their price now reduced to 50 cents, and the wholesale price reduced from 27 cents to 25 cents. Many new series titles, perhaps acquired from Altemus the prior year,

are also offered at the same prices.

• **1936** — **Series 3 edition replaces Worth While Books edition.** The McAlister series is back up to eight titles, but major changes can be noted. Most important, the series is retitled to “Mystery and Adventure Series No. 3,” so noted on the DJ spine but nowhere else. This edition is readily identified by its much smaller 7 5/8” x 5” size, its pebble cloth covers in a variety of colors, its stark black text and black cover icon, and no head-in-circle icon on the book’s spine. The revised dust jacket has a plain spine with black text and no head-in-circle icon, and the front cover icon has no text around the perimeter.

Oddly, there is no advertising on the DJ flaps, and the rear of the jacket either repeats the front cover or is blank. The list of books in this edition is also resequenced in the catalog, the words “The Mystery” replaces “That Boy” in the *Roaring Brook* title, and the *A Farming Story for Boys* subtitle is dropped. The construction and paper quality are visibly reduced (the cause of much subsequent paper browning), necessary economies due to a halving of the edition’s price to 25 cents. The edition is shown on page 10 of the catalog, along with many former Altemus series titles (also with a “No. 3” suffix). All series are also offered as boxed sets, priced at 85 cents [Ed.: see page 11].

• **1937** — The eight Series No. 3’ edition titles are shown on page 9 of this year’s catalog, still priced at 25 cents. Two “3 Books in 1” editions (*A Viking of the Sky* and *The Flight of the Silver Ship*) are offered for the first time at 60 cents each, along with several other former Altemus series titles in the same combo format.

• **1938** — The catalog shows no edition, title or price changes, but authors’ names are dropped.

• **1939** — **Mystery and Adventure Series edition introduced.** This year’s catalogs show all eight Hugh McAlister series titles as well as the addition of several former A. L. Burt series, but again no authors are identified.

Of special note, new “Popular Series” editions are introduced for both the Burt and Saalfield titles, all retaining the prior 25-cent price but now offered as “oversize editions.” This is the retitled Mystery and Adventure Series edition as described by Mattson and Davis, notable changes being its larger 8 1/8” x 5 5/8” dimensions, the restoration of the head in circle icon to the DJ spine, and both it and the smaller DJ front icon adding new “Mystery and Adventure Series” text around the perimeter. Text was restored to the DJ flaps, with a revised book description for the front flap and a (re-ordered) listing of the eight series titles on the rear flap. The book itself retained the “Series No. 3” edition’s

variety of cover colors and the same black cover and spine text and design, and continued to use cheaper materials prone to browning, differing only in size.

• **Post-1939** — Catalogs for the next several years continue to list the McAlister series, but it is more difficult to identify their series association, and several years of catalogs are missing. But all McAlister titles printed after 1939 are clearly from the oversize Mystery and Adventure Series edition, a conclusion consistent with several gift inscriptions dated to the early- to mid-1940s.

• **By 1942** — A smaller “Air Adventure Series” edition set of titles was released about this time, a date consistent with a December 1942 gift inscription. The books use the same “oversize edition” format and its cheaper construction, but use a wavy paper book covering that distinguishes them from the Mystery and Adventure Series edition. The edition is further identifiable by the gold circle on the DJ spine containing “Air Adventure Series” in black text (replacing the head in circle icon), and by its removal of the perimeter text from the head in circle icon on the DJ front cover.

The above publishing history makes clear that Saalfield greatly altered its marketing strategy during the 1930s decade. The changes were clearly aimed at keeping not only the McAlister titles alive, its full line of series titles acquired in the Depression decade from Altemus, and then Burt. The Worth While Books edition was retained for the first five years, but then the cheaper and smaller-sized “Series No.3” editions became a survival necessity. The 1939 introduction of Saalfield’s oversize format — in a more attractively sized and better-promoted Mystery and Adventure Series edition — was a positive step toward restoring a quality image for the series.

#### **Rebranding the series for changing tastes**

When first marketed, the Worth While Books for Boys edition was promoted as offering inspirational stories sounding much like a reincarnation of Alger’s “hard work and perseverance leads to success” philosophy. The edition’s description from a first-printing dust jacket is evidence of this:

Unsung heroes patterned after the lives of some of America’s most successful men, Hugh McAlister spins gripping stories about the different industries and professions ... There is always the fine, stalwart boy who builds sturdily on his own merits, his own efforts ... There is sometimes the spice of mystery, the lift of humor, but always adventure, hard work, discouragement, indomitable persistence, success! ... These stories for

(Continued on Page 14)

