



# THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

# NEWSBOY



*Horatio Alger, Jr.*

1832 — 1899

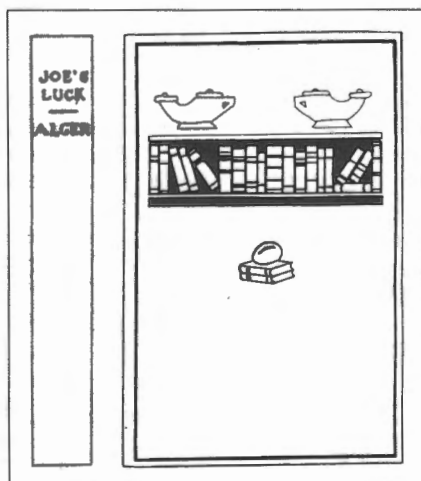
A magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr.,  
his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

VOLUME XXXVIII

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NUMBER 5

## The Goldsmith Publishing Company



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## President's column

In the excellent July/August *Newsboy*, you will have received a copy of the proposed revisions to the Constitution and By-laws of the Society, on which Brad Chase and others have labored; you will also find a postal card enclosed with that issue of *Newsboy*, requesting your vote on adoption of these changes. If you have not already returned that postal card to Executive Director Rob Kasper, please do so immediately. The deadline for receipt of your vote is Nov. 15, and results will be announced in the November/December issue of *Newsboy*.

And speaking of voting, we're in the midst of election season. As a Political Scientist, I can't help but note how the tone, flavor, and very activity of presidential elections are quite different from Alger's day. In the late 19th century, elections were often close; these intensely partisan events engaged voters and large numbers participated (in some late century presidential contests, 83-84 percent of the electorate voted, with turnout highest in non-Southern states). Election day (and election season) featured uniformed parades, picnics, bonfires, much drinking and revelry, and people out in the streets the entire election evening. These were highly partisan occasions.

Alger himself was caught up in some such activity, writing about the Tilden-Hayes election of 1876: "It is tantalizing the uncertainty about the Presidential election. Mr. H.(?) and myself were out late Monday night. He insisted we were overwhelmingly defeated, and laughed at me for expressing confidence that Hayes would be elected after all. At the worst he will come near it." (Alger to Edwin R.A. Seligman, 9 Nov. 1876, Columbia University).

He wrote about campaigns in his letters. As my friend Kristi Andersen argues in *After Suffrage* (University of Chicago Press, 1996), men of this era didn't simply vote — they attended the election. But culturally, these political activities were male-defined rituals and took place apart from the company of proper Victorian women. Progressives and suffragists pushed for reforms that made elections less corrupt, less partisan (parties were seen — not incorrectly — as bastions of corruption) and more disinterested; polling places moved to cleaner locations in churches and schools.

Voting became seen as more of a civic obligation and less of a partisan calculation of interest (votes, jobs,

(Continued on Page 4)

## 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 \$25, with single issues of *Newsboy* costing \$4.00. 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); republished by MAD Book Co., 1999
- 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).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by The New York Book 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.

# The Goldsmith Publishing Company

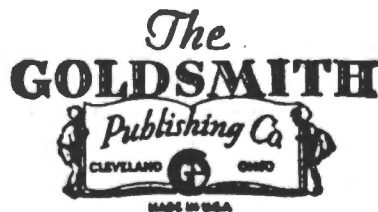
## *What do we know about it?*

By Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)

As many of you know, I am currently writing my fifth and final book about Alger formats and publishers. This latest book covers 12 of the smaller Alger publishers which together have produced 32 different Alger formats, each of which has a unique spine and cover combination.<sup>1</sup>

The publishers were chosen on the basis that they only produced one or a few Alger formats or carried a limited number of Alger titles, that I had enough copies already in my collection to be able to at least start research and that finding additional copies of a publisher's Algers would be relatively easy and inexpensive.

The companies selected include Saalfeld, MacLellan, Goldsmith, Trade, Mutual, New Werner, Consolidated Retail Booksellers, New York Publishing, Superior, World, McGloughlin, and World Publishing. The book is about half done and I look forward to its release within the next year.



As research has progressed, I found that seven of these publishers have ties to Paul E. Werner and The Werner Company of Akron,

Ohio, as explained in a previous article in *Newsboy*. Since that article was published I have found more information about these seven companies during a trip Ann and I took to Akron and Cleveland earlier this past summer.

We also visited the Department of Special Collections and Archives at the Kent State University main library, which owns five boxes containing incomplete but original records of The World Publishing Company and its predecessor companies, much of it unpublished. I am indebted to Mark Williams from the Horatio Alger Repository at Northern Illinois University for finding this important reference for me. I found very helpful information at Kent State University concerning Goldsmith, as well as other publishers covered in my book.

The World Publishing Company, besides producing only one Alger format in 1940, was owned and operated by the Commercial Bookbinding Company which, as a book manufacturer, had many interesting ties to several other publishers that produced Algers.<sup>2</sup>



**The Caxton Building, 800-820 S. Huron St., Cleveland, home of the Goldsmith Publishing Co. from 1919 to 1925.** Photo taken July 2000, courtesy of Linda and Bob Persse

Commercial Bookbinding Company never published Algers itself, but its history covering the men involved with it is an interesting subject perhaps to be covered in a later *Newsboy* article.

