



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY  
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
**NEWSBOY**



*Horatio Alger, Jr.*

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

1832 - 1899

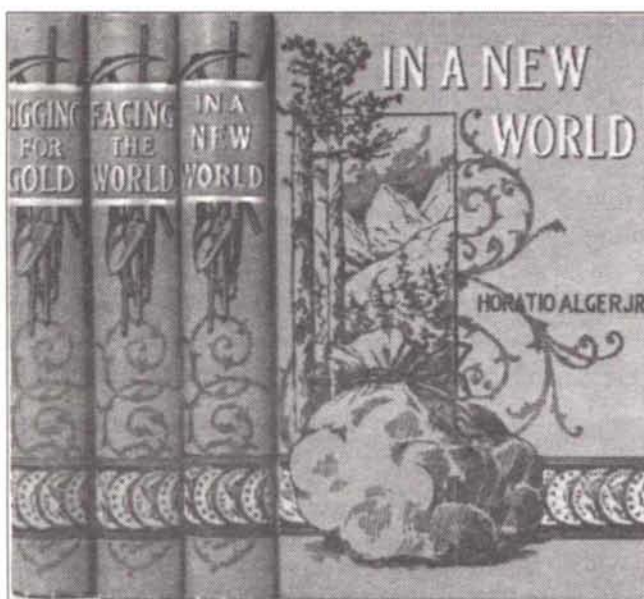
VOLUME XXXI

JULY-AUGUST 1993

NUMBER 4

# In search of Horatio Alger!

-- See Page 3



## *Porter and Coates Algers -- Part II*

-- See Page 9

## THE ROVER BOYS AT SCHOOL

*... Again, Again and Again*

BY

ARTHUR M. WINFIELD

AUTHOR OF "THE ROVER BOYS ON THE OCEAN," "THE ROVER  
BOYS IN THE JUNGLE," "THE MISSING TIN BOX,"  
"BY PLUCK, NOT LUCK," ETC.

-- See Page 12

## President's column

The dates for the 1994 Horatio Alger Society convention have now been determined. The convention will take place April 28 through May 1, 1994, near Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our convention host, Chris DeHaan (PF-773), is now working on group rates for a hotel and other arrangements. Additional convention information will be published in future issues of *Newsboy*.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Carol Nackenoff, who is associated with Swarthmore College located in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Carol is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science and has just written a book relating to Horatio Alger. The book is titled "The Fictional Republic: Horatio Alger and the American Political Discourse" and will be published this fall by Oxford University press. The book investigates and interprets the literary formulas of Horatio Alger in American politics. I was very impressed with Carol's knowledge of Alger and also her fine book collection and research material. Information about Carol's book (and how to order a copy) will appear in upcoming issues of *Newsboy*.

At the most recent convention Brad Chase (PF-412) presented a resolution to determine the feasibility of establishing an Alger repository. The repository would be dedicated to preserving examples of Alger's works and would be accessible by current and future collectors and researchers. This repository would be ideally located in an already established university library or other educational institution. The resolution committee has forwarded to me the names of 21 potential sites that I will contact to gauge their interest.

I find the idea of a permanent location for the collection and study of the works of Horatio Alger very appealing and worthy of our efforts. Imagine a library, or at least a portion of a library, dedicated to the study of Alger and his impact on our culture filled with books, periodicals, articles, short stories, letters and other ephemera accessible to anyone interested in the writings of Horatio Alger. The resolution committee will report its findings, and any recommendations, at the annual business meeting at next year's convention. I will, of course, inform the membership of our progress during the next several months.

Your partic'lar friend,  
Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)  
585 E. St. Andrews Drive  
Media, PA 19063

## 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 indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography.

### BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY H.A.S.

- "Horatio Alger, Jr., A Comprehensive Bibliography," by Bob Bennett (PF-265).
- "Horatio Alger or, The American Hero Era," by Ralph D. Gardner (PF-053).
- "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).

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## In search of Horatio Alger!

by Ralph D. Gardner (PF-053)

It is surprising that -- although his name has become an American colloquialism and in 1982 a postage stamp was issued to commemorate the sesquicentennial of his birth<sup>1</sup> -- relatively few, in these waning days of the Twentieth Century, know exactly who Horatio Alger was. Indeed, there are many who, themselves using his name to describe someone's swift rise from humble beginnings to success, are not sure that he even existed!

When lecturing on Alger -- generally to university classes in American literature or American studies -- I often start by asking: Who was Horatio Alger?

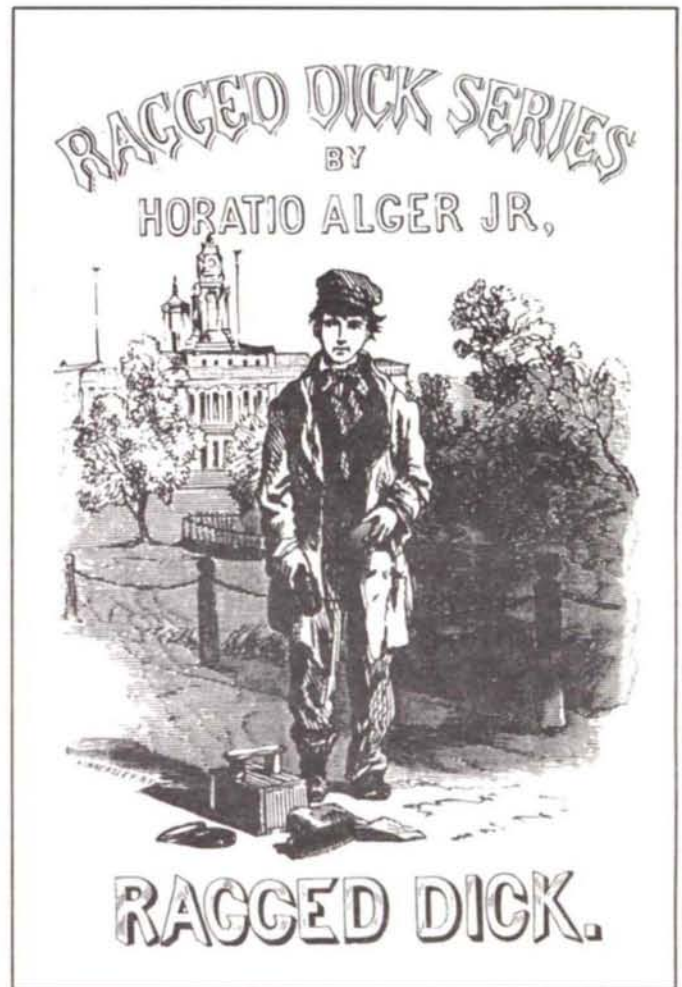
Three frequent, incorrect replies are: A poor boy who through hard work, bravery and honesty, grew up to become a rich man; the hero of a long series of adventure tales; a pen-name used by Charles Dickens.

Let me assure you that Horatio Alger, Jr. -- he used the Junior throughout his long career -- was the real name of a real person.<sup>2</sup> Although he ranks among our nation's bestselling authors, it is only in recent years that his uncomplicated thrillers have received serious examination and understanding. As a pivotal phenomenon separating heavily moralized, didactic works from the series featuring spectacular inventions of an industrialized new era, Alger's writing is now appreciated as a bona fide development in literature for young readers.

As supersalesman for the Great American Dream, from Civil War days until the turn of the century, his prolific pen turned out more than 100 melodramatic rags-to-riches tales with stereotyped heroes and such alliterative titles as "Frank and Fearless," "Rough and Ready" and "Luck and Pluck." Although their greatest popularity had crested by the years of World War I, generations of boys -- and many girls -- bought, borrowed and swapped them. Public libraries filled shelves with them. They were awarded as school prizes, ministers recommended them from pulpits and, unlike blood-and-thunder dime novels with lurid scenes of frontier violence, Alger's stories could be read in the parlor.<sup>3</sup>

Alger had been a sickly child, his health affected by asthma throughout his life. Still, he was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard where, as a student of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Alger became his professor's disciple and he actually started out to be a poet.<sup>4</sup>

He worked as a teacher, a newspaperman and later traveled through Europe as a correspondent for the *Boston Transcript* and the *New York Sun*. Rejected by



The title page from "Ragged Dick," published by A.K. Loring in 1868. This is the book that established Alger's reputation as a bestselling author.

the Union Army for Civil War service,<sup>5</sup> he became a minister on Cape Cod.<sup>6</sup>

Although seven of his books had been issued since 1857, it was when -- in 1866 -- he observed the plight of New York's homeless newsboys and bootblacks that he wrote "Ragged Dick." Published in 1868, it created a sensation, setting the pattern for every other book he wrote.