<p><b>MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE SERIES</b></p> <p>By Hugh McAlister</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>THE MYSTERY AT ROARING BROOK FARM</li> <li>FLAMING RIVER</li> <li>CONQUEROR OF THE HIGHROAD</li> <li>STAND BY</li> <li>A VIKING OF THE SKY</li> <li>THE FLIGHT OF THE SILVER SHIP</li> <li>STEVE HOLWORTH</li> <li>SEA GOLD</li> </ul> <p>The Saalfield Publishing Company Akron, Ohio</p>	<p><b>FICTION FOR BOYS</b></p> <p><b>Oversized Editions</b></p> <p>▲</p> <p><b>MYSTERY ADVENTURE EXPLORATION</b></p> <p>▼</p> <p><b>THE SAALFIELD PUBLISHING COMPANY</b> AKRON, OHIO</p>	<p><b>YOUNG HEROES SERIES</b></p> <p><i>The Young Boss of Camp Eighteen</i> <i>Tongues of Flame</i> <i>Mystery Hunters on Special Detail</i></p> <p><b>EAGLE LAKE SERIES</b></p> <p><i>Blind Man's Inlet</i> <i>The Mystery of Eagle Lake</i> <i>The Strange Escape</i></p> <p><b>AIR MYSTERY SERIES</b></p> <p><i>The Mystery Crash</i> <i>The Haunted Hangar</i> <i>The Vanishing Air Liner</i></p> <p><b>BOYS' ADVENTURE SERIES</b></p> <p><i>The Big Opportunity</i> <i>Barry Dare and the Mysterious Box</i> <i>The Ghost of Mystery Airport</i></p> <p><b>INDIAN SERIES</b></p> <p><i>Far Past the Frontier</i> <i>The Lone Indian</i> <i>The Trail of the Seneca</i></p> <p><b>BOYS' MYSTERY SERIES</b></p> <p><i>The Mystery of Gaither Cooe</i> <i>The North Point Cabin Mystery</i> <i>The Secret of the Armor Room</i></p> <p><b>PHILIP HART ADVENTURE SERIES</b></p> <p><i>The Black Skimmer</i> <i>The Golden Lure</i> <i>The Mysterious Trail</i></p> <p><b>AVIATOR SERIES</b></p> <p><i>Battling the Clouds</i> <i>An Aviator's Luck</i> <i>Dangerous Deeds</i></p>		<p><b>THE MYSTERY AT ROARING BROOK FARM</b></p> <p>By Hugh McAlister</p> <p>Gage Rodney was "on his own." In his ancient car he had rattled his way to the rolling farm country of the mid west.</p> <p>Gage wasn't sure what he wanted to do, but a bit of town gardening had given him the notion that he might like farming.</p> <p>A meeting with a fugitive from the law, trouble with the motor of his car, the hint of mystery about abandoned Roaring Brook Farm where he stopped to make repairs, and the kindness of a near-by farmer decided him. He would take the farm and make it pay. And perhaps he would solve the mystery that had caused this farm to remain unused for so many years.</p>
---	--	--	--	---

The 1939 "Mystery and Adventure Series" oversized edition increased the book's dimensions to 8 1/8" by 5 5/8". Text was restored to the DJ flaps, with a revised plot summary of the book on the front flap and the re-ordered list of the eight series titles on the rear flap.

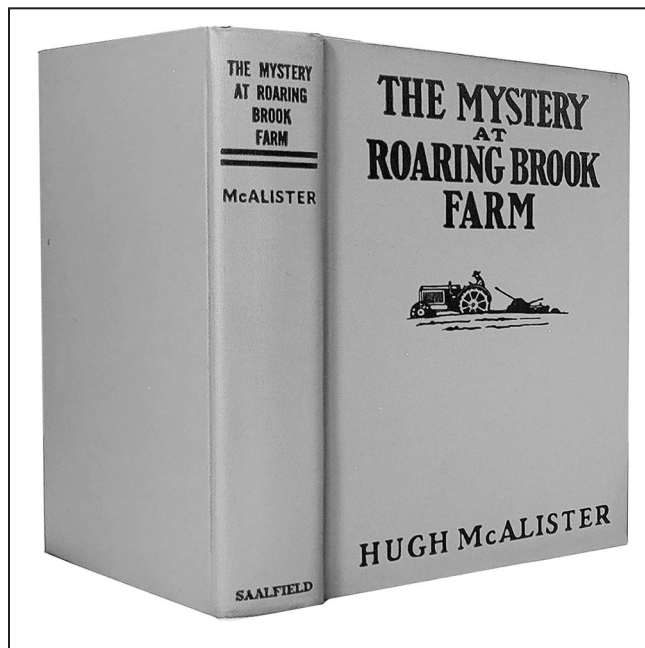
## Hugh McAlister's 'Worth While Books' series

(Continued from Page 13)

boys (and their fathers) are based on the ideals America cherishes for her young manhood.

The series was not as great a success as it might have been due to the Depression. Saalfield was thus early on forced to make major changes in how the series was marketed. First, they scrapped the "Worth While Books" identity in favor of a genderless "Mystery and Adventure Series No. 3" one that was also linked to drastic cost-cutting measures.