The earliest mention I've found of The Goldsmith Publishing Company of Cleveland, Ohio is in the 1915 minutes of the Commercial Bookbinding Company, also of Cleveland. The reference states that the condition of The Goldsmith Publishing Company was reported to those present and the Commercial Directors decided at the meeting to finance that Company.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, I could find no other reference to Goldsmith in any of the other sets of The Commercial Bookbinding Company's minutes available to me.

The Goldsmith Publishing Company is listed in the 1925 Cleveland City Directory as being in the Caxton Building at 800-820 Huron St. from 1919 through 1925. Incidentally this is where Commercial had been located for ten years starting in 1906.<sup>4</sup>

Marcus A. Goldsmith, 38, was found in the 1920

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## Editor's notebook

As we edge closer to end of 2000, it's time to start thinking about the 2001 H.A.S. convention, to be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, from Thursday, May 3 through Sunday, May 6, at the Embassy West Hotel and Conference Center.

Our host, Doug Fleming (PF-899), will have full information on the convention in the January-February *Newsboy*, along with photographs of area attractions, etc. I've also asked him to do a short "teaser" article for the November-December issue. Those of us who attended our Stratford, Ontario, convention in 1996 are looking forward to returning to Canada next spring.

President Carol Nackenoff has a reminder in her column on Page 2 about the ballot (in the form of a self-addressed postal card enclosed in the last issue) for our new Constitution and By-laws. The postage has been paid for by the Society and should be put to the use for which it was intended, so *please* dig out that card and mail it immediately. The deadline is Nov. 15.

**In this issue:** Brad Chase continues his survey of Alger publishers with an article on the Goldsmith Publishing Company, starting on Page 3. As he mentions, this will become part of his latest book, *Horatio Alger Books Published by 12 Small Alger Publishers*.

When Brad began this project after completing his book on the New York Book Company in early 1999, he felt he could wrap up this two decade-long project (his books now cover A.L. Burt, M.A. Donohue, Whitman and New York Book) by combining the remaining smaller reprint publishers into one volume. Of course, he's found it to be a much more labor-intensive project than originally foreseen — but he still hopes to have the book finished in time for the next convention.

This issue also includes a pair of articles showing how intertwined our hobby is with the computer age: an update on the official Horatio Alger Society Internet site by its builders, Janice and Mike Morley; and a report on Northern Illinois University Libraries' Alger digitization project by Mark A. Williams, archives specialist at the Rare Books and Special Collections Department. It's an impressive project, one bringing Alger texts and letters to the fingertips of every home-computer user.

\* \* \*

Even though space is somewhat limited this issue, we now continue our survey of prominent publishers of boys' and girls' books and their methods (if any) for identifying first editions. As usual, sources were *A Pocket Guide to the Identification of First Editions*, compiled by Bill

## President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

loyalty to friends, etc.). The infusion of women into the electorate was one force in changing the tone of elections and the activity of voting. It is no accident that reforms instituted during the early part of the 20th century (many of which were dear to women seeking to bring their housekeeping skills to government and also to Progressives) are associated with decline of parties, depressed voter turnout, and declining interest in elections. This is the legacy we now bring to the election of 2000.

On other fronts, I recently spoke with Carl and Jean Hartmann, who many of us have not seen for a while. They are in good health and had a good and busy summer catching up with children and grandchildren, traveling to Charlevoix, Mich., and to their condo on Lake Michigan. They still run their two booths in area antique malls and are traveling to Vermont in early October. The excellent news is that Carl and Jean hope to be with us in Ottawa in May; they are talking about driving up to the convention. Carl wanted me to convey how much he enjoyed the last issue of *Newsboy*, on which Bill does such a good job, and to commend Brad on the constitution and bylaws.

On Page 9 of this issue is a report recently prepared by Janice and Mike Morley on the official Horatio Alger Society Internet site. The article includes a sampling of the many "hits" and comments from all over the world since the Web site's launch in 1997. I thought it would be very interesting for us to hear more about Janice and Mike's experiences running the site.

Finally, as some of you know, I have recently acquired a copy of the first edition of *Seeking His Fortune and Other Dialogues*. I admit that I am rather a lazy collector, and am amazed to own a title that I never expected to have. I remain grateful to David Collier and to Gil Westgard for reprinting this title for those of us for whom it continues to be elusive.

I wish everyone a healthy, fulfilling fall.

