



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 XXVII

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1989

NUMBER 4



For Home and Honor

OR

A BRAVE BOY'S BATTLES

BY

VICTOR ST. CLAIR

AUTHOR OF

"Zip, the Acrobat," "From Switch to Lever," etc.



NEW YORK AND LONDON
STREET & SMITH, PUBLISHERS

AGAIN? A NEW TITLE DISCOVERED? FOR HOME AND HONOR BY HORATIO ALGER, JR? NO, JUST AN ERROR ON THE COVER OF A BOOK PUBLISHED BY STREET & SMITH IN 1902.

(Due to the large number of letters received since the last issue, some have been edited or shortened.)

* * * *

Dear Jim,

Great issue of NEWSBOY--I loved it. You've brought back MY favorite aspects of it--all the stuff about members, letters to the editor, etc. It's so important...and as Carl and I often commented to each other when I was editing it. I'm sure I know--it's a lot of work, but you're succeeding admirably!

Cordially,

Jack Bales

(Editor: Thank you, Jack, I'm honored to be commended by a former NEWSBOY editor.)

* * * *

Dear Editor Jim,

Congratulations on your new appointment!

Jack Barker, PF 186

(Editor: a tribute to Stanley A. Pachon by Jack appears in this issue.)

* * * *

Dear Jim--

The first issue of NEWSBOY under your direction is great. I believe that all of us want:

- A. Letters to the editor
- B. Newsy items of the members
- C. Articles by members on aspects of Alger and his writings
- D. A President's page
- E. Articles by the experts, ie. Ralph Gardner, Bob Bennett, Jerry Friedland, etc.
- F. News of "special finds" and book finding trips--

Keep up the good work...we all know how much work it is--but to quote Carl Hartman--"No one ever said it would be easy."

Cordially,

Bill McCord, PF 360

(Editor: I appreciate the ideas and kind words. If anyone else has suggestions, please let me know. Bill, an article by the expert, Ralph Gardner, will appear in a future issue.)

* * * *

Dear Jim:

Just finished RE-READING the NEWSBOY...1st time to read over two pages for several years. This time I read every page and enjoyed. Congratulations on a fine issue.

Sincerely,

Dale Thomas, #315

P.S. I may get interested in Alger again.

(Editor: I'll do my best to hold your interest, Dale...actually, there is still so much about Alger that is truly interesting.)

* * * *

Dear Jim,

I believe we met at the Alger Convention in Charlottesville in 1987. For my doctoral dissertation I am writing a history of the American newsboy trade, and an item in the Nov-Dec, 1988 issue caught my eye. Where did you learn of the piece entitled "The Newsboy in 1854" featured on page 72? Do you know of any additional pieces from THE CHILD'S PAPER that also deal with working street children? Any assistance you might be able to provide would be very helpful. Sincerely,
Tod Postol

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 82

(Editor: Todd, I just happened to find the CHILD'S PAPER issue in a box of papers at a book show. That was the only issue there. However, if anyone else can help Todd with research material, I'm sure he would be glad to receive it. His address is 22 Davis Avenue, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776.)

* * * *



Dear Jim--

Just received the November-December NEWSBOY and I like it very much-- You've done a fine job. I feel very comfortable with the 16 pp., and it's got a lot of member and Alger related news and info.... I look forward to seeing you at Chillicothe. Incidentally, it might be good, in every issue, to list auction items, if only it's possible to get members to not only contribute, but to advise you what they are giving. If it's of any help in this direction, I will give (among other things) a complete facsimile set (7 volumes) of the McGuffey Readers plus Primer in new condition. I'll also give some first drafts of the articles I now write (syndicated to 80 newspapers). For the convention, I'm preparing another "R.Q. for A.E.'s" (Ralph's Quiz for Alger Experts) hopefully with prizes for winners. Also, if wanted, I'll do caricatures of those who attend

as I've been doing, off and on, over all these years).

Best regards--
Cordially--

Ralph Gardner

(Editor: I look forward to seeing you at the convention, and to participating in your convention activities. The banquets just aren't the same unless you sit next to me and entertain us with your wit and wisdom.)

* * * *

Dear Members of the Horatio Alger Society,

I wish I could have written this letter to you a month and a half ago, but I had to wait until the November-December issue of NEWSBOY was published. Since it was 45 days late my communication is equally delayed....

Respectfully yours,

Gilbert K. Westgard II

(Editor: Please, Gil, be patient with me. You were an experienced editor; I am a novice. You were drawing a salary to edit NEWSBOY; I am contributing my time and materials so the Society does not have an expense which could deplete the treasury. I work when I can and the best I can.)

