



Horatio Alger, Jr.
1832 — 1899

THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY OFFICIAL PUBLICATION NEWSBOY



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

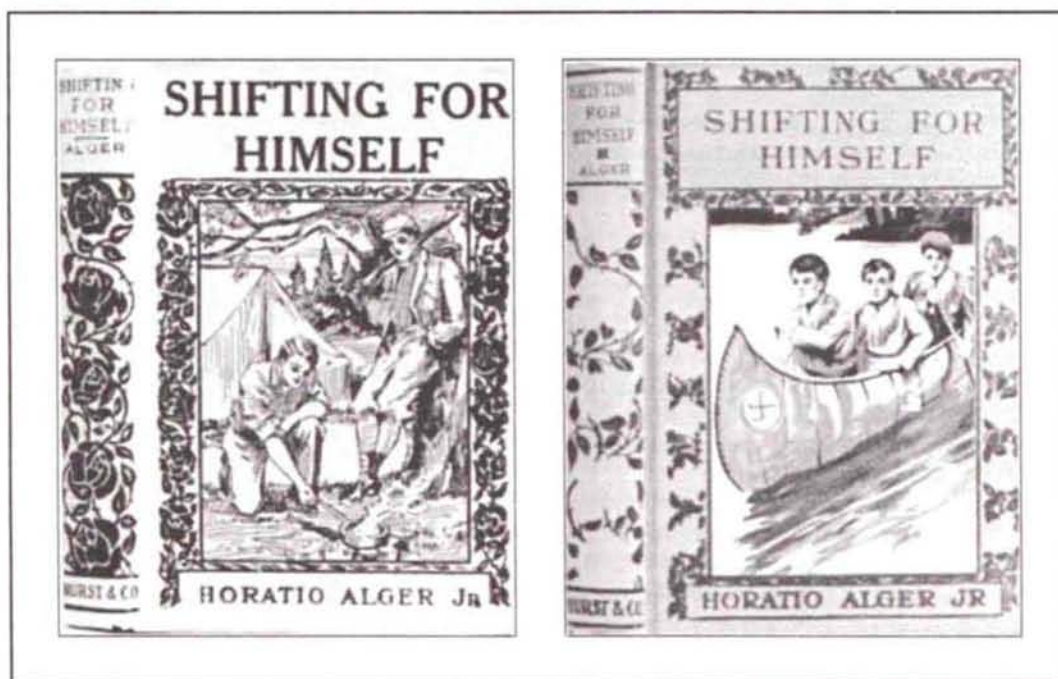
VOLUME XXX

MARCH-APRIL 1992

NUMBER 2

The Hurst Alger miniatures

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Who was E.H. Wadewitz?

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This will be my last message as President of the Horatio Alger Society. I want to thank all of you who have participated in the conventions and have made each one a memorable experience. The fellowship has been wonderful. Nell and I have made a lot of enduring friends.

I'm looking forward to meeting more of you as we travel around the country and at future conventions. Of course, our home and library are open to all of our Partic'lar Friends who have occasion to travel through Ohio and can swing down through Chillicothe.

One of the biggest problems of the Horatio Alger Society is finances. Income is derived from dues, cash contributions, sale of Alger items such as cup plates, books and publications, a percentage from the sale of deceased members' collections when sold through the Society, along with the auction at the annual conventions of items which have been donated. Even with all of these things, the budget is tight.

The biggest cost to the Society is the printing and mailing of **Newsboy**. Other expenses include postage, shipping and handling of Society materials, correspondence, awards, publicity, etc.

None of the officers or directors are paid. Everything is voluntary. Everyone benefits, but the more you put in, the more you get out. By pooling our resources, we learn a whole lot more about the Alger legacy of "Strive and Succeed," "Making his Way," "Bound to Rise" and others, all with a moral of honesty, endeavor and the hope that whatever the obstacle, that things will come out all right. Let us remember to share the precepts and ideals of Horatio Alger at every opportunity.

In closing I want to again thank all of you for your support and help. It has been a privilege and an honor to have served in this office for the past two years. Be sure to continue your support for the Horatio Alger Society with your letters, donations, reports, research and articles that our editor can use to make **Newsboy** even more interesting.

I hope to see many of you in Waco, Texas the weekend of April 23-25.

Your partic'lar friend,
Will Wright (PF-639)
16826 U.S. 50
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

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.

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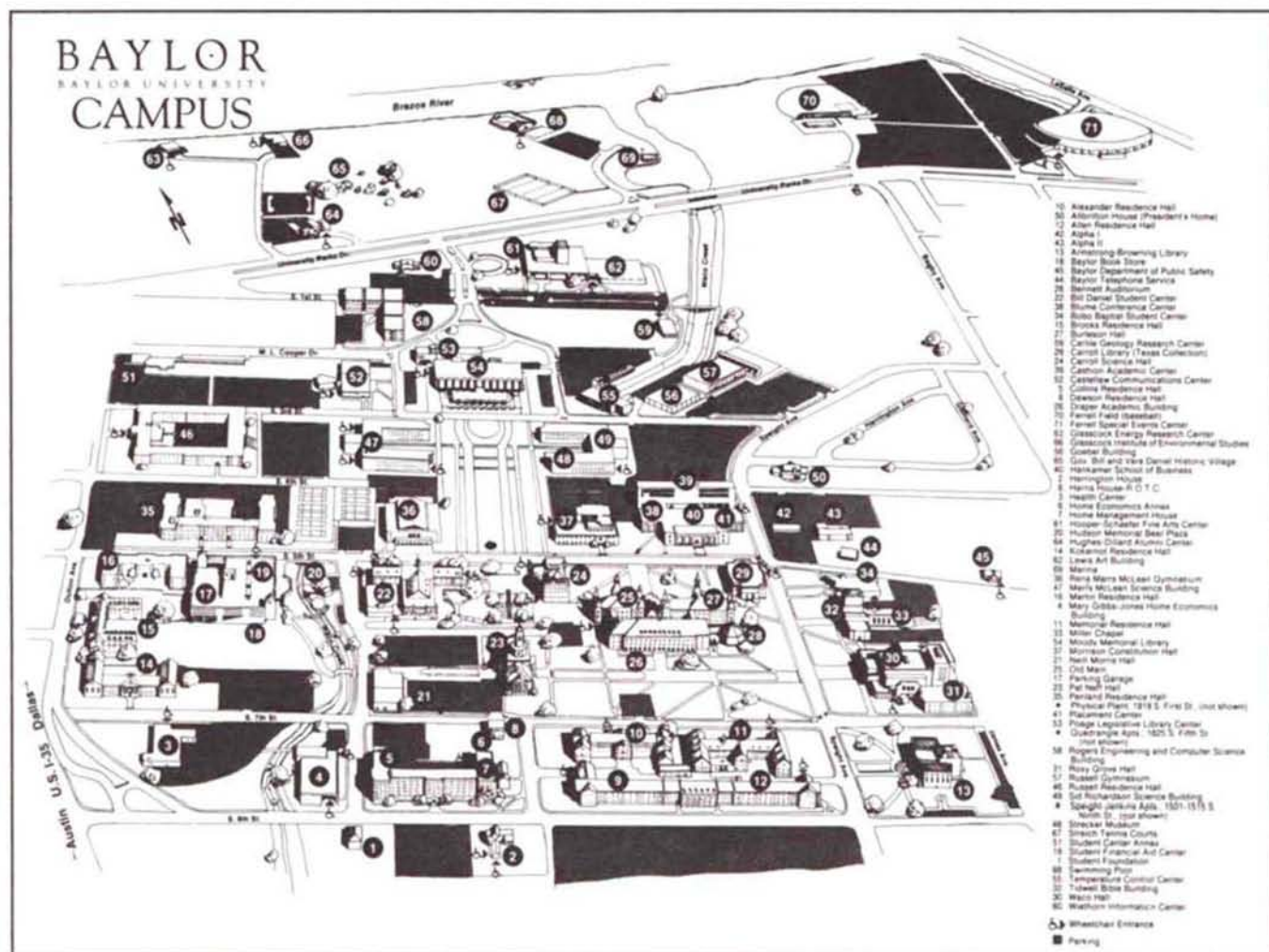
Newsboy, the official newsletter of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any 12-month period is \$20, with single issues of **Newsboy** costing \$3.00. Please make all remittance payable to the Horatio Alger Society. Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to Executive Secretary Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, MI 48910.