Your Partic'lar Friend,  
Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)  
302 S. Chester Road  
Swarthmore, PA 19081  
E-mail: cnacken1@swarthmore.edu

McBride (self-published, Hartford, Ct., 1995); *First Editions: A Guide to Identification*, third edition, edited by Edward N. Zempel and Linda A. Verkler (Peoria, Ill.: The Spoon River Press, 1995); and *How to Identify and Collect American First Editions*, by Jack Tannen (New

(Continued on Page 20)



## The Goldsmith Publishing Company

### *What do we know about it?*

*(Continued from Page 3)*

Census living at 1341 East Blvd. with his wife Etta, also 38, and a son, Theodore, 10 years of age. Mr. Goldsmith reported his birthplace as Indiana, 1882.<sup>5</sup> His home is listed in the Cleveland city directories at several different addresses from 1919 through 1927. It appears from the Directories that he was President and Manager of The Goldsmith Publishing Company from at least 1919 through 1925 and the next year or two managed a different company, The Child Play Co., that published *Child Play Magazine*.<sup>6</sup>

No further information on either the company itself or Mr. Goldsmith was discovered in any subsequent Cleveland directories. There is some other information about Goldsmith as well. For example, in a 1986 letter to

me from Gilbert K. Westgard II, Alger researcher and noted Alger authority, Gilbert wrote that he learned from an interview with two of M. A. Donohue's great-grandchildren in 1976 that the Donohue Company (Chicago) owned Goldsmith.<sup>7</sup> This finding had little relevance to me in 1986 but is of interest now. However, Gilbert had no substantiating information. Also, in my old Donohue files I recently found a note I had made at some point that stated M. A. Donohue printed children's books under the Goldsmith imprint in 1938. Again no source or other background information was noted.

Adding to these findings are three non-Alger series books I've found which were copywritten in 1934-1936 by the Goldsmith Publishing Company of Chicago.<sup>8</sup> In addition, a different source, Tebbel, tells us that in 1937 Goldsmith Publishing Company was one of several publishers which sold a total of six million children's books that year.<sup>9</sup> These pieces of information are slim indeed, but they do show a tie between Chicago (Donohue?) and Goldsmith during the late

1930's, just as Westgard reported.

One might therefore conclude from all this that The Goldsmith Publishing Company was actively publishing children's books from 1915 to well through the 1930's and perhaps beyond.

What we don't know is who specifically owned the Goldsmith imprint at what point in time and, if it was Donohue, Commercial or Saalfeld, or all three at different times, why they didn't publish the books under their own imprint? Unfortunately these questions will have to await further research.

From a format perspective, there are only three hard-

cover Goldsmith Alger formats; all were published starting in the 1925 and 1926 time frame, according to inscription dates; all sold for 50 cents each and all carried the same 12 Alger titles.<sup>10</sup>

Also, all three were printed by The Commercial Bookbinding Company, according to a



**The Commercial Bookbinding Co. building, 2231 110th St., Cleveland.**

Photo taken July 2000, courtesy of Linda and Bob Persse

notation at the back of many of the books themselves. These formats are shown at the end of this article as Examples 1, 2 and 3.

It should be noted that an identical Black Border format (Ex. 1) was also published by both The Saalfeld Publishing Company (Akron) and The World Syndicate Publishing Company (Cleveland). The inside pages of this format for the three companies are also identical except, of course, for the publisher reference on the title page.

Also, the Saalfeld copies do not contain a printer reference at the back. None of these three has page numbers, which is unusual in Algers, and the texts all have the same broken type examples indicating they were printed from the same plates. This is further evidence that a strong tie existed between the Goldsmith, Saalfeld and The World Syndicate Publishing Companies. Because the Commercial Bookbinding Company reference is missing in the Saalfeld copies of this format,

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## The Goldsmith Publishing Company

### *What do we know about it?*

(Continued from Page 5)

I suspect Saalfield printed its own copies of this format but used the old Goldsmith plates.

The Shelf of Books format (Ex. 2) was published in 1925 by Goldsmith and in 1933 by The World Syndicate Publishing Company. These two are also identical both outside and inside. The Commercial Bookbinding Company acquired The World Syndicate Company in 1929 and changed the name to The World Syndicate Publishing Company.<sup>11</sup> It obviously obtained the Goldsmith plates and republished the Goldsmith Shelf of Books format under its own imprint.

The third Goldsmith format, Newsboy, (Ex. 3) shows a paperboy on the cover and a baseball player on the spine. It was published by Goldsmith starting in 1926 and was not reprinted by any other publisher.

From this wide array of findings we can, with some trepidation, make the following assertions:

The Goldsmith Publishing Company, located initially in Cleveland and later is found in Chicago, was active in the book publishing business from at least 1915 through 1937 and perhaps beyond. It published *Algers* starting in 1925 for a couple of years.

There is obviously a very strong tie between The Commercial Bookbinding Company and Goldsmith, even to the point of Commercial's financing Goldsmith as a company in 1915 and likely beyond. I suspect Marcus A. Goldsmith started the company and was involved with it in some way from 1915 through 1925 when he began another publishing business that lasted only a couple of years.

What happened then we don't know, except the Goldsmith Publishing Company imprint was very actively carried on children's books at least well into the late 1930's. By the way, I find it somewhat curious that Goldsmith initiated publishing *Algers* the year that Mr. Goldsmith entered his new business.

