



# THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY OFFICIAL PUBLICATION NEWSBOY



*Horatio Alger, Jr.*  
1832 - 1899

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

VOLUME XXXVI

JULY-AUGUST 1998

NUMBER 4

Horatio Alger  
goes international:

## *Collecting foreign editions*

-- See Page 3



The slipcase for the Japanese edition of Alger's *Struggling Upward*,  
published by the Kodansha Press of Tokyo in 1960.



## Waving the flag for Phillips Exeter

-- See Page 13

## President's column

Rereading Frank Fowler, *The Cash Boy*, a Burt edition, I noticed that the artist for the pictures was named Graves. Being curious, but not a researcher, I tried to look up Graves. No luck.

Knowing that many books are prized because of the artists, such as Palmer Cox, Harrison Fisher, Maxfield Parrish, and many others, I wondered if any of the Alger artists are famous.

In *Phil the Fiddler*, a Porter & Coates edition, the artist is Laura Caxton: *Paul, the Peddler*, also a Porter & Coates, the picture has only the initial "M". Most pictures have no name.

Could any Algers have a famous artist which would make it more valuable? The same holds true for the rest of children's books. Anyone interested?

After reading about the convention in Arizona, Jean and I wished that we could have been there. Bill Gowen did a wonderful job of writing about the convention and the board meetings. Mary and Angelo Sylvester (and all their volunteer help) according to the writeup and letters, put on one of our best conventions. For all of you that missed out you will have another chance in May 1999 at DeKalb, Ill.

Jack Bales (PF-258), former editor of *Newsboy*, had a very good article in the January issue of *First: The Book Collectors' Magazine* on Willie Morris, author of *North Toward Home*. Also, Jack's book on Esther Forbes had a great review in *Bookman's Weekly*. Keep up the good work, Jack!

Again, I want to express our many thanks to Janice & Michael Morley for the wonderful job they have done with the Horatio Alger Society Web page on the Internet. Just spent an hour looking at it and again am impressed, (almost overwhelmed) by the job they did.

With over 6,330 people looking over the Web page, you realize that Alger must hold an amazing fascination for many people. *How do we get them to join the H.A.S.???*

Jean, my wife, really enjoyed the articles by Jack Dizer on Howard R. Garis, mainly because some of his books were written about the area where her grandparents lived. Thanks, Jack. We both hope that there will be many more.

Our Executive Secretary, Rob Kasper, has informed me that as of Aug. 14 he had received 100 postcards back with only six members voting against the dues increase. We have set a deadline of September 10 to get your vote in. At that time the final votes will be tallied. If, as we expect, the new dues rates are approved, the change will

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## 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 **Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255**.

**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).
- The Fictional Republic: Horatio Alger and American Political Discourse*, by Carol Nackenoff (PF-921).
- Publication Formats of the 59 Stories by Horatio Alger, Jr. as Reprinted by the John C. Winston Co.*, by Bob Sawyer (PF-455) and Jim Thorp (PF-574).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt*, by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co.*, by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by Whitman Publishing Co.*, 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, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255.

The above rates apply to all want ads, along with ads offering non-Alger books for sale. However, it is the policy of the Horatio Alger Society to promote the exchange of Alger books and related Alger materials by providing space **free of charge** to our members for the **sale only** of such material. Send ads or "Letters to the Editor" to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.



Horatio Alger goes international:

# Collecting foreign editions

By Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)

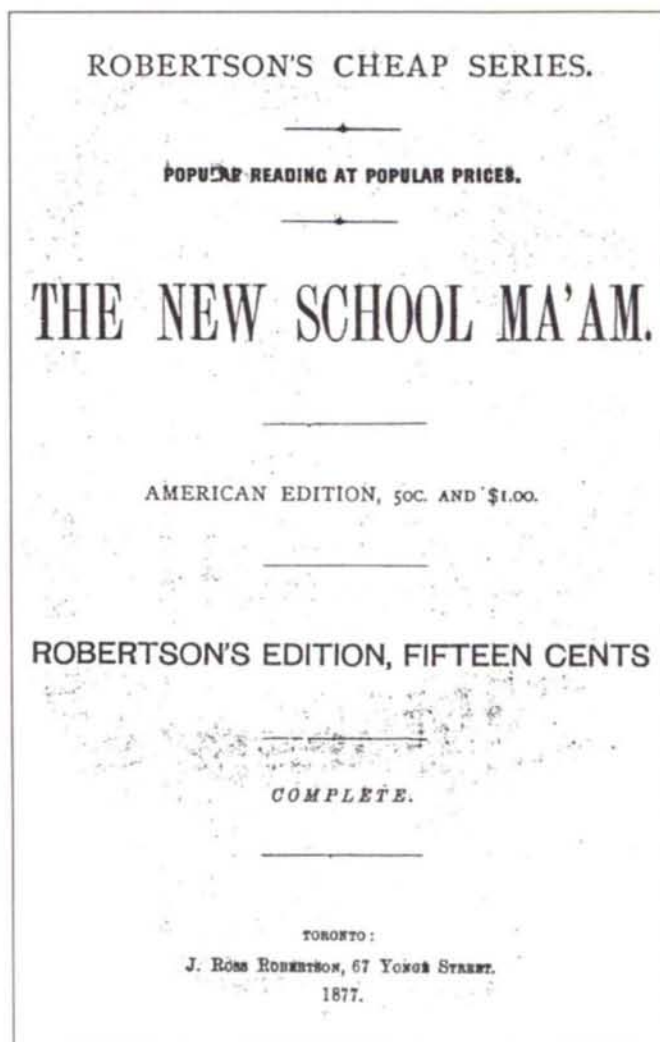
The popularity of the works of Horatio Alger, Jr. during, and after, his lifetime has been well documented in this country. The popularity of his stories in other countries has not. Because of liberal copyright laws in the U.S. prior to 1890, one might conclude that Alger was reprinted without recourse in dozens of countries and languages. This, apparently, was not the case. This article will identify all of the known (and alleged) foreign printings of stories by Horatio Alger.

The first known foreign printing in book form of any story by Horatio Alger was a Canadian edition of *The New School Ma'am*, published in late 1877 by J. Ross Robertson in Toronto. The title page from the Robertson imprint is reproduced in **Example 1**. The first American edition was published anonymously (as was the Canadian imprint) by A. K. Loring in October 1877 in paper wraps. A second edition in hard-cover was published by Loring in 1879.<sup>1</sup>

Robertson reprinted popular American novels (selling for 50 cents and \$1.00) for 15 cents and other prices as part of **Robertson's Cheap Series**, which was part of the larger **Robertson's Popular Library Series**.<sup>2</sup> The book measures 5¾ x 8½ inches bound in gray paper wraps containing 42 pages. There are 22 chapters (the same as the Loring edition) with all of the text in double columns. There are advertisements on the inside front cover and rear covers. The story is complete and unabridged from the American edition.

John Ross Robertson (1841-1918) was the founder and publisher of the **Toronto Daily Telegraph** and **Evening Star** newspapers and benefactor of many institutions in Toronto. He was also one of the most notorious literary pirates of his time and maintained a long running feud with Mark Twain, reprinting no less than 15 of his works between 1870 and 1883.<sup>3</sup>

The Canadian pirates paid no royalties and in many cases their publications preceded the American editions. Whether this is the case with the Robertson edition of *The New School Ma'am* is not known, although it must have appeared with much alacrity



**Ex. 1:** The title page of *The New School Ma'am*, the earliest known foreign printing in book form of a Horatio Alger story, published in Toronto in 1877.

considering the October printing by Loring.

*The New School Ma'am* was subsequently reprinted as *A Fancy of Hers* in the March 1892 issue of **Munsey's Magazine** under Alger's name.

A news item in the **San Francisco Morning Call** in 1890 reported that two Alger stories were to be published in Russia. The article, dated November 9, described Alger's third visit to San Francisco for the "purpose of securing subject matter for a story characteristic of California life for the **Argosy**, a New York publication with which he is now connected." The article ended stating that "some of his principal stories have been reprinted in England and two are now being translated into Russian by a gentleman at Odessa for publication next year in a periodical printed at St. Petersburg."

Whether these two stories were subsequently published in magazine format is not known. A cursory

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## Editor's notebook

Book prices have been a subject of discussion for years, and probably will remain so. In the May-June issue, we printed an advertisement brought to our attention by Jack Bales, in which a prominent Toledo, Ohio, dealer was offering what is regarded as the rarest of all Hardy Boys books, a red edition of title No. 11, *While the Clock Ticked*, in dust jacket, for \$3,500. That is not an isolated case.

However, there remains sanity out there, despite the growth of the Internet and its various book search and auction Web sites, where some recent prices have really been outrageous. Yet, if that's the market price, so be it. If someone wants to pay more than \$1,000 for a Tom Swift in a jacket, so be it. I recently sold five Tom Swift Juniors, scarce later titles, for \$428, plus postage. Had I posted them for auction on Ebay, I may have gotten much more—who knows? I set my prices at the average I had seen these books sell for in the past year.

But in a search of the Internet sites just the other day, I found numerous books selling for reasonable prices, as well as those offered (or bid to) excessive prices. Remember, supply and demand remain the most reliable forces in any economy. If you don't want to part with a grand for that Tom Swift, move on. Sooner or later, another copy will show up, either on the Internet or in a store. Better yet, maybe in trade from one of your friends. Eventually, you will add that title to your collection.

I use that philosophy for a book I currently do not have, *Hungry Hurler*, the last Chip Hilton title. I know I can get one for around \$300 (and up!), but I am stubbornly holding out for a copy for under \$10 from a flea market or out-of-the-way book barn. Within the past year or so, a couple of Partic'lar Friends have added this elusive title to their collections for under five bucks, so I know it is possible. The thrill is in the hunt.

