

newsboy

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Monthly Newsletter of
the HORATIO ALGER
SOCIETY. The World's
Only Publication Devoted
to That Wonderful
World of Horatio Alger.



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March - April 1974

Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

CONVENTION TIME

See details on Page 13

MAY 9, 10,
11, 12

Gardner Talk

TOURS

BOOK
SALES

OLD
TIME
MOVIES



HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

TO FURTHER THE PHILOSOPHY OF HORATIO ALGER JR., AND TO ENCOURAGE THE SPIRIT OF STRIVE AND SUCCEED THAT FOR HALF A CENTURY GUIDED ALGER'S UNDAUNTED HEROES - LADS WHOSE STRUGGLES EPITOMIZED THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM AND FLAMED HERO IDEALS IN COUNTLESS MILLIONS OF YOUNG AMERICANS.

OFFICERS

LEO (BOB) BENNETT
JACK BALES
CARL T. HARTMANN
DALE THOMAS
RALPH D. GARDNER
LESLIE POSTE
EVELYN GREBEL
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DIRECTOR
DIRECTOR

The NEWSBOY, The official organ of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY, is published monthly and is distributed free to Society members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$5.00

NEWSBOY recognizes Ralph D. Gardner's HORATIO ALGER, OR THE AMERICAN HERO ERA, published by Wayside Press, 1964, as the leading authority on the subject.

Please use membership roster for mailing addresses of our officers and members.

BOOK REPORT

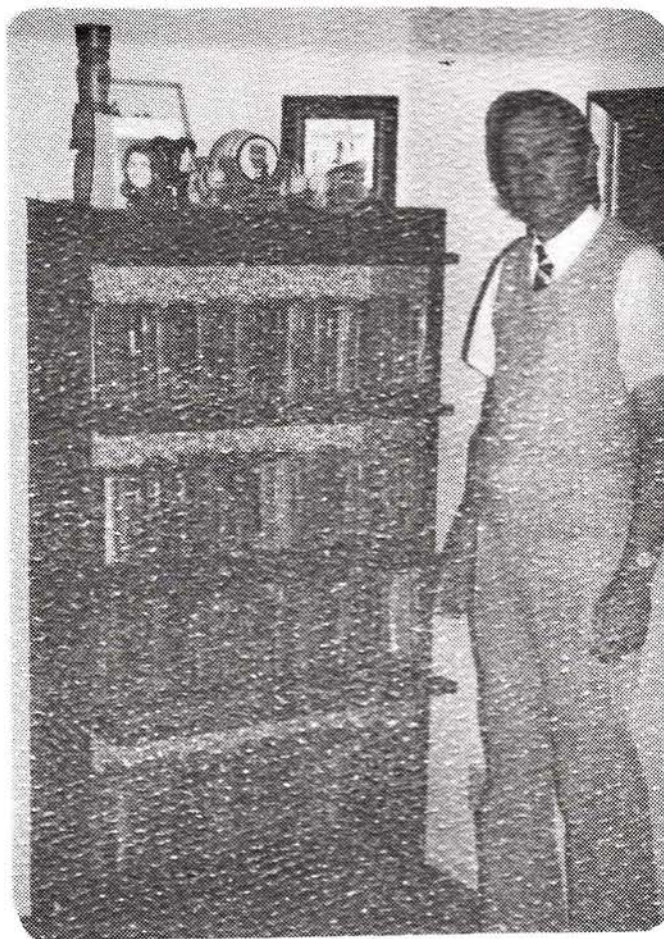
The lasted edition of a terrific publication "THE BOOK REPORT" has a very nice write up about the H.A.S. Mayes issue. Al Matzye, Editor, has published news about the H.A.S. in his last few issues. This has resulted in a few new members for us and more publicity for Alger.

I recommend the BOOK REPORT for anyone interested in buying or selling books. Al also writes some very interesting articles. If you would like to subscribe send \$3.00 to:

BOOK REPORT
P.O. Box 266
Campbell, Ohio 44405

NOTES ABOUT MEMBERS

HAS Vice-President Jack Bales has been awarded a graduate assistantship in the Library Science department at the University of Illinois. Congratulations Jack.



SUPER 100 CLUB

HAS President Bob Bennett shown with his collection of Alger first editions. Bob was awarded the first "SUPER 100 CLUB" plate for his HAS tile. The "SUPER 100 CLUB" is open to any member who has 100 first editions of Alger. They must be verified by two other members of the HAS. Bob's were verified by Gilbert Westgard and Carl Hartmann.



PF-365 - DEANE BANTA - 59

Deane D. Banta, a veteran radio announcer and account executive in the Bay Area, died last September in San Francisco.

Mr. Banta, a San Mateo resident, is survived by his wife, Thelma; two daughters, Mrs. Gale Canas of San Francisco, and Julie Banta of Sunol and two grandsons.

We offer our sympathy and condolences to his wife and family.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

PF-408 Robert W. Camp
330 Coleman Rd.
Middletown, Conn 06457
(Helen)

Robert is in the Mens and Women's clothing Retail business in Middletown and is one of its leading citizens. He is just starting in on his collection and has learned of HAS through Everett R. Johson.

PF-409 Arne R. Johnson
21 Sycamore Lane
Madison, Conn 06443
(Marilyn)

Arne is an Attorney and has a collection of 11 Alger titles. He learned of HAS through his father, Everett R. Johnson, who is a HAS member.

PF-410 Charles M. Vay
6461 Vermont Hill Rd.
South Wales, N.Y. 14139

Charles is still going to school but at the ripe young age of 14 has a collection of 30 Alger titles and also collects Zane Grey books. He is also interested in Rockets. He became acquainted with HAS through Jos. N. K...as.

PF-411 Bruce A. Strong
45 High Street
Thorndike, Mass 01079

Bruce is a student at Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School and has at the present time 49 Alger's titles. He enjoys working in stained glass and plays hockey. Bruce is sponsored as a Charter Junior member by his Grandfather, Edward J. Reynolds, PF-051.

PF-412 Bradford S. Chase
6 Sandpoper Rd.
Emfield, Conn 06082
(Ann)

Bradford is a City Planner and his interest in Alger is collecting Titles of which he now has 70. His other interest are sports and his family. He first became aware of HAS through another collector at an Antique Show and obtained our address thru Ed. L. Blanc of Dime Novel Roundup.