* * * *

To the editor of HAS Newsboy:

First of all I would like to thank and compliment the new editor and those who help in getting out the NEWSBOY on a job well done. It's nice to see a return to the old "folksy" style. I hope that many of our members will write letters and that all will be printed.

(Continued on page 84)

As my contribution, I would like to report on my recent book list and sale as advertised in the last NEWSBOY and some of the things that I learned from the experience for those who have not done it themselves.

My ad said over 600 books. The list ended up at 1,001 books!

I sold 624 of the books and only screwed up one order (that I know of) by sending out the wrong title. Fortunately, I still had the right one and got it off on its way to its new owner. Had one book returned as not satisfactory.

Over the many years that I have loved reading books and collecting them, this hobby has turned into a sickness (I can think of several others who know exactly what I mean). Well, I decided to get rid of some of the excess and duplication. The recent list turned out to be 14 pages long all done on the MACINTOSH and sorted by author and title and laser printed. I figured that it cost \$2.00 each to produce and send each copy and asked for those interested to send \$1.00 in stamps for it. I had many compliments on its quality, Completeness, and prices. NOBODY complained about sending the buck for it. That surprised me! I had 80 Algers on the list and wish I could have satisfied all 7 people who ordered the 1st edition of ADRIFT IN THE CITY, graded good+, tight copy at \$70.00, but alas, only one person got it. One member noticed that I had a few S&S paperbacks on the list and wrote me asking if I had any of the 3 titles he needed to complete his collection of them. I had 2 of the 3 and quoted them. They are now with their new owner. I'm still looking around here for the one last title he needs. Can you imagine how pretty such a collection of S&S Algers must look in that guy's bookcase? I want to find that one last one so bad for him that I will make a gift of it if I can find it for him! Let me know if you have Luck & Pluck, S&S paperback and I'll tell you who will probably trade his first-born for it.

Most ordered books besides the Algers were Nancy Drews, Hardy Boys (1st eds), Tom Swifts, and the rest of the Stratemeyer stuff. In addition, Zane Grey and a few of the original cast albums that I had on the list. The two most ordered books were a Seketary Hawkins by Skulders and a Sugar Creek Gang book in dj. Biographies did well, too, as well as joke books and some cartoon books.

This was so much fun for me that I plan to do it again soon as I can get another list together. I'll do it a little differently, though. I'll print the whole Alger list in NEWSBOY and send the rest of the list to those who order Algers with their books.

In closing I want to thank George Owens for saying such nice things about me and the many of you who wrote to me. It was good to hear from you all and want to let you know that I'm still kicking and enjoying my books.

Sincerely,

Bob Williman

(Editor: I'm waiting for that list of Algers, Bob. Happy to know that you are feeling better and up to enjoying those books.)

* * * *

Dear Friends:

I have a friend in Monterrey, a prominent and prosperous man who spent several years in the U.S. While there he decided that he wanted to read the Horatio Alger novels, but he can't read English. Several times he's asked me to look for copies in Spanish. I'm doing that now--do you know if such translations exist, and if you do, where could we find them?

Yours,

Dick J. Reavis

DIRECCION: 1o De Mayo No 314
Dpto 10 COLONIA OBRERO CAMPESINA
Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico

STANLEY A. PACHON - December 1, 1988

The death of Stanley A. Pachon on December 1, 1988 from a heart attack while at his home in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, is cause for sorrow by many Horatio Alger Society members.

His knowledge of juvenile literature was unsurpassed and few of the books featuring Alger or his works written by members do not acknowledge his assistance.

Many will miss Stanley, not only for the depth of his knowledge, but also for his many kindnesses in sharing it with others.

Jack Barker, P.F. 186

DR. MAX GOLDBERG - A TRIBUTE

A few thoughts on Dr. Max Goldberg: In my estimation, Max Goldberg was one of the premier Horatio Alger scholars of his time. His opinions and knowledge were highly respected wherever the name Alger was the topic of discussion.

His eulogy at Alger's gravesite on the Sunday following the 1977 Alger Convention, held in Waltham, Mass. and hosted by Dick Seddon, was one of the best tributes to the author I have ever heard. Max's oration was superbly worded and came straight from the speaker's heart. As far as I'm concerned, it was the Gettysburg Address of Algerdom.

I believe his last appearance at a convention was the one in 1984 in Nashua, New Hampshire, hosted by Jim Thorpe. Jerry Friedland went to Dr. Goldberg's home in Natick, Mass., and brought him up during the morning book sale. Everything stopped as he spoke again to the members, eloquently and with intense feeling, in spite of frail and declining health.

The Alger Society was fortunate in having him among its members.