Newsboy is listed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY H.A.S.

- "Horatio Alger, Jr., A Comprehensive Bibliography," by Bob Bennett.
- "Horatio Alger or, The American Hero Era," by Ralph D. Gardner.
- "Publication Formats of the 59 Stories by Horatio Alger, Jr. as Reprinted by the John C. Winston Co." Compiled by Bob Sawyer (PF-455) and Jim Thorp (PF-574).
- "Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt," by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- "The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.," by Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales (PF-258).

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 Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, MI 48910. The above rates apply to all want ads plus 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 such ads to Carl T. Hartmann or directly to editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 923 South Lake St., Apt. 6, Mundelein, IL 60060.



It's countdown to Convention '92

It's countdown time to Waco.

The Horatio Alger Society's 1992 convention is fast approaching, with registration set for April 23 at the La Quinta Inn, located adjacent to the Baylor University campus.

Alys and Bob Collmer, who are co-hosting this year's bash with John Cadick from suburban Dallas, have a full program planned that will keep H.A.S. members and their guests busy right on through the annual banquet on Saturday night.

Several people have asked about the motel's location, how to get to Waco and other small matters. Let's take a look at these questions:

First, the La Quinta Inn is located just off the southwest corner of the Baylor campus. If you look at the lower-left corner of the above map, it's right near the intersection of Interstate 35 and S. 8th Street. If you're

driving to Waco, just take the 8th Street exit off I-35 and you'll see the hotel just off the exit ramp. In case you're staying at another nearby motel, two located in the immediate area are the Best Western Old Main and the Quality Inn.

The La Quinta has a block of rooms set aside for the convention at a special \$47 rate. If you still haven't called in your room reservation, phone the La Quinta at (817) 752-9741.

Collmer notes that you can fly into Waco from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport by taking a commuter flight via American Eagle or ASA; just check with your travel agent or the airline on which you're flying to Dallas.

Better yet (if you don't rent a car for the 90-minute drive to Waco) there's a commuter microbus, called The

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Editor's notebook

A look at our new look . . .

You hold in your hands the second issue of the "new" **Newsboy**. The changes that have taken place have been gradual, starting with last year's convention issue, my first since taking over as editor.

The most obvious difference is **Newsboy's** appearance. As a member of organizations that publish newsletters, including my company's in-house employee newsletter and several from the U.S. Navy (I'm a retired public affairs officer in the Naval Reserve), it became very obvious that the way of the world these days is desktop publishing. When H.A.S. president Will Wright first asked me a year and a half ago about possibly becoming editor I turned him down because I didn't have the equipment that I knew was necessary to do the job right. By the time last year's Indianapolis convention arrived, I had a computer on order and so was in a better position to take over as editor. Also, I'm a newspaper editor in real life and so was the ideal person for the job.

As you may have noticed, I put out several issues of **Newsboy** without the aid of a computer prior to the January-February edition that you received last month. So even though I was editing the magazine, several steps in its production remained out of my control because the typesetting was being contracted. Also, many hours were spent on the phone with vice president Rob Kasper (PF-327), 1992 convention co-host John Cadick (PF-858) and others determining the best desktop publishing program to use as well as other tips helpful to a computer novice. For those of you who care about such things, I decided to use PageMaker 4.0 which is an ideal package to use under the Windows 3.0 graphical user interface that came with my computer. (Windows is a device invented by Microsoft Corp. that makes an IBM-compatible computer operate like an Apple Macintosh; in other words, using point-and-click "icons" through use of a mouse). Anyway, that's enough computer talk other than to say it was a slow learning process, one that is still going on as each issue of **Newsboy** goes to press.

But what is the value of all this? Probably nothing more than the survival of the Horatio Alger Society itself.

If that seems overly simplistic, just read on. Right now, the press run for **Newsboy** is 300, with 200-plus copies going to active members and others used as

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MEMBERSHIP

New members:

James M. Sutherin (PF-895)
R.D. 1, 448 Waterford Pk. Rd.
Chester, WV 26034

James also collects antique farm tools and equipment, including cast iron horse implement seats.

Wally Parsons (PF-896)
45 Brentwood Drive
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Wally has been collecting Alger books for several years, but just found out about H.A.S.

Change of address:

Daniel M. Petersen (PF-200)
3766 Tupelo Lane, Apt. 2608
San Antonio, TX 78229-2216

Nerman's Books

410-63 Albert St

Winnipeg MB Canada R3B 1G4

Children's Book Catalogue published regularly. Over 70 pages of collectible books including Algers, Hentys and hundreds of older series books.

17 subsections including Boy's series, Girl's series, Grosset & Dunlap, Whitman, English publishers, Annuals, Big Little Books, Little Golden Books, Readers, Sports, Sci-Fi, Animal Stories, Illustrated and much more. Over 3,500 listings.

Catalogue is issued regularly and each new catalogue has 500 or more new listings.

Send \$3.00 for next catalogue or \$15.00 for the next six issues.

Letters are 40 cents to Canada.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

If you wish, you can reprint the enclosed article, "Whatever became of Horatio Alger?" in **Newsboy**. If you do, please give credit to the Northern Centinel (of which my son, Peter, is publisher.

Hope to see you at Waco.

Cordially,
Ralph D. Gardner (PF-053)
135 Central Park West
New York, N.Y. 10023

Editor's note: The above article by Ralph will be published in an upcoming issue of **Newsboy**.

Dear Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you for making sure I received the issues of **Newsboy** that I was missing. I really appreciate the work you do as well as the work done by others to support H.A.S.

As much as I would love to attend the convention, it will not be possible this year.

So please accept these "mail bids" for the auction and give my best wishes to all to have a great time in Waco. I used to live there and it's a great little place... Austin and San Antonio are great, too. You should have a great time.

Thanks again,
Carl B. Bromer (PF-878)
2141 Edelweiss Court
Dayton, Ohio 45459-1307

Dear Carl:

I am sending you one of my poems. If you would care to, you have my permission to publish it in the **Newsboy** magazine. I had three songs recorded commercially by record companies:

1. "Falling in Love Again," by Guild Record Co.
2. "Imitation Flowers," Arthur Music, ASCAP.
3. "Marguerite," recorded by Ralph and Roy and their Double-R Gang.

I have written about 100 songs. Song No. 1 and Song No. 3 blend in with my story entitled "Bill Towers' Romance." I never did make much out of my songs. I have a second story, titled "Bill Towers' Honeymoon" and if I write another story it will be "Bill Towers in Nashville, Tenn." The other story is titled "The C.C.C. Human Rights Club."