PF-413 Walter E. Goulding
17 Ayer Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14615
(Ardelle)

Walter is a Standard Lab Tech. (electronic) and is employed by Busch and Lomb. His interest in the field of Alger is "Nostalgia, associated with early reading habits". In his collection he has over 40 Alger Titles. Oil painting is one of his hobbies. Walter learned of HAS through Mr. Poste.

PF-414 Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas
1108 West Avenue
Medina, N.Y. 14103

Mrs. Thomas is a new Alger fan and is just starting her collection, but already has 50 Alger's Titles. She is a Social Worker and heard of us through Dale Thomas. Her other hobbies are traveling and Arts and crafts.

PF-415 Jesse Garcia
2007 Ariel Dr. P.O. Box 5543
Dallas, Texas 75222
(Hortense)

Jesse is the owner of an Insurance Agency and his major hobby is reading. As yet he has no Alger Titles but has an all around interest in Alger. He learned of us through a friend.

PF-416 Walter J. DeLorrell
117 S. Hoover Street
Los Angeles, California 90004

Walter lives in Los Angeles and was referred to us by Ted Kaphengst of Palm Springs, California. We hope to have more information on Walter in the near future.

PF-417 W. Wayne Olden
1000 Central Ave.
Glendora, N.J. 08029

Wayne's occupation is a Collector and Trader. In his collection he has 56 Alger's Titles.

PF-418 Dwyer's Bookstore, Inc.
264 N. Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 6
Amherst, Ma 01002

The owners of Dwyer's Bookstore, Inc. are Jeffery P. Dwyer and Gordon A. Cronin, Antiquarian Booksellers. Learned of HAS through Les Poste.

PF-419 Charles J. Levy
4535 W. 9th Ave.
Vancouver, British Columbia 8, Canada
(Elinor)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS Cont. from Page 3

Charles is a Sociology Professor up in the Canadian wilds. He has a normal interest in Alger but has 37 first edition of Alger's Titles - 15 first printings, as serials, in XIXth century story papers. He collects old toys of iron and became interested in HAS through his father, Ed Levy. Charles has written a book, "Spoils of War published by Houghton, Mifflin.

PF-420 George B. Sterling
Box 337A R#1
Berling Center, Oh 44401

George is a native of Michigan and a 1949 graduate of M.S.U. He has been for many years an enthusiast of Horatio Alger and has about 50 different Titles of Alger's books. HAS came to his notice by way of the Curwood Collection.

PF- L-12 Hess Collection - Karen Nelson, Curator
University of Minnesota
109 Walter Library
Minneapolis, MN 55455

The Hess collection consists of 123 hardback Alger books, and 208 paperbacks. HAS was made known to the Library's Curator, Karen Nelson via Leo R. Bennett.

PF-421 James Hashman
Main Street - P.O. Box 293
Danville, Ohio 43014

James is interested in all fields of Horatio Alger and is a Barber by occupation. He has 50 Alger's Titles to his collection and is a Zane Grey fan and a book collector. James heard about us through the Curwood collection.

PF-422 Becky Beth Wilcox
3603 Washington Blvd. - Apt. 28
Indianapolis, Ind 46205

Becky is a graduate student as well as a Grocery store clerk and her interest in Alger is "Alger's value system and how it has affected American values". In Becky's collection, there are 2 Alger Titles. Her Hobbies are Music, Ballet and children. Becky learned of HAS from a friend, Nancy Spaulding in Geneseo, N.Y.

PF-423 Arthur Edwin Brooks
6 Groveland Road
Geneseo, N.Y. 14454

Arthur is a Librarian and his interest in Alger is general. He owns 1 Alger Title. His hobbies are Stamps, book collecting, Travels,

Beethoven, wine and Ballet. Arthur came to us through Dr. Les Poste.

PF-424 Michael Doherty
923 S. B Street
Port Angeles, Washington 98362

We would like to welcome Michael to HAS and hope that we can help him to enlarge his meager collection of Algers. We hope to obtain more information on Michael for our next Newsboy edition.

PF-425 Stephen A. Weeks
214 S. Serrano - Apt. 9
Los Angeles, California 90004
(Terry)

Stephen is a banker and has in his Alger collection 35 Titles. His interest in Alger is first editions. Flying, golf, and book collecting are Stephen's hobbies. HAS came to Stephen through a book dealer.

CHANGE OF GUARD

The interest of George C. Clarke, PF-264 in the Alger Movement has been completely transferred, to his friend and running mate in the Alger expansion movement, BARRY WAYNE SALTZMAN, who lives in Revere, Massachusetts.

He has turned over to Barry, 104 different Algers, as his background library, also, nearly 1000 copies of Strive and Succeed and Ragged Dick and some additional novels by Alger.

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CHANGED OF ADDRESS

Tom Collins
P.O. Box 1261-Peter Stuyvesant Stat.
New York, N.Y. 10009

Donald D. Dowling
992 Rocky Bluff Terrace
Saint John, N.B. Canada

CHANGE OF GUARD (Cont. from Page 4)

George will continue his interest and participation and serve in an advisory capacity to the movement which will cover Junior Leaders, both sexes, up to age 18, as a Junior Alger reading club. Also, in a new venture, the old age groups, now living in convalescent homes, each of which should have an Alger Library, and other projects of the golden Ages.

Alger novels and special articles will interest both of these groups.

Getting the youngsters in the mood to participate in the reading movement will take much effort.

Getting the older people from 65 years of age and up will take a different type of enterprise.

As far as Barry is concerned, he is at the present time employed at Revere Beach, at the reservation, one of the concessions, he has to work nights, Sundays and much overtime, but he still has time for a good hobby and Alger participation represents that.

Financial support will be derived from the sale of books, no personal income involved, in other words, this is to be a strictly non-commercial enterprise.

Members may bring their boys and girls into the movement by paying fifty cents, 50¢, as dues, which is a lifetime donation.

In addition to that, any boy or girl, who buys one Alger, at the one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) asking price, will automatically become a member of the Junior Club.