Delbert Brandt, P.F. 494

PAUL F. MILLER REFLECTS

Dear Fellow Correspondent,

....The interim has not been too kind to the H.A.S. Death has made its incursions in areas where we are most vulnerable. First it was Dr. Max, whom I considered the REAL Algerophile of our group. Then our most eminent book hunter and salesman-to-all-Alger-Collectors-of-goodwill, Morris Olsen, had the death shroud draped about him. Then, finally by mid-December, we received the news that the ace-of-aces--not only in Alger facts and listings and research; but in all boys' series books as a whole (oh!!! there may have been those around with more knowledge on a particular series, but not in the "overall" scope). Stanley A. Pachon was found dead in bed on December 1.

Paul F. Miller, P.F. 351

Wallace Palmer writes, "Let us start with the Pilgrimage to Ada. To me it was the very MOST WONDERFUL of all the three Pilgrimages I have been Edward-Stratemeyer-Blesst to attend. Not one thing went wrong on the whole enchanted journey, and I was simply in my glory from the time I set out until I got home."

* * * *

David Thornton, PF-470 is now concentrating on Alger first editions. If you have any titles on his want list (send him a SASE for a copy), let him know.

* * * *

Les Langlois, PF-093 plans on attending the Ohio convention and will bring a group of his duplicates for sale. Les is 87 years young and still works.

* * * *

Col. William Pengelly, PF-391 and his wife, Eva, operate MICHIANA Antiques and The Old Book Shop in Allen, Michigan, the Antique Capital of the state.

In the book shop they have over 30,000 volumes with Americana as a specialty. At the antique store they have over 40 showcases full of goodies. If you are ever near Allen (on Route 12), plan to spend at least a day--you won't be disappointed. If you have any special wants, you may drop him a line.

* * * *

Brad Alexander, PF-461 sent a nice donation to the Society. Brad really enjoys reading the NEWSBOY and hopes to make a convention in the future. He sends his best to all our members.

* * * *

Steve Press, PF-164 had an article published in the December issue of CAPITAL entitled "The Big Sleep." The legend of Rip Van Winkle, one of the region's most enduring myths, is actually no myth at all. "Our intrepid professor dug up the true history of the ne'er-do-well storyteller." Steve sent the Hartmanns a copy and they report enjoying it very much.

* * * *

Theresa Pottetti, PF-695 informed us of an off Alger she has. It is a copy of THE YOUNG ADVENTURER and reads "Young Adventurer" on the cover but on the spine it is "Yonge Adventurer." She loves collecting Alger--"The stories are charming."

* * * *

Neil McCormick, PF-506 won't be able to make the convention this year but will be to one in the future. He still enjoys his Algers although he hasn't added any in a long time. All is well with Neil and his family. Neil still collects and sells Gene Stratton Porter books along with his Algers.

* * * *

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-557 Robert D. Eastlack
114 Cedar Lane
Lebanon, PA 17042

(717) 274-1253

* * * *

PF-360 William J. McCord
207 Spring Street
Catskill, NY 12412

(518) 943-2499

* * * *

CHANGES OF ADDRESS (CONTINUED)

PF-548 Peter C. Walther
16 W. Fulton Street
Gloversville, NY 12078

* * * *

PF-596 Deidre Ann Johnson
2526 S. 8th Street - #5
Minneapolis, MN 55454

* * * *

PF-490 Louis Bodnar, Jr.
c/o William Heath
3111 Hilburn Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23323

Louis is confined to a wheel chair and still enjoys reading his Algers and writing letters. Drop him a line of cheer when you have time.

NEWSWORTHY

PF-175 Gene Hafner now has 102 different first edition Algers in his collection. He now qualifies for membership in the Super 100 Category. Congratulations, Gene!

* * * *

NEW OR REINSTATED MEMBERS

PF-475 Horatio Alger Association
of Distinguished Americans
Terrance J. Girous
Eleven Canal Center Plaza
Suite 210
Alexandria, VA 22314

Terrance is executive director of the Association. His phone is (703) 684-9444.

* * * *

PF-706 William R. Gowen
923 S. Lake St., #6
Mundelin, IL 60060

(312) 566-9217

Glad to have you back, William.

PF-809 William Meyer
106 S. Elm
Oxford, Ohio 45056
Mary (T-30)

(513) 523-1912

William owns an arcade in Oxford and collects coins, politicals, antiques, toy trains, watch fobs, slot machines, and beer items. He was introduced to the HAS by Will Wright, PF-639.

* * * *

PF-810 Margo P. Byron
P.O. Box 433
Catskill, NY 12414

David T-6

Margo is a book dealer and likes to scuba dive, hike, and canoe. She came to us through Bill McCord.

* * * *

PF-811 Dr. Joseph N. Tygett, MD
1945 Robin Hood Circle
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

T-53

(314) 334-5012

Joseph is a stamp dealer and likes woodworking and cooking.