I will not be able to attend the Alger convention in Texas, but I would like you to bid on these books for me. I will send a money order if you know how much it is.

It's countdown to convention '92

(Continued from Page 3)

Streak, that connects D/FW Airport with Waco. The bus will pick you up right at your arrival gate and will take you directly to the La Quinta or any other location in Waco.

There's another option for convention guests: if you're driving a camper and want to "rough it," Fort Fisher State Park, a short distance from the Baylor campus, has trailer campsites available.

By the way, there's still time to sign up for the convention. The registration fee is \$50, which this year includes three meals instead of the usual two: lunch and dinner on Friday and the annual banquet on Saturday night. Also, the annual business meeting will be right after the Friday dinner instead of Friday morning as in the past.

Other major events on the weekend include a multi-collection book auction on Friday afternoon, which will include numerous Alger first editions; and the traditional Saturday morning book sale. Incidentally, a large number of Texas book dealers have been invited to set up shop during the weekend at the Browning Library (#13 on the campus map), which will be the site of the auctions, book sale and other convention activities.

Most of the day on Saturday (noon to 7 p.m.) has been left open for sightseeing. Several of the Waco attractions were outlined in John Cadick's article in the last issue of **Newsboy**. For a quick summary, look at the list in the box on Page 16 of this issue.

Sincerely,
Lyle R. Beard (PF-848)
1011 S. 3rd St., Pekin, IL 61554

A Calico Cat Named Lucky

*I love my little cat called Lucky,
She don't do nothing wrong.
She puts her little paws around my neck
and sings a happy song.
She shows she really loves me,
She don't do nothing wrong,
when she puts her little paws around my neck
and sings a happy song.
I love my little Lucky, she's as happy as can be,
For I know that her little heart beats, and beats for me
I love my little cat called Lucky,
She don't do nothing wrong.
She puts her little paws around my neck
and sings a happy song.*

The Hurst miniatures: A preliminary look

By Rolfe B. Chase (PF-602)

Some months ago I asked for help from the *Newsboy* readership in order that I might write an article for *Newsboy* on these durable little books. I now know that then I was not smart enough to know how to ask for what I needed; or, indeed, to know what I did need. A couple of readers kindly gave me information which helped, but only deepened my confusion and widened the scope of my project.

More recently I wrote to a number of H.A.S. members who I thought had miniatures and asked for their help. I am particularly grateful to Bob Williman (PF-569), Jim Thorp (PF-574) and my brother Brad (PF-412) for giving me much information about their miniatures. In addition, I have added to my collection. I now have a few shaky suppositions and a lot of unanswered questions.

Some suppositions:

1 -- There were 57 titles issued by Hurst in the miniature format.

2 -- For 55 of these titles (less "The Erie Train Boy" and "Young Acrobat") there are two spine/cover printing formats. These are:

(a) A series of rose flowers on spine and cover.

(b) A "hanging dagger" on spine with two species of printing on front cover:

(b-1) Title at top; HORATIO ALGER JR. at bottom; a variety of pasted-on appliques in the center.

(b-2) A complex vine/leaf design printed on cover; title/ALGER in small print at bottom right; oval applique showing a variety of virtuous maidens at top of front taking 20 to 30 percent of cover space.

3 -- For both 2 (a) and 2 (b-1), there are a wide variety of pasted appliques. There are more than 24 covers found so far. These appliques are even more numerous because of the varieties within a given applique (See 6, below).

4 -- "The Erie Train Boy" and "Young Acrobat" (and so far, only these two) have not only an occasional applique, but more often a printed flower design directly on the cover, of at least five different varieties.

5 -- So far, it appears that the 55 titles could have been published in both the general formats. I am not sure about the other two.

6 -- A number of the appliques have two distinct variations, as follows:

(a) Football game (Bob Williman spotted this one).

(a-1) Runner holding ball in right hand.

(a-2) Runner holding all in both hands.

(b) Three men in a canoe.

(b-1) Boy in front has short hair.

(b-2) Boy in front has long hair (or wearing fur cap).

(c) Man at desk with office boy.

(c-1) Office boy has left foot forward.

(c-2) Office boy has right foot forward.

(d) Boy reading in front of fireplace.



Dust jacket for variation 2-a (rose design).

(d-1) Round-backed chair in right-center of picture.

(d-2) Square-backed chair.

(e) Bearded gentleman buying newspaper from newsboy.

(e-1) Newsboy has left foot forward.

(e-2) Newsboy has right foot forward.

There may well be others but none as yet have been noted.

7 -- For both 2a and 2b (above), there are two subtle differences noted on the spines. Some copies have ALGER and some have ALGER JR. below the title (noticed only on the "hanging dagger" format so far). Some have a small four-leaf cluster design and some have a half-inch-wide horizontal line between title and ALGER (or ALGER JR.). This is true on both 2a and 2b. The four-leaf design and the half-inch line have also been noticed on the dust jackets of 2a.

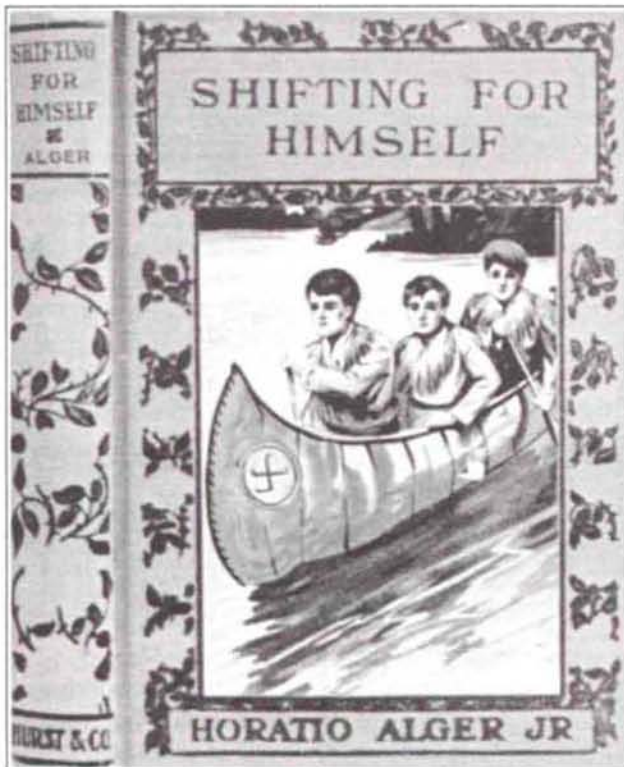
8 -- Presentation dates are from 1900 to 1922 so the miniatures were presumably published over quite a span of years.

I would like to move forward on this project, but it's apparent that I need lots of help. Ideally, I'd like to personally survey each member's miniatures. Since this is impossible, I'd like to request that all readers please survey their miniatures and send me all pertinent information.