The best thing about the Internet is that you can do your book-hunting from the comfort of your home. No gasoline or wear on your car, no hotel bills. Yet, for me, getting out of the house is still the most fun way to find books. Drive to some shop you've never visited before, and though there will be disappointments, the thrill of a "great find" makes all the miles traveled worthwhile.

**A final note:** President Carl Hartmann mentions in his column the slow response to the H.A.S. Repository challenge gift of Bob Huber (PF-841). I have just written my check and mailed it in. How about you? This gift is tax-deductible, and if your company has a matching-gifts program, your donation will go even farther. The NIU address and other instructions are at the right.

*A sincere thanks!*

As the *Adopt-a-Newsboy* program enters its second year, we wish to thank the Partic'lar Friends who have sponsored mailing costs for an issue.

The cost of mailing this issue was defrayed by Milton F. Ehler (PF-702),

Carol Nackenoff (PF-921) and Chris DeHaan (PF-773).

We would also like to acknowledge the following *Adopt-a-Newsboy* sponsors for their generosity during the past year:

May-June 1997: Murray D. Levin (PF-851)

July-August 1997: Thomas B. Davis (PF-976)

September-October 1997: Robert G. Huber (PF-841)

November-December 1997: John Cadick (PF-858)

January-February 1998: William R. Gowen (PF-706)

March-April 1998: John T. Dizer (PF-511)

May-June 1998: Janice and Mike Morley (PF-957, 934)

We are looking for sponsors for upcoming issues, beginning with September-October. Cost of mailing per issue is approximately \$190. If interested, send your donation to Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255.

## President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

start with dues due January 1999.

At the 1997 convention, Bob Huber (PF-841) donated \$9,000 to the H.A.S. Repository at NIU. Bob also pledged to match dollar-for-dollar (up to \$5,000) any future donations from members of HAS. So far, the endowment has received exactly \$100. This is an opportunity for members to have their gifts doubled through Bob's generosity.

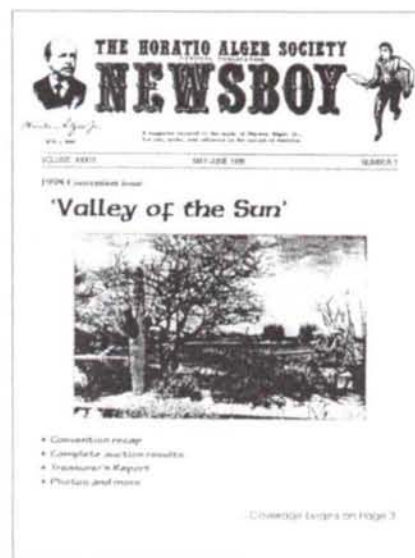
Please send your tax-deductible donations to: **Northern Illinois University Foundation, Lowden Hall, Room 204, DeKalb, IL 60115.** Checks should be payable to **Northern Illinois University**, along with a note that the donation is intended for the Horatio Alger Society Repository Endowment.

Your Partic'lar Friend  
Carl T. Hartmann (PF-102)

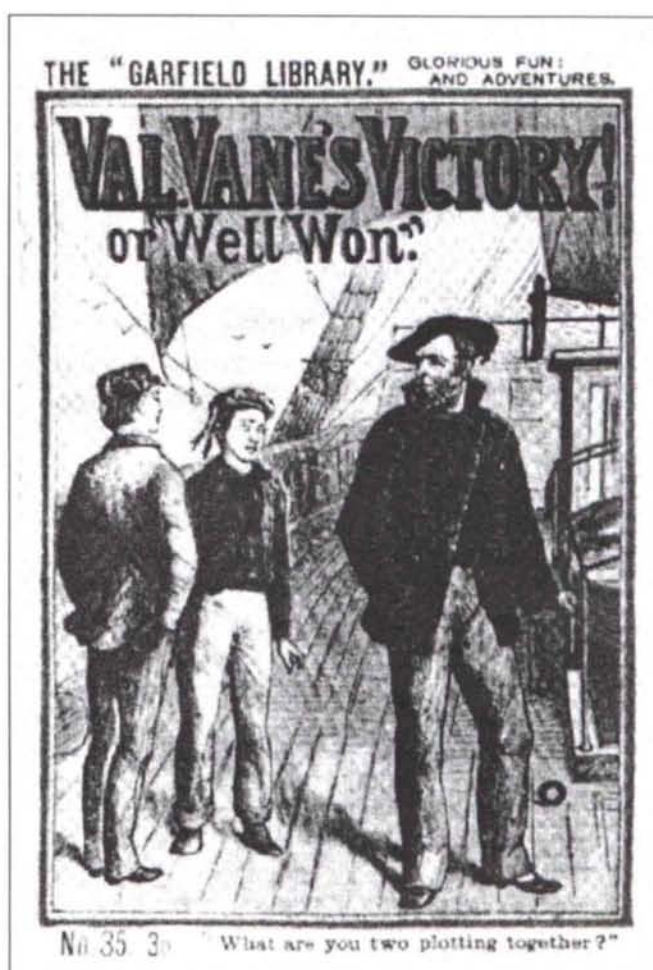
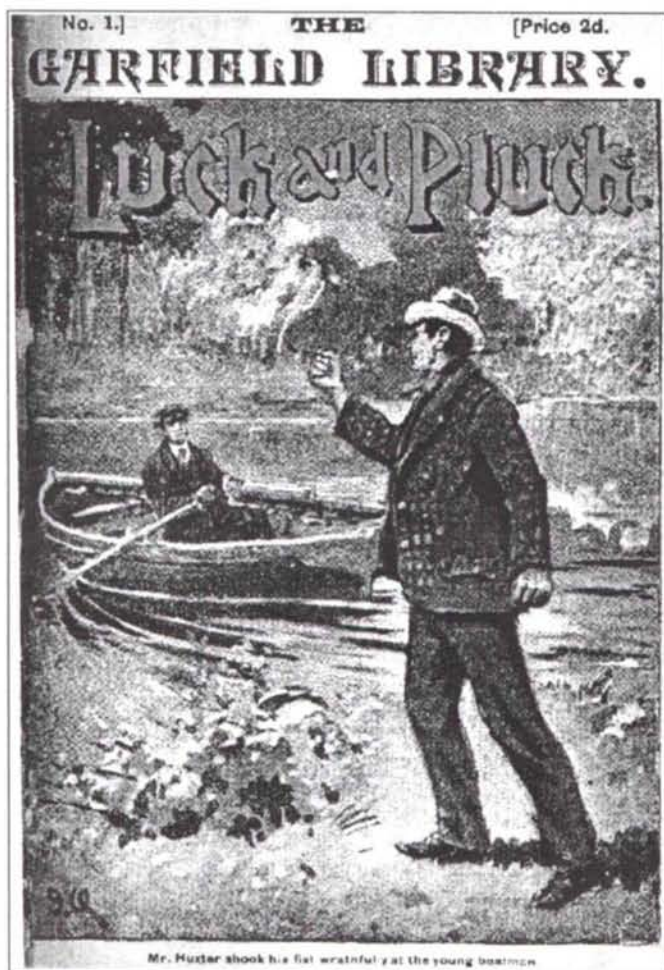
4907 Allison Drive

Lansing, MI 48910

E-mail: 75262.3005@compuserve.com







Ex. 2: *Luck and Pluck* and *Val Vane's Victory!* are two of 37 Alger titles published in England in the 1887-1901 period as part of Aldine Publishing Co.'s paperback Garfield Library. (Photo at right reproduced with the permission of Bob Bennett)

Horatio Alger goes international:

## Collecting foreign editions

(Continued from Page 3)

search of the Library of Foreign Literature in Moscow did not reveal the existence of any books by Alger published in that country although this omission does not conclusively prove that they never existed. The search for Russian juvenile magazines and periodicals published during the 1890s continues.

Perhaps the best-known foreign editions of Alger's works appeared in England during the late 1800s in both hard and soft cover formats. Thirty-seven Alger titles were printed in paper wrappers as part of the **Garfield Library** published by the Aldine Publishing Company during 1887-1896. The first series contained 92 titles by mostly American authors, including Horatio Alger, Harry Castlemon, Edward S. Ellis, Oliver Optic and