A STATEMENT BY CO-FOUNDER, FORREST CAMPBELL

It is with deep sincere regret that I belatedly announce the passing of a particular friend, Charley L. Clapp, PF-013, whose death was never announced due to a misunderstanding about his membership status. The date of his passing, so Mrs. Clapp informs us, was December 10, 1965. Being retired, and perhaps on a fixed income, he chose not to pay the annual \$5 membership dues when we converted from a subscriber basis to a membership basis in May of 1965 at the Mendota Affair, and so, according to our policy, his name was entered in our inactive membership file, in other words, a sort of "until death do us part" policy.

Cont. on Page

Permanent identification numbers were assigned to each new subscriber who expressed a sincere and loyal interest in "our hero" and his principles, and in our policy of sharing what we had in the form of information or surplus books without thought of profit, but upon receipt of \$2.00 donation in support of our newsletter.

Charley met all of these requirements, and, in fact, "went beyond the call of duty" in supplying us with much local history on the subject of Horatio Alger, Jr. Charley had truly earned his right to become affiliated with the Horatio Alger Society as we know it today.

I feel it was a great personal privilege for me to have known him through the medium of our friendly and informative correspondence.

NOTES FROM RALPH

Before my own copy of the Mayes Issue of The Newsboy arrived, I received a few notes from members who had already received theirs. It seems that it takes longer for mail to reach New York City than any place else in the country. But it finally arrived and, believe me, it was worth waiting for! It's an impressive literary document, and I wish copies could be sent to the various libraries, newspaper morgues and encyclopediae so that the valuable contents can be made available to future Alger researchers. A tremendous ovation is due our Vice-President, Jack Bales, who worked so hard to produce it.

There's still plenty of snow on the ground hereabouts, but better start planning now to attend our 1974 HAS Convention in May at New Philadelphia, Ohio. Dan Fuller and Dale Thomas have already been working long and hard to make it a tremendous success. It'll be a great, fun-filled family event, as always. So plan now and get your reservations in early. As quite a few new members joined during the past year, we should enjoy the biggest turnout yet.

President Bob Bennett has asked me to preside over the 1974 Newsboy Award Committee, to select a recipient of the award presented annually at the Convention to the member who has done most to bring to public attention the work and meaning of Horatio Alger. I have asked Jerry Friedland and Babe Swift to join me on the committee. All members are invited to send me their nominations of candidates for this

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NOTES FROM RALPH Cont. from Page 5

year's award.

May I take this occasion to thank all who wrote to me to say that they enjoyed Cast Upon The Breakers. I received close to three dozen letters and they are still coming in. Writes John Lohn: "It is one of the best stories Alger wrote, and it is a mystery to me why it never was published in book form during Alger's lifetime. It would have been one of his best-sellers." As you know, Carl Hartmann has been able to get from Doubleday 150 first editions reserved for HAS members. I understand he still has a number of copies, so if you plan to order one or more, do so now, before the first edition is sold out. We all recall what happened last year with the Silas Snobden's Office Boy first editions, so get your orders in before all are sold.

Incidentally, the publisher -- Doubleday -- is doing very little to promote and advertise Cast Upon The Breakers, so any help you can offer will be appreciated. Most booksellers seem to have copies (Doubleday does arrange good distribution), so perhaps you can persuade dealers in your area to display a copy in their windows. Maybe the dealer would be willing to display some of your own titles in the same display, putting your name and address on a card alongside the exhibit, thus inviting offers that have, in the past, enhanced the collections of some of our members. Judging from publicity I arranged for both Silas and Cast, I know that local newspapers, radio and TV stations are most receptive to Alger as it's wholesome stuff, always well received by readers and viewers.

I suppose that by now many of you have seen the "We like Horatio Alger" TV commercials, sponsored by City Investors Corp. They're great. In the two already produced (I understand a third is in the works) Horatio is mentioned and in one, the actor hangs a portrait of Horatio on his office wall. The account executive of Ogilvy and Mather advertising agency, who is producing the commercials, was referred to me by Ken's son, Roger Butler, who is also an account executive with that agency. Roger heads the team that produced the "Merrill, Lynch is bullish on America" campaign. I was advised that an upcoming City Investors Alger commercial might be filmed at Ken's Time Was Museum. They just couldn't do better for beautiful, absolutely authentic period backgrounds!

For ages I've been trying to find time to write for The Newsboy an article on the sequence

of Alger's hardcover book publishers (starting with Brown, Bazin), but I haven't gotten around to it. Perhaps one of our research-inclined members would be willing to tackle the job. It would be of value to all HAS members. In the case of publishers that issued Alger in various editions (for instance, Coates, Burt, Winston, etc.) it would be interesting to list the sequence in which that these appeared. If interested, let Carl know about it.

Remember: Plan NOW to join us at the HAS Convention in May!!!!

BOOK REVIEW

By

Ralph D. Gardner

Dirty Tricks or, Nick Noxin's Natural Nobility. By John Seelye. Published by Live-right, N.Y., 152 pages. \$5.95

If there's anyone around today qualified to write a Horatio Alger story it has to be John Seelye, Professor of English at the University of Connecticut. In addition to a recent novel, "The Kid", and a splendid study on Huckleberry Finn, Professor Seelye wrote the Introduction and Bibliographical notes to Illustrious Book Club of California 1965 edition of Alger's The Young Miner; or Tom Nelson in California. He is also the author of Who was Horatio? The Alger Myth and American Scholarship, the most intensive study of all the biographies thus far written on America's chief crafter of tales of success, which appeared a few years ago in the scholarly American Quarterly.

Now Professor Seelye has produced Dirty Tricks or, Nick Noxin's Natural Nobility, a fast-moving, witty satire with thinly veiled references to today's front page headlines.

Our Hero, Nick -- referred to by the village snob as "you grocersboy!" -- labors in his father's "modest emporium". In appearance he resembles the typical Alger hero: "Through slight and short of stature, Nick Noxin bore himself with manly dignity, and his dark features were gathered in a pleasant scowl under the black curls of his tousled head, a fixed and thoughtful expression of agreeable determination...". Seelye doesn't skimp on the Alger atmosphere, providing everything from the scurrilous village squire to the suspicious railroad companion and even poor Nick getting himself hauled off to the pokey.

BOOK REVIEW by Ralph D. Gardner Cont. from
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"Humble origins and great attainments," h father -- a uniquely offbeat rather un-algerish Alger character -- admonishes, "are not the exception but the rule in this great land of opportunity. Indeed, lowly beginnings and a modest demeanor are valuable assets in a country claiming the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Alva Edison, to say nothing of Benjamin Franklin, Andrew Carnegie and Horatio Alger." It's all very tongue-in-cheek. Very cheeky, I might add.