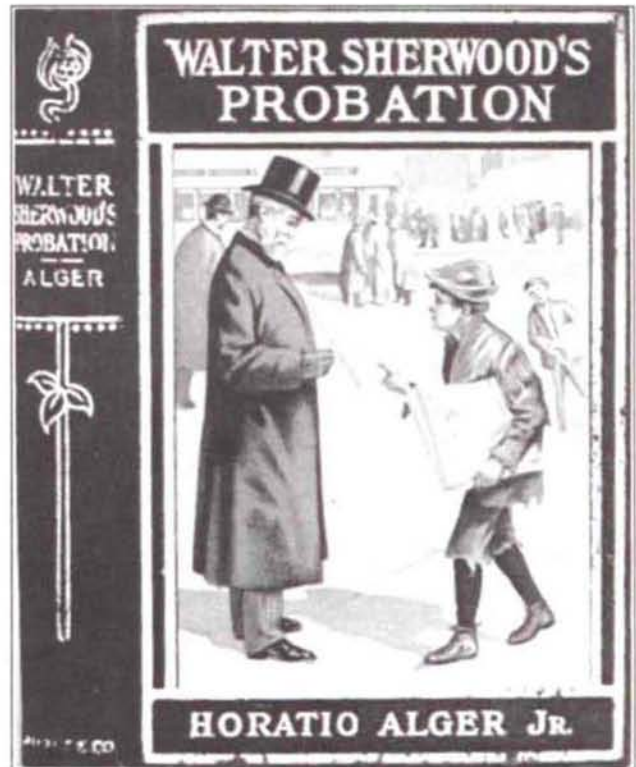
A photocopy of the cover and spine only would be best, along with any presentation date which is inside. If a photocopy is not possible, I would like a description of the title, spine/cover printing type, presentation date and cover design, including which variation of the five noted cover variations you have (using the above code numbers and letters). If you have a book showing a girl in an oval, I really would like to have as complete a description of her as possible, including her clothes and her actions, because many seem to be quite similar.

I will really appreciate all the help I can get. Even if you have only one or two miniatures, your information will truly assist me very much in this project. Just send it to:

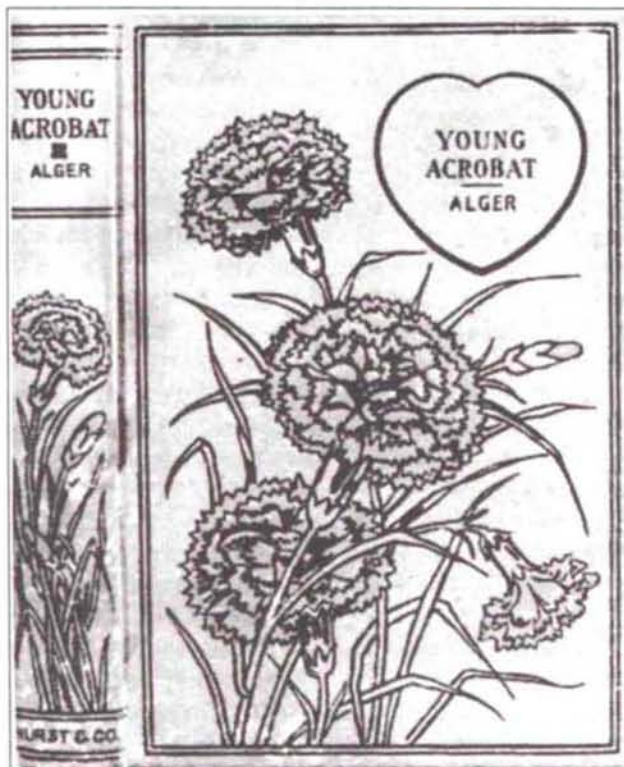
Rolfe B. Chase (PF-602)
4731 Fox Creek Road
Carson City, NV 89703.



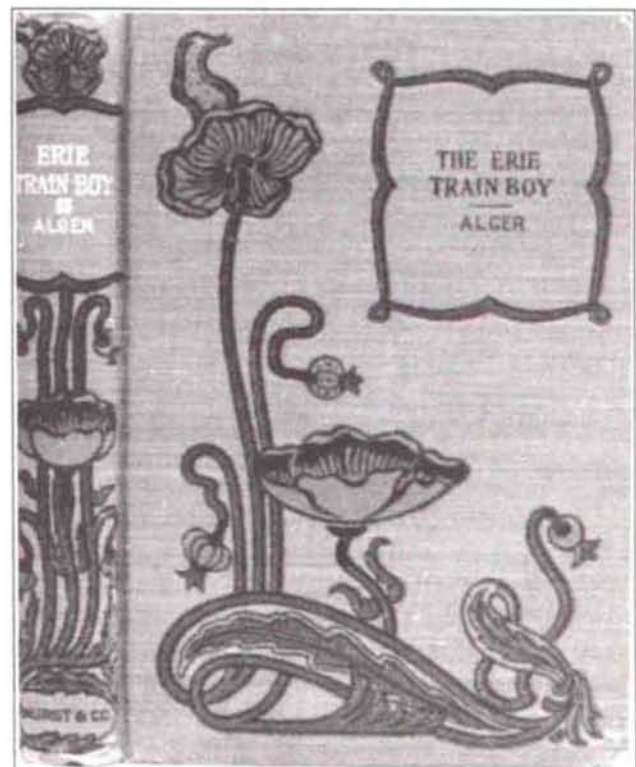
Variation 2 (a): Rose pattern on spine and cover; boys-in-canoe applique design.



Variation 2 (b-1): Hanging dagger pattern on spine; newsboy applique design.



"Young Acrobat" in flower design printed directly onto cover (no applique).



"The Erie Train Boy" in different flower design on cover (no applique).



Western's current Plant No. 2, left, in Racine, Wis., is just a short distance from the ornate Dr. Shoop building, right, whose basement the company occupied in 1910. The firm took over the entire building in 1914 when Dr. Shoop, a seller of patent medicines, retired. By 1918, Western Printing and Lithographing Co. had outgrown the Shoop building and purchased the plant at left, which is still in use today.

Whitman Algers or, who was E.H. Wadewitz?

by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)

Editor's note: This article is the first look in print at Brad Chase's ongoing study of the Whitman Publishing Co. and its role as an Alger reprint publisher. Those of you who have read Chase's 1983 book, "Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt," are familiar with the diligence and great detail he puts into projects of this type. His first report on Whitman Algers was presented at the 1990 Convention in Catskill, N.Y., and last May he spent several days in Racine, Wis., where Western Publishing Company, Inc., (current name of the producer of the Whitman line) is headquartered, doing additional research, including the taking of photos for this article. A subsequent article on the many Whitman Alger formats will appear in a future issue of *Newsboy*.

I suppose your first reaction to the question "Who was E.H. Wadewitz?" is that you really don't care. Well, I think you should. Too often as collectors of old children's books, we get all involved with the books themselves and pay scant attention to the key people behind their production.

Essentially, printers and publishers make the key decisions that bridge the gap between author and finished book. In my view, publishers should be more fully

recognized for their unique and important contributions to our collecting interests.

Albert L. Burt, A.K. Loring, Thomas D. Hurst, J.S. Ogilvie, Michael A. Donohue, E.H. Wadewitz, etc., were all men in the business of producing Alger at some point in their careers. Some eventually went broke and some were highly successful in the tough-and-tumble business of producing books for the youth of the day a century ago. These were interesting people who through their individual efforts had tremendous influence on us as a society.

When we're young, we read and are influenced by what is popular, available and within our budgets. This is as true today as it was 100 years ago, whether it's dime novels or Little Golden Books. The choices of what to make available for youth to read were made then, as now, by the top brass of big publishing firms in response to their feel about the young reader market. E.H. Wadewitz was the top brass at Whitman for a long time, including when Alger were published.

Essentially, just after the turn of this century, Mr. Wadewitz took over a very small printing business in Racine, Wisconsin, and over the years built it into a multimillion-dollar publishing giant. In the 1920s and

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30s, by luck and pluck (as we Alger people say) Wadewitz, under the Whitman imprint, produced millions of books written by Alger and many other authors. He sold the stories housed in very inexpensive bindings through thousands of local outlets, making them readily available at minimal cost to youngsters everywhere. The business soon expanded into comic books, playing cards and a whole host of other paper and book products as Wadewitz responded to a very lucrative youth and young adult mass market. Indeed, Whitman continues today as a tremendous force in our lives with its Little Golden Books, comic books, games and thousands of products eagerly devoured today by people ages 3 to 83.