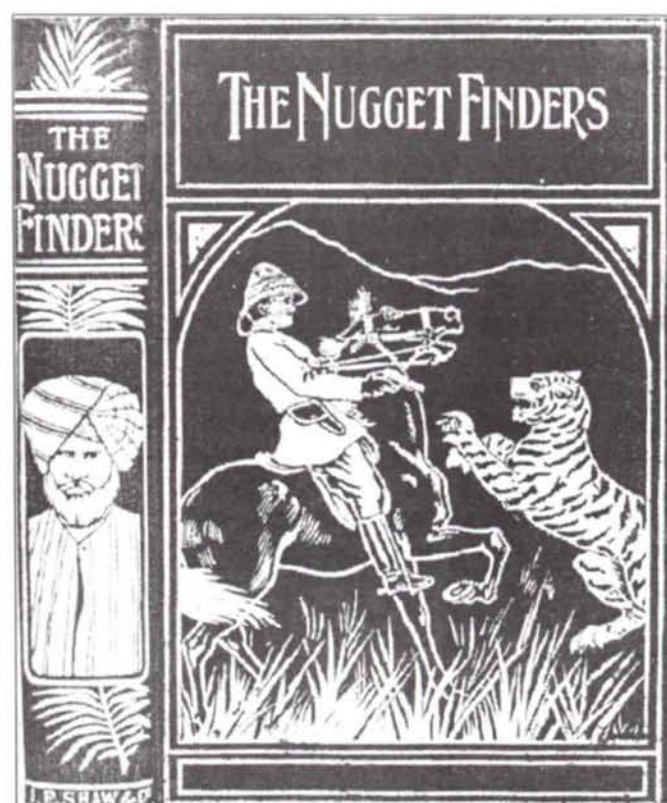
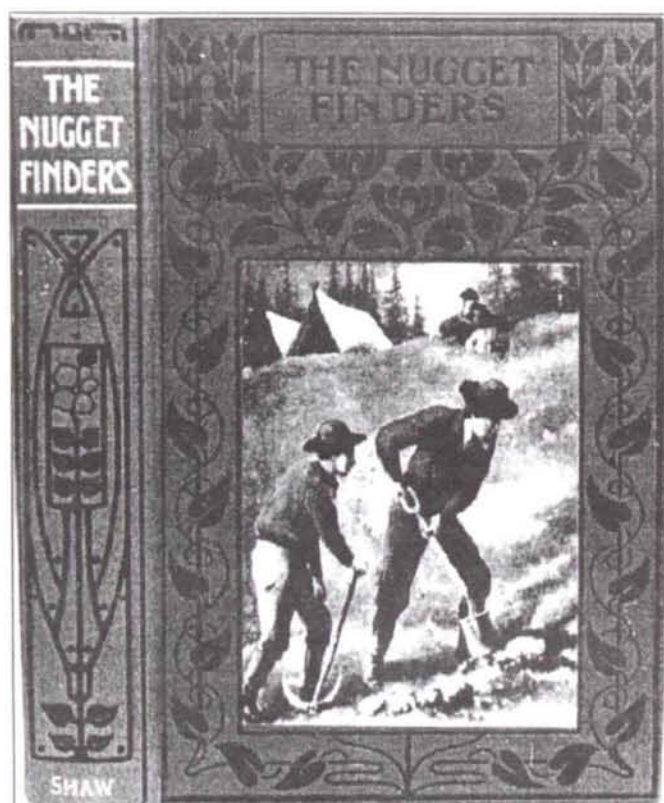
others. The stories were abridged and edited, sometimes severely, from the original American publications and, in some instances, the locales were anglicized. Aldine published a second series during 1901 containing eight titles (all by Alger) and all of which appeared as part of the first series. The **Garfield Library** contained some new Alger titles, including *He would be a Mountebank* (originally *The Young Acrobat*), *Bill Sturdy* (*Charlie Codman's Cruise*), *Wait til the Clouds Roll By* (Dean Dunham) and others.

Illustrations of *Luck and Pluck* and *Val Vane's Victory!* (*Facing the World*) from each series are shown in **Example 2**. Another Alger title, *Paul Prescott the Runaway* (*Paul Prescott's Charge*), was published by Aldine in the **Boys One at a Time Library** and **Life and Adventure Library** in 1887 and 1888.<sup>4</sup>

The only known British hard-cover edition of an Alger title was *The Nugget Finders*, published by the John F. Shaw Company of London during the early 1900s

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Ex. 3: *The Nugget Finders*, the only known British hard-cover reprint of an Alger title, was published in several editions by the John F. Shaw Company in the early 1900s. It is a reprint of *In a New World*, originally published in book form by Porter & Coates in 1893.

## Horatio Alger goes international: *Collecting foreign editions*

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(Example 3). Shaw published dozens of editions and formats from 1903 (earliest noted) until at least 1909. Two title pages are known to have been used, the earlier listing a 48 Paternoster Row address and the later one listing a 3 Pilgrim Street address.

*The Nugget Finders* is a reprint title of *In a New World* which was originally published in book form by Porter & Coates in 1893. (For more information on *The Nugget Finders*, including illustrations of various covers and the two title pages, mentioned above, refer to the July-August 1991 and September-October 1991 issues of *Newsboy*).

Several serializations of Alger stories are known to have been published in England, including *Brave and Bold* in the *London Reader* (1873), *The Odds Against Him* in *Every Boy's New Monthly* (1890-1891) and *Robert Coverdale* in *Young Folk's Paper* (1888).<sup>5</sup>

In his preface to *Brave and Bold*, dated October 10, 1874, Alger mentioned that this story had been serialized

in England but did not name the publication.

The Norwegians were next in line to reprint an Alger story which took place in 1921 with the publication of *Skopusseren Tom* (*Tom the Bootblack*) by N. W. Damm & Søn of Kristiania (now Oslo). *Tom the Bootblack* is a reprint title of *The Western Boy*, originally published in book form by G. W. Carleton & Co. of New York in 1878.

The title appears on the cover (see Example 4, Page 8) as *Tom Sko Pusser* (literally, "Tom Shoe Shiner") and as *Skopusseren Tom* ("The Shoeshiner Tom") on the title page. The hard-cover edition measures 7½ x 5¼ inches and contains 103 pages with 28 chapters. This publication was apparently a severely abridged and condensed version of the original story. The company also published a paper-cover edition during the same year.

The cover illustration is identical to the M.A. Donohue Country Boy Format (#3), which was published in 1905 or 1906 encompassing 36 titles, including *Tom the Bootblack*.<sup>6</sup> Obviously, this binding and text were used as the model for the Damm edition.

Two years later, in 1923, the Jindr. Bačkovský Bookstore and Publishing House, located in Prague, Czechoslovakia, issued two Alger titles in both hard-cover and paperback formats. *Prací a Odvahou k Čili* ("With Hard



Work and Courage to Reach the Goal") is a reprint of *Do and Dare* (see **Example 5**, Page 9) and *Vytrvalost k Úspěchu* ("Through Perseverance to Success") is a reprint of *Luke Walton* (see **Example 6**, Page 10). Both titles were originally published in book form by Porter & Coates in 1884 and 1889, respectively.

Each volume of the hard-cover edition is uniformly bound in gray boards with multicolored pictorial covers measuring 5¼ x 6¾ inches. The Czech version of *Do and Dare* contains 186 pages and 38 chapters and *Luke Walton* has 206 pages and 42 chapters. Each volume contains three or four bold pen-and-ink illustrations, which are different from the illustrations found in the original Porter & Coates editions. The books do not contain any advertisements. Both volumes appear to be literal translations of the original editions with little or no editing evident. Locales were not changed except for the Czech spelling of certain places — Chicago becoming Chigasky, California becoming Kalifornie, etc.

The rear cover of each book contains information about Horatio Alger and a synopsis of the plot. The rear cover of Czech version of *Luke Walton* (reproduced at right) is translated as follows:

American adventurous stories of Horatio Alger, Jr., are interesting, absorbing, thrilling, and also educational. He lived his entire life among boys and in his heart he stayed a boy until his death. Over a million copies were sold to American youth. Alger's stories are liked for their fresh expression, for their educational value, and for their influence on moral life of young people who lived most of their life in the streets.

For the Czech youth these stories are published in the neat illustrated volumes, perfectly translated.

The first volume contains *With Hard Work and Courage to Reach the Goal* translated by B. Z. Nekovarík [paperback] 12 Koruna, hardbound 16 Koruna. The hero of this story is a simple country boy, who by his honesty and cooperative spirit, catches attention of a wealthy American. This man takes him along to the West where the boy learns to know real life and later he becomes, with the support of his benefactor, a remarkable entrepreneur.

J Hruška, Pisek [printer]

Two Alger stories were reprinted in Japan, including *Struggling Upward* in 1960 and *Ragged Dick* in 1975. The Kodansha Press in Tokyo published the former title as *Secret Small Box* (#170) in a series that included other western authors such as Charles Dickens and Mark Twain. The book measures 5¼ x 7¼ inches containing 301 pages and includes numerous black and white illustrations and one spectacular fold out color

**ZAJÍMAVÉ, POUTAVÉ A NAPÍNAVÉ  
A PŘI TOM VÝCHOVNÉ JSOU**

americké dobrodružné povídky Horatia Algera mladšího,

který žil po celý svůj život mezi hochy a sám zůstal  
v srdci hochem až do své smrti. Jeho povídek bylo pro-  
dáno americké mládeži přes

**million výtisků.**

Algerovy povídky jsou oblíbeny pro jich svěží mluvu,  
působí nabádavě a lze stopovat jejich vliv po mravní  
stránce života mladých lidí, trávících většinou svého ži-  
vota na ulicích.

Pro českou mládež vychází povídky tyto v úhledných  
ilustrovaných svazcích v dokonalých překladech. První  
svazek obsahuje:

**PRACÍ A ODVAHOU K CÍLI.**

Přeložil B. Z. Nekovarík.  
Za 12 Kč, váz. 16 Kč.

Hrdinou této povídky je prostý venkovský hoch, který  
svoji poctivostí a úslužností upoutá pozornost bohatého  
Američana. Tento jej vezme sebou na daleký západ,  
kdež se hoch naučí znáti pravý život a stane se později  
podporou svého dobrodince, znamenitým obchodníkem.