Following "Ragged Dick's" extraordinary success, a series of novels quickly followed and Alger's publisher, Aaron K. Loring, called him "the dominating figure of our new era. In his books he has captured the spirit of reborn America. The turmoil of the streets is in them. You can hear the rattle of pails on the farm. Above all, you can hear the cry of triumph of the oppressed over the oppressor. What Alger has done is to portray the soul -- the ambitious soul -- of the country."

The Horatio Alger hero -- about 15 years old as stories began -- was the son of a widowed mother or an orphan

(Continued on Page 5)

*Editor's note:* This article previously appeared in the Spring 1987 issue of *Manuscripts* (Vol. XXXIX, No. 2), published by The Manuscript Society.

## Editor's notebook

This issue is the second produced with a new high-resolution laser printer. You'll notice the type is much sharper. Although the previous resolution at 300 dots per inch was more than acceptable, a 600 dpi laser printer allows much more flexibility in the use of typefaces and graphic elements.

To take advantage of this increased image resolution we intend to start experimenting with direct scan of photographs later this fall or winter. Up to now, we've had our photos engraved elsewhere and composited manually onto the finished pages. Direct scanning, hopefully, will allow more flexibility in utilizing our desktop publishing software to its maximum capabilities. My goal remains the same as it was when taking over the editor's job two years ago: to make *Newsboy* a publication of which the Horatio Alger Society will be proud.

As you read this, the Syracuse University Symposium for Dime Novels, Pulps and Series Books will just have concluded. If you missed it, you have another opportunity to dip into academia next spring at the annual joint conference of the American Culture Association and Popular Culture Association. **The dates:** April 6-9, 1994. **The place:** Chicago's Palmer House, one of America's grand old hotels that has recently undergone an extensive renovation.

Kathleen Chamberlain (PF-874) assistant professor of English at Emory & Henry College in Emory, Va., is the area chair for the ACA/PCA's section on dime novels, pulps and series books. For more information, see the blurb on Page 14, following Rocco Musemeche's article on the Rover Boys which, incidentally, was presented as a paper at the 1993 ACA/PCA conference in New Orleans. Or you can call Kathleen at (703) 944-4542.

Like the Syracuse University symposium, the ACA/PCA is academically oriented rather than collector-oriented. Yes, there will be opportunities to do some bookhunting (although you will find Chicago is not a good city for some reason to find Algiers or boys' and girls' series books), but the main benefit from such a conference is to learn more about the books we collect and their authors.

The ACA/PCA conference also covers all areas of popular culture, including films, radio and television; folk culture; advertising and marketing; plus other areas like American literature and poetry, sports, women's studies, religion, geography, languages and such specialized fields as world's fairs, World War II, the Vietnam

war and the horror genre of books and films.

Kathleen is soliciting proposals or abstracts for papers in the dime novels, pulps and series book field. If you're interested, contact her by Sept. 15 at the latest at the address listed on Page 14.

You must be a member of the Popular Culture or American Culture Associations to take part. That bit of business is handled by Ray Browne of the Department of Popular Culture, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403. Membership dues for either organization are \$35, or \$45 for husband and wife. Joint membership in the ACA and PCA is \$65 per person. There is a discounted rate for those who are retired.

The best part of these conferences, in my opinion, is the opportunity to get together with fellow researchers and collectors on an informal basis, either during late-night book discussions or over lunch and dinner.

Many (probably a majority) of the Dime Novels, Pulps and Series Book area presenters are H.A.S. members, which makes these get-togethers even better.

**Coming in September-October:** The third part of Brad Chase's series on the Porter and Coates and Henry T. Coates Alger first editions; "How Horatio Alger Helped 'The Shadow'," by former *Newsboy* editor Jack Bales, a report on the Syracuse University symposium and much more.

\* \* \* \* \*

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## In search of Horatio Alger!

(Continued from Page 3)

of mysterious background. Whether a city waif or a country boy, after a couple of chapters he found himself adrift on the cobbled streets of lower Broadway with only a few cents in his pocket. But he was ambitious and eagerly accepted menial work. From the beginning he had enemies; street-corner ruffians, a drunken guardian, swaggering snobs plus a host of other evil-doers.

He soon performed a courageous deed, pulling a child from the path of a runaway horse, rescuing an elderly gentleman from being sandbagged and robbed, diving into the East River to save a life or flagging down a speeding train. He returned lots of lost wallets and jewelry.

In appreciation, he was rewarded with a better job, often as a clerk in his new benefactor's office. At this point he was introduced to his employer's daughter -- described by Alger as "winsome" and "flirtatious" -- who found him fascinating.

Recognizing his initiative and shrewdness, he was sent upon a hazardous journey that tested his grit and detective skills. He faced a variety of perils, during the course of which he met someone who helped solve the puzzle of his past. The mission was always a triumph, and he achieved solid middle-class respectability by the time he reached 18. There was the inevitable joyous ending, often with the mortgaged homestead snatched from the clutches of a scheming village squire and enemies scattered in disarray.<sup>7</sup>

To one-time youths who are now well along in years, Alger's name stirs recollections of good old days long past. They recall rattling good, uncomplicated tales that left them feeling warm and happy in Alger's fixed world of order, security and eventual prosperity.

But critics carped that Horatio Alger was an over-rated fraud. That he misled youngsters, probably causing many who stood up to the neighborhood bully to wind up with a bloody nose. Some believe Alger so frightened readers with tales of mortgage foreclosures that millions grew up fearful of mortgages, although they didn't really know why they were afraid, or what they were afraid of.

Others complain that his heroes succeeded more by luck than by ability. And they were money-mad, claimed Paul Gallico, pointing out that these gallant lads never saved a poor man's daughter. Saul Bellow suggested that "Alger had a potent message; that worldly asceticism leads to capitalistic success."

Concerning his admittedly meager talent, Russel Crouse called these stories "literary murder." Nevertheless, a *New York Times* editorial, praising their "irresistible attraction," called Alger the "prose laure-

If I would have my name endure,  
He will it on the hearts of men  
In characters of living light  
From kindly deeds and actions  
wrought,  
And these, beyond the reach of time,  
Shall live, immortal as my thought.  
Horatio Alger, Jr.  
Feb 25, 1892.

**This Alger inscription from 1892 is the final stanza of his once-popular poem "Carving a Name."**

ate" for young people. Westbrook Pegler denounced Alger's stalwarts as "sanctimonious little heels." But Heywood Brown recommended these "simple tales of honesty triumphant." William L. Shirer, in his memoirs, recalled finding "Alger's books a constant delight. We youngsters read them avidly. They became our gospel."

The historian Stewart Holbrook described them as "the most influential tripe ever published in this country." My own favorite comment comes from S.N. Behrman. Rediscovering an Alger novel he had cherished years before, he simply declared, "I don't know any comparable reading experience. It is like taking a shower in sheer innocence."

Nevertheless, some criticism is justified. Alger was a sloppy writer, primarily because he usually wrote two or three stories at the same time. He made many errors, misplacing characters; sometimes having them disappear from one narrative to unexplainedly reappear in another.

But Alger was clumsiest when it came to romance, a subject about which he knew nothing, and which he generally avoided. When inadvertently brushing up against intimacy, he became entangled in double-entendre that, even in his day, must have raised eyebrows.