So E.H. Wadewitz produced some Algers. "Big deal," say the pseudo-sophisticated Alger collectors who then fondly eye their prized Alger first editions, fine bindings and their extensive number of Alger titles. They know that today, Whitman Algers are not exactly mainstream in the Alger collecting business. I agree, but I think it's too bad, for I feel that we as collectors are missing a chance to expand our collecting interests at relatively little cost and really have some fun at the same time.

In point of fact, Alger Whitmans are really a lot of fun to collect! They are very readily available, inexpensive as Algers go today, and offer a real challenge if one tries to obtain an example of every Alger Whitman published.

Through my current research and collecting, I've determined that a complete Whitman Alger collection would total 104 separate and distinct books, including a 12-title paperback set; I am more than halfway with 56 so far and it's growing every day.

I know of no one who specifically collects Alger Whitmans except Will Wright and me.¹ Too bad, for it not only adds another thing to look for in book-searching ventures, but these little Whitman gems are actually neat little books. Some even have dust jackets and many Whitmans can be found in really mint condition with very bright colors and tight bindings that crack a little as the book opens. An argument can be made that because of their really inexpensive manufacture as books, finding one today in mint condition is difficult, actually making them more rare than some of the better constructed clothbound Algers.

Some years ago when I researched material for my



E. H. Wadewitz



Wadewitz's West Side Printing Company occupied the basement of this building at 550-558 State Street in Racine in 1908.

book "Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt,"² I was fascinated by Albert L. Burt, the man who was also a publisher of considerable note in childrens' book collecting circles. The fact that he was born in Belchertown, Mass. and spent time clerking in nearby Amherst, was of considerable interest to me as I spent several years of my adult life roaming that same territory. In fact, in 1959, as a student taking a city planning course at the University of Massachusetts, I completed a Town Plan of Development for Belchertown and presented it to the town fathers one lovely spring evening. Little did I know then that I would be writing and publishing a book featuring the work of one of the town's early residents.

Let's get back to Mr. Wadewitz. "E.H." did not roam this New England area in his youth, but he did put into place the mechanics to produce Alger books. Edward Henry Wadewitz was born on George Washington's birthday in the little village of Wasbeka, Wis. in 1878. His parents and most people in Wasbeka at that time were German and had come to America to find a better life. He was the second of five children and was brought up in simplicity and with an attitude of earnest hard work within a lingering German heritage.³ This strong work-oriented background must have influenced his decisions later on about the types of books to publish.

Of interest to history buffs is the name of Bernard J. Cigrand, which came up during my research. Mr. Cigrand was a teacher in Wasbeka and Edward Wadewitz was one of his students in a one-room schoolhouse.

As the story goes, Mr. Cigrand had an avid interest in the American flag and spent much of his life leading a crusade to have a specific day set aside to honor Old Glory. This extensive effort paid off when in 1916,

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Whitman Algers or, who was E.H. Wadewitz?

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President Wilson issued a proclamation calling for the nationwide observance every June 14 as Flag Day. Mr. Cigrand was honored for his contributions in that effort and was further involved in forming the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.⁴ However, it should be noted that James Bailey Upham is the original author of the pledge, written in 1892 in collaboration with the editors of *The Youth's Companion* as part of that magazine's campaign to place an American flag on every schoolhouse in the country.⁵

In his formative years, Mr. Wadewitz followed a life of wandering the land in the midwest and working hard in a variety of jobs. In 1905 he accepted a position as a part-time bookkeeper for a small print shop in Racine, Wisconsin. Over the next two years, the owners of the firm, under contract pressure from creditors, borrowed money from Wadewitz, providing him with chattel mortgages on the property and equipment. The firm's situation worsened and in 1907, using \$2,500 borrowed from his brother, E.H. bought the printer's business, then known as the West Side Printing Company, located at 618 State Street in Racine.⁶ Indeed, this was the inauspicious beginning of what has become one of the world's largest contemporary printing, lithographing and publishing firms.

The small print shop under the ownership of Wadewitz became known for quality work and in 1910 incorporated, showing an annual sales of \$19,000.⁷ In 1916, the West Side Printing Company (soon to be known as the Western Printing and Lithographing Company), was doing business with the Hemming-Whitman Publishing Company of Chicago in producing children's books. Hemming-Whitman defaulted in the payment of its bills to Western. A settlement was reached and Western acquired thousands of completed children's books to pay off the debts of the defaulted company and then acquired all of its other assets. The Whitman Publishing Company was then organized as a subsidiary corporation of Western. As a result, Mr. Wadewitz was now a publisher of children's books, as well as a printer and lithographer.⁸

Wadewitz apparently had a talent for gathering around him creative, innovative and imaginative people. Over the years, Whitman's products established it as the largest single division of the immense Western organization and the largest publisher of juvenile books and games in the world. In 1925, Whitman began successfully producing comic books and playing cards, inventing a unique machine which could produce 504 cards per



In 1928, Western built this new plant on Racine's Mound Avenue, which still houses the company's main offices.

minute, 4,000 decks per day and a million decks per year.

In 1933, Western entered its first of many agreements with Walt Disney Productions for the exclusive book rights to all Disney features and characters.⁹ And, by 1937, according to Tebbel: "...over 6 million children's books were being sold every month at 10 cents each through low-priced chain stores, variety stores, department stores and other outlets."¹⁰

A major step in the company's growth came in 1942 with the birth of Little Golden Books as Western created and manufactured them for Simon and Schuster. Later, in 1964, Western purchased all Little Golden Book properties and became that line's sole owner. Hundreds of millions of these books have been sold since that time. Company sales steadily increased, reaching \$124 million in 1961, \$205 million in 1973 and over \$277 million in 1981. Today, Western is an international corporation with offices all over the world.¹¹

The Whitman Publishing Company as a key Western subsidiary produces "hundreds of millions of items per year, including over 100 million books, 30 million games, 137 million greeting cards, 10.85 million packages and boxes of gift wrap papers and 2 million coin collecting cards or folders."¹² There are reportedly well over 1,600 different book and game items in the Whitman catalog at all times.

It was all started, and the phenomenal growth of the company was nursed with skillful hands, those of E.H. Wadewitz...publisher, innovator and businessman; a man of vision as well as a doer. Who can say how extensive his influence has been, and will continue to be, on one of our most prized assets, our children?