Similarity of *Alger* formats published by both the Goldsmith and World Syndicate Publishing companies suggests a direct tie between these two firms, which was very likely because The Commercial Bookbinding Company, which owned World Syndicate Publishing, had a direct financial tie to both companies. The Black Border format and its printing plates were shared by World Syndicate Publishing, Goldsmith and Saalfield as was the same dust jacket design which covered them.

Interestingly, the pictorial design on that jacket is identical to the Goldsmith Newsboy hard cover format (See Figure 3) and carries to the Goldsmith Publishing Company on the flap, regardless of whose



**The Cleveland apartment building where Marcus A. Goldsmith lived in 1919. The three-story building, located at 1341 East Boulevard, contained six apartments.**

Photo taken July 2000, courtesy of Linda and Bob Persse

name is on the title page as the publisher. In other words, the same Goldsmith *Alger* dust jacket was used by all three companies to cover the Black Border, Shelf of Books and Newsboy formats, regardless of publisher.

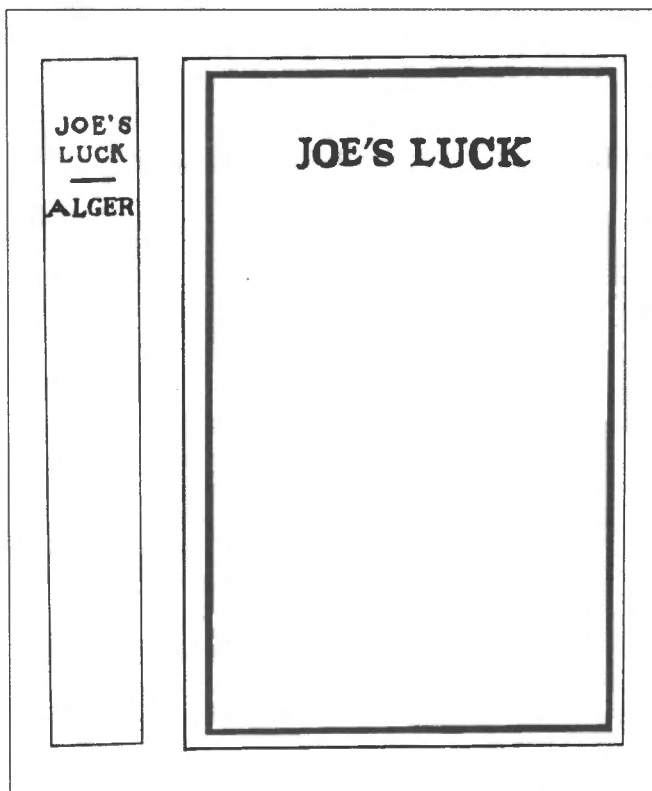
So this is what we know up to this point about the Goldsmith Publishing Company. If anyone has different information about Goldsmith than I've been able to present here, or knows of other references which may be useful in understanding more about this publisher, please let me know.

### NOTES:

1. Survey of 20 *Alger* collectors by the author during 1999 to determine the number of *Alger* titles, formats, inscription dates, etc. which existed for 12 of the smaller *Alger* publishers.

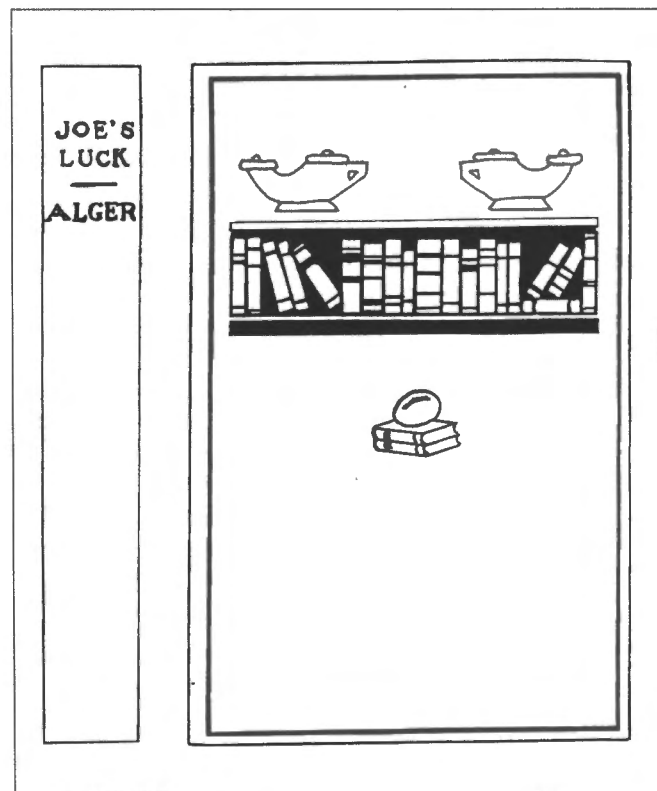
2. Kent State University Libraries and Media Services, Department of Special Collections and Archives. The World Publishing Company's non-circulating holdings consisting of unpublished minutes, memorabilia, financial records and speech drafts plus random articles and Annual Reports of The Commercial Bookbinding Company and its associated businesses.

3. *Ibid.*; minutes of Jan. 18, 1915.