It's all a great deal of fun reading, from adventure to misadventure, right down to the tale's finale where, "having first encountered our barefoot boy in motion, let us now leave him in a similar condition, secure in the knowledge that no matter what his intended direction, Nick Noxin is surely BOUND TO RISE!"

REPAIRING YOUR OLD ALGERS AND OTHER BOOKS
by Jack Schorr

Many a time I have seen books that a dealer as recently acquired that he has not had time to repair, and when I offer to buy it he says, "Why don't you wait, I will repair it." I decline because, really, I would rather do it myself.

A book with broken hinges presents no problem. A little padding compound introduced by means of a very thin round stick just inside of the hinge while the book is on it's end, and then applying some to the end paper that is separated from the inside cover fixes that. I am always careful to insert a strip of folded wax paper down the inside of the spine whenever I find that the cloth backing is pulled away from the pages and I have applied padding compound. This prevents the spine from sticking to the cloth backing inside the spine, in the event any compound comes through. I have seen books repaired with the spine glued tight to the cloth backing and this is highly undesirable. Whenever I repair broken hinges, as mentioned, I place a piece of wax paper between the cover and end paper so it doesn't stick and place a weight up to the edge of the spine then let the edge of the spine extend over the edge of a table until dry. Replacing loose pages is no problem with just a trace of padding compound.

I have even substituted covers of books which were rare enough to warrant it. This is a bit tricky, but when finished you couldn't tell the difference. It was a scarce item when the cover was damaged, and I was lucky enough to find another copy with the cover very good, except inside there were six or seven pages missing. I very carefully removed the cover, put the inside of the other book, which had all the pages intact, inside the nice cover and pasted in new inside cover pages and there it was, bright and clean. This was a case that wouldn't happen often.

There are certain damages to books that cannot be repaired, and one of them is the small drill holes in the crease of the hinges and areas along the edge which are damaged by silverfish. A few holes don't materially lessen the value for our purposes, but I have seen copies where the spine is riddled. Water and mildew are usually beyond repair.

I have come across books when the frontispiece illustration has been clumsily secured in by the old Scotch Tape which has turned yellow and cannot be removed. I have found that by pressing very briefly with a hot iron, it loosens the tape and it can be pulled off without damages to the page. Remember it will leave a discoloration where it has been, but it looks better than the brittle tape.

Sometimes you will find where a page has been creased or wrinkled by misuse, a hot iron will smooth these pages out quite nicely.

The dirt and grime along the edge of the pages can be removed with very fine sandpaper and patience. Holding the pages in a clamp and going over and over the edges carefully in the direction of the pages you can restore them to a clean new appearance.

I think it was mentioned in past articles about cleaning very soiled covers with a little Basic-H and lukewarm water and a well wrung soft cloth. This is quite satisfactory depending on how fast you work and the quality of the covers.

It is amazing how mistreated, mishandled books can be restored. A lot of damage is done to new books when first opened. I bought a bunch of Tom Swifts, all new, awhile back from a dealer who told me that they were stock never sold. I carefully opened each book a few pages at the back, a few pages at the front, working my way toward the middle because if I had just opened them abruptly I would have split the

REPAIRING YOUR OLD ALGERS AND OTHER BOOKS

by Jack Schorr Cont. From Page 7

spine. This would be true of any new book, but especially so the older books, before they had elastic adhesives.

There are many things a person can do to restore a book. I have rebuilt back covers on rare occasions, coming up close to the originals; reinforced the tops and bottoms of frayed spines, working from the inside; restored faded colors to the covers; and rebuilt books that were badly shaken. All this takes time and patience, but it is enjoyable if you love books, especially when a scarce one like "Oscar the Naval Cadet" or White Ribbon Boys" or so many of the Alger's come along. You just don't reject these old ones. I reserve my time and patience for books that can't readily be replaced, and it's fun too.

THE LAST ALGER HERO; OR RODNEY ROPES OF CAST UPON THE BREAKERS by Jack Bales

Earlier this year Doubleday & Company published Cast Upon the Breakers, the last Alger novel to be published in book form which featured as protagonist an Alger Hero - a character which has since become so legendary and who has influenced so great a number of people that the two words have come to be capitalized. However, although this book is noteworthy because of this respect, and in another due to the excellence of Ralph D. Gardner's Foreword (there is a section on Frank A. Munsey and his Argosy, which serialized Cast Upon the Breakers from May 27 to August 19, 1893), it is distinguished from other Alger stories in the author's high quality of writing. That is, after I had finished it, I felt that it ranked higher and was more memorable than some of Alger's other novels.

In making this analysis I think back on over the 100 different Alger stories I have read. Is it not true that some make more of an impression on you than others, that the Hero in one seems to possess more "life" than the boy in another book and that you just simply enjoy one novel more than others? I have always noticed this, and thus in my opinion, Cast Upon the Breakers -- the story of young Rodney Ropes who has to leave school due to the loss of his money, goes to New York and secures a job but then loses it due to the underhanded dealings of the inevitable young Alger snob, and finally goes out West to make his fortune and returns home

triumphant -- ranks among the best Horatio Alger's writings.

To my way of thinking, we lovers of Alger's books read them because we like what the author brings us in each book and have grown to expect and welcome it all in each new Alger we read for the first time. In books with a New York setting we can sense that when "well dressed young man" sits next to the elderly lady, an attempt will undoubtedly be made to steal her purse (which will just as undoubtedly be foiled by the sharp-eyed young Alger Hero). Or if the story takes place out West, we envision a setting where robust miners toil hard all day -- and woe to the man caught stealing, for Alger is quick to point out that miners' justice has often ended with more than one man swinging at the end of a rope.

In Cast Upon the Breakers we are brought into both these locales as we read in one book as many different types of occurrences that are normally found in two or three Algers. There is a train derailment followed by a robbery of a casket of jewels worth \$1200, and a scene in the streets of New York and one in the Newsboys' Lodging House in which Rodney's friend Mike Flynn brings to mind pictures of Ragged Dick and other bootblack Alger Heroes. Also, there is a boy employed in the same store as Rodney who succeeds in getting his discharged for stealing (a false charge of course), but a find of a diamond necklace and pin which when returned to their owner helps secure for Rodney another and much more lucrative position. This is followed by a plot (foiled by Rodney) to victimize a miner of his money, and finally, after the scene switches to a Western setting, our Hero is kidnapped and held for ransom -- all adding up to a truly enjoyable Alger book!