On Jan. 18, 1955, Mr. Wadewitz died at the age of 77. The community of Racine, as well as people throughout

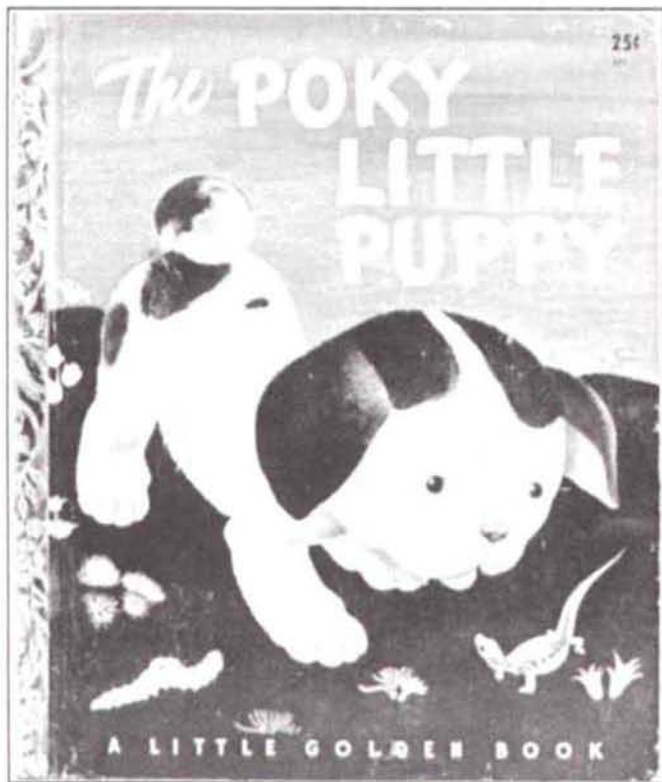
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the world, paid well-earned tributes to his work and to him as an individual.¹³

Today, Whitman books are sought after by many collectors. They are not looking for Algers necessarily, but many of the later editions that Whitman published in the 40s and 50s. Such collectors remember Roy Rogers and Gene Autry in their heyday; Shirley Temple and Boots; the Fighters for Freedom Series during World War II; and the many, many Little Golden Books. One interesting fact that I found was that one of the initial 1942 release of 12 Little Golden Books, "The Poky Little Puppy," had (as of 1982) well over 49 printings and sold more than 6 million copies.¹⁴

In new-book stores today, we see shelves abounding with Whitman products for kids which I'm sure will be collector grit for decades to come.

My, what a tremendous legacy E.H. Wadewitz has left us! Not only did he have the skill, talent and tenacity to put together a manufacturing and commercial success, but the products that were produced by Whitman have brought -- and will continue to bring -- tremendous personal reading and collecting pleasure to millions and millions of people of all ages. This is the reason we should care who Mr. Wadewitz was and why we should more fully appreciate what he did.



"The Poky Little Puppy," one of the earliest Little Golden Books, as of 1982 had sold more than 6 million copies.



The main entrance of Western Publishing Company, Inc.'s headquarters building on Mound Avenue, which was built in 1928.

NOTES

1. Mr. William R. Wright (PF-639) of Chillicothe, Ohio, has a most extensive collection of Horatio Alger books. His aim is to collect an example of every title published by all of the more than 80 Alger publishers. Wright is currently the president of the Horatio Alger Society.

2. Bradford S. Chase, "Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt." (Enfield, Ct.) 1983.

3. Don H. Black, "E.H. The Life Story of E.H. Wadewitz." (Racine, Wis.) 1955, Page 12.

4. Ibid, Pages 14-16.

5. Louise Harris, "Who Wrote the Pledge of Allegiance?" Dime Novel Round-Up (Vol. 46, No. 6, Dec. 1977), Pages 127-130 (Thanks to John T. Dizer for this reference).

6. "The Westerner," commemorative issue. The Western Publishing Company, Inc. Vol. 3, No. 2, Winter 1982, Page 49.

7. Ibid, Page 4.

8. Ibid, Page 66.

9. Ibid, Page 90.

10. John W. Tebbel, "A History of Book Publishing in the United States," Volume III (New York and London) 1975, Page 464.

11. "The Westerner," Op. Cit., Pages 13, 14 and 17.

12. Don H. Black, "The Story of Western Printing and Lithography Company" (Racine, Wis.) 1954, Page 10.

13. Articles in the Racine Wis. Journal and Times, Saturday, Jan. 15, 1955 and The Racine Sunday Bulletin, Sunday, Jan. 16, 1955 (Racine, Wis.)

14. "The Westerner," Op. Cit., Page 19.

Horatio Alger, Jr. . . or, Harry Hampton, A.B.

Editor's note: Following is one of 14 short stories written by Horatio Alger, Jr. under the until-recently undiscovered pseudonym Harry Hampton, A.B. that were published in *Dodge's Literary Museum* in 1853 and 1854. Gilbert K. Westgard II submitted this and one other Hampton short story for publication in *Newsboy*. He has also reproduced all 14 of the stories in *Bootblack: The Horatio Alger Magazine*.

For more information write: Gilbert K. Westgard II, 1001 S.W. 5th Court, Boynton Beach, FL 33426.

ADVERTISING FOR A HUSBAND

by Harry Hampton, A.B.

My cousin May Vivian and I were seated together, one pleasant summer afternoon. May is a wild, compulsive creature, yielding herself without restraint to any caprice or whim that flits across her fertile fancy. She had been sitting silent for two full minutes. I waited patiently, well knowing that she was brooding over some new scheme of mischief, which in due time would be communicated to me.

"Do you know, Annie" said she, at length, turning her sparkling eyes and roguish face toward me. "I have an idea."

"Indeed, that is quite natural for you," I remarked. "But I never shall guess what it is; so don't keep me any longer in suspense, *ma chere cousine*."

"Well, then, as you are so stupid, I suppose I must tell you. I mean to advertise for a husband. Isn't it a capital idea?"

"Why, May, you are perfectly crazy. Are you really in such haste to get married that you can't wait till somebody proposes? I am very sure, at a hint from you, Charles Vernon..."

"Hush, hush, cousin," said she; "you are really more stupid than I took you for, or you would know that I only meant it for a joke, and there would be such fun in receiving letters from suitors of every kind and degree. I must and will do it."

So saying, she tripped gayly to the desk, and taking out a sheet of paper, began to write rapidly.

"There, said she, as she handed it for my inspection, 'how will that do?'"

I read as follows:

"HUSBAND WANTED. -- A young lady, of respectable family, is desirous of forming a matrimonial connection. She is rather pretty, highly accomplished, and possesses a moderate fortune, which is entirely at her disposal. She has just attained the age of nineteen. Her object in coming before the public in this manner is explained by the fact that

she is desirous of making a tour in Europe, which would render the presence of a male protector necessary. Any one who may be disposed to avail themselves of this opportunity, will address a letter, communicating his business, and any other particulars which they may deem of interest, to X.Y.Z., through the Post Office."

"If you really are in earnest, May," said I, handing back the paper, "I think this will do admirably. To tell the truth, I don't think the plan a bad one, and will gladly aid you to decipher the various manuscripts which may be submitted to your inspection."

The advertisement was accordingly sent to the _____ Gazette, where it appeared in due time. May and I waited with all the impatience of children for the issue of this bold venture. A day or two afterwards, we had the pleasure of receiving a letter, in a brown envelop, directed in a business hand to Miss X.Y.Z. The contents were as follows:

"To X.Y.Z. -- Dear Miss: -- Happening to look over one of the daily papers, the other day, I noticed your advertisement for a husband. Should be happy to propose myself, in case it should seem agreeable. Have no objection to make a *tour* in Europe. I am by trade a butcher, likewise a widower with ten children. Can leave them at home in charge of a housekeeper, while making the *tour*. Didn't observe whether you mentioned *how large* your fortune was.

Respectfully, yours to command,
Samuel Giles."

"Short and sweet," said I, laughing. "Well, May, what do you think of it? Will you become Mrs. Giles, and mother of ten children?"

"*Nous verrons*," said she, smiling. "Let us wait for the rest."

The next morning's mail brought three more communications. The first was in a scented envelop, and was evidently from a younger and more fashionable wooer than the first.