For instance, when the hero of "Tom Temple's Career" was the guest of Miss Imogene Davenport, she declared: "I want to show you some engravings!" A few sentences later Alger confided that "Imogene laid herself out to entertain him, and at all events, succeeded in monopolizing his attention." And as Miss Pendleton, an aged spinster in "Sink or Swim," was about to start a vacation, the author revealed that she looked forward to the kind of "intercourse which her mode of life for many

(Continued on Page 6)

## In search of Horatio Alger!

(Continued from Page 5)

years has rendered impracticable."

One wonders what became of the manuscripts of Alger's relics of the gaslit era, because virtually none has survived to the present day. One explanation is that, as most of them were first serialized in weekly story papers, and he customarily delivered installments precariously close to press time, pages were divided among a number of typesetters who, upon finishing each sheet, let it fall to the floor to be swept away.

The only existing Alger manuscript of a complete novel is an attempt at adult fiction that was either put aside by the author or rejected by the publishers. Titled "Mabel Parker," it came to light in 1961, when I was doing research on my biography-bibliography, "Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era." I found it in a cavernous, dimly-lit New York loft where the archives of Street & Smith -- which had been absorbed into the Conde Nast organization -- stretched in endless lanes of steel stacks and file cabinets.

I was searching for evidence to link Alger's posthumous works to the phenomenal Edward Stratemeyer who -- describing himself as Alger's literary executor -- between 1900 and 1908 created from Alger's notes and outlines 11 titles that carried Horatio Alger's byline, followed by the notation, "Completed by Arthur M. Winfield."<sup>6</sup>

Let me try to share with you my thrill of this discovery. From a dusty folder I pulled the "Mabel Parker" manuscript; 203 hand-written sheets, divided into seven packets. Around each, Alger affixed a band of paper inscribed with the chapter number and his name. Most of these contained about 30 sheets, all of them filled with 28 lines of small, fine script.

The curator, a Street & Smith staff member called from retirement to oversee these files, told me there had been other manuscripts, but she was instructed to discard them, along with other records that had been judged worthless.

"But I held on to this one," she said. "I was sure some day it might mean something to someone."

The "Mabel Parker" manuscript is now in Syracuse University's George Arents Research Library, the repository of the Street & Smith collection.

Some of Alger's earliest existing manuscripts, written as class projects at Harvard, are at the university's Houghton Library. In 1850 he produced a paper titled "Disquisition on the Immortality of Boot Soles" and a Greek version of Lacey's "Address in Behalf of the Greeks." The following year he wrote "The Poetry of the Troubadors" and won first prize for his Bowdoin disser-

tation, "Athens in the Time of Socrates" (submitted under the pen name Athenaceus, but he later wrote his own name on the cover), and another Bowdoin entry in Greek, "The State of Athens Before the Legislation of Solon" (which he signed "By Zeta, a Member of the Junior Class"). In his senior year, 1852, he wrote an English oration on "Cicero's Return from Banishment."

Those seeking Horatio Alger manuscript material will fare best pursuing letters he wrote to publishers, friends, other authors and replies to correspondence from adoring readers.

The most extensive group is at the Henry E. Huntington Library. Most of these are addressed to Irving Blake, a young journalist for whom Alger obtained a job at the **New York Tribune**. They include several dozen sometimes rambling letters written over a five-year period, starting April 7, 1894, when Blake was 16 years old. Here are some random observations and reports of activities extracted from letters of various dates:

*"I have twice attended the Boston theatre, delivered a poem before the Women's Suffrage League and went to two entertainments in Natick...On Monday night, in Waltham, I gave a talk interspersed with readings from 'Ragged Dick'...Among the audience were about 100 boys. One met me on the street the next day and said 'Yer done good last evenin'. When are you going to lecture again?' What gratifies me most is that boys, through strangers, seem to regard me as a personal friend.*

*"A new game called 'Authors' will be issued by the U.S. Playing Card Company, in Cincinnati, in the fall. I am in it. I have sent them my photograph, which will appear...A boy writes me from a Georgia college that they have my books in the library.*

*"It was cold here this morning, only 18 degrees at 7 o'clock. However, we keep the house warm and comfortable...The country is still pleasant. Looking out the window I see on the lot adjoining a hundred oak and walnut trees. The leaves are beginning to change color. Every day a few children appear whom we allow to pick up the nuts that have fallen...Already the flavor of Thanksgiving turkey can be scented from the near distance. We make more of the festival in New England than in New York.*

*"I received a letter from [John Townsend] Trowbridge a day or two since. He reports himself well and happy, 'though in his seventy-first year...[also one] from Edward S. Ellis, who seems to be hard at work as usual...He is working on his history and does considerable besides. I should think this would eventually break him down, but he is very strong and robust and not at all nervous...I envy Ellis his ability to work. My brain is very sluggish at present.*

*"In the November issue of McClure's there is an article by Mark Twain, but it is not up to his 'Innocents Abroad.' We don't improve as we grow older...I hear that Edward Bok, of the **Ladies Home Journal**, has overworked, and is feeling the effects. He is only thirty-three. I wish you may be as successful.*

Strive and Succeed! The world's temptations flee  
 Be Brave and Bold! and Strong and Steady be!  
 Shift for yourself, and prosper then you must!  
 Win Fame and Fortune while you Try and Trust!  
 Horatio Alger Jr.  
 Feb-22, 1890.

A Horatio Alger inscription from 1890. This inscription, written in verse, is composed of the titles of six of Alger's best-known books.

"Have you seen Louisa May Alcott's letter in *Ladies Home Journal*? Her ideas about the hereafter were original and peculiar. She seems to believe in a series of existences (on earth, probably), and had an idea that she had lived before. What a pity she died so soon! She had no competition as a writer for girls. There are plenty of good writers for boys. If there were not, I would occupy a larger field and have more abundant sales.

"I am glad you liked the *Argosy* story. I took special pains with it, so that I hope to leave a good impression on the readers, should that be my last.

"I wonder, Irving, how it would seem to be as young and full of life and enthusiasm as you are. I wouldn't dare to go back to 19 again, lest my share of success should prove to be less than it has been. But you will have a chance to see a strange new world with many wonderful inventions and discoveries. If I should come back 50 years from now probably I should feel bewildered in reading the *New York Tribune* of 1947 edited by Irving E. Blake, L.L.D. But in another world I may have learned things still more wonderful."

Over the decades of his incredible popularity, Alger autographed great numbers of books and some of these still exist. Besides the usual presentations, he had two favorite rhymes that he inscribed. Interestingly, he altered both over the years. One of these was:

If I would have my name endure,  
 I'll write it in the hearts of men  
 In characters of living light.  
 Of kindly deeds and actions wrought,  
 And these, beyond the reach of time,  
 Shall live, immortal as my thought.

This was the last stanza of his often reprinted poem, "Carving a Name." It appeared in numerous periodicals,

school readers and home entertainment reciters. In 1875 he included it in "Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving," a collection of 32 poems and ballads.<sup>9</sup> Several of these were regularly performed at oratory competitions.

I have in my collection an early manuscript draft of this poem; it contains one stanza less than the published version. In its final stanza "Of kindly deeds" appears as "Of kindly words" (and it has also been noted as "From kindly deeds"). The phrase "beyond the reach of time" he originally wrote as "beyond the touch of time."

The second was composed of titles of six of his books:

Strive and Succeed! The world's temptations flee;  
 Be Brave and Bold! and Strong and Steady be!  
 Shift for Yourself, and prosper then you must!  
 Win Fame and Fortune while you Try and Trust!

Alger later changed "Shift for Himself" -- it was at variance with the actual title, "Shifting for Himself" -- to another title, the new line starting "Go Slow and Sure."

Anticipating that some readers may recall a 1928 biography, supposedly based upon Alger's diaries, let me point out that those diaries never existed and the narrative, itself, was acknowledged by its author to have been a hoax.<sup>10</sup>

During the early 1960s, organizing material for my own book, I made great efforts to contact anyone alive who had known Alger. I was able to locate three men who provided accurate, vivid descriptions of his physical appearance, personality and working habits.