As with Silas Snobden's Office Boy (Doubleday, 1973), numerous illustrations are included in Cast Upon the Breakers. Since there was only one picture of Rodney Ropes in the original Argosy serialization, illustrations of other Alger Heroes are also included; dramatic and favorite pictures such as Robert Rushton of Brave and Bold flagging down a train which is approaching a tree blocked section of railroad track, and Ragged Dick saving a boy from drowning in New York's East River.

Also, readers who love to see Alger Heroes save the old homestead from being seized by the racially squire will not be disappointed, for even though Rodney has no mother or father, Alger does not let this deter him from inserting this favorite theme of his. Rodney, posing as

THE LAST ALGER HERO; OR RODNEY ROPES OF CAST UPON THE BREAKERS by Jack Bales Cont. from Page 8

a boy worth \$250,000, flabbergasts a whole town. In fact, the chapters in which this incident occurs detail a sub-plot which I have never read before in any of Alger's books!

Therefore, to the cynics who say that the Heroes were all too "goody-goody" and that they all became millionaires who married their bosses' daughters (Ralph neatly counters these arguments in his Foreword), they need not bother to read this story of Rodney Ropes, the last Alger Hero. But to those whom have grown to love all the legendary characteristics of an Alger book, or whom just want to be assured of a happy ending -- with Cast Upon the Breakers they won't be disappointed!

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY
January 26, 1974

Herbert R. Mayes
One Hyde Park Street
London, W. 2, England

Dear Mr. Mayes:

As President of the Horatio Alger Society, it is indeed an honor to present you with an "Honorary" membership in the Society.

The publication of the "special issue" of Newsboy containing your complete correspondence with Ralph Gardner and Bill Henderson will be off the presses soon. This issue will undoubtedly be of particular interest to our membership.

Ralph Gardner informs me that you are a "super person" and although I have not had the personal pleasure of meeting you, your sincere effort to set the record straight for poor Horatio is a fine gesture, and verifies Ralph's contention.

The Society is a viable, growing organization and the active membership has passed the 200 mark. Most are serious collectors of Alger's works and it is quite amazing how many new Alger "prizes" that appear from time to time.

It may be of interest to you that we have

verified 202 different Alger title variants plus 239 short stories and 62 poems, songs, and other published writings. It is surprising that a number of "want lists" reaching me still carry some of the ghosts you created in your 1928 book. By the way, your book which originally sold for \$3.50, brings as much as \$60.00 today.

I do wish to ask one question of you. I note that you list Edward Stratemeyer among the credits in your book. I have wondered if Stratemeyer indicted to you what role he actually played in the so-called "Stratemeyer completions?" Did Alger, in fact, write any part of the eleven books in question, or were they entirely Stratemeyer's creations?

In closing, let me say that all of us in HAS are grateful to you for your Alger, and your original research has made the road much easier for those of us who wish to pursue information on this fascinating author.

Once again, thank you for your valuable contribution. Best wishes to you from the Society.

Sincerely,

Bob Bennett, President
Horatio Alger Society

Herbert R. Mayes
1 Hyde Park Street
London, W. 2, London
February 2, 1974

Dear Mr. Bennett:

First, my thanks for your kind and thoughtful letter of January 26th. I still have my doubts about being entitled to "Honorary" membership, but certainly I accept with pleasure and gratitude.

Secondly, your question about Stratemeyer. I just can't answer it -- just don't remember. Seems to me I visited with Stratemeyer at his office or home, and vaguely I seem to recall it was somewhere in New Jersey. My real reason for wanting to meet the man I do clearly recall: he was the author of the Rover Boys books, which I loved.

Sincerely,

Herbert R. Mayes

OWEGO GAZETTE.

NEWSBOY

MARCH - APRIL 1974

HIRAM A. BEEBE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS: \$2.00 IN ADVANCE.

OWEGO, THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 29, 1866.

Quitting the stage.
We are informed following from a new novel by Orazio Alger, Jr., called "Helen Ford," just published by Loring of Boston. The heroine, Helen Ford, a poor girl, has just come into a fortune by the death of a rich relative, and desires to abandon her vocation as a singer at a small salary in one of the theatres. She visits the manager, of course:

The next morning Helen, on reaching the theatre, sought the presence of Mr. Bowers.

The manager was seated in his office, as usual. He looked carelessly at Helen entered, but did not invite her to be seated.

"Well, Miss Ford," he said, after a while, "what can I do for you, this morning?"

"I should like to have you release me from my engagement, if you please, Mr. Bowers."

"Release you from your engagement?" ejaculated the astonished manager. "Then in a tone of indignation, 'I suppose you have had a larger offer elsewhere.'"

"No, sir."

"What can be your motive, then? I beg you to understand, Miss Ford, that a contract is a contract, and must be kept. Of course your place could be supplied, but it is annoying to make a change in the middle of the season."

This last remark was thrown in lest Helen should presume upon her value to the establishment to demand a higher salary. Indeed, the manager suspected that this was her object, and wished to anticipate her.

"I was afraid it might inconvenience

you," said Helen gently; "and am asking, in requital, to refund the whole amount of wages that I have received from you."

Mr. Bowers stared at Helen in undisguised astonishment. She must have had a very brilliant offer to want her in making such a proposal.

"Did I understand that you have had no other engagement offered you?" he inquired, abruptly.

"No, sir. I do not wish to sing any more in public."

"It will pay you better than anything else you can do."

"I ought to explain that I have had a fortune left me, or rather papa has, and under our new circumstances it would be inconvenient for me to come to the theatre every evening."

"Indeed, Miss Ford," said Mr. Bowers, "your fortune changing?"

"I hope, for your sake, it is a large fortune."

"Mr. Sharp tells me that it will be a few hundred thousand dollars," said Helen, of exultation in her tone.

A few hundred thousand dollars! exclaimed Mr. Bowers, in profound astonishment. "Pray, take a seat, dear Miss Ford. Hang my stupidity, why didn't I think to offer you one before?"