"Dearest Miss: -- Never did the sun shine more brightly upon my existence than on that eventful morning when my eye rested upon your advertisement. A thrill of ardor pervaded my frame, and my heart whispered, 'At length shall thy unsatisfied

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longing be appeased, and thy wealth of love find a fitting object.' In the very turn of thy sentences I read thy character, and I felt that to woo and win thee would be happiness indeed. Yet one thing I do regret. Thou art rich. Perish the paltry trash! I would that thou wert poor, that one might prove to thee how much of pure, *unmercenary* love my bosom fills.

"Let me add that I am one of those whom cruel Trade has seized in her embrace, and bound with iron chains. In other words, I am a clerk in the establishment of Gubbins & Co. And now, farewell!

"Dear maid, whate'er befall,

My heart is thine;

And thou -- there's rapture in the thought --

Thou *mayst* be mine."

Narcissus Lindley."

"Quite sentimental, on my word. Really, you must take this case into consideration. There's no knowing what may be the consequences of a rejection. Let us proceed."

The next letter ran in this wise:--

"Respectable Miss X.Y.Z.: -- In a newspaper that I borrowed, t'other day, of nabor Smith, I seed your advertisement, and thinks to myself, Josh, that's a good chance for you. I'm fifty years old come spring, but I'll overlook your being so young, (quite considerate, truly!) and will luv you just the same as if you wur older. I live in a two-story house, quite convenient, five nice rooms, and keep store. I should be willing to hire sum help to dew part of the housework, in haying time. As for my moral character, I never heard nobody say anything agin it. As tew traveling to Europe, I can't go that, no how. I think it would be a clear temptin' of Providence to sail over the foamy billows, as my nephew Thomas (who is a poet, and has been crazy these two years), calls them. Besides, it's dredful expensive. I calculate it would cost two or three hundred dollars. Hoping that you will answer right off, as I shall hev to get a housekeeper unless you become my wife, I sign myself,

Joshua Graves."

"Well, if that isn't remarkably cool!" remarked Cousin May, throwing down the letter indignantly. "It's from some old farmer, who has been a bachelor because he could find no one foolish enough to throw herself away on him, I have no doubt."

For the two days following, missives of a character similar to those quoted above crowded in. There were of all descriptions, from the delicately-scented

epistle, written on French note-paper, and sealed with great care, to the hasty note scrawled in some cases on the blank leaf of a book, and enclosed in a brown envelop already used, and afterwards turned inside out. The applicants belonged to all classes of society. Among them was a minister, who had got tired of preaching for small pay, three broken-down lawyers, several clerks and apprentices, a country editor, whose journal was taken more extensively than it was paid for, and so on. It will not be doubted that May and I expended a vast amount of laughter over these tender avowals.

"Another letter?" asked I, two or three days afterwards, as May opened one fresh from the office. She had commenced reading, and was so absorbed that she did not heed my question. As she read, her cheek flushed, and at the conclusion, she simply passed it to me, saying,

"Read that, Annie."

I glanced at the name, it was from Charles Vernon, between whom and my fair cousin an attachment had, as I imagined, sprung up. But how to reconcile this with a proposal to a lady whom he could not possibly identify with May Vivian.

The letter ran as follows:

"Dear Miss: -- I have read your advertisement, and I am ready to comply with its requisitions, should further acquaintance prove it desirable. If you will appoint an interview, I will meet you, and we will come to a decision.

Yours respectfully,
Charles Vernon."

"Well, what will you do about it?" I asked, looking up.

"The very question I was about to ask you."

"Then, if you will take my advice, you will appoint a rendezvous, and make your appearance there, closely veiled, so that you can preserve your incognito. You will then see what 'yours, respectfully,' has to say for himself."

"The very thing. I will do it."

The meeting was decided upon, Mr. Vernon being informed by letter that at a certain hour he would meet a lady closely veiled, and dressed in a blue mantilla, in a public promenade.

It would be difficult to analyse the character of May's feelings, as, with rather a tremulous heart, she set out for the rendezvous. she had certainly thought that Charles Vernon was attached to her, and she could not conceal that he was not indiffer-

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Horatio Alger Jr. . . . or, Harry Hampton, A.B.

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ent to her. The idea of his attachment to her was at once removed by his answering her advertisement, a proceeding which certainly did not seem at all consonant with his character, and one for which May was very much puzzled to account. Shall I say that she was not exempt from that universal female characteristic, curiosity, and that this was one of the principal motives which prompted the present meeting?

Mr. Vernon was on the ground at the time appointed. As soon as he recognized the blue mantilla, he walked up to Miss Vivian, and introduced himself.

May answered his inquiries in a low tone, but could not be induced to lay aside her veil.

The gentleman was evidently pleased.

"Do you know," said he, with a smile which to May savored somewhat of suspicion, "that you resemble a fair friend of mine very closely?"

"May I ask whom?" asked May, with interest.

"Miss May Vivian -- a young lady of great beauty and accomplishments -- who sometimes promenades in a green veil and a blue mantilla."

May saw that she was discovered, and resolved to come off with as good a grace as possible.

"I see, Mr. Vernon," she said, throwing back her veil, "that it is impossible to deceive you. Yet, own that I have played my part in this comedy with tolerable success."

"Readily, and I am ready to confess that if I had not known beforehand whom I was to meet, the veil and mantilla would have deceived me. You are surprised at my knowledge of your secret. The explanation is very simple. I saw your servant at the Post Office, speaking in a low tone with one of the clerks. Coming up suddenly, I heard the name, X.Y.Z., which, coupled with the advertisement I had seen, and your well-known propensity for practical jokes, let me into the secret. I determined at once to answer your advertisement, and -- you know the result."

"You have played your role very well, Mr. Vernon, and if you are willing to escort home the lady in the blue mantilla, I will show you some of the letters which have come to X.Y.Z.'s address."

"Nothing will give me greater pleasure. But I must first impart to you the real object of my meeting you to-day. I came not to see the lady in the

blue mantilla, but -- to lay my heart at the feet of Miss Vivian. Will she accept it?"

"What, you would convert my joke into sober earnest? Why, that will spoil the whole," said May, laughing to avoid showing her confusion.

Nevertheless, in due course of time the marriage of May and Charles Vernon was celebrated with the usual solemnities. She often laughs over the unexpected issue of "Advertising for a Husband."

Would any of my readers like to try the experiment?

THE ADVENTURES OF A NEWSBOY.



Mike Murphy the newsboy commences his day of recreation by drinking soda.



Then he promenades Washington street, and imitates the swells.



He visits a noted picture gallery.



Provokes the indignation of ladies in a horse-car, by sticking to his seat.



Offers to bet his money on a horse trot.



Laughs at a policeman who tells him to go home, and the next day resumes work.

This cartoon titled "The Adventures of a Newsboy" was published in Ballou's Dollar Monthly Magazine in December, 1869, and was submitted by E.M. Sanchez-Saavedra (PF-788).

Editor's notebook

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introductory copies to new members plus copies sent to libraries, other friends of the Society or to prospective advertisers. For example, executive secretary Carl Hartmann has sent copies of the January-February issue to many Texas book dealers in hopes of getting them to participate in the book sale at this month's Waco convention.

But what do these circulation figures mean? Within the next month, Carl will be assigning P.F. number 900 to the latest new member, which for the uninitiated means that he or she will be the 900th member the Society has had since it was founded 30 years ago by the late Forrest Campbell and Kenneth Butler. Over the years, deaths and changes of collecting interests have kept the H.A.S. membership in constant flux. The current 200-plus members on the mailing list seem a bit low considering that in the past decade an average of 15 to 20 new members per year have joined. I know that's true because I joined in 1983 and my P.F. number is 706.