Ex. 1: The Black Border format.

Drawings by Brad Chase



Ex. 2: The Shelf of Books format.

4. *The Cleveland City Directory*, Cuyohoga County, Ohio; The Cleveland Directory Company, Publishers; Various years; microfilm. Cleveland Public Library.

5. *United States Federal Census*, Cleveland, Ohio, 1920; Volume 58, Sheet 6, Line 3; microfilm.

6. *Op. Cit.* *The Cleveland City Directories*, various years.

7. Gilbert K. Westgard II, personal letter to me dated September 17, 1986. Also, "Eviscerated Editions," *Newsboy*, Vol. XXVI, January/February 1988, No. 4, p. 113; Horatio Alger Society.

8. The Goldsmith Publishing Company, Chicago: *Dan Hyland Police Reporter*, by Norton, Hughes Jonathan; Copyright 1936; *Mimi At Camp*, by Anne Pence Davis; Copyright 1935; *Cheerleader*, by Janet Singer; Copyright 1934.

9. John Tebbel, *A History of Book Publishing in the United States*, Vols. II (p. 464) and III (pp. 567-569); New York: R.R. Bowker Co.

10. Bradford S. Chase, *Horatio Alger Books Published By 12 Small Alger Publishers*; Unpublished book currently (2000) in progress which presents detailed information about 32 different Alger formats of 12 small Alger publishers.

11. *Op. Cit.*; Kent State University Libraries and Media Services.



Ex. 3: The Newsboy format.

## Welcome to the Horatio Alger Society



*Carte de visite of Alger about 1868, a bonus to subscribers to Student and Schoolmate.*

**Our purpose:** To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive and Succeed that for half of a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes - lads whose struggles epitomized the great American dream and inspired heroideals in countless millions of young Americans.

The Horatio Alger Society (H.A.S.) was founded in 1961 by Forrest Campbell and Kenneth B. Butler. The H.A.S. was incorporated at Mendota, Illinois in 1965 as a non-profit organization.

- [Learn more about the Horatio Alger Society](#)
- [Convention 2000 information in the Brandywine River Valley of Pennsylvania](#) **UPDATE!!**
- [Sign our guestbook](#) and share information with others interested in Alger's books
- [Visit the Horatio Alger Society repository web site at Northern Illinois University](#)
- [Books recommended by the Horatio Alger Society](#)
- [Bibliography of the works of Horatio Alger, Jr.](#)
- [Learn more about Horatio Alger, Jr. on the Web](#) through our links to these sites
- [How to join the ALGER-L List Server \(on-line forum\)](#)
- [Alger's books: bindings, illustrations, and dust jackets](#)

029987 have visited this site since 3/23/97





# Facing the (Internet) World:

## *A look at the Horatio Alger Society Web site*

by Michael Morley (PF-934)  
and Janice Morley (PF-957)

**T**he Horatio Alger Society has had an Internet Web presence through our H.A.S. Web site since 1997. We've had a lot of activity on the Web site — to date, over 29,000 visitors have accessed our site! Maintaining the site is an ongoing project, since we frequently receive comments and suggestions from individuals whose interests include both Alger's works and juvenile series authors in general.

The purpose of this article is to give all members an idea of how our Web site is structured, and to highlight some of the interesting experiences we've had in the three years since our site went public.

You can view much of this information by accessing our site at <http://www.ihot.com/~has>

**NOTE:** For those who are not familiar with Internet Web site terminology, the following glossary of terms may be useful:

\* **Visitor:** An Internet user who views our site from his or her computer.

\* **Page:** A single-screen display of information. Web sites typically start with a "home page," which contains a brief introduction to the site. Our home page, shown on Page 8, also functions as a table of contents to other areas (pages) related to our site.

\* **Link:** A specially-formatted section on a page, from which a viewer can access another page within the site, or a completely different Web site.

\* **URL:** Universal Resource Locator. This is the Internet "street address" (shown above) used to access our site, as well as access other Internet sites.

\* **Guest Book:** An on-line forum to which visitors can post questions and comments for others to reply. Individuals who can post, read and reply to items posted in the guest book are limited to those who are viewing the H.A.S. Web site at the time.

### **What information is on our site?**

The H.A.S. Web site currently includes links to other pages we maintain, as well as access to related sites. The pages included on our site cover the following areas:

\* How to learn more about the Horatio Alger Society. This page provides membership information

and links to some of the articles that have appeared in past issues of *Newsboy*.

\* Convention 2001 information: This page includes details about the upcoming 2001 convention in Ottawa, Ontario. A convention description and registration form will be provided.

\* A "guest book" for site visitors to write their thoughts and comments.

\* Access to the Horatio Alger Collection at our Northern Illinois University repository Web site.

\* A listing of the books about Horatio Alger, Jr., as recommended by the Society.

\* Alphabetical and chronological bibliographies of Horatio Alger, Jr.'s first editions and reprint titles.

\* Links to URLs for additional information related to Horatio Alger, Jr.

\* Links to photos showing some of the bindings, illustrations, and dust jackets used by various Alger publications.