And Mr. Bowers bustled about, and offered Helen a seat with as much deference as if she were a duchess. It was easy to see that she had risen immeasurably in his estimation.

The morning papers contained the following paragraph, the authorship of which may at least be suspected:

"ROMANCE IN REAL LIFE.—We understand that Miss Helen Ford, the young vocalist whose charming melodies have made her such a popular favorite, has just come into possession of a splendid fortune, inherited from her grandfather General Ford Esq., the well-known capitalist, whose death was recently announced in our columns. Miss Ford has kindly agreed to sing as usual through the present week, when she will leave the stage forever."

The effect of this paragraph may be imagined. That evening hundreds were turned away from the theatre, which was crowded to its utmost capacity. Never had such an audience been seen within its walls. When Helen appeared on the stage, quite unaware of the paragraph which had produced this effect, she was received with long continued applause. The vast audience seemed inspired with a sudden enthusiasm.

Helen was surprised, but did not lose her self-possession. She sang with her usual sweetness, and was immediately encircled. Again she sang, and this time was called before the curtain. Several bouquets were thrown at her, which she picked up, and hastily withdrew.

If Helen had been older, she would have understood the meaning of this ovation. As it was she only wondered.

Behind the curtain she met the manager, smiling, and rubbing his hands in evident glee.

"My dear Miss Ford," he said, "this is indeed a triumph."

"The house is very full," said Helen. "And hundreds turned away; never was such a house seen."

NUMBER 17

"I am very glad of it," said Helen. "So am I; let me see, this is Tuesday evening. Friday you shall have a benefit. One third of the receipts. It is only fair, since you have drawn this immense audience."

Helen would have declined the offer, but for a sudden thought. When she first became connected with the theatre she noticed a thin fragile girl, who danced between the plays. The exertion was evidently too great for her for she was often seized with a violent fit of coughing after withdrawing from the stage. For a fortnight Helen had missed her. On inquiry, she learned that Alice (that was her name) was sick. "Poor girl," added the prompter, who was her informant, "it is a great misfortune, for she has an invalid sister who is dependent upon her for support. I am afraid she won't get along very well, for her salary was small, and now it is out altogether."

It occurred to Helen that she could give the proceeds of her benefit to Alice. She accordingly thanked Mr. Bowers, and accepted his proposal.

The week was a series of triumphs. Every evening the doors of the theatre were besieged, and every evening hundreds were turned away.

Friday evening—the evening of her benefit—Helen found the house full, if possible, than before. The manager had taken the opportunity, in consequence of the great demand for seats, to temporarily raise the price of admission. As he anticipated, this did not in the least diminish the throngs who crowded for admittance.

On Saturday morning he handed Helen a check for five hundred dollars, as her share of the proceeds.

Helen's eyes sparkled with joy as she thought of the happiness which this sum would bring to the poor ballet girl.

The above is from the collection of Ed Levy - PF-004

Poste Arranges Alger Exhibit

Horatio Alger Jr. (1832-1899), whose birthday was Jan. 13, is the subject of an exhibit arranged by Leslie Poste, professor of Library Science and trustee of the Horatio Alger Society, in the library of the School of Library & Information Science in Fraser Hall.

The exhibit coincides with Alger's birthday and the publication this month of Alger's "Cast Upon the Breakers" in book form for the first time by Doubleday & Company, Inc. The new book appeared as a weekly serialization in 1893 in *The Argosy* under the pen name of Arthur Lee Putnam.

HORATIO ALGER BIRTHDAY MARKED

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The exhibit coincides with both Alger's birthday and the publication this month of Alger's "Cast Upon the Breakers" in book form for the first time by Doubleday and Company, Inc. The new book appeared in 1893 as a weekly serial in "The Argosy" under the pen name of Arthur Lee Putnam.

Ralph D. Gardner, owner of one of the world's largest collections of Alger's books and stories, who heads his own advertising agency in New York City, has written the foreword to "Cast Upon the Breakers."

February 2 last year was proclaimed officially as Horatio Alger Day by the Village of Geneseo. Ralph Gardner is an Honorary Citizen of the Village of Geneseo.

THE LIVINGSTON REPUBLICAN, GENESEO, N.Y. — THURSDAY, JAN. 17, 1974

ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE Tuesday, January 15, 1974

5B

Geneseo Aids Novel Revival

Rags to Riches—Again

GENESEO — About a year ago, the Village of Geneseo helped celebrate the reappearance of Horatio Alger on a modern book list.

Coincident with the first appearance in book form of "Silas Snobden's Office Boy," published by Doubleday and Co., Mayor George Scondras proclaimed last Feb. 2, the publication date, as "Horatio Alger Day" in the village, and named Ralph D. Gardner an honorary citizen of Geneseo.

Gardner is Alger's biographer. Owner of the largest collection of material by and about the author, he is the author of a long preface to "Silas Snobden's Office Boy." Gardner visited Geneseo last Feb. 2 and addressed a colloquium at the State University College at Geneseo.

It now appears that the village was witnessing the start of a publishing revival.

"Silas Snobden's Office Boy" was reviewed in several metropolitan newspapers and in nationally-circulated magazines.

Its sales apparently were healthy, because Doubleday has done it again, publishing a second Alger novel, "Cast Upon the Breakers," in connection with Alger's birthday on Jan. 13.

The new book is similar in size and format to the first, with a portrait of Alger on the cover, and with the addition of illustrated end papers. It

again carries an Alger essay by Gardner as a foreword.

Dr. Leslie Poste of the School of Library and Information Science at the college, an Alger collector who invited Gardner to Geneseo last year, has arranged an exhibit of Alger books in Milne Library on the campus, partly as an Alger birthday observance, partly in response to the new publication.

Where "Silas Snobden's Office Boy" was notable as the

first hard-cover appearance of a "forgotten" Alger novel, "Cast Upon the Breakers" is described as the first book publication of "the last Alger hero."

The novel appeared as a weekly serial in *Argosy* magazine in 1893 under the pen name of Arthur Lee Putnam, and was the last in which Alger used the "rags to riches" theme which has become identified with his name.

ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE
Sunday, December 9, 1973

13B

Now You See It ... Now You Don't

BY BOB BICKEL

GENESEO—Very deliberately, very carefully, Dr. Leslie Poste places the palms of his hands on the opened book, then moves them slightly so that the gilded front edges of the book slant backward.