J. Hruška, Pisek

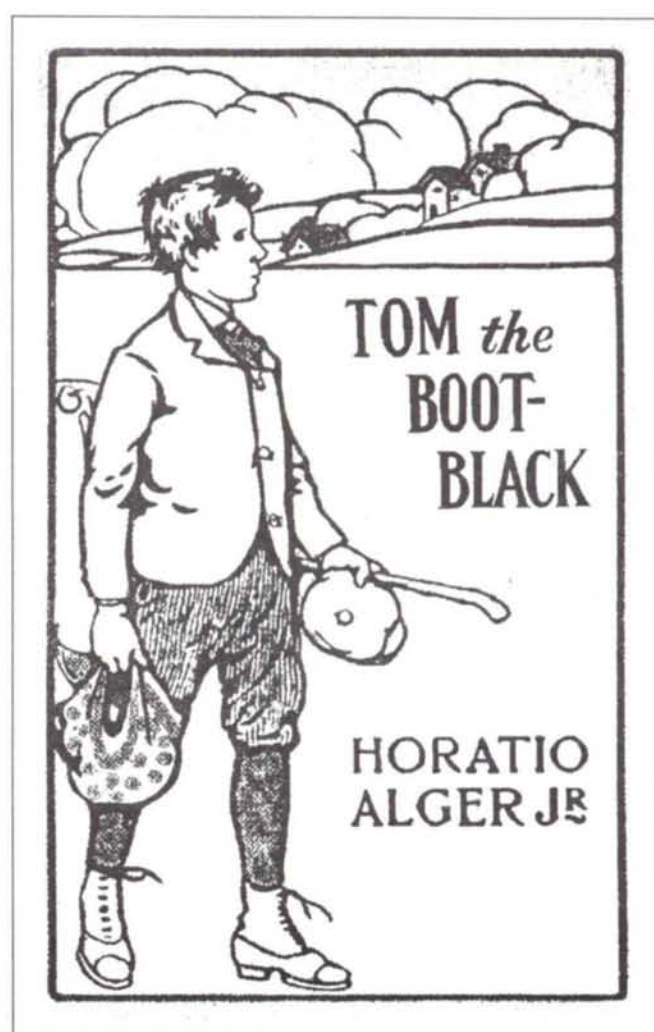
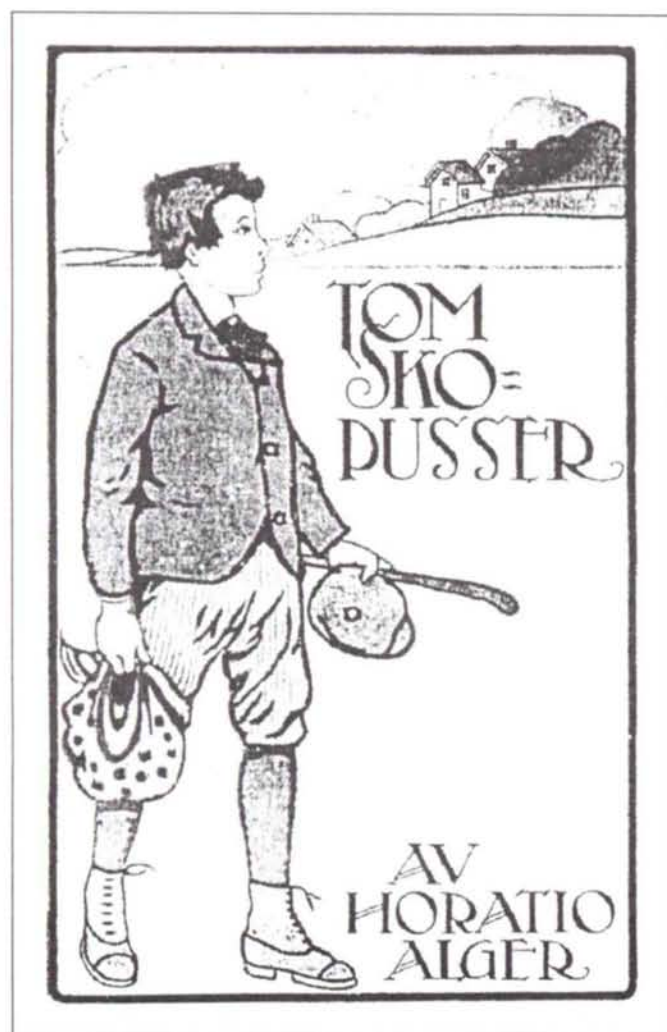
The plot synopsis as it appears on the rear cover of the 1923 Czech edition of *Luke Walton*.

illustration. The book is printed on rice paper and includes an acetate dust jacket and multicolored, illustrated slipcase. (Note: This slipcase is reproduced on the front cover of this issue of *Newsboy*).

The Taiyosha Press, also located in Tokyo, published an edition of *Ragged Dick* in July 1975 in both hard-cover and paperback. The hard-cover book measures 5½ x 7½ inches and contains 235 pages (see **Example 7**, Page 11). Although the book lacks internal illustrations, a fine reproduction of the frontispiece from the *Ragged Dick Series* appears on the dust jacket. This was the same vignette used for the 20-cent Horatio Alger commemorative stamp issued in 1982. *The Secret Small Box* was originally priced at ¥200 and *Ragged Dick* sold for ¥980.

The most recent foreign publication of Horatio Alger's works took place in Germany during the late 1980's by Lambda Edition GmbH. The company, located in Hamburg, published three titles including *Tom Tracy Ein böser Verdacht* (Tom Tracy) in September 1987, *Das Mädchen das*

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Ex. 4: The cover of *Tom Sko Pusser* ("Tom Shoe Shiner"), published in Norway in 1921 by N.W. Damm and Sønns of Oslo, left, and the M.A. Donohue "Country Boy" cover format, right, from which it was copied. This foreign reprint is officially titled *Skopusseren Tom*, which literally means *Tom the Bootblack*, which in the United States was originally published as *The Western Boy* by G.W. Carleton & Co. in 1878.

Horatio Alger goes international:

## Collecting foreign editions

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man Tom nannte (*Tattered Tom*) in November 1987 and Paul Kämpft sich nach oben (*Paul the Peddler and Slow and Sure*) in May 1988.

The books are uniformly bound in green cloth measuring 5¼ x 7¾ inches and are designated as volumes 1, 2 and 3, respectively. A story synopsis appears on the back cover along with information about Horatio Alger. Volumes 2 and 3 contain advertisements for the previous edition(s).

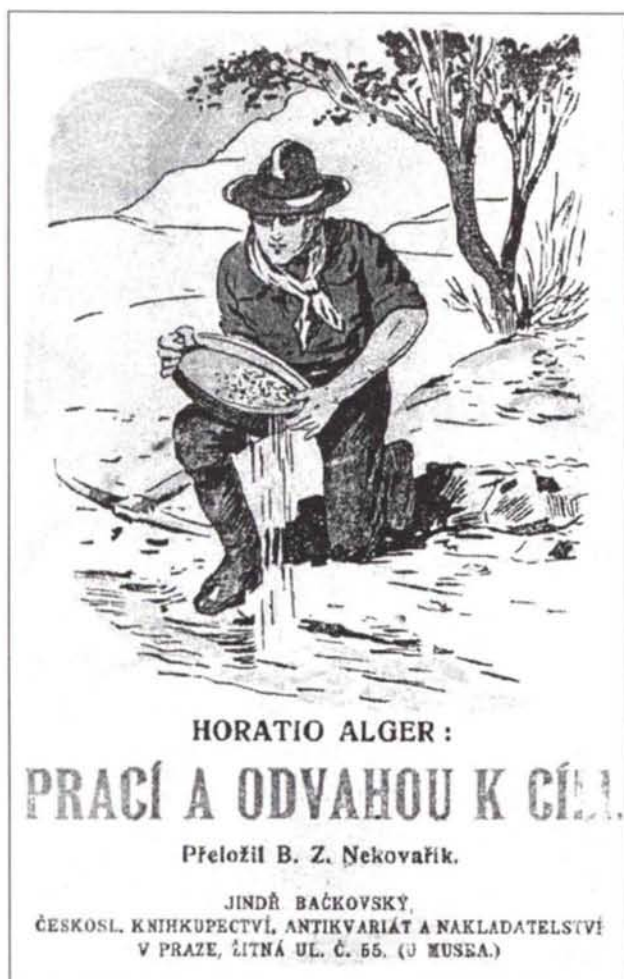
The German versions of *Tom Tracy* and *Tattered Tom* are literal translations of the originals following chapters

(but not pages) and all text and dialogue exactly. Even without a knowledge of the German language it is relatively easy to follow the story when comparing them to American editions. Volume 3 is a condensed version of two stories with entire chapters removed and existing chapters edited.

The president of Lambda Editions GmbH, Michael Hartleben, informed one of the owners of this set that he picked up many Alger books during his extensive travels in the United States. He added that "a whole series was planned but was discontinued due to poor sales of the first three volumes." I suspect that the Norwegian and Czechoslovakian publishing ventures probably followed the same scenario.

It is interesting to note that a "Horatio Alger Adventure Club" was advertised at the rear of volumes 2 and 3. The complete translation is as follows:





HORATIO ALGER:

**PRACÍ A ODVAHOU K CÍLI.**

PŘELOŽIL

BOHUMIL Z. NEKOVAŘÍK.

1923.

JINDŘ. BAČKOVSKÝ,  
ČESKOSLOVENSKÉ KNIHKUPECTVÍ, ANTIKVARIÁT  
A NAKLADATELSTVÍ V PRAZE, ŽITNÁ UL. Č. 55.  
(U MUSEA.)

Ex. 5: The cover and title page of the 1923 Czech reprint edition of Alger's *Do and Dare*.

### Participate in the Adventure Club

That's going to be great fun! One time the club will go with a rescue ship across the east Sea, another time we follow for a weekend the tracks of the famous pirate Stötebeker, then we can see how a thrilling radio play is made into a record. Or, how would it be to go on a Schnitzel hunt in a forbidding forest, in which, once upon a time, the Robber Captain of the Spessart did his unsavory deeds? Yes, indeed, they are still there, those adventures which you can experience yourself. Where? Naturally in the Horatio Alger Adventure Club.

### Giving it to you straight:

Membership in the Club is guaranteed absolutely without cost. Guaranteed insanely crazy action will be offered. Guaranteed the brand new club news will be sent free to your house. Guaranteed we'll do everything to realize your adventure ideas.