They included Henry Ralston, a former Street & Smith executive who was the publisher's office boy when Alger frequently called at Ormond Smith's office in the 1890s; New York Governor and United States Senator Herbert

(Continued on Page 8)

## In search of Horatio Alger!

(Continued from Page 7)

H. Lehman and Lehman's friend, the Hon. Lewis Einstein, a retired diplomat who was then living in Paris. Alger had been a tutor to Einstein and his sister about 1888, and Lehman frequently joined the three of them on walks or visited Einstein's home when Alger was present.<sup>11</sup>

There was a fourth person who could have helped and, although I saw him almost every day for many months, I was unaware of his Alger connection until I read these lines in a letter to Irving Blake dated Dec. 3, 1896:

"A few days since I had an hour's talk with one of the leading editors of the **Philadelphia Press**. He is a man of about 30 and a native of Natick. He was here on a week's vacation. His name is Wilson Fairbanks."

In 1942, when I was a copy boy starting my own career as a newspaperman at the **New York Times**, Mr. Fairbanks -- nobody called him Wilson -- was the chief editor on the national news copy desk. Based upon Alger's estimate of his age in 1896, he was 76 in 1942. Fairbanks was tall, gaunt with a walrus mustache and a shock of white hair that he constantly pushed back from his forehead.

He was an irascible old gentleman, as impatient with his subeditors as he was with the copy boys. During our nightly lull, waiting for the first edition to come off the presses, he sat alone -- with legs crossed and an arm draped over the back of his chair -- glaring balefully out over the vast **Times** newsroom. Had I known then what my research disclosed 20 years later, I might have approached him -- albeit timidly -- and might have said, "Mr. Fairbanks. Tell me about Horatio Alger!"

### NOTES

1. On April 30, 1982, Postmaster General William F. Bolger conducted the ceremony at Willow Grove, Pa., where the 20-cent stamp was unveiled at the annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society. When issuance was finally approved after having been twice rejected, media hailed it as "a typical Horatio Alger success story," noting that members of the Society's Commemorative Stamp Committee personally lobbied the Citizens Stamp Advisory Panel and every member of Congress.

2. Alger was born at Chelsea, Mass., Jan. 13, 1832. He died at nearby South Natick July 18, 1899.

3. Horatio Alger Jr., "Struggling Upward" (New York: Dover Publications, 1984). Foreword by Ralph D. Gardner, "The Return of Horatio Alger," p. vi.

4. Grace Williamson Edes, "Annals of the Harvard Class of 1852" (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1922), pp. 54, 121, 193 et passim.

5. Ralph D. Gardner, "Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era" (Mendota, Ill., Wayside Press, 1964), p.

151. Rejection from military service was due to asthma and possibly also because of Alger's height. He was barely five feet tall.

6. Horatio Alger, Jr. "A Fancy of Hers"/"The Disagreeable Woman" (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1981). Foreword by Ralph D. Gardner, pp. 7-15. Alger was minister of the First Parish Unitarian Church, Brewster, Mass., November 1864-March 1866. He resigned after being accused by a church-appointed committee of involvement in a homosexual incident.

7. Foreword to "Struggling Upward," op. cit., pp. vi, vii.

8. The prolific Edward Stratemeyer invented the Winfield pen name as author of his Rover Boys Series. He also created Victor Appleton as author of the Stratemeyer Syndicate's Tom Swift Series; Laura Lee Hope as author of the Bobbsey Twins Series; Carolyn Keene as author of the Nancy Drew Series and other successful pseudonyms and syndicate house names. Stratemeyer rewrote "Mabel Parker" for juvenile readers and published it as "Jerry, the Backwoods Boy" (Rahway, N.J.-New York: The Mershon Company, 1904), one of the 11 Stratemeyer-Alger "completions."

9. "Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving" (Boston: A.K. Loring, 1875) appears to have been issued in a single, small edition. Most copies examined carry an Alger inscription, either personalized of "With the compliments of the author."

10. Herbert B. Mayes, "Alger: A Biography Without a Hero" (New York: Macy-Masius, 1928). For many years researchers doubted the existence of these diaries, upon which the Mayes version was based. Mayes set the record straight in a letter dated July 3, 1972, to Bill Henderson, who was then Associate Editor, Doubleday & Company. "Not merely was my Alger biography partly fictional, it was practically all fictional," he wrote, adding that "the project was undertaken with malice aforethought -- a takeoff on the debunking biographies that were quite popular in the 20s." My own copy of his book he autographed: "For Ralph Gardner, with good wishes, from the perpetrator of the hoax. Herb Mayes." See Horatio Alger, Jr., "Silas Snobden's Office Boy" (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Company, 1973), Foreword: "A New Book by Horatio Alger!" by Ralph D. Gardner, p. 6 and footnote 3, p. 25.

11. "Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era," op. cit., pp. 200, 204, 227, 228 et passim. Alger had been a teacher and even after becoming a successful author he tutored children of prominent New York families. During 1883-84 he prepared future United States Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo for entrance exams at Columbia University. As Cardozo was only 15 when he passed with a near-perfect score, he was required to wait another year before entering; pp. 271-275.



# More than Brown Apples!

## *Porter and Coates Algers, Part II*

by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)

The Porter and Coates name is very familiar to Alger collectors and, it brings immediately to my mind as least, really nice-quality books.

For example, I own the whole 28-title set of what is known as the "Brown Apples" format and I have it displayed alone on one bookshelf. The set always commands the attention of visitors to my Alger library with its beautiful spines of dark brown and gold with black lettering.

*Alger at first glance*

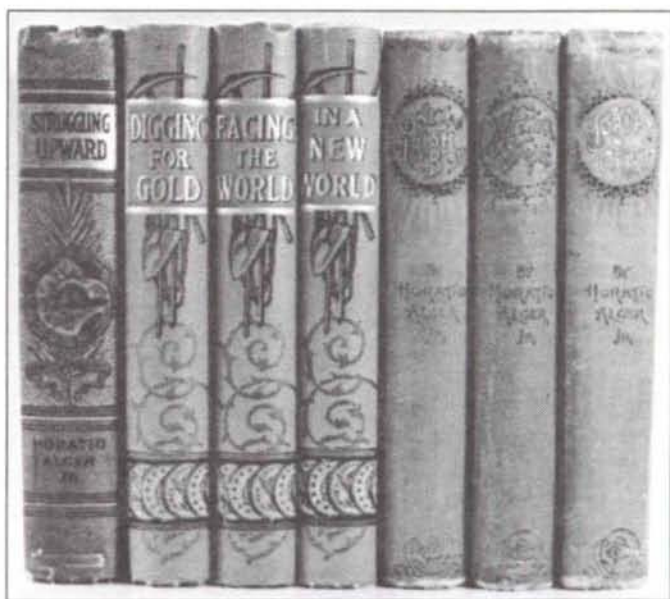
There are eight Alger first editions produced in this lovely format by Porter and Coates with the remaining 20 titles reprints of books originally published by A.K. Loring. These were described in detail in Part I of this survey of Porter and Coates editions appearing in the May-June 1993 issue of *Newsboy*.

However those eight titles were not the only first editions of Alger's stories that Porter and Coates produced. According to Bennett<sup>1</sup>, between 1882 and 1895, the firm published 15 Alger first editions in four different formats. Each of these formats is very attractive and they are books of obvious high quality, designed, I'm sure, to entice purchase by the young readers of the day.

The Porter and Coates firm was formed in 1867,<sup>2</sup> but it was not until 1882 that it published its initial Alger first edition with the release that year of "Ben's Nugget." A variety of Alger editions, both first editions and reprints, were possible at that time because of Porter and Coates' purchase of the bankrupt A.K. Loring's stock. Alger first editions then flowed from the Porter and Coates firm until Mr. Porter retired in 1895.<sup>3</sup>

The firm then changed its name to Henry T. Coates & Co., which continued to produce Algers, 11 of which appeared in four different formats and are considered by Bennett as Alger first editions.<sup>4</sup> A description of these latter first editions will be the subject of Part III of this series on Alger firsts published by Porter and Coates and Henry T. Coates and will appear in the September-October 1993 *Newsboy*.