So, not counting deceased members, where have they all gone? The obvious answer is they joined the Society and then dropped out because of lack of interest.

Let's examine this more closely. One of the reasons we enjoy H.A.S. is our ability to get together each year at our annual conventions. Long-lasting friendships have been made over the years. Yet, among the 200-plus currently active members, only a core group of between 20 and 40 can be expected to show up most years at the convention. At last year's annual business meeting, member Rolfe B. Chase (PF-602) stated his dismay at our lack of an influx of new, young members. "I see a lot of gray hair in this room," Chase said. Need we point out that his statement was driven home last fall with the death of Dale Thomas (PF-325) who seldom, if ever, missed a convention?

Basically, if a member joins the Horatio Alger Society for the brotherhood aspect as exemplified by our annual convention, fine, but we couldn't survive with only those 20 to 40 members. So if a person joins and isn't able to attend conventions for various reasons, what is his or her only regular point of contact with other members? *Newsboy*, of course.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that if somebody forks over \$20 in annual dues and the only visual evidence of his membership is a copy of *Newsboy* in his mailbox every two months, then it had better be a compelling magazine or that new member will soon be an ex-member.

Both Rob Kasper and I firmly believe that we need a

"compelling magazine" to hold onto these new members; to keep them from becoming discouraged and dropping out before they get to meet other "Partic'lar friends" in person and decide, "hey, this is a pretty neat organization" and start becoming convention regulars themselves.

To that end, this and the previous issue will give you a glimpse of what *Newsboy* is going to be. First of all, this is a Horatio Alger Society publication and as such will strive to carry articles by and about Alger and his books.

In the past few issues, we've examined Alger's "The Nugget Finders" in depth and the publication of Alger books by Mershon and its related companies. In this issue, the Chase brothers take center stage with Brad Chase (PF-412) offering the first part of his study of the Whitman Algers, in this case, a background on Western Publishing/Whitman founder E.H. Wadewitz. Rolfe B. Chase (PF-602) gives his first look at the Hurst miniatures.

Also of special interest is one of the 14 short stories by Alger under the pseudonym Harry Hampton A.B., kindly submitted by Gil Westgard (PF-024).

I also recognize (because I am one myself) that there are H.A.S. members out there who have many other books besides Algers in their collections. When Bob Sawyer (PF-455) got me to join at his Columbus convention in 1983, I hesitated because I was a Stratemeyer man rather than an Alger man; little did I know that there were many other Partic'lar Friends with my collecting interests.

As a result, we will be starting a series of articles in *Newsboy*, just one per issue, under the logo "Other authors...other books" that will look at some of those series and authors. Some articles will involve the Stratemeyer Syndicate and its books; others will delve into other authors, series and related topics. I must stress that *Newsboy* will remain an Alger publication and that this added feature will add, rather than detract from that. I also recognize that *Yellowback Library* is a highly respected authority in the series book field and I don't intend to compete with the fine work done by its publisher, Gil O'Gara (PF-627). The same is true of *Dime Novel Round-Up* and its longtime publisher, Eddie LeBlanc (PF-015).

At the same time, I do have an obligation to the many Horatio Alger Society members who have more widespread collecting interests.

I will not be begging for articles with a shotgun approach, but instead will solicit them on a selective basis. If you have an idea for an article related to Alger, in particular, sound me out and we'll see what can be worked out. As you see in this and previous issues, I believe in illustrating articles with nice clear photos. This

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Editor's notebook

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needs planning in order to find the books to photograph, have the pictures taken and halftones engraved and so forth. Please don't submit articles without contacting me first in order that this planning can take place.

Another hoped-for area of expansion is the Letters to the Editor section. This is your forum for the exchange of Alger news and information. If you don't have enough for a major article, this is where you can get it published. Hopefully, your letter will spark an exchange of dialogue between members, particularly those who are not able to meet their fellow Partic'lar Friends at the annual convention or other get-togethers.

Just send your letters directly to: William R. Gowen, 923 South Lake St., Apt. 6, Mundelein, IL 60060. My address is also listed in the lower right corner of Page 2 of every issue of **Newsboy**.

If you want to have a letter published, try to have it in my hands prior to the of the second month of that issue. In other words, letters for the May-June issue (our annual convention issue) should be received prior to the end of May. Our goal, once we have our computer operation fully up to speed, is to have **Newsboy** in the mail prior to the 10th of the second month of that issue. The May-June issue, therefore, will be out sometime between June 1 and June 10, with subsequent issues following that schedule.

So, if **Newsboy** comes up to our expectations, maybe we'll be able to retain our new members. Also, maybe some of those who jumped ship in the past few years will climb back aboard. To that end, if any of you are still in contact with persons you previously sponsored for H.A.S. membership but subsequently dropped out, try to get them interested again. Carl Hartmann will be happy to send along a sample copy of the "new" **Newsboy**. Hopefully, what they see in these pages will encourage them to reactivate their PF numbers and give us a try.

Parting comments:

Paul Miller has dropped me a note to pass to fellow members that former H.A.S. president Bob Bennett (PF-265) is at home recuperating from surgery. Partic'lar friends who want to drop Bob a card should write to him at 14 Tremont Ave., Congers, N.Y. 10920.

A reminder to keep executive secretary Carl Hartmann informed of all address changes. Often, he doesn't find out until members send in their annual dues and as a result, issues of **Newsboy** arrive late, if at all. Incidentally, **Newsboy** is sent via first class mail.

Finally, I hope to see you in Waco!

Places To Go * Waco, Texas

Armstrong-Browning Library: Houses the world's most distinguished collection of the works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning. One of the library's features is the 40-by-40 foot Meditation Room, along with the largest secular stained glass collection in the world. Located on the Baylor campus at Speight and South 8th Street.

Dr. Pepper Museum: Step into yesteryear's turn of the century soda fountain! Home of the "pepper upper," the original Romanesque bottling works offers memorabilia and Waco hospitality.

Historic Waco Homes: The Fort House, Earl-Napier Kinnard House, Harrison House, McCullough House, East Terrace, Hoffmanette House and the Madison-Cooper House are all beautifully restored Mansions. The Waco Tourist Information Center will provide information on touring the homes.

Historic Hippodrome Theatre: A five-year restoration program has reopened this vaudeville and silent film stage, built in 1914. John Wayne, Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret have all appeared here.

Lake Brazos: At the confluence of the Bosque and Brazos Rivers, this town lake is formed by a low-water dam. The lake is the site of various festivals, rowing regattas and world championship boat racing.

Strecker Museum: Located on the Baylor University campus, this is the oldest natural history museum in Texas. Visitors can view displays of live reptiles and fish, along with dioramas and mammoth remains.

Suspension Bridge: Dedicated in 1870, this bridge is used by foot traffic alone today. The site of breakfasts, wedding receptions, Fourth of July fireworks and other events, the old bridge connects Indian Spring Park on the west bank and Martin Luther King Jr. Park on the east bank. The bridge was a working model for the famous Brooklyn Bridge.

Texas Ranger Museum: Contains an exceptional collection of guns, Indian artifacts, antiques and lore of the real old west that lives on through Texas' original law enforcement agency, the Texas Rangers. Multimedia shows run every hour and a gift shop is located in the museum complex.

Texas Sports Museum: Located at Waco Drive and 14th Street, the museum includes a tennis hall of fame along with the Texas High School Football and Basketball Hall of Fame.