\* Links to photos from the 2000 H.A.S. convention in the Brandywine River Valley.

\* Electronic mail access for additional feedback.

### **Why do we link to other sites?**

We periodically receive requests to establish links to related Web sites. When appropriate, we add a link to these other sites. Currently, the Horatio Alger Society Internet site includes links to the following related sites:

\* The Horatio Alger, Jr. Resources site maintained by Bill Roach (PF-978).

\* The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans.

\* Information on the 1982 Horatio Alger, Jr. commemorative postage stamp.

\* The article "Rags to Riches to Rap" by Richard Todd, which appeared in the February, 1994 issue of *Worth* magazine.

\* Advanced Book Exchange (ABE) and BiblioFind to help visitors locate Alger titles for sale.

### **Why the guest book?**

We added a guest book earlier this year to provide a means for H.A.S. Web site visitors to write their thoughts and comments about our site, and to share information with others who have a similar interest in Horatio Alger's works.

We don't respond to individuals who add to the guest book, since we consider it a "bulletin board" for public use. (N.B. — We provide our electronic mail address for those who want to contact us directly for specific information.)

(Continued on Page 10)

# Facing the (Internet) World:

## *A look at the Horatio Alger Society Web site*

(Continued from Page 9)

mation — see "What other feedback have we received from the site?", below.)

Some very interesting feedback has appeared in the guest book. Visitors typically want to know about book collecting, where to find Alger titles, or share thoughts about Alger's "strive and succeed" philosophy. The following are some examples:

*From Cherry Hill, New Jersey:*

"My father, who was a member of the society, has left a huge collection of boys' books, including many Algers. I would appreciate any suggestions as to the best means of disposing of the collection."

*From Newton, Iowa:*

"Horatio Alger was my great-grandfather's first cousin. I'm looking for family history and/or relatives."

*From Asheville, North Carolina:*

"I am presently at a low point in my life. I wish to make a 180-degree turn and become a total success. I would appreciate hearing from others with insight in making a turn in mid-stream (mid-life) and making the new course work."

*From Townsville, Australia:*

"I have four kids and want to get them Horatio Alger books, but can't locate any in Australia. Can anyone help?"

*From San Antonio, Texas:*

"Hey, sometimes I just have to recite these things aloud. I love the language and the sentiments expressed therein. The absolute quality of the characters are refreshing in an age when even the superheroes have angst.

The good are good, the bad are bad, with the wonderful rare exception when a bad guy converts. Which books contain such conversions? Let me know! I only have ten at this time.

*From Union Springs, Alabama:*

"Children of today need Horatio Alger."

### **What other feedback have we received from the site?**

Visitors who have contacted us directly at [has@ihot.com](mailto:has@ihot.com) often want appraisals on titles they own. When we can, we have provided some personalized guidelines for specific questions, but in gen-

eral, we refer visitors to the alphabetical and chronological bibliographies for first editions and reprints that are available as links from the H.A.S. Web site.

Some other notable e-mail we have received and responded to follows:

\* A children's book writer and illustrator told us of his own Web site, and suggested we include a link to it.

\* A visitor mentioned that he recently read Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, which includes references to Horatio Alger, Jr. He wanted to know more about Alger's definition of "the American dream."

\* A reader had just finished reading *Ragged Dick*, his first Alger title, and wanted to know of other titles that included the character Dick Hunter.

\* A film editor, working on a documentary film based on videotaped conversations with her father, wrote that her father spoke of the influence Horatio Alger stories read when he was a poor boy growing up on the Lower East Side of New York City. She wanted information regarding use of Alger dust jackets to illustrate this part of the documentary.

\* A mother wanted to know if there are any films about Alger, his books, and/or *Ragged Dick* for her son, who was writing a report on Alger.

\* A reader wanted to know of sources for quotations by Alger.

\* A middle school student wanted to know where to find the *Ragged Dick* story in an on-line format.

\* The innkeepers of the Deerfield Inn in Deerfield, Mass., mentioned that they have a guest room named for Horatio Alger, Jr., which is decorated in an Alger theme. (A color photograph of this room can be viewed on-line at <http://www.deerfieldinn.com/lodging/guestrooms/room141/room141.html>)

\* A playwright wanted support in developing a play based on Horatio Alger's life.

### **What's planned for the future?**

The Horatio Alger Society Web site is maintained for the benefit of our membership, and to further public awareness and interest in Horatio Alger, Jr. One possibility is to add additional links to other Web sites specializing in juvenile series.