It is interesting to note that the two Coates firms (Porter and Coates and Henry T. Coates & Co.) together produced 26 Alger first editions over a 21-year period between 1882 and 1903. There is little doubt that Henry T. Coates, who was so much a part of both firms, had a major and direct influence on the number of Alger first editions produced. In this regard, these 26, added to the 37 Alger firsts published by A.K. Loring during prior decades, total 63 titles, which is more than half of all



**The three first-edition formats used from 1890 to 1895 by Porter and Coates, from left: Bee Hive, Coins and Sunburst.**

known Alger first-edition books. History reveals, therefore, that these two men -- Henry T. Coates and Aaron K. Loring -- had a major influence in bringing new Alger stories to millions of young readers during the latter part of the 19th century.

The Porter and Coates Company produced Alger firsts in four basic formats, which are shown in chronological order by date of publication in Table 1 on Page 10.

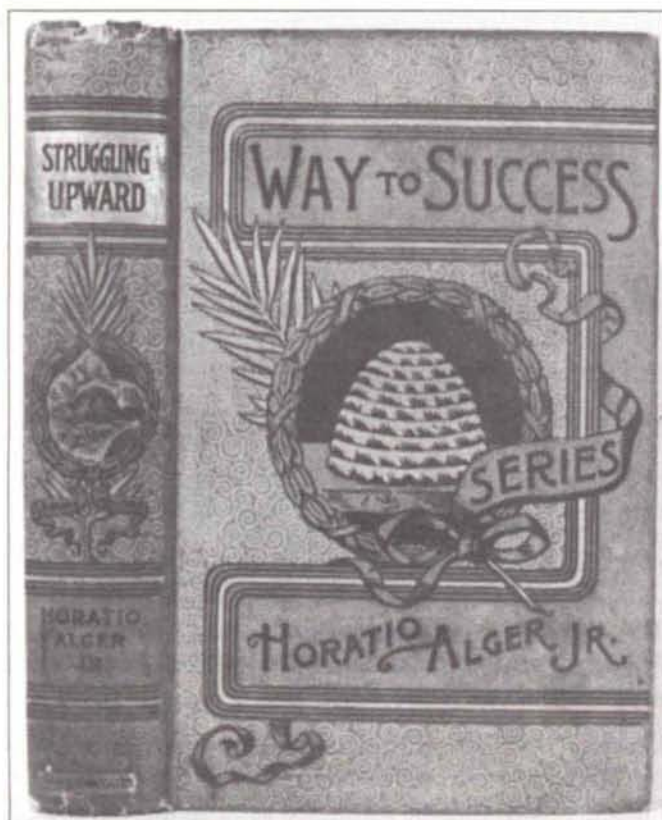
For easy reference purposes, I've used common names for these formats by picking out a prominent feature of the format. The four are Brown Apples, Bee Hive, Coins and Sunburst. It should be noted that Porter and Coates also produced Alger reprints in several other formats during this same time period.

Apparently as a matter of company policy, judging from the list in Table 1, Porter and Coates produced at least one first-edition Alger per year for the 14 years it published Algers, except in 1891. When the new firm of Henry T. Coates & Co. was formed in 1895, this policy of at least one Alger first edition per year was continued.

The four first-edition formats vary significantly from each other in size, color, style and general character. In fact, their covers have very little in common to indicate they were published by the same firm. Why Porter and Coates did this, we do not know.

In the case of the Brown Apples format, we know that there were 28 titles produced in that format, 20 of which have roots as Loring editions and eight first editions (listed in Table 1). More research needs to be done to determine if the other Porter and Coates first editions were a part of a set containing other titles by Alger

(Continued on Page 10)



"Struggling Upward" is the lone Alger first edition appearing in the Bee Hive format.

## More than Brown Apples!

### Porter and Coates Algers, Part II

(Continued from Page 9)

included with the works of other authors or produced one time as a single run.

The four Porter and Coates first-edition formats, using Bennett as a source, are described as follows:

#### Brown Apples Format

For a full description of this format, see Part I of this series in the May-June 1993 *Newsboy*. However, a brief description follows to properly place the Brown Apples within the total Porter and Coates Alger publishing history.

There are two cloth colors for this format: dark brown and gold (yellow-tan). A first edition can be found in either color. I collect the dark brown books because the brown color is very attractive contrasted with the black lettering on gold background on the spine and the black-outlined apples depicted on both the front cover and spine.

The front cover is 4 3/4 by 6 7/8 inches in size, smaller and sometimes thicker and more compact than the usual Alger. According to advertisements in the books them-

**Table 1**  
The 15 Porter & Coates Alger First Editions

Brown Apples format	
Title	Publication Date
Ben's Nugget.....	1882
The Young Circus Rider.....	1883
Do and Dare.....	1884
Hector's Inheritance.....	1885
Helping Himself.....	1886
The Store Boy.....	1887
Bob Burton.....	1888
Luke Walton.....	1889
Bee Hive format	
Struggling Upward.....	1890
Coins format	
Digging for Gold.....	1892
Facing the World.....	1893
In a New World.....	1893
Sunburst format	
Only an Irish Boy.....	1894
Victor Vane.....	1894
Adrift in the City.....	1895

selves, the cost per volume was \$1.25.

The front cover has the title stamped in black, a row of dashes and connecting dots bordered by black lines with some fruit leaves and apples on a branch and many small flowers all against a rectangular black background. Near the bottom, the last name of the author is stamped in black. The spine has the title in black against a gold background and "Alger" and "Porter & Coates" blindstamped on gold. The apples-and-leaves design, taking up the middle third of the spine, is wrapped around from the front cover. As in the other formats, the back cover is plain.

#### Bee Hive Format

There is only one first-edition Alger title in this format, "Struggling Upward," published in 1890.

The cover size is 5 1/4 by 7 3/8 inches, much larger than the Brown Apples format. It is in gray cloth, stamped in orange, black and gold. The cover and spine have an overall filigree design in orange. There are black and orange ruled lines and the words "Way to Success" at the top of the front cover and "Horatio Alger Jr." along the bottom. At the center of the cover is a vignette of a bee hive in orange and black within a wreath, a palm frond behind and a ribbon tied at the bottom trailing off into the word "Series."

(Continued on Page 11)

The spine has the title, "Struggling Upward," a vignette of a beaver, some black and gold ruled lines and blind-stamped against a gold panel are the words Porter & Coates. This format also has a plain rear cover.

#### Coins Format

The three titles produced in this format as first editions were published in 1892 and 1893.

The cover size is 5 1/4 by 7 5/8 inches, slightly taller than the Bee Hive format. The binding is in a light-brown (beige) pictorial cloth, stamped in yellow and black. The title on the front cover is in yellow with the right edges of the letters outlined in black, and "Horatio Alger Jr." printed in black. The front contains an illustration of mountains, trees, a leafy vine-like filigree. Near the bottom of the cover is a large filled sack superimposed over a horizontal row of yellow coins bordered by three rules top and bottom.

The title on the spine is stamped in gold with the right edges of the letters outlined in black. Behind the title block is an illustration of a group of tools (pick, shovel, road and rope) with the vine-like filigree below it. The yellow row of coins is continued over from the front cover with the same triple rules top and bottom. Again, the rear cover contains no illustrations or lettering.

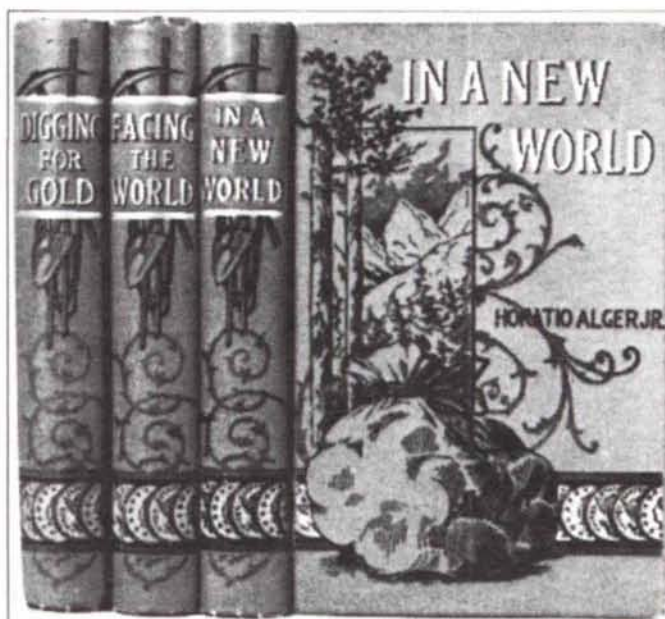
#### Sunburst Format

The three titles in this format were published in 1894 and 1895 and are among the harder Alger first editions to find. The cover size is 5 1/8 by 7 5/8 inches, slightly narrower in width than the two previous formats.