A painting materializes out of nowhere.

He returns the book to its closed shape. The painting disappears.

The decoration is not tricky, not intended to astound the viewer.

It was intended to make an art object of the book, as



Dr. Leslie Poste

silence for higher things -
 Some graduates of amateur
 journalism have already made
 for themselves honorable place
 in literature or professional
 journalism, and I doubt not
 many are present in the ranks
 are destined to similar success -
 The graduate I cannot say
 young men is, none to be sat-
 isfied with their present attain-
 ments, but to press onward
 to greater achievements - the
 eyes converge to those who ad-
 here. Those who are too serious
 content must be satisfied with
 obscurity or mediocrity - For my
 own secret critics, and never be
 satisfied with what you have done
 well, if you feel that you can
 do better -
 With best wishes for yourself and those in
 your republic. I remain faithfully yours,
 Horace Wilson

52 West 26th St. New York

April 27, 1884 -

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I received your complimentary
 letter of the 22nd inst.
 in due season, and take the early-
 est available opportunity to re-
 ply.

I sympathize heartily with amateur
 journalists in their work - Car-
 rying into it a high aim and
 an earnest desire to ~~advance~~
 improve, they can hardly fail.
 To broaden and enlarge their
 culture, and prepare them-

Alger Buffs To Convene

Convention time is upon us once again. May 9, 10, 11 & 12, 1974 are the dates to mark on your calendar. This should be the best convention ever - Dan Fuller, our host, has planned a great time for all HAS members and guests at New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Our headquarters will be the DELPHIAN MOTOR INN, 1281 W. High St. New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Schedule of Events

May 9th. P.M. Early registration, open house at the FULLERS.

May 10th. A.M. Registration at Motel.
Board of directors meeting.

P.M. If nice, fish fry and barbecue outdoors at Schoenbrunn State Memorial. If inclement weather, indoor picnic at Kent State Union.

Movie - Charlie Chaplin in THE GOLD RUSH, KSU auditorium.

Adjourn to the Motel for Alger talk.

May 11th.

9:00 A.M. Book sale and display

11:00 A.M. Tour of Schoenbrunn State Memorial - reconstruction of the first Christian community in Ohio. Full of crafts, Indian and pioneer. Fee: .50¢

12:00 noon Break for lunch (on your own)

1:00 P.M. Tour for those interested, of the Warther Museum - home of the world's master carver. Fee 1.00.

1:00 P.M. Afternoon free for antiquing (a complete list furnished; many in area) A car will drive to the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, (26 miles). Swimming, Tennis, golf, bowling, etc. Also a historical drive with full directions.

7:00 P.M. Banquet. Discussion by Ralph Gardner, Gil Westgard and Bob Bennett about the new Alger novels and other new discoveries.

A contest on Alger presented by by Ralph Gardner, with prizes, will again highlight the evening.

May 12th. A.M. Pictures and breakfast and farewells.

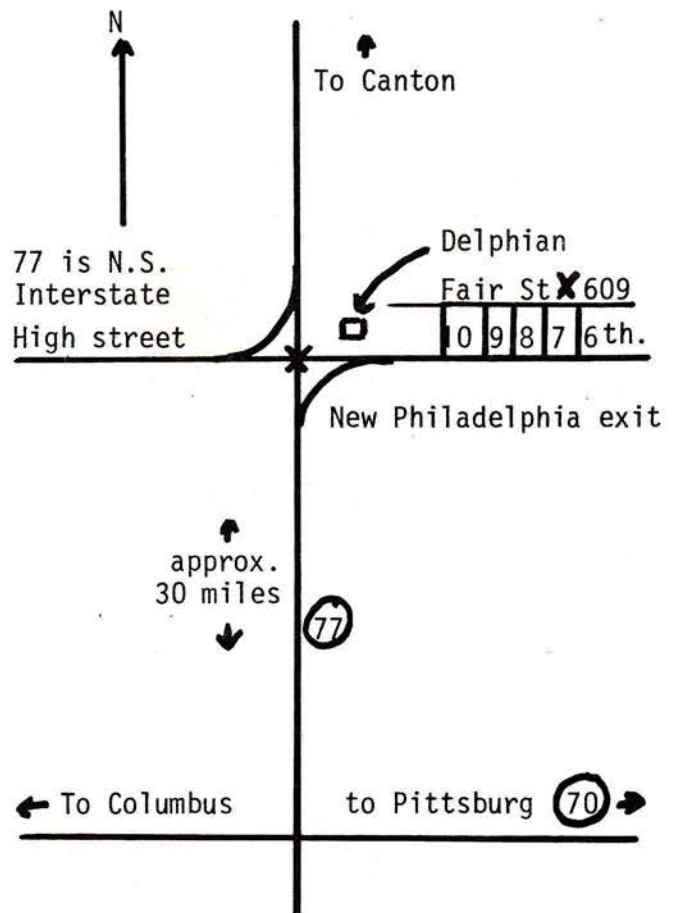
If by any chance the gas shortage should make it impossible to go home on Sunday, Dan has arranged to entertain those that must stay.

Registration Fee will be \$10.00 per person - this includes the barbecue and the banquet.

A registration card for the Delphian Motor Inn is enclosed with this Newsboy. Mail as early as you can. We will be put together in one section of the Motel (so our late selling and trading doesn't disturb the other guests.)

Send your registration fee directly to Dan Fuller.

As you can see Dan has planned for all tastes, but as in the past feel free to come and go as you please - if your tastes tend toward antiques, bowling, tennis, swimming, or just talking Alger - we want what will make your time spent enjoyable.



ANOTHER *newsboy* FIRST by Bob Bennett

The 1974 HAS convention is less than two months away now and I hope that many of you are making plans to attend. Convention chairman Dan Fuller has arranged an interesting program and the gas shortage notwithstanding, I expect that we will have a good turnout.

In the September/October, 1973 double issue of "Newsboy", I indicated that Gilbert Westgard and I would collaborate on issuing information about new discoveries and new bibliographical listings of Alger's works. Gilbert and I exchanged much information and I will launch this project by listing Alger short stories published in "The Yankee Blade".