Therefore, write us if you want to participate. Also, write us what you wish from the Adventure Club. We'll respond immediately.

No doubt the Adventure Club was disbanded after the publication of additional Alger stories was abandoned.

The translation of Alger's works into other languages seems to offer two distinct attributes — a great diversity of languages and limited success. At this time seven foreign countries have been identified as having published books or serials by Horatio Alger. I wouldn't be surprised if he were published in other countries, heretofore undiscovered.

One common denominator among these publishers (except for the **Garfield Library**) is the limited number of titles produced and the lack of any known second printings. Was it because Alger's "rags to riches" theme was

(Continued on Page 10)





## VYTRVALOSTÍ K ÚSPĚCHU.

(LUKÁŠ WALTON.)

NAPSAL

HORATIO ALGER.

Z ANGLICKÉHO PŘELOŽIL

Ph. Dr. GUSTAV ŽDÁRSKÝ.

JINDŘ. BAČKOVSKÝ,  
ČESKOSLOVENSKÉ KNIHKUPECTVÍ, ANTIKVARIÁT A  
NAKLADATELSTVÍ V PRAZE, ŽITNÁ UL. 55. (U MUSEA).

Ex. 6: The cover and title page of the 1923 Czech reprint edition of Alger's *Luke Walton*.

Horatio Alger goes international:

## Collecting foreign editions

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not popular in other countries or were the stories so heavily edited that this uniquely American theme became unrecognizable?

I will leave that question to future Alger scholars.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the following members: Jerry Friedland, Bill Russell, Bob Bennett, Carol Nackenoff, Brad Chase and Arthur Young. For more information on British editions of Alger books see Denis Rogers' fine article on the *Garfield Library in Dime Novel Round-Up* (November and December 1971 and January 1972)

and articles appearing in *Newsboy* (September 1972, July-August 1991 and November-December 1991).

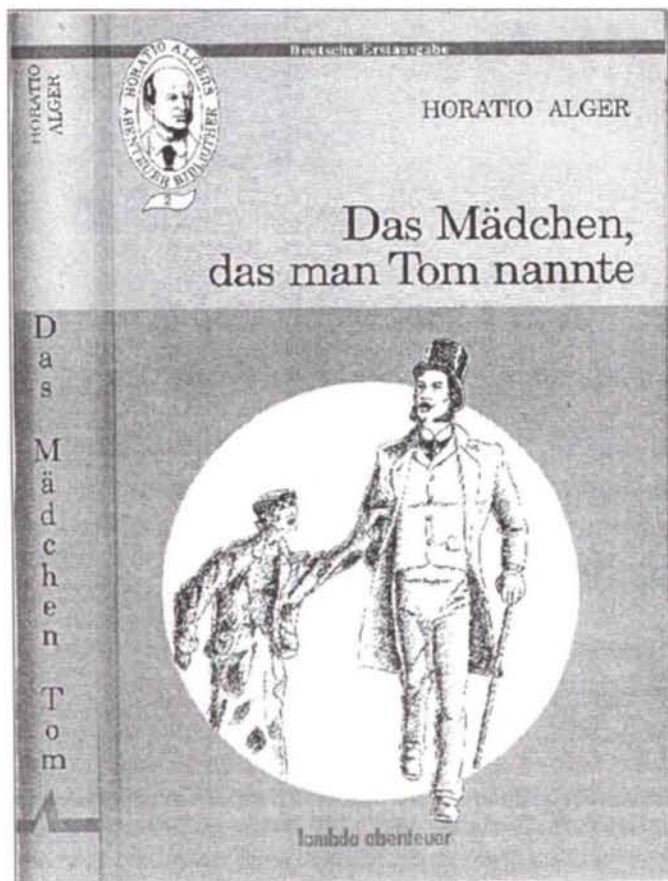
### NOTES

1. Gary Scharnhorst, *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985), p. 110.
2. Ron Poulton, *The Paper Tyrant*. (Toronto/Vancouver: Clarke, Irwin & Company, Ltd., 1972), p. 90.
3. Poulton, *The Paper Tyrant*, p. 88.
4. Bob Bennett, *Horatio Alger, Jr.: A Comprehensive Bibliography*. (Mt. Pleasant, Mich.: Flying Eagle Publishing Co., 1980), pp. 159-160.
5. Scharnhorst. *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.*, p. 103; Bennett, *Horatio Alger, Jr.: A Comprehensive Bibliography*, p. 134.
6. Bradford S. Chase, *Horatio Alger Books Published by M. A. Donohue & Co.* (Enfield, Ct.: Sandpiper Publishing, 1994), p. 40.





Ex. 7, above: This Japanese edition of *Ragged Dick* was published by The Taiyosha Press in Tokyo in 1975. The dust jacket, above left, reproduces the original Loring decorative title-page illustration, which was also used for the 20-cent Horatio Alger commemorative stamp in 1982. The title page is shown above. Taiyosha published both hard-cover and paperback editions of this title. Note that the front cover of the book is hinged on the right side due to traditional Japanese reading practice.



Ex. 8, left: The cover of the German reprint of *Tattered Tom*, published in Nov. 1987, by Lambda Edition GmbH, of Hamburg, under the title *Das Mädchen, das man Tom nannte*. These are the most recent known foreign reprints of any of Alger's books.



## MEMBERSHIP

### New members

John M. Glasgow (PF-1012)

HCR 74, Box 24810

El Prado, NM 87529 (505) 776-2707

John, who is retired, has 83 Alger books in his collection, and has a general interest in the author. He learned about the Society through book dealers and by reading about it.

Dan Voges (PF-1013)

W 8125 Cty. Hwy. B, Lot 212

Poynette, WI 53955 (608) 635-8824

Dan, who is interested in everything about Alger, currently has 50 titles in his collection. His other collecting interest is Coca-Cola memorabilia. He learned about the Society from member Percy H. Seamans (PF-405) of Lake Delton, Wis.

Dennis Larson (PF-1014)

49 Woodington Bay

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3P 1M6 Canada (204) 487-3077

Dennis, an auditor by profession, enjoys reading Alger's books and currently owns 15 titles. He also collects and reads books by G.A. Henty and Edgar Rice Burroughs. He learned about the Society from a current member.

Christine Z. Gillespie, M. Ed. (PF-1015)

1020 Putnam Blvd.

Wallingford, PA 19086 (610) 874-0374

E-mail: [chrisgill@erols.com](mailto:chrisgill@erols.com)

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The telephone number for E. Christian Mattson (PF-067) is 410-668-4730.



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# Waving the flag for Phillips Exeter

## *The boys' books of Albertus T. Dudley*

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

*"In the development of the schoolboy's character and ability, a school brings many forces to bear, some through books and teachers, others through life and spirit and interests of the students themselves. It is among these latter influences which are often powerful for good or ill that athletics play an important part."*

*Following the Ball, 1903; excerpt from introduction*

The saying "we are what we read" goes way back to before the days of television, when young people actually picked up a book and read it, rather than spending countless hours with a Sony PlayStation or clicking the remote control between MTV's "Beavis and Butt-Head," Comedy Central's "South Park," Fox's "The Simpsons" or the WB Network's "Dawson's Creek."

Phil Jackson, head coach of the six-time NBA champion Chicago Bulls, was born into the television age, in 1945. Yet, while growing up in North Dakota, Phil's father refused to allow his children to watch television.

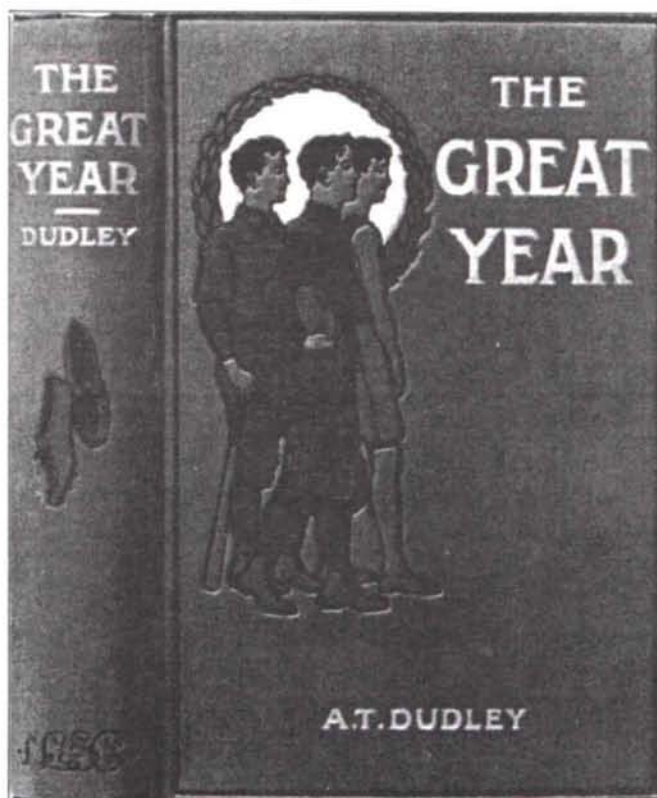
As a result, Jackson (himself the author of three books) became — and remains to this day — an avid reader. He said the following on his television show:

"Reading is real important to me because it was my source of traveling, of gathering information...of exploring my mind, my imagination when I was a child. My father didn't condone the watching of television in our house, and so when you don't have those extra 20 or 30 hours in front of the boob tube, there's a lot of exploration which you can do with hobbies ... or reading, which was my choice."

"I used to go to the public library once a week and check out four to five books, which was the maximum. I liked all kinds of books, travelogue books, books about sports, when I was in junior high school. I loved books about the west, historical fiction, for example, about Lewis and Clark, who traveled through my area of the west in 1802 and 1803. Other books which interested me, obviously, were classic fiction books that were notable."