* * * *

PF-812 Melvin H. Bernstein
RD #1, Box 93
Alfred Station, NY 14803

Barbara, T-24

(607) 587-8330

Melvin is a retired teacher and comes to us through Gil Westgard.

PF-813 Bonnie Jean Hill
306 Center Street
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Donald, T-11
(414) 248-7413

NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Bonnie is an antique dealer and comes to us through Ralph Gardner.

* * * *

PF-823 Benjamin Nelson
PO Box 61
E. Swanzey, NH 03446

Benjamin is the proud owner of 70 Algers. His other interests are antique engines and flying.

* * * *

PF-824 James A. Lantz
1377 Leslie Lane, N.E.
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Eileen, T-46

(614) 654-1921

James is a lawyer and his other hobbies are stamp collecting and B-17 bombers. James is a beginner at collecting Algers and is not collecting first editions at the present time, but "I suppose I will get the fever. I simply enjoy reading them all and I really believe they should be required reading somewhere in our school system." James will be attending the convention in Ohio.

* * * *

PF-825 Miss Jamie Lee Green
Star Route, Box 18
Placitas, NM 87043

(505) 867-2777

Jamie is a data entry/word processor and has volunteered to help on the NEWSBOY. Her hobbies are music and sewing.

* * * *

PF-826 Randy L. Roberts
1107 East Main
Urbana, IL 61801

Tammy, T-85

(217) 384-0889

Randy was introduced to the Society by Walter Moore, PF-131. Randy's interest is expanding his current collection. "I am 24 years of age, and am a business teacher at Urbana High School. In fact, it was when I attended that school that I became interested in Horatio Alger. A history teacher, Harold Dean, brought in a few old volumes during a unit on the industrial revolution. I began to learn then what a remarkable impact the writing of Horatio Alger had on the youth of his day and beyond. Already possessing a zeal for antiquities, it was only natural that I would visit an antiquarian book shop during my very first solo excursion with my father's car (I had just received my license at the time) and head straight for the shelf marked 'Horatio Alger.' I have gone out of my way to locate his books ever since." Randy also hopes to attend the convention in Ohio.

* * * *

PF-827 Daniel C. Hoffa, Jr.
609 W. Ashland
Indianola, LA 50125

Esther, T-43

(515) 961-2374

Daniel learned of the Society from the son of an Alger member at the Alger section in a book store. He hopes to complete a set of the common titles available to his grandfather (ca. 1890-1910). His other hobbies are WWI memorabilia, fishing, and travel. Daniel is a speech pathologist.

* * * *

PF-828 Louise Musick
4600 Ridgeway Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64133

Charles, T-20

(816) 358-1898

(Continued on page 89)

NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Louise is a retired business teacher and hopes to make the Ohio convention. On January 19, she made an Alger presentation at the local Book Collectors of America.

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L-25 Brooklyn Public Library
Periodicals Room
Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Welcome, Brooklyn PL. We're honored to share with you.

* * * *

WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

We have lost contact with two members--if anyone has any information on Bessie F. Evinrude, PF-156 or William Baach, PF-492, please let Executive Secretary Carl Hartmann know.

DONATIONS HUMBLY RECEIVED

We thank the following for donations made to the Horatio Alger Society.

Brad Alexander
Bill McCord
Wallace Palmer
Robert Sawyer
Robert Williman
M. R. (Bob) Royar

MANUSCRIPTS REQUESTED

The NEWSBOY needs manuscripts on the following topics:

any scholarly writing on
Horatio Alger
a favorite Alger story
literary criticism on
Alger poetry or short
stories
a special find while
book hunting

Submit all manuscripts to: Jim Ryberg, NEWSBOY editor, 930 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009-6505, (713) 864-0452. SASE if return requested.

SOME OF THE MEMBERS PLANNING TO ATTEND THE OHIO CONVENTION

PF-77	Robert Conley
PF-093	Les Langlois
PF-102	Carl Hartmann
PF-710	Jean Hartmann
PF-376	Jerry Friedland
PF-533	Jim Ryberg
PF-412	Brad Chase
PF-722	Ivan McClymount
PF-175	Gene Hafner & wife
PF-015	Eddie LeBlanc & wife
PF-344	Florence Schnell
PF-629	John Schnell
PF-706	William Gowen
PF-351	Paul Miller & wife
PF-824	James Lantz

This list will be updated in the next issue as more and more members and guests are registering. This list only includes those up to January 14, 1989. Will writes that 26 have now signed up.

* * * *

THE FIRST TREE

by Horatio Alger, Jr.

We have planted it deep in the
yielding soil,
Hard by the house of prayer;
And the cool air plays through its
leafy top,
As it stands in silence there.