Although published weekly for over 50 years, Alger material in this publication has gone relatively unnoticed. The paper was a typical 8-page story paper, published by Potter and Potter of Boston. It began publication early

in 1841 and devoted itself mainly to short stories and serials. As far as I know, all Alger material, with the exception of "Wanted--A Boy", previously was published in another publication. As this is the only one of the stories listed below that I do not have in my collection, I have been unable to determine whether or not it appeared earlier under another title.

The first appearance of each of the following stories is listed in parentheses after the title. Abbreviations used are:

- GLC - Gleason's Literary Companion
- GWLBS - Gleason's Weekly Line-of-Battle Ship
- BDM - Ballou's Dollar Monthly
- GPDR - Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion
- FOU - The Flag of Our Union

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Aug 25, 1888 | - Mr. Morrison's Investment (GWLBS-Dec 17, 1859) |
| Sept 1, 1888 | - The Lottery Ticket (GWLBS-Mar 12, 1859) |
| Sept 1, 1888 | - Old Simon's Victory (GLC-July 14, 1860) |
| Sept 8, 1888 | - Nicholas Elwin's Tragedy (GLC-Feb 11, 1860) |
| Sept 15, 1888 | - John Grover's Lesson (GWLBS-Aug 6, 1859) |
| Sept 15, 1888 | - The Secret of Success (GWLBS-Sept 3, 1859) |
| Sept 29, 1888 | - Mrs. Gordon's Lot (GLC-Mar 17, 1860) |
| Oct 6, 1888 | - The Refractory Scholar (GWLBS-Nov 12, 1859) |
| Dec 15, 1888 | - The Miser Outwitted (GWLBS-May 14, 1859 as The Miser of Nottingham) |
| Dec 22, 1888 | - A Duke in Disguise (GWLBS-Aug 27, 1859) |
| Dec 29, 1888 | - Small Savings (GWLBS-June 18, 1859) |
| Jan 26, 1889 | - The Hasty Match (GWLBS-Mar 26, 1859) |
| Mar 9, 1889 | - The Counterfeit Half-Dollar (GWLBS-Oct 1, 1859) |
| Mar 30, 1889 | - Two Boys' Fortunes (GLC-Nov 12, 1864 as The Two Paths) |
| April 13, 1889 | - Henry Fletcher's Luck (GLC-Sept 29, 1866) |
| April 27, 1889 | - Keep Your Engagements (GWLBS-June 25, 1859) |
| April 27, 1889 | - The Uncle's Ordeal (GLC-July 25, 1868) |
| May 11, 1889 | - The Match Boy (GLC-Dec 3, 1864) |
| May 11, 1889 | - A Neighbor's Quarrel (GLC-Aug 3, 1867) |
| Nov 9, 1889 | - The Saracen Dwarf (FOU-Nov 18, 1854) |
| Nov 23, 1889 | - The Frightful Caricature (GLC-Sept 29, 1860) |
| Dec 7, 1889 | - The Christmas Watch (GLC-Dec 29, 1866) |
| Dec 28, 1889 | - Slow and Sure (GLC-Oct 31, 1868) Note: Not to be confused with the Alger novel with the same title) |

Con't on page 15

Con't from page 14

- Mar 8, 1890 - Alice's Fortune (GLC-Sent 3, 1870)
- May 3, 1890 - Dock Thieves (GLC-April 10, 1869)
- May 3, 1890 - Mrs. Murray's Lesson (GLC-Nov 9, 1867-Anonymous)
- May 3, 1890 - The Old Silver Watch (GLC-May 22, 1869-Anonymous)
- May 24, 1890 - Ruth Henderson's Pride (GLC-Sent 28, 1867)
- May 31, 1890 - Adam Holcomb's Will (GLC-Aug 24, 1867)
- June 14, 1890 - Katy's Sacrifice (GLC-April 24, 1869)
- July 5, 1890 - John Walton's Revenge (GLC-Nov 21, 1868)
- July 5, 1890 - Mrs. Fenton's Mystery (GLC-Oct 9, 1869)
- July 12, 1890 - Thomas Mordaunt's Investment (GLC-April 22, 1865)
- July 19, 1890 - Mrs. Chandler's Little Plot (GLC-Oct 30, 1869)
- July 26, 1890 - Job Plympton's Ghost (GLC-Mar 31, 1866)
- Aug 9, 1890 - Mrs. Cordner's Reformation (GLC-Aug 19, 1865)
- Aug 16, 1890 - Margaret's Test (GPDRG-Dec 17, 1853)
- Aug 23, 1890 - Aunt Jane's Ear Trumpet (GLC-April 8, 1865) Note: Same as Deaf as a Post
- Aug 30, 1890 - Milly's Oranges (GLC-July 29, 1865)
- Sent 6, 1890 - The Brother's Return (GLC-May 16, 1868)
- Sent 6, 1890 - Cousin John (BDM-April, 1856)
- Sent 6, 1890 - The Double Elopement (GPDRG-April 29, 1854)
- Sent 27, 1890 - The Lucky Meeting (GLC-June 25, 1870)
- Feb 21, 1891 - Thomas Macy's Plot (GLC-July 23, 1870)
- Mar 21, 1891 - Mr. Grafton's Speculation (GLC-Sent 7, 1867 as Albert Grafton's Speculation)
- Aug 22, 1891 - Wanted -- A Boy
- Nov 7, 1891 - Miss Simpson at Saratoga (GLC-July 24, 1869 as Count von Heilbron)

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| Charlie Codman's Cruise | | | |
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| A Cousin's Conspiracy | Hurst | VG-EX | 4.00 |
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| Shifting for Himself | Hurst | EX | 3.25 |
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First appearance of Ragged Dick: "The Student and the Schoolmate," an illustrated monthly for all our boys and girls. Boston: 1867. Ragged Dick appears in 6 issues. Also included, "Little Phil's Christmas Dinner," by Horatio Alger. Price: \$100.00

"Fame and Fortune" in the original parts. Complete, 12 issues in all of "Student and Schoolmate," published in 1868. Included are 2 short pieces by Horatio Alger, "How Pat Paid the Rent," and "John Maynard," (a poem.) The price for this is \$100.00.

We also have an original letter signed by Horatio Alger relating to literary matters, priced at \$150.00.

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY
4907 ALLISON DRIVE
LASNING, MICHIGAN 48910



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