Sometime or other, I got my hands on what were supposedly the classics to read, and tried to read 100

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



of the most famous books of that time. I graduated from high school in '63, which seems like a long time ago, but since that time there's still been a lot of books added to that list, as that list has changed over the years. I have an updated list that I try to stay abreast of all the time.

"That's why reading is so important. **One**, it teaches you. **Two**, it allows you a sense of understanding, not from just vision, but also from the mind and from visualisation, in which imagination has to be used. It broadens your scope."

I believe Phil Jackson would have enjoyed the company of Albertus True Dudley, teacher, historian, politician and author of books for young people.

Dudley believed "we are what we read," and like Jackson, he mixed a passion for sports with the written word.

Dudley will forever be linked with the small, typical New England town of Exeter, New Hampshire, although he was born in the upstate New York town of Paris on Jan. 19, 1866, and spent the central portion of his life as a teacher at a preparatory school in Boston.

Dudley was fortunate to live a very long life — 89 years — with his final resting place the Exeter Cemetery,

(Continued on Page 14)

**Editor's note:** This article was presented as a paper March 28, 1997, at the Popular Culture Association's 27th annual conference in San Antonio, Texas, and on May 16, 1997, at the Horatio Alger Society's convention at North Conway, N.H.



# Waving the flag for Phillips Exeter

(Continued from Page 13)

following his death on Feb. 11, 1955.

Who was Albertus Dudley?

He was the son of a minister, The Rev. Horace Franklin Dudley, and Josephine Lamson Dudley of Paris, N.Y., and following elementary and high school, matriculated at Harvard College, from which he was graduated in 1887. Honors included Phi Beta Kappa and the Signet Society. He also excelled in sports, with gymnastics a particular specialty, although he also found time each fall to quarterback the football team.

Dudley arrived for the first time in Exeter, located about 90 miles north of Boston, in the fall of 1887, where as a young instructor at Phillips Exeter Academy he was put in charge of the gymnasium. He coached gymnastics as well as taught Latin.

On July 2, 1890, Dudley was married to Frances Perry, daughter Dr. William G. Perry of Exeter.

Six years later, he moved his family to Boston after accepting a teaching position with the prestigious Noble and Greenough's School, where he remained for 21 years. In 1917 he decided to return to Exeter. But it was during this Boston period that Dudley's writing career began as he sought to supplement his teaching income.

From 1903 until 1916 he had published by the Boston firm of Lee & Shepard (later, Lothrop, Lee & Shepard) an average of one book per year, starting with *Following the*

*Ball*, the first of the nine-volume *Phillips Exeter Series*; and concluding with *The Unofficial Prefect*, the last of the three-volume *Stories of the Triangular League*, in 1916.

Dudley's philosophy in writing these books is exemplified by the introduction to this article — that life is more than mere sport, although healthy athletic endeavors are a welcome part of the learning process.

It's interesting that the *Phillips Exeter Series* is so named, because these books are not set, in a literal sense, at Phillips Exeter Academy. Instead, Dudley chose the fictional Seaton Academy, which he located, coincidentally, in a town less than a day's train ride north of Boston.

But Dudley made no bones about the source of his ideas:

"Many of the incidents of the story are based on fact, being drawn from a long list covering a score of years. The characters, however, are only typically real, and all description of actual persons has been carefully avoided."



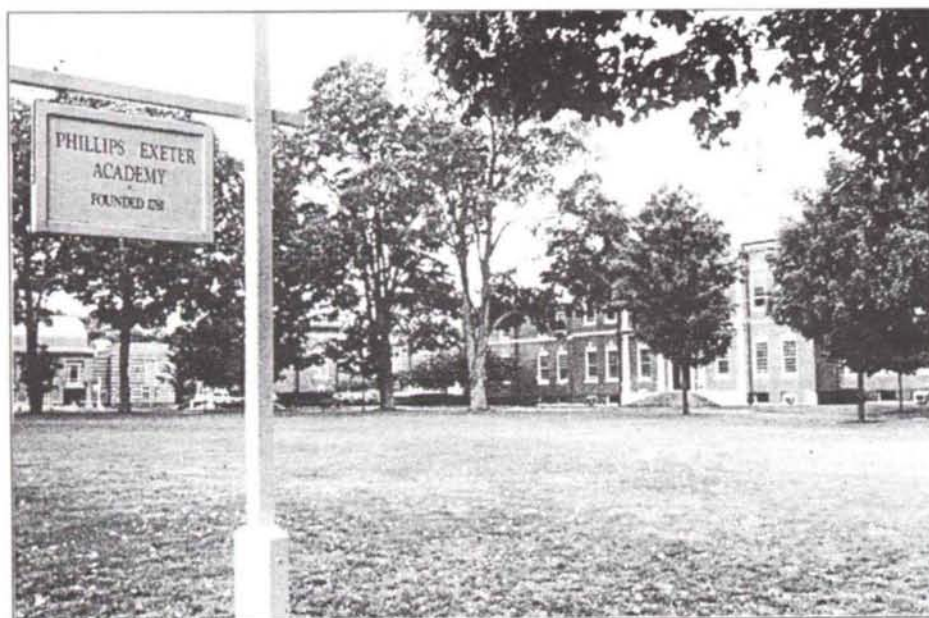
Albertus T. Dudley (1866-1955)

*Following the Ball;*

excerpt from introduction

So there's little doubt those many years in the gymnasium, on the playing fields and in the Latin recitation room yielded a gold mine of anecdotal sources for the 12 school-based sports books he wrote during the 1903-1916 period.

Dudley is an excellent writer, which you would expect from a Harvard man of high intellect and instructor of Latin. Oh, there are the writing-style quirks of the period, such as non-use of the word "class," as in "going to class." Instead, it is "going to recitation," the common term of the day. And football is spelled foot-ball, quarterback as quarter-back, halfback as half-back, baseball as base-ball, the



The appearance of the Phillips Exeter Academy campus has changed very little over the past century.

Photo by William Gowen



common spellings of the day. Conversational dialogue is expertly handled by Dudley, much like that of his fellow Harvard graduate of the previous generation, Horatio Alger, Jr.

In short, Dudley's books are fun to read, filled with the kinds of school-life pranks, humor, chivalry and lifestyle of the early years of this century that young readers of that era could relate to.

And when Dudley wants to get poetic, he can turn a phrase with the best of them:

"Spring is the fascinating season for the Seaton boy. Sombre and dull though the winter may have been, with its unrelenting routine and steady drive of ambitious teachers, the unpleasantness is wholly forgotten in the glories and distractions of the Spring term. In Seaton, Nature concentrates her favors on the summer months. The rows of elms along the old village street put on their thick summer thatch. The grass under the trees in the Academy yard grows luxuriant and tempting, like a green velvet cushion. On the picturesque river that winds deliberately in and out among woods and pastures, one can paddle a league upstream without getting a direct mile from one's starting-point, apparently far from human habitation, and yet almost within sound of the recitation-bell. Below the dam and the rocky falls that drew the first Puritan settlers, the sea-water sets against the wharves where the coal schooners unload their burdens and then tow down the long stretch of river and bay to the ocean mouth. There are quaint, old landmarks of pre-Revolutionary adventure to visit, and wild spots in the woods to explore, and hills to climb for views of mountain and sea. For one who is indifferent to such attractions, there are the special events of school life crowded thick into the last weeks of the year — the school sports, the track meet with Hillbury, the great base-ball game, the class games and all the beguiling confusion of literary, social and political happenings."

*Following the Ball; pages 126-127*

Today, when you walk the magnificent, shaded campus of Phillips Exeter Academy, which first opened its doors in 1783 to 56 students, you can almost visualise Albertus True Dudley walking across the quadrangle toward his class ("recitation") room.

When it came to the sports activities described in his books, Dudley was a stickler for accuracy. When he needed information about techniques of drop-kicking a football, for example, he consulted one of the leading coaches of the day, Percy D. Haughton of Harvard. When he described a game-winning baseball play in *Making the Nine*, he borrows it from a real incident used by one of Harvard's baseball heroes, George W. Foster, to defeat Yale, an unassisted double-play that saved Seaton's 3-2 victory over Hillbury.

In each of these instances, Dudley specifically acknowledges the real-life coaches and plays that assisted with and inspired his writing.

During the writing of the *Phillips Exeter Series*, Dudley decided to take a break in order to write a parallel series of books concerning prep school life and sports. Thus was created the *Stories of the Triangular League*, each of the three volumes focusing on one of the schools in a fic-

tional three-school conference. The first, copyrighted in 1909, is *The School Four*, is set at the Westcott School in Boston; the second, *At the Home Plate* (1910), is set at Newbury Latin School (a public school); while the third volume, *The Unofficial Prefect* (1916), uses Trowbridge School as its locale.

It is interesting to note that no *Phillips Exeter* books appeared in 1909 or 1910 (two titles were copyrighted in 1908), with the series resuming in 1911 with *The Pecks in Camp*, and concluding in 1913 with *The Half-Miler*. There was then a hiatus of three years before the final title in the *Stories of the Triangular League* reached print.

Today, the gymnasium in which Dudley coached young men during the early years of his teaching career is long gone, victim of a fire many years ago. However, many of the original campus buildings remain and addi-



**Dudley's retirement home in Exeter, a historic site appropriately named "Dudley House," is now used for professional offices.** Photo by William Gowen



# Waving the flag for Phillips Exeter

(Continued from Page 15)

tions and renovations in subsequent years have continued to make this one of the most beautiful prep school campuses in the United States.