It is young like ourselves; but,
day by day,
The dews of heaven will fall,--
And the gladsome rays of the
summer sun,
That shines for each and all;
And, under their gentle ministry,
It will grow both stout and tall.

Then will the roots of the stately
tree
Have spread both far and wide;
And perchance its branches will
overtop
The church that stands beside;
And safe amid its clustering
leaves
Will summer birds abide.

(continued on p. 90)

THE FIRST TREE (continued)

And those who, full of youthful
life,
About the sapling played,
With sober mien and whitened locks
Will stand beneath its shade,
And ponder with a thoughtful brow
On the changes Time has made.

The years will roll, with a steady
course,
To meet Time's infinite sea;
And the silent waves, in their
fearful sweep,
Will engulf both you and me;
But still, like a beacon that tells
of the past,
Will stand our first elm-tree.

from BERTHA'S CHRISTMAS VISION: An
Autumn Sheaf., Boston: Brown,
Bazin, and Company, 1856,
pp. 75-76.

* * * *

APPLE-BLOSSOMS

by Horatio Alger, Jr.

I sit in the shadow of apple-boughs,
In the fragrant orchard close,
And around me floats the scented air,
With its wave-like tidal flows.
I close my eyes in a dreamy bliss,
And call no king my peer;
For is not this the rare, sweet time,
The blossoming time of the year?

I lie on a couch of downy grass,
With delicate blossoms strewn,
And I feel the throb of Nature's
heart
Responsive to my own.
Oh, the world is fair, and God is
good,
That maketh life so dear;
For is not this the rare, sweet time,
The blossoming time of the year?

I can see, through the rifts of the
apple-boughs,
The delicate blue of the sky,
And the changing clouds with their
marvellous tints

That drift so lazily by.
And strange, sweet thoughts sing
through my brain,
And Heaven, it seemeth near;
Oh, is it not a rare, sweet time,
The blossoming time of the year?

* * * *

A SOLDIER'S VALENTINE

by Horatio Alger, Jr.

Just from the sentry's tramp
(I must take it again at ten),
I have laid my musket down,
And seized instead my pen;
For, pacing my lonely round
In the chilly twilight gray,
The thought, dear Mary, came,
That this is St. Valentine's Day.

And with the thought there came
A glimpse of the happy time
When a school-boy's first attempt
I sent you, in borrowed rhyme,
On a gilt-edged sheet, embossed
With many a quaint design,
And signed, in school-boy hand,
"Your loving Valentine."

The years have come and gone,--
Have flown, I know not where,--
And the school-boy's merry face
Is grave with manhood's care;
But the heart of the man still
beats
At the well-remembered name,
And on this St. Valentine's Day
His choice is still the same.

There was a time--ah, well!
Think not that I repine--
When I dreamed this happy day
Would smile on you as mine;
But I heard my country's call;
I knew her need was sore.
Thank God, no selfish thought
Withheld me from the war.

But when the dear old flag
Shall float in its ancient pride,--
When the twin shall be made one,
And feuds no more divide,--
I will lay my musket down,
My martial garb resign,
And turn my joyous feet
Toward home and Valentine.

(continued on p. 91)

"Apple Blossoms" and "A Soldier's Valentine" are from GRAND'THER BALDWIN'S THANKSGIVING, Loring Publisher, Boston, 1875, pp. 65 and 87 respectively.

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RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND

(note: With pleasure we welcome back as a regular columnist a former NEWSBOY editor, Jack Bales)

First of all, I think we all owe Jim Ryberg a vote of thanks for ably taking over the reins of editor from Gil Westgard. As one who edited NEWSBOY off and on starting in 1972 (Carl Hartmann would have me do the "summer issues" during my vacation from college until I took it full-time in 1974) and ending in 1986, I can state unequivocally that it seems that as soon as one deadline is met, another one stares you in the face. NEWSBOY is the most important thing to an Alger Society member--congratulations to Jim for a fine first issue.

Jim, of course, would welcome contributions from members, so if you have any collecting experiences or tales of Alger collecting that you want to share, jot them down and send them to Jim. Way back in the early 1970's I was interested in having an article a month (we were a monthly back then) on a member's collection. Dan Fuller--HAS Treasurer for years--wrote one article, and I did one. That would be an interesting feature to try to rejuvenate.

Something else that would be fascinating would be to dwell on the different items that people collect besides Alger, or even specific aspects of Alger-related material. My twin brother is a real stamp buff, and he (and HAS member Bob Williman) got me collecting first day stamp covers of the Horatio Alger stamp. I think back in 1984 I had these covers featured in an issue of NEWSBOY and it's really a fine collection--some 80 different companies and individuals

are represented on the different cachets (or designs) of the envelopes.