We'd also like to make the site more interesting by providing "members-only" information, such as the following:

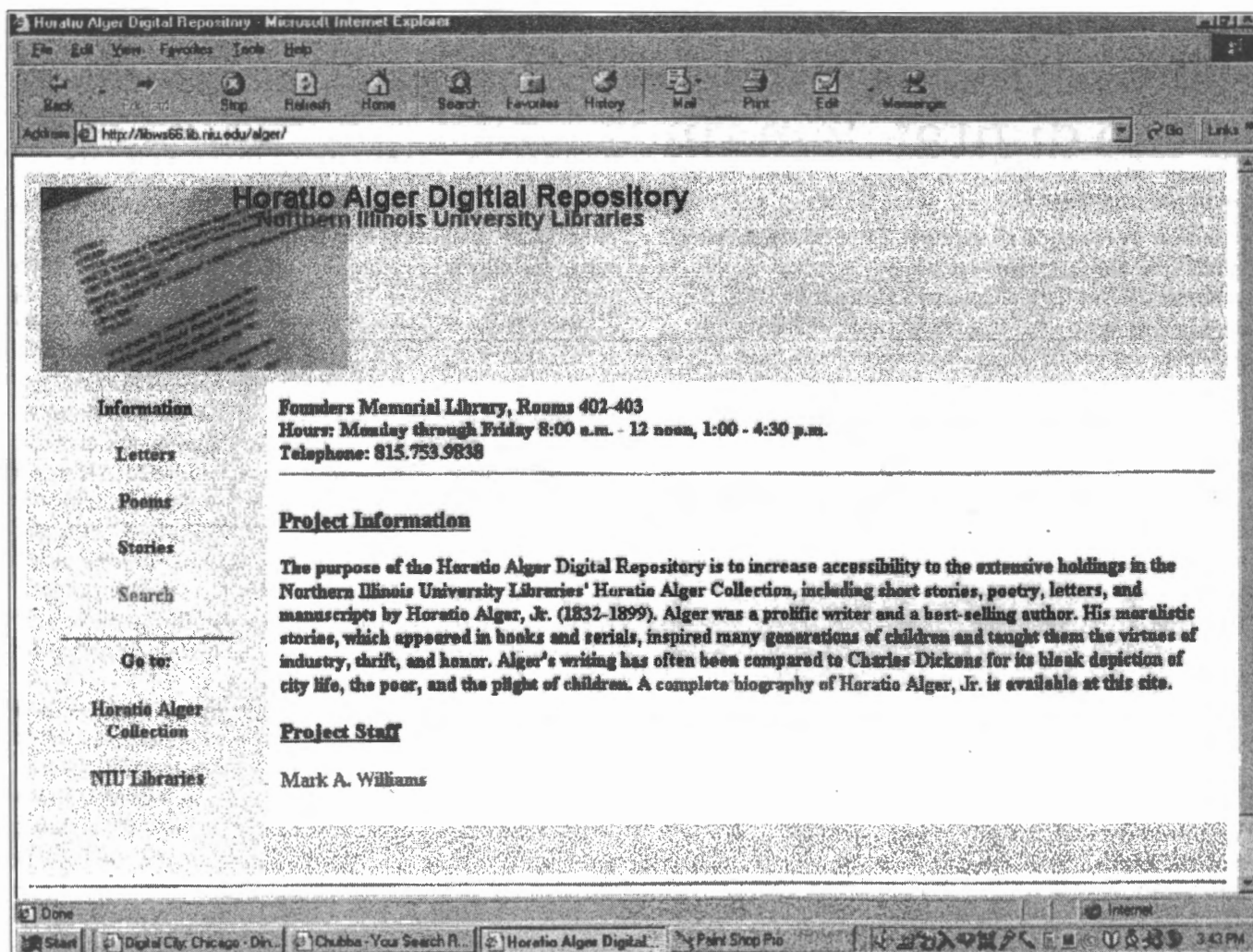
\* An on-line membership roster.

\* Full point-by-point bibliographies from Ralph Gardner's and Bob Bennett's sources

\* A private guest book.

■ ■ ■

Do you have any other suggestions? If so, let us know and we can incorporate them as time and resources permit. E-mail us at [has@ihot.com](mailto:has@ihot.com)



# Accessing Alger in the digital domain

By Mark A. Williams (PF-1041)  
Archives Specialist  
Rare Books & Special Collections  
Northern Illinois University Libraries

With the advent of book purchase plans, libraries are increasingly becoming homogenized. These plans are offered through companies that distribute books and allow a library to select a profile, usually based upon the profile of another library of similar size and mission. The library that subscribes to these services will then receive a set package of books. The books are delivered to the library and the subject specialist librarians have a period of time to look over the new acquisitions and accept or deny any book in the plan.

Because of this homogenization, special collections are now largely what add distinction to libraries. This

holds true at the Northern Illinois University Libraries, where our special collections (not including our preeminent Southeast Asia Collection) have been actively developed and have grown from 60,000 items to well over 120,000 items within a short span of time. A large part of this growth in special collections has been in our Horatio Alger collection.

As many of you may already know, the goal of the NIU Libraries is to build a comprehensive research collection on Horatio Alger, Jr. In the past seven years, we have actively acquired personal letters, manuscripts, serial publications, books in every format, and Horatio Alger Society archival materials and convention paraphernalia. In that seven-year time period, we can proudly boast that we have built the largest and perhaps finest collection in the world on Horatio Alger, Jr.