When Dudley returned to Exeter in 1917, he and his family moved into the home of his wife's family. The Federal-style house is virtually unchanged today, located just west of the town square at 14 Front Street. It is now occupied by professional offices and is identified by a historical marker naming it, appropriately, "Dudley House."

Dudley became a true citizen of Exeter upon his return. During World War I, he was treasurer of the local chapter of the American Red Cross and in 1920 he was elected a trustee of the Exeter Public Library, on whose board he remained until 1949, serving as chairman from 1942 to 1947. One of his major accomplishments was arranging (through the estate of Exeter citizen Gardiner Gilman) for the building of a children's room addition for the library.

Dudley also became a trustee of Exeter Hospital in 1922 and later served as its president, overseeing a major expansion. He helped ensure the hospital's future through an endowment of invested funds, which also assisted patients of limited financial means who resided in Exeter and the surrounding communities.

Dudley also served two terms in the New Hampshire state legislature, was a trustee of the University of New Hampshire, president of the Exeter Republican Club and president of the Exeter Historical Society. He also was a member of the Union and Harvard Clubs of Boston.

In his later years, Dudley turned his attention away from books about schools and sports, when he penned two tales set in the Revolutionary War.

The first was *The King's Powder*, published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard in 1923. It tells the story of two young friends, John Spencer and Zeb Giddinge, who are (coincidentally?) former students of Phillips Exeter Academy who get caught up in the war effort in such locations as the Battles of Bunker Hill and Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Ten years later, Dudley wrote a sequel, titled *A Spy of '76* (L, L & S, 1933). This time, Spencer and Giddinge find themselves carried by the war from new Hampshire into New York state and finally Vermont, where they help to

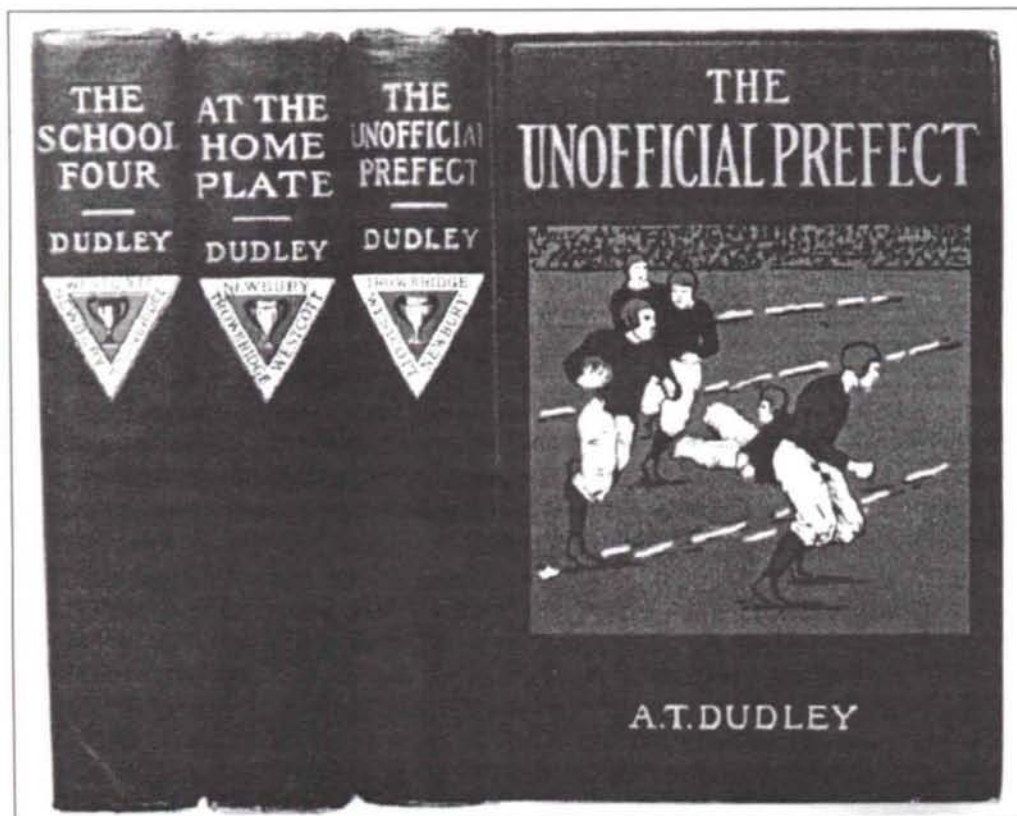
unmask a Tory spy and are involved with Colonel Stark and the victorious Battle of Bennington.

Dudley uses his typically solid writing technique throughout. Here is an example, describing the transfer of British prisoners from the Bunker Hill battle to New Hampshire jails:

It was a doleful procession that wound its slow way, through fair weather and foul, over the worn roads of Connecticut and Massachusetts toward the gaols of New Hampshire. The soldiers by themselves alone would have been cheerful, for they were well rationed and the day's marches easy; yet the presence of the morose company in their midst gradually soured whatever mildness they possessed.

*The King's Powder;*  
page 135

These two books are written for a slightly more



Dudley's *Stories of the Triangular League*, which appeared in 1909, 1910 and 1916, were tales of school life and sports at a fictional three-school (Westcott, Newbury and Trowbridge) New England prep school conference.



mature audience than the earlier **Phillips Exeter Series** and **Stories of the Triangular League**, although because their heroes are older teenagers, they classify as boys' books to scholars and collectors.

How well received were Dudley's books during his lifetime?

The following tribute to Dudley, which was published in New Hampshire's largest daily newspaper, the **Manchester Union-Leader**, states it very eloquently:

"The recent death in Exeter of Albertus True Dudley, teacher, historian and author, recalls the pleasure his books gave Young America from 1903 until 1933. In that latter year and a bit before, perhaps his popularity has somewhat waned, but the fact is there was a time when his book a year, dealing with athletics and school life, was eagerly awaited.

"Much-read titles include *Following the Ball, Making the Nine, In the Line, With Mask and Mitt, The Great Year, The Yale Cup, A Full-Back Afloat, The Pecks in Camp, The Half-Miler, The School Four, At the Home Plate, and The Unofficial Prefect.*

"These novels were entertaining and exciting. They also were wholesome. They, therefore, provided a trinity that is widely lacking in modern books for youth or for mature adults, for that matter.

"One of Dudley's neighbors, Ralph D. Paine, of Durham, also wrote entertainingly, excitingly and wholesomely for youth. And there were others similarly dedicated.

"Perhaps the fault for lack of like material today does not rest entirely with writers. Perhaps youth is less receptive, what with so many diversions, most of them not nearly as worthwhile as Mr. Dudley's books."

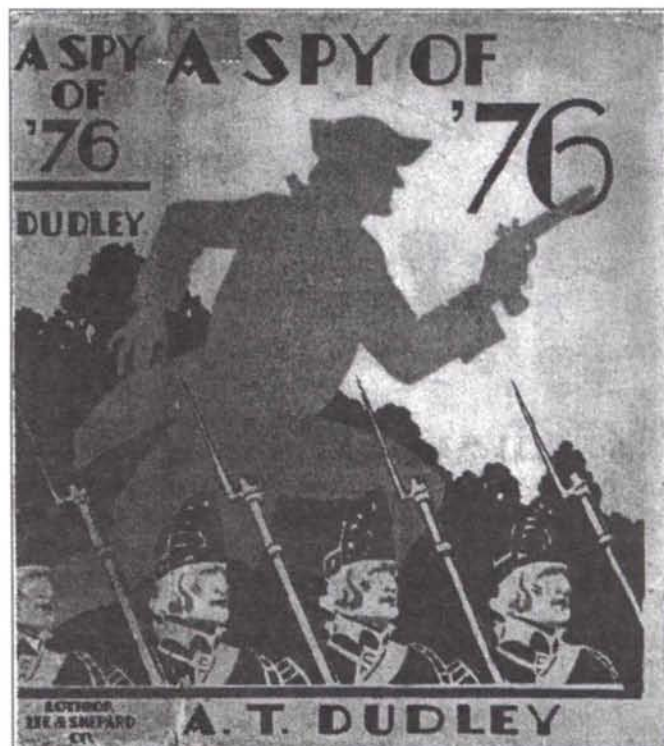
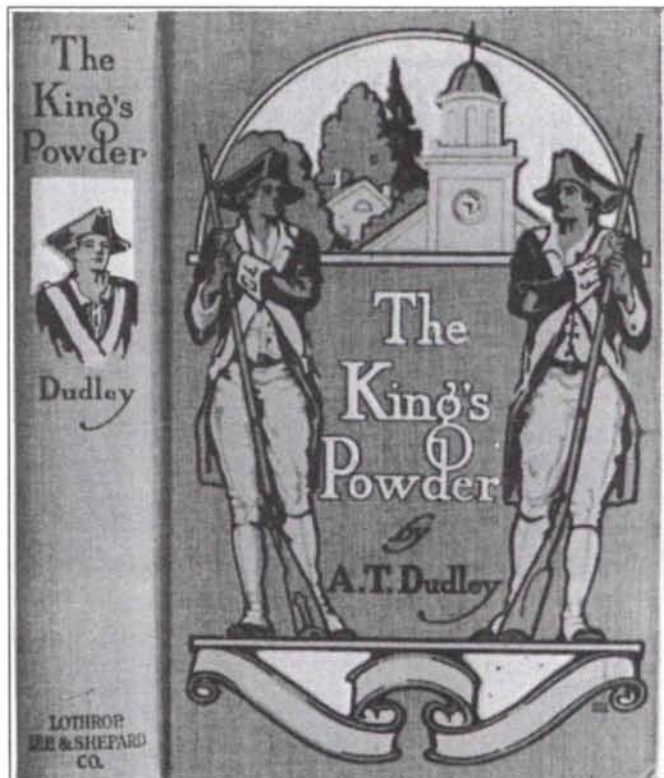
And as Phil Jackson would readily agree in this age of television, fast cars and video games, "The fault does not rest entirely with writers."