I talk to Jerry Friedland every once in a while, and I know that he is building a collection of Leo Edwards books and Hardy Boys books (among other authors and titles). I too have collected both these authors, and back in the 1960's I could find Edwards books with dust jackets for 3 or 4 dollars. Gil Westgard, my brothers, and I would regularly comb the bookstores of Chicago, and every so often we would find them. My father read Leo Edwards when he was a kid, and he gave my brothers and me his collection (and my twin brother promptly threw away all the dust jackets--this was back in the early 1960's or late 1950's). With the help of several HAS members--like Jerry, Owen Cobb, and Carl Thieme--I built up a really fine collection of Hardy Boys books. I even corresponded with Hardy Boys author Leslie McFarlane once.

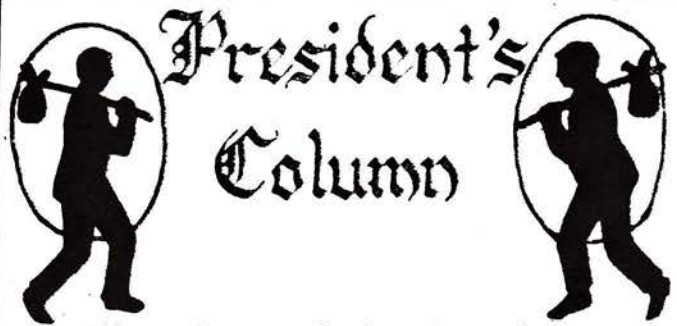
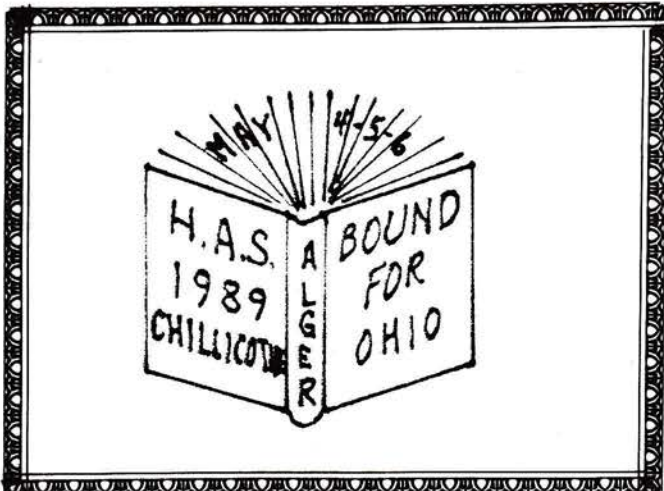
Although I do not collect Alger any more at all, I hear from HAS members every so often. Now that Ralph Gardner is back from Italy (where he goes every summer), he and I have resumed our regular correspondence. By the way, I still have a photo I took of Ralph back in 1979 of him and his Alger collection. I was in New York City and called him up, and he invited me over to his lovely apartment on Central Park West. There he showed me some of his prize Algers, as well as some of his other books. Ralph, incidentally, has many other collecting interests, and is fortunate to have talked with dozens of authors on his author-interview radio show, "Ralph Gardner's Bookshelf." I know that he has a fine collection of 19th century children's literature, and is a member of several book-related organizations. In fact, a long-time correspondent of mine, a rare book dealer in Chicago told me that he ran into Ralph at a meeting of Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes) enthusiasts.

I recently visited my family in
(continued on page 92)

the Chicago area (taking my 18 month-old-son to visit Grandma and Grandpa), and while there, my mother reminded me of the time, back in 1976, when Bob Bennett and Carl Hartmann came to visit. We were on our way to see Gil Westgard to talk about his upcoming convention. Bob and Carl picked me up at Eureka, Illinois, where I was then working at Eureka College, and we stopped off in Aurora to see my parents. Bob had TIMOTHY CRUMP'S WARD and THE DISAGREEABLE WOMAN and we each got to hold one in each hand. Quite the experience!

Speaking of experiences, Bob Bennett can regale you for hours with some of his collecting trips, and when I regularly went to conventions, late nights were always spent in his room talking, with the room filled with HAS members and good conversation. Many fond memories of those days! I vaguely recall one time when he told us all the story behind one rare title (I think it was SEEKING HIS FORTUNE, but I could be wrong). The person selling the book quoted Bob a price in a letter. It was something like two-fifty or three-fifty or perhaps four-fifty. In any case, Bob couldn't tell whether the person meant two dollars and fifty cents or two hundred and fifty dollars. So...although Bob was willing to pay either figure, he took a gamble, sent a check for the lower amount, and back came the book!

More collecting stories will appear in the next issue of NEWSBOY.



Dear Members of the Horatio Alger Society,

We are about to begin the annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society which will start on Thursday, May 4, 1989 in Chillicothe, Ohio with Will Wright serving as host.