The binding is also in light-brown cloth, this time stamped in blue, black and gold. The front cover is in blue and black and has a ribbon design along the top and left side and a smaller ribbon pattern in the lower right corner. In blue, bordered in black within a sunburst design, is the title. Alger's full name is centered just below the sunburst.

The spine, in blue, black and gold, also has a sunburst surrounding the title, which is in gold, the first and last words of which are bordered in black. The top of the spine has a small decoration in black and the author's name is listed in the center of the spine in four lines as follows: By/Horatio/Alger/Jr. At the bottom of the spine is the "P&C" Porter and Coates logo in black within a ribbon design. As with the other formats, there are no illustrations or lettering on the back cover.

The 15 Porter and Coates Alger first editions are books of high quality, they contain some tough titles for the collector to find and, as a lot, they have very attractive formats. They were published almost annually over a 14-year period and were produced in four different formats, which vary substantially in binding color, design and size. Their striking cover colors, carefully crafted, imprinted cover illustrations, lettering and overall quality make these gems of antiquity an invaluable and impres-



**The Coins format (1892-93), top, and Sunburst format (1894-95) each offered three of Porter and Coates' Alger first editions.**

sive addition to any Alger collection.

#### NOTES

1. Bennett, Bob. "Horatio Alger Jr.: A Comprehensive Bibliography." 1983, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.: Flying Eagle Publishing Co.
2. Stern, Madeleine B. (editor). "Publishers for Mass Entertainment in 19th Century America." 1980. G. H. Hall & Co.
3. Tebbel, John H. "A History of Book Publishing in the United States," Vol. II. 1975, New York and London: R.R. Bowker Co., page 423.
4. Bennett, pp. 41-128.

# The Rover Boys at School . . . Again, Again and Again

by Rocco J. Musemeche (PF-897)

Step through the doors of Edward Stratemeyer's military boarding schools and you're delightfully transported to those special decades of a resurgent America following the War Between the States.

Look through the eyes of the Rover Boys and see a thousand vignettes of picnics in sylvan glades, bicycles and carriages and those newfangled motor cars, town squares and opera houses -- a way of life filled with fun and adventure.

*Other authors...  
...other books*

Stratemeyer, under his Arthur M. Winfield pseudonym, is a one-man preservation society for an American lifestyle that perhaps existed primarily in his prolific imagination. Stratemeyer takes his readers for a ride through the history of America, according to Winfield, in the same vehicle he uses to educate his characters -- fine schools. Schools are a hub of a good deal of the Winfield story wheel.

Unlike today when American students usually leave home for the first time to attend college, Winfield has his young heroes headed for boarding schools in their early teens. One could almost fault Anderson Rover for being something less than an adoring parent as he depends on the educators at such hallowed halls as Putnam, Colby and Brill college for his progeny's upbringing.

While Anderson -- a widower -- is off traveling the world, Uncle Randy and Aunt Martha provide homelife at Valley Brook Farm and the schools are counted on to instill discipline and a sense of value for his kids. It's probably a good thing Anderson was such a wanderer: had he stayed home and fulfilled his parental obligations, the Rovers might never have gone to Putnam and we'd have missed out on some great fun.

Stratemeyer/Winfield takes delight in describing the travels to school. He also goes to great lengths to detail the three academic sites he has selected for his stories. For instance, the original Rovers -- Dick, Tom and Sam -- depart for Putnam Hall from Valley Brook Farm, a bucolic 200-acre spread in the Mohawk Valley of New

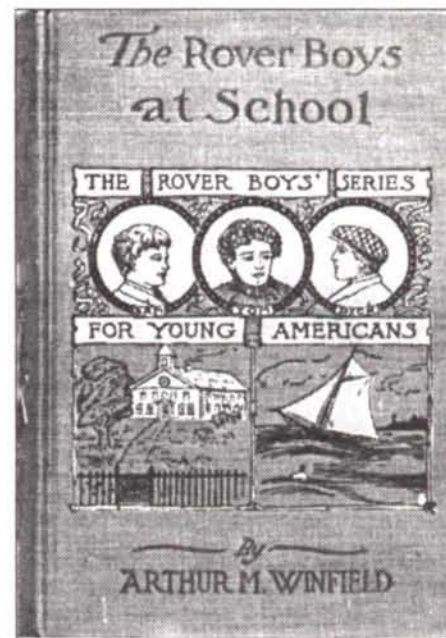
York. Our heroes travel by train from the Oak Run railroad station to Ithaca, across Lake Cayuga by the steamer Golden Star to Cedarville, and then in a horse-drawn carriage to Putnam Hall.

The carriage allows Winfield to introduce Peleg Snuggers, Putnam Hall's tall, lean fiftyish general utilityman. Snuggers steers the lads in a carriage that rolls up a cracked stone road flanked by maples. Winfield punctuates the ride with the happy shouts of excited new students, the creaking, clanking of that old carriage and the occasional whinny of an experienced old nag who knows a bag of oats and a drink of cold water await when the entourage reaches Putnam's 10-acre parade ground.

Putnam Hall's headmaster and namesake is Victor

Putnam, a West Point graduate who chose fighting Indians over marital skirmishes and became a confirmed bachelor. An injury forced Putnam into early military retirement and a tidy and timely inheritance allowed him to establish his school.

Putnam's military bearing is reflected



in his students, who are attired in uniforms with drilling and target practice among the daily requirements. For the most part, top-flight instructors man this fortress of education, but Putnam, who should have known better, does hire one Josiah Crabtree, a loser if there ever was one. Perhaps Crabtree's employment as a villain was part of a deal Putnam cut with Winfield to be featured in the novels.

Winfield takes particular care in describing the physical plants of his schools. Putnam Hall is pictured with a three-story, E-shaped brick-and-stone main building. Classrooms, administrative offices and the mess hall occupy the first floor with dormitory areas on the other floors. The grounds slope to Lake Cayuga where a bathing pavilion, boathouse and gymnasium are located. A barn and several minor structures are nearby, all conveniently spotted to serve not only the Hall's purposes but also the cadets' needs for secret meetings, adventure and

(Continued on Page 13)

an occasional fire or two when some action is called for.

The Rovers dallied through 13 volumes to complete their Putnam Hall studies but Brill College loomed ahead. Winfield places Brill near the town of Ashton "in a midwestern state."

Ever the romantic -- and with no mean appreciation for the story possibilities -- the author points out that Brill is located only two miles from Hope seminary, the school the Rovers' dearest girlfriends attend. The girls, Dora Stanhope and cousins Grace and Nellie Laning, met our heroes on that first trip aboard the Golden Star.

Brill's president, Dr. Wallington, is described as a tall, lean gentleman of scholarly mien (is he somehow related to the also tall and lean Peleg Snuggers?).

Our heroes somehow finish Brill despite the harassment from a motley crew of villains. Do the names Dudd Flockley and Jerry Koswell ring a satanic bell?