While many of us regard these books as prime collectibles because of their attractive bindings, it is what lies between the covers that make Dudley's books such a pleasure for the youth in all of us.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author wishes to thank Nancy Merrill of the Exeter Historical Society for her kindness during our visits and for providing photos of Albertus T. Dudley as well as the biographical material used in this article.

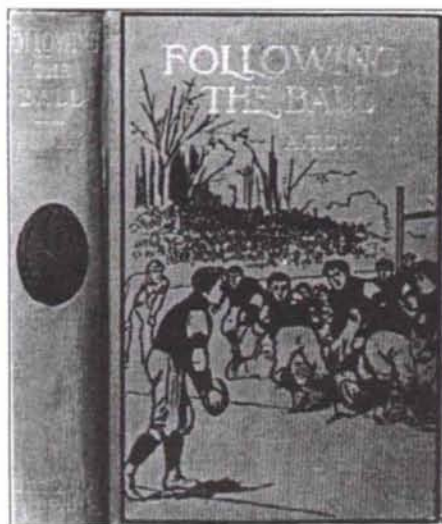
*Additional illustrations, along with a complete list of Albertus T. Dudley's books, can be found on pages 18-19.*



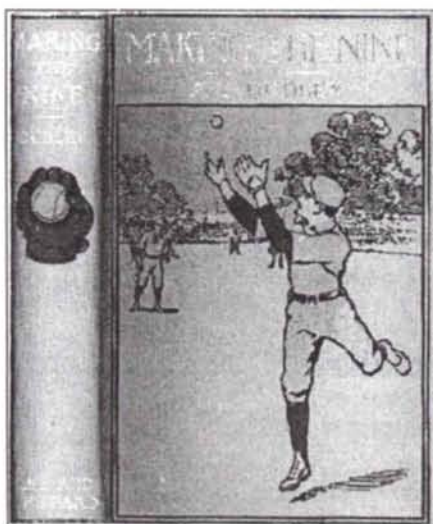
Dudley's final books, the two-volume **American Revolution Series**, appeared in 1923 and 1933, respectively, and took us to two of that war's most prominent New England battles, at Bunker Hill, Mass., and Bennington, Vt.



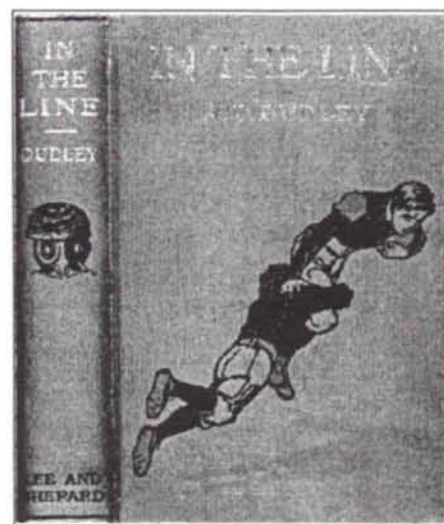
## The Phillips Exeter Series



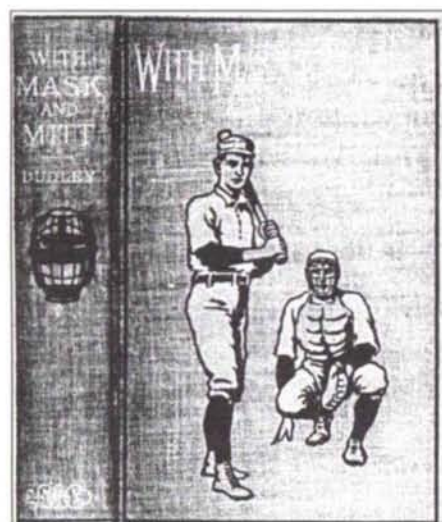
*Following the Ball* — 1903



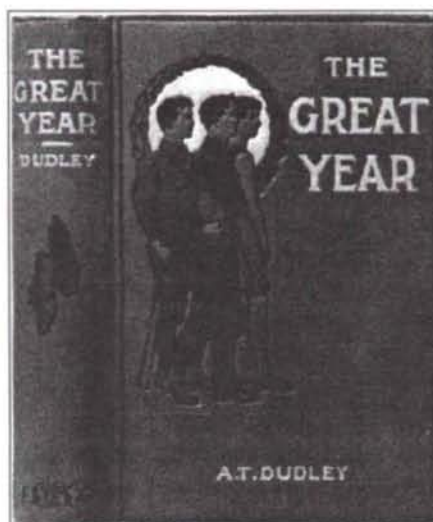
*Making the Nine* — 1904



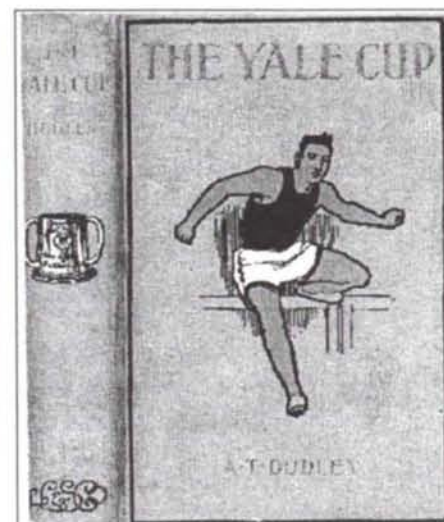
*In the Line* — 1905



*With Mask and Mitt* — 1906



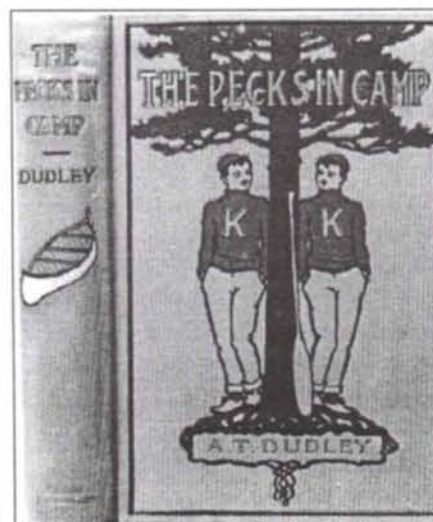
*The Great Year* — 1907



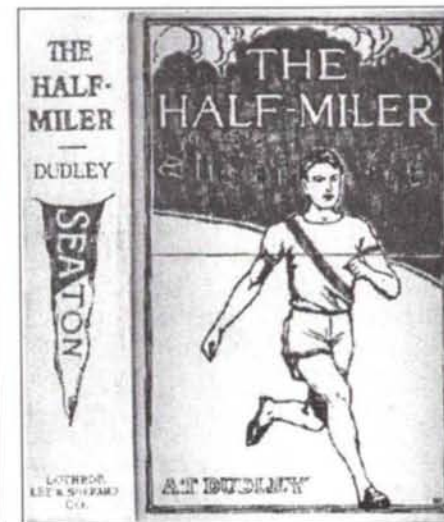
*The Yale Cup* — 1908



*A Full-Back Afloat* — 1908



*The Pecks in Camp* — 1911



*The Half-Miler* — 1913



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"DEAR MR. DUDLEY:—

"I have read your book, 'Following the Ball,' with great interest and pleasure. I do not see how the spirit and tone of the book could be better, and the style is so excellent that it might serve well for a text-book in English.

"I wish you may have great success in the sale of the book, both on your own account and on account of your readers.

Sincerely yours,

"G. A. WENTWORTH."

Trustee of Phillips Exeter Academy,  
and formerly Professor of Mathematics.

AND

HIGHEST ATHLETIC AUTHORITY

"MY DEAR DUDLEY:—

"Although too busy to read much, I have let nothing keep me from finishing the advance copy of 'Following the Ball,' which you were so good as to send me.

"I am glad enough to find *one* book with real football in it. A good many writers have tried to work football into books, and they have usually made a mess of it in more or less of their plays, but yours are all right, and such as I have seen and taken part in time and again. More than that, you show football at its best, and your explanations and suggestions cannot fail to be of great practical value.

"I need not add how I enjoyed being carried back to Exeter life by your thoroughly good story. I don't see how any manly young fellow, whether a football player or not, can help being much pleased with your book, and it is hardly less interesting to us older ones who love clean athletics, and remember our 'prep' days with pleasure. Success to you.

Sincerely yours,

"JOHN S. CRANSTON."

Head Coach Harvard Football Association, 1903.

### The Boys' Books of Albertus T. Dudley (1866-1955)

#### Phillips Exeter Series

1. Following the Ball	Lee & Shepard	1903
2. Making the Nine	Lee & Shepard	1904
3. In the Line	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1905
4. With Mask and Mitt	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1906
5. The Great Year	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1907
6. The Yale Cup	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1908
7. A Full-Back Afloat	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1908
8. The Pecks in Camp	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1911
9. The Half-Miler	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1913

#### Stories of the Triangular League

1. The School Four	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1909
2. At the Home Plate	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1910
3. The Unofficial Prefect	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1916

#### American Revolution Series

1. The King's Powder	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1923
2. A Spy of '76	Lothrop, Lee & Shepard	1933

## Another glance at the '98 convention



Ivan and Marg McClymont present the Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award to two-time convention hosts Mary and Angelo Sylvester, right.



The statue of a native American outside the Expressions in Bronze Gallery in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Photos by Doug Fleming



Jerry and Elaine Friedland enjoy the annual H.A.S. book sale.



From left, David Baumann (PF-1006), Cam Jancek (PF-1008) and Cheryl Greene enjoy their first H.A.S. convention.