This will mark our 25th convention, and it appears that it will be a huge success from what I've heard. Many non-member book sellers will be there in addition to the hundreds of books brought by the members to sell or to donate to the auction.

As you know, the auction helps support the Society as our yearly dues to not begin to cover the expenses. If you are planning on attending the convention, please bring something to donate to the auction. If not attending, please mail your contributions to Will Wright. Please bring or send quality items to boost our auction sales so that the expenses of the Society can be met so that we can acquire a sizeable balance.

To all our members who are not aware of or have been misled by Gil Westgard as to the reason he is no longer editor of NEWSBOY, I would like to set the record straight once and for all so that we can all get on with the business of the Horatio Alger Society.

It is not my wish to become involved in any mud slinging. It is my wish and duty to see that all members know what is going on in their organization.

The members present at the business meeting of the 24th annual convention in Ada, Oklahoma voted unanimously to reduce the size of NEWSBOY to 16 pages with no more than 3 pages to reprinted material. As you all know, Gil was the editor

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of NEWSBOY and was issuing large editions with page after page of reprinted material. The cost of this was prohibitive and also not very interesting according to the members present at the business meeting.

At any rate, the above vote ought to save money for the Society and to also make NEWSBOY more interesting to its readers.

Gil refused to go along with this vote and insisted on publishing what he wanted. He also refused to publish articles sent in by some of our members, in other words censoring. In another instance he refused to publish a list of Alger items for sale by an honorary member while at the same time trying to get the list of books from this member so that he could buy them without giving the membership a chance to buy. This was very unethical.

I spoke to Gil about all this several times and told him he would have to comply with the members' wishes. I even went so far as to let the directors decide if he could continue the practice of publishing extra pages if he paid for them. The vote was no.

Gil still refused to obey the wishes of the members plus the board of directors. On my last call to him, he said he didn't have time to talk about it. I had no other choice but to replace him as editor. He now says I fired him. In reality he fired himself. He would still be editor if he could have followed instructions.

On August 18, 1988 I relieved Gil of the position of editor of NEWSBOY and appointed Jim Ryberg. At that time I instructed Gil to forward all Society owned property to Carl Hartmann. As of this date we have received very little of the material Gil received when he became editor. The Society paid Jack Bales \$600.00 for this material and there was enough there to keep the editor of NEWSBOY in material for years to come.

Also, the Horatio Alger Society owned typewriter has not been forwarded.

I wish Gil all the success in the world in his new venture "Bootblack" but not at the expense of the Society.

I have just read the "premier" issue of "Bootblack" and except for the first few pages relating to Alger's home, it was nothing but a lot of pages reprinting an Alger story that we have already read. This is the same type of "journalism" the members of the Society unanimously turned down in Oklahoma.

If the Alger material owned by the Society is not forthcoming, the matter will be turned over to the 1989 business meeting for disposition.

I feel sure we will read a rebuttal of this, either in NEWSBOY or BOOTBLACK, but the facts remain as I have stated.

Now that this is all out in the open, this is the last I intend to say about it until convention time...hope to see you in Ohio.

My best regards to you,

George Owens, President
The Horatio Alger Society

* * * *

ATTENTION!

To those who are coming to
"Horatio in Ohio" '89

An accurate count is needed by the restaurants in advance of the convention. The registration fee may be deferred until check-in, BUT, please send your reservation as soon as you decide that this is one convention that you will not want to miss.

Dear Folks,

Going back to February 9th, when Ruth and I checked into the Motel at Bethlehem, Pa. About 2:30 P.M. we went over to Stanley's half of the duplex on 5th St. and were admitted by Bob Kasper (PF-327). Lawyer Ruyak, had admitted Bob about 2:00 and then left. We didn't meet up with him until later in the day. Bob is co-owner of a Firm that does electronic inventories; much of his Firm work is done at night in large groceries and other heavily stocked outlets. I presume he had worked all night before motoring up from Media, Pa. (generally west of Phila.).

Jerry Friedland and Bill Russell were due in to start work at 8:00 A.M. on Friday; and we would all work the same hours on Saturday (8:00 until dark). Book dealer Ed Mattson and an auctioneer (whose name I've forgotten) was due on Saturday during the A.M. Eddie LeBlanc had met with the Lawyer on the site Wednesday, but the press of back-home business had necessitated that he and Florence return to Mass. before the beginning of the Thursday-ongoing weekend.

Jerry, Bob K., and Ed Mattson had met on the site with the lawyer the previous Saturday and this weekend's activities were apparently arranged then.

We spent the afternoon with Bob going over the premises and generally having outlined to us what Bob assumed would be going on the next 2 days; getting some electric cords operable; and getting started on some "sorting".