The move included removing all promotional text from the dust jacket flaps and rear cover as well, the only remaining series link being the head-in-circle icon — minus any text — on the front panel of the jacket. The addition of the A. L. Burt inventory of juvenile titles in about 1938 provided another impetus for change, with the McAlister series given a second new look as part of an upgraded lineup of more attractive "oversized" books. This change retained the "Mystery



and Adventure Series" identity (the one recognized by Mattson and Davis) while dropping the "No. 3" suffix. It also restored text to the dust jacket's rear panel and flaps, but revised the rear cover advertising to promote many of Saalfield's other series, and the rear flap to show a simple listing of McAlister series titles without any descriptions.

These rear panel and flap changes were shared by all oversized editions, thus cross-promoting the McAlister titles on the rear flaps of Saalfield's other

series titles. The front flap still held a description of the book, but it was greatly altered from its earlier description, and no longer was there any statement of the series' noble intentions.

A closer analysis of Saalfield's migration from the "Worth While Books for Boys" identity, to its genderless "mystery and adventure" one, provides insightful commentary on the wider public's waning interest in Horatio Alger themes. It provides a clear indication that the content of series books had changed by the 1930s from one of self improvement and occupational achievement, to stories full of exotic adventures, the solving of mysteries, and role model heroes righting wrongs.

Saalfield was recognizing this trend when it revised its marketing strategy. Along with the series retitling, the books were also reordered in the series list, causing *Roaring Brook* — first published in 1931 — to be listed ahead of the six 1930 published books:

The first important rebranding move was the retitling of the seventh book in the Worth While Books for Boys series and its related move to the top of the series' list. *That Boy at Roaring Brook Farm* — the title found on all Worth While Books edition books — was forever after known on every later edition and series list as *The Mystery at Roaring Brook Farm*. Even so, and unlike Saalfield's practice with other series, the DJ cover image for all titles in all of its many McAlister series editions never changed — clearly, the illustrations (impressive even today) were a marketing success.

\* \* \*

In Part 2, scheduled for the January-February **Newsboy**, brief story summaries of each of the eight books of the series will be presented, along with background information on the authors working behind Saalfield's "Hugh McAlister" house pseudonym.

#### NOTES

1. An edition is herein defined as all copies of a book title — or series of book titles — which share the same time of printing, dimensions, overall design and publisher. A format is defined as a book that has a unique and individualized spine, front and back cover. As will be seen, there are four identifiable McAlister editions since there are four different groups of books which share unique cover dimensions, overall design and/or dust jacket identities. Three of the editions have eight formats, each format linked to one of the eight titles.

2. The MAD Guide gave priority to frontispieces printed on coated paper. Based on copies seen, it seems likely the frontispiece paper differed simply by book title. Whether coated or not, the paper quality was certainly superior to later editions.

#### **Worth While Books For Boys title order (Includes copyright dates)**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Copyright date</b>
1. A Viking of the Sky.....	1930
2. Conqueror of the Highroad .....	1930
3. Flaming River.....	1930
4. The Flight of the Silver Ship.....	1930
5. Steve Holworth of the Oldham Works....	1930
6. Stand By .....	1930
7. That Boy at Roaring Brook Farm .....	1931
8. Sea Gold.....	1931

#### **Mystery and Adventure Series title order**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Copyright date</b>
1. The Mystery at Roaring Brook Farm.....	1931
2. Flaming River.....	1930
3. Conqueror of the Highroad .....	1930
4. Stand By .....	1930
5. A Viking of the Sky.....	1930
6. The Flight of the Silver Ship.....	1930
7. Steve Holworth of the Oldham Works....	1930
8. Sea Gold.....	1931

3. Kent State University purchased many Saalfield Publishing Company records when the firm closed in 1977. The list of catalogs can be found at <[www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/saalfield-publishing-company-catalogs](http://www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/saalfield-publishing-company-catalogs)>. The author is grateful for help provided by Amanda Faehnel, Special Collections Librarian.

4. **Publisher's Weekly** for 5 July 1930 had Saalfield offering four "Worth While Books for Boys" (*A Viking in the Sky*, *Conqueror of the Highroad*, *Flaming River* and *The Flight of the Silver Ship*) at 60 cents each. <[archive.org/details/sim\\_publishers-weekly\\_1930-07-05\\_118\\_11/page/114](http://archive.org/details/sim_publishers-weekly_1930-07-05_118_11/page/114)>. On 28 Feb. 1931, *Steve Holworth of the Oldham Works* and *A Viking in the Sky* were also advertised.

5. Dust jackets with eight titles have been located by the author for *The Flight of the Silver Ship* and *Conqueror of the Highroad*; the remaining four jackets are presumed but not documented,

6. *The Flight of the Silver Ship* "3 Books in 1" edition also contained *Sea Gold* and *Stand By*. The 3-in-1 edition for *A Viking in the Sky* also contained *Flaming River* and *Conqueror of the Highroad*. Since neither book had an index, any buyer was forced to do an internal search to discover the titles.

(Additional book images on Page 16)



Saalfield's "3 books in 1" editions and Air Adventure Series were late efforts to keep the series viable during the Depression.