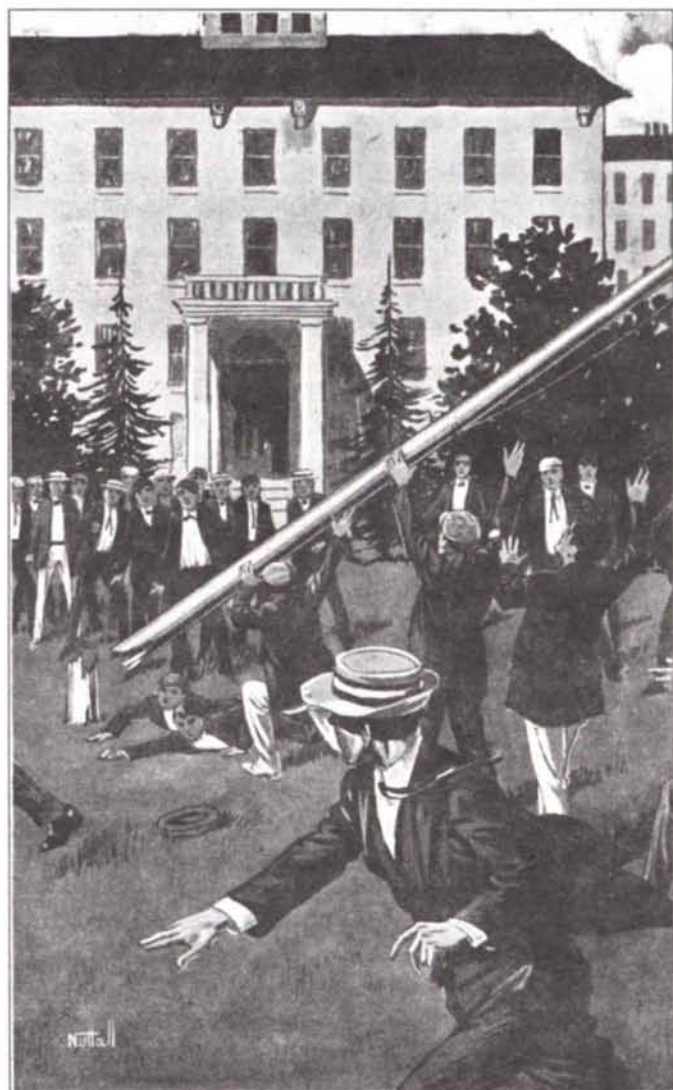
Public demand for more of the Rover-style fun and adventure and an ever-present need for money played key roles in Stratemeyer's decision to let Winfield create a second Rover Boys series. First, he keeps the Cedarville Union Church busy with weddings that pair Dick and Dora, Tom and Nellie and Sam and Grace. Naturally, the boys become very well-heeled businessmen (or did Anderson finally stop traveling and set up the boys financially?). The trio and their wives live next to each other in homes that overlook the Hudson River on New York City's Riverside Drive. Eventually, nature takes its course (What? No "The Rovers meet the Stork; or, Dick, Tom and Sam become Fathers?") and Jack, Fred and twins Randy and Andy make the scene.

With 10 volumes of the second Rover series facing him, Winfield turns to an old friend, education, for his story lines. Unfortunately, Putnam Hall has burned to the ground and Captain Putnam is too advanced in age to rebuild. However, via an imaginative stroke of the pen, Winfield notes that a schoolmate of the original Rovers, Larry Colby, is now headmaster of the Colby Hall Boarding School for Boys. Winfield located Colby Hall "somewhere in the heart of New England."

Jack, Fred, Randy and Andy head to Colby via train from Grand Central Station to Haven Point, the most picturesque of all the settings for Winfield's schools.

Winfield places Colby Hall on a hill overlooking the Rick Rack River at the head of Clearwater Lake. Clearwater's two-mile-long, half-mile-wide surface is rippled with small islands. The Rick Rack tumbles from dangerous rapids to calm and broad. A country road borders the river on one side and timber and farms border it on the other.

Colby's main structure, like Putnam Hall's, is also three stories, this time in the shape of a cross. Colonel Colby lives in a small brick structure off to one side of the main building, a gymnasium is on the opposite side and



"HOLD IT UP, OR THEY'LL ALL BE KILLED."—Page 90.

*The Rover Boys at College.*

a long wooden house serves as a boat ramp and bath house.

Columbus Academy and Hixley are nearby to provide the necessary athletic and romantic rivalries. Just by coincidence, Winfield locates Clearwater Hall for Girls just down the road in Haven Point. If it appears Winfield has simply updated the original series and changed the names to protect the innocent, that's accurate.

Winfield knew a winning and salable hand when he saw one. Like the first series, the second Rover Boys series was enormously popular. Kids across America dreamed of being like the Rovers, away from home, flush with money, surrounded by pretty girls of perfect training and temperament, always able to come out on top despite the best efforts of jealous villains. The Rovers were never at a loss for adventure and were able to pull "pranks" that today might get them arrested or at least

(Continued on Page 14)

## The Rover Boys at School ... Again, Again and Again

(Continued from Page 13)

hauled to juvenile court for a good talking-to.

At a time when some American libraries were censoring certain books felt to be detrimental to the youth of America, the Rover Boys set the tone for correctness and good taste.

At a time when many youngsters failed to complete their education, Stratemeyer had Winfield create 30 Rover Boys books that for the most part used schools heavily in the plot. Winfield even penned six books on the doings at Putnam Hall before the Rovers got there. Youngsters could fulfill their dreams and attend Putnam, Brill or Colby by simply opening a book. Winfield created a campus of the mind, a school of dreams -- Stratemeyer Hall -- and his readers were the better for the experience.

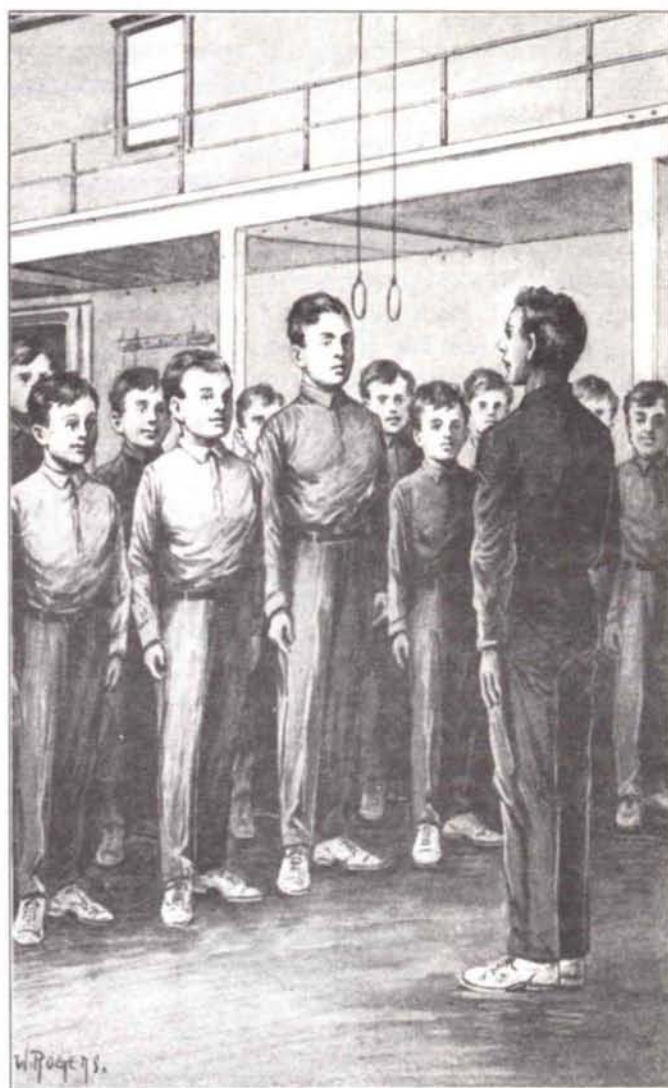
### The Rover Boys' Series for Young Americans

#### First series:

1. The Rover Boys at School ..... Mershon ... 1899
2. The Rover Boys on the Ocean ..... Mershon ... 1899
3. The Rover Boys in the Jungle ..... Mershon ... 1899
4. The Rover Boys out West ..... Mershon ... 1900
5. The Rover Boys on the Great Lakes ..... Mershon ... 1901
6. The Rover Boys in the Mountans ..... Mershon ... 1902
7. The Rover Boys on Land and Sea ..... Mershon ... 1903
8. The Rover Boys in Camp ..... Mershon ... 1904
9. The Rover Boys on the River ..... Stitt ..... 1905
10. The Rover Boys on the Plains ..... Mershon ... 1906
11. The Rover Boys in Southern Waters .... Mershon ... 1907
12. The Rover Boys on the Farm ..... G&D ..... 1908
13. The Rover Boys on Treasure Isle ..... G&D ..... 1909
14. The Rover Boys at College ..... G&D ..... 1910
15. The Rover Boys Down East ..... G&D ..... 1911
16. The Rover Boys in the Air ..... G&D ..... 1912
17. The Rover Boys in New York ..... G&D ..... 1913
18. The Rover Boys in Alaska ..... G&D ..... 1914
19. The Rover Boys in Business ..... G&D ..... 1915
20. The Rover Boys on a Tour ..... G&D ..... 1916