You have all probably heard by now that 3 upstairs rooms were pretty much stacked and/or shelved with books; as was the attic; with a lot of comic books in the basement. (I never got to the basement to see that display.) All the furniture had been removed from the house except for a refrigerator, upright freezer and a coal burning cook stove -- all in the kitchen.

On Friday it was decided that Ruth and I would work on sorting and hopefully chronologically arranging all the paper items, non-book periodicals, magazines, etc., and that is what we did for the next 2 days. We learned that meetings downstairs had decided that the others would spend their time sorting the Alger books and making-up a list of books suitable for an auction at our H.A.S. Convention in May. Alger paperbacks were sorted into boxes or maintained in groupings on shelving in some parts of some rooms. By late afternoon it was decided by that group which of the hardcovers would be suitable and desirable for the previously mentioned auction.

On Saturday morning they checked out the paper items with Ruth, and I decided that -- except for a couple of not too poor conditioned "YOUNG ISRAELS" -- none of the other periodicals were suitable for consideration for the auction. Jerry and Bob then retired to the kitchen to list the available items for the auction. I understand that these will be made available to the H.A.S. membership in a soon-to-be published NEWSBOY. Ruth and I continued with sorting and arranging the periodicals, etc., until late afternoon, when we all took an earlier-than-usual quit.

During all this time the lawyer, Ed Mattson, the auctioneer, (and often Jerry) were roaming from room-to-room discussing, apparently negotiating, asking for an opinion here-and-there, haggling, etc., etc., etc.

Bill Russell had gone back to Hatboro early Saturday morning so no work was done on the paperback books.

Late in the afternoon it was decided that there would be no inventory made of anything other than the books for the H.A.S. auction. These books would be removed from the house and stored in the lawyer's keeping. Bob K. would return on Wednesday, February 15th, to do a house count of all the hardcover books left in the house (after the some 75-90 auction books were removed).

What with the holiday mail, and Bob's necessity to catch-up on office work, it was not until last night that he got back to me.

As things now stand, it appears that Juvenile Book Specialist E. CHRISTIAN MATTSON, 302 E. Joppa Road - 1112, Towson, Maryland 21204, Phone (301) 825-8967 will buy and remove from the house in the next several weeks (for resale, of course) all of the several-some thousand hardcover books, including Alger reprints, a few good Henty's, a few good Stratemeyers, and much trivia. Then ALL THE PAPER ITEMS (periodicals, paperbacks, etc.) of which Mattson has no interest in any of them, will be offered to any other book dealer or who ever might be interested; or will be offered to the previously mentioned auctioneer, for an auction at the house or at some other site. Emptying the house so that it can be offered for sale (Pennsylvania law permits different individual owners for each side of a duplex).

All of which means that there never will be a listing of Stanley's COLLECTION item-by-item. It will be up to that auctioneer as to what kind of a catalog or listing he would have for the paper items, if an auction materializes. No mention has been made of who will share the proceeds of whatever disposition is made of the COLLECTION.

No doubt you have heard -- and will hear -- much about Stanley's COLLECTION.

Some Paul Miller thoughts ...

Stanley's COLLECTION was:

Vast ... individual items would easily number well over 10,000 units.

Most of his hardcovers ... almost all of which were reprints (except for a goodly number of those to be offered at the H.A.S. auction) were bright, tight, wonderful for a beginning Alger collector, or for "publisher-by-format" collector.

Almost without exception his periodicals were, at-best, poor condition. Almost all the large bound items were missing (or had detached) front and rear covers, and the items inside were in fair to poor condition. Time did not permit an examination to see if they were complete.

Much of his better bound volumes were of items of which I was unfamiliar or were just hit-and-miss volumes of AMERICAN BOY or YOUTH'S COMPANION, or English publications, etc. The loose stuff (and there was a great amount of it) was not in any order, was not separated by publishings, was mostly in low-grade fair to very-poor condition. In Argosy's, New York Weekly, etc., in spite of the generally poor condition, most of the more desirable volumes were missing. Much of these didn't appear complete.

I didn't get to look at the paperbacks; but, in several publishers I only need from 1 to a few titles. I had the boys post on these by number and by title. They didn't report any finds.

None of which is meant to be demeaning, in any way. It's just that Stanley didn't seem to have any hidden source for "goodies". He was just like we of the hoi polloi -- he had hit a few lodes, rich with ore, but mostly he was accumulating vast "spoil piles" in the process. And he bought most anything that was available. As I say -- so much was either foreign to me, or items for the most delicate and/or refined collector.

Your P.F.

Paul Miller

Join Us At "HORATIO IN OHIO" - Meet Old Friends And Make New Ones.

May 4, 5 & 6, 1989