#### Second Series:

21. The Rover Boys at Colby Hall ..... G&D ..... 1917
22. The Rover Boys on Snowshoe Island ... G&D ..... 1918
23. The Rover Boys Under Canvas ..... G&D ..... 1919
24. The Rover Boys on a Hunt ..... G&D ..... 1920
25. The Rover Boys in the Land of Luck .... G&D ..... 1921
26. The Rover Boys at Big Horn Ranch ..... G&D ..... 1922
27. The Rover Boys at Big Bear Lake ..... G&D ..... 1923
28. The Rover Boys Shipwrecked ..... G&D ..... 1924
29. The Rover Boys on Sunset Trail ..... G&D ..... 1925
30. The Rover Boys Winning a Fortune ..... G&D ..... 1926



THEY WERE PLACED IN WHAT WAS CALLED AN AWKWARD SQUAD  
*The Rover Boys at Colby Hall.* Page 125

### *Did you enjoy this article?*

It was presented at the the 1993 annual joint conference of the Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association at New Orleans, La.

The next PCA/ACA conference is set for April 6-9, 1994 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago and you're invited to take part. Papers can be given on any topic relating to dime novels, pulps and series books.

First-time participants should send a one or two-page proposal; previous participants should send a 50-word abstract by September 15, 1993, to:

**Kathleen Chamberlain, English Dept.  
Emory and Henry College  
Emory, Va. 24327**

All participants must be members of the PCA or ACA. For dues information write to Ray Browne, Department of Popular Culture, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403.

## MEMBERSHIP

### New members:

David Farah (PF-915)  
3110 Park Newport, #412  
Newport Beach, CA 92660 (714) 644-6680

Dave, a lawyer, is also the publisher of "Farah's Guide," which is a "must" for Nancy Drew collectors (see ad on Page 16). He attended the 1989 convention in Chillicothe, Ohio.

Jessie Darska (PF-916)  
6158 S. Narragansett  
Chicago, IL 60629

Rick Fuller (PF-917)  
509 Linda Lane  
Clarksville, TN 37042 (615) 648-2737

Rick is a military officer (pilot) whose other hobbies include travel, hiking, racquetball and antiques. He learned about H.A.S. through Ed Mattson's article on Alger in **AntiqueWeek**.

Gilbert J. Rutenschroer (PF-918)  
3881 Jessup Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45247 (513) 385-0257

Gilbert, who is retired, owns 80 Alger titles. His other hobby is clocks. He also heard about the Society from Ed Mattson's article.

Donald Cripe (PF-919)  
210 E. Sherman St.  
Bremen, IN 46506 (219) 546-3763

Donald's other hobbies include fishing, singing, senior citizen Bible studies and reading. He learned about the Society from his father Paul (PF-633).

Thomas J Kemp, Special Collections Dept.  
University of South Florida Library 407  
4202 East Fowler Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33620

### Change of address:

Jeff Looney (PF-903)  
20 Erdman Ave.  
Princeton, N.J. 80540-3908 (609) 924-4068

### Moving?

If you are changing your address or phone number, or if your current H.A.S. roster listing is incorrect, send your new address and phone number immediately to Executive Secretary Carl Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, MI 48910.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

The following was taken from a presentation at the annual Horatio Alger Association Medal Awards on NBC TV on June 27, 1993. The show was produced by Don Johnson productions. Don Johnson (the movie actor) made the following statement just after the show started. You may want to consider reproducing it in **Newsboy**.

Sincerely,  
Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524)  
5739 Winston Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46226

*Editor's note: Don Johnson's statement follows:*

*"Over 100 years ago when our country was recovering from its great Civil War, a failed poet, educated at Harvard, decided his love of writing was so strong that rejection letters from publishers did not really matter. He had a passion to write.*

*"Gifted with a keen sense of observation, Horatio Alger began interviewing the children of American immigrants. Most were poor, many orphaned without family or teachers to inspire them or guide them. But these were Horatio's heroes. They earned their keep shining shoes, peddling newspapers, delivering messages -- lucky to earn a penny or two a day from their courageous stories. Horatio Alger produced 134 [sic] novels reflecting the theme from rags to riches through ambition, honesty and respect. The titles tell it all: **Sink or Swim, Try and Trust, Brave and Bold, Strive and Succeed;** stories and bywords that motivated generations of American youth to reach for the stars.*

*"And just how many books did the rejected poet end up selling? Over 400 million copies, making him still the most widely read author in America and a name synonymous with hard-earned success. Now, ladies and gentlemen, that's a story to celebrate."*

Dear Bill:

The past three years that I have been a member of the Horatio Alger Society I have been impressed not only by the knowledge our members have concerning Alger, but also their knowledge regarding other books of the past.

*(Continued on Page 16)*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 15)

It is concerning the latter subject that I am writing to you to ask for help. I wish to locate a boys book series that my father has mentioned as being available in the public library in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

I do not know the author or the publisher, only the overall subject and names of the main characters. The overall subject of all the books in the series is pioneers/Indians. The main character is a young man named Henry Ware. The supporting characters are Paul Cotter, Old Sol and an Indian whose name begins with a T.

I would appreciate it if you would inquire among our members at the upcoming convention regarding this matter or if possible place an inquiry in Newsboy.

Best regards,  
Bill Caspar (PF-853)  
5108 Cathedral Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20016

*Editor's note: We went to several of the most knowledgeable collectors and researchers during the convention and drew a blank. Is there anyone out there who can help Bill identify the series he describes above?*

**Let's hear from you!** Share your collecting experiences or other news of interest to fellow members by writing to **Newsboy** editor Bill Gowen at 923 South Lake St., Apt. 6, Mundelein, IL 60060.

## BOOK MART

Jack Bales (PF-258)  
1 Greenbrier Court, #203  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
(H): 703-373-8423  
(W): 703-899-4587

### For sale:

(1) Album of 112 Horatio Alger First-Day Covers, featuring 1982 Alger stamp. Includes many hand-painted covers in limited editions, and first-day ceremony program. Also includes 22 1952 Newspaper Boy first-day covers. See July-August 1984 **Newsboy** for reproductions of many of these. \$300 or best offer.

(2) First edition (1928) of Herbert R. Mayes' "Alger: A Biography Without a Hero" in very good dust jacket, inscribed "For Jack Bales, from the man who should have written this book in invisible ink." Signed and dated. \$100 or best offer.

# River Heights Muckraker

volume 62, number 5

75¢ every day

## FARAH GETS NEW GUIDE OUT!!

### STOCK MARKET HITS RECORD HIGH!

David Farah announced today that the long awaited ninth printing of his Nancy Drew guide is finally ready! "Yup," declared Farah, "They said it couldn't be done, but I did it!"

This reporter was so excited by the glorious news that he fainted dead away. Farah rushed to my aid, fanning me with first edition dust jackets.

A glimpse of the Guide reveals a fat book of almost 500 information-crammed



Farah, himself

pages listing Nancy Drews from 1930 to 1992! There are over thirty rare photos!

"The Guide has been completely redone with hundreds of new additions," Farah bragged. "I worked my fingers to the bone getting it out," he insisted as he showed this reporter a skeleton hand.

The Guide can be purchased directly from Farah at 3110 Park Newport #412, Newport Beach, CA 92660 for \$50.00, postage included.

CLINTON APPOINTS WIFE TO HEAD COMMITTEE, "AH PROMISE A GUIDE FOR EVERY UHMERICAN!" (page 2)

NANCY CAPTURES ANOTHER VILLAIN, "ALL IN A VOLUME'S WORK!" (back page)