Now that we have all of these materials locked away

*(Continued on Page 12)*

# Accessing Alger in the digital domain

*(Continued from Page 11)*

in their own collection room in the Rare Books & Special Collections Department, which is necessary for their protection, what do we do now? Should we keep them locked away with the hope that people will come to use them? Or, do we investigate creative new methods of making these materials accessible to the public? For a librarian, the choice is clear: make these materials accessible. With that in mind, I began a digitization project to make our special Alger holdings accessible over the World Wide Web (WWW).

The Horatio Alger Digital Repository Project began one year ago, although at the time, I was not aware of the fact that I was embarking on a "project." Just prior to the 1999 Horatio Alger Society (H.A.S.) Convention in DeKalb, I was examining some serial publications we had acquired from Paul Miller the summer before. The Paul Miller materials largely consist of story papers containing short fiction pieces, poetry, and articles by Horatio Alger, Jr.

Few libraries hold such story papers and serials from Alger's time period. The libraries that do hold these print materials often keep them in the special collections, which usually maintain limited hours of service. Add to this fact that most of these materials are not available in any other format, such as microfilm or microfiche.

**Newsboy** and a small contingent of H.A.S. members have done an excellent job of reprinting many of these stories, but they still are not widely accessible to the general public. Since I had just recently received new digital imaging equipment and software, I turned my attention to a new venture — to digitize an Alger short story. I selected "Job Warner's Christmas" which appeared in the December 1863 **Harpers New Monthly Magazine**. The selection was out of convenience, for it was directly in front of me when I made the decision.

As I mentioned earlier, I had just received new equipment and software, which consisted of a Microtek Scanmaker X6el scanner, FineReader Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, and Paint Shop Pro (graphics imaging software). I quickly developed some guidelines based on my perceived audience and its needs. I figured that my audience would not require substantial knowledge of the original layout and typesetting, freeing me from creating large and cumbersome graphics files. Besides, the original would still

be available from the NIU Libraries to fulfill such needs.

My main purpose would be to make the content of the stories accessible and fully searchable. For this reason, I decided to create full text files.

The process I use in digitizing these texts is really quite simple: I make a high-quality photocopy of the short story, including any graphics, and use it for scanning. Using FineReader, I scan the photocopy, which produces a digital image. Once the digital image is displayed on the screen, I mark what part should be recognized (OCR'd).

FineReader then scans over the marked areas of the image and recognizes characters, converting them to text. This text can then be compared against the original to check for errors. I have found that FineReader, if given a good copy, is about 98 percent accurate. If a graphic is present, I use Paint Shop Pro to scan it at 600 dots per inch (dpi) and save it as a .tif file (Tagged Image Format), archive it, and make a copy. In the interest of keeping file sizes small and download times to a minimum, I convert the copy to a .jpg (Joint Photoexperts Group), reduce the size, and save it.

I then run a spell-checker program on the digitized text to check for OCR errors. Once the spell-checker is complete, I proofread the text one more time before saving an archive copy to a separate directory and exporting the open copy to my HTML editor, Arachnophilia. In Arachnophilia, I encode, or "mark-up," the text using Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) for delivery to the Web and save it as an HTML file. Before sending the file to the library's server, I add Dublin Core meta-data tags.

Meta-data tags are used by Web search engines for indexing and retrieving information. Separate tags exist for title, author, subject, description, date, publisher, etc. By including meta-data, search engines can retrieve information much more quickly and accurately.

Next, I add a header to the HTML file that contains relevant information about the original: Title, author, publisher, publisher address, size, and date digitized. Most of this information comes from the cataloging record. I then export the HTML file and graphic (.jpg), if any, to the library's server for Web access and burn the archive files onto a compact disc (CD). The photocopy I used in the digitization process is placed in an envelope and stored in the Horatio Alger Collection room for future photocopying and reading requests.

I decided early on that I would concentrate on Alger short stories and poems, but soon we began acquiring letters. These are, of course, unique materials that would be invaluable to researchers in other parts of the country and world. As we acquire letters, we make a high-quality photocopy and a student is assigned to create a



transcription from the photocopy for cataloging purposes. The transcription is done using Microsoft Word and a print-out is made and shelved along with the photocopy and the original.

Since we already had the Word text files, encoding the document in HTML for delivery over the Web would not be much more difficult. I took the Word files, imported them into my HTML editor, Arachnophilia, added the appropriate mark-up, and saved them as HTML files. I then scanned the photocopy of the letter and created two files, a .tif for archiving and a .jpg for delivery over the web. I reduced the size of the .jpg in the interest of conserving file size and shortening download times, but it is still very legible. Researchers can now compare a graphic version of the letters in our collections to the transcriptions we created.

Once all encoding has been completed and files have been copied to our server, I update our search engines. We have two search engines on the Alger site, one for keyword title searches and another for keyword full-text searches. The keyword title search is a local java program, which requires manual input of each new record. The keyword full-text search is provided by WhatUSeek, a Web-search engine service. For this service, I place a request for re-indexing, which can usually be completed within 10-15 minutes. These search services allow users of the site to limit their searches to titles only or the full-text of files.

As a final step, if these materials are cataloged individually, I notify our cataloging department to create a link from our catalog record to the digital holdings. In this way, if a person is searching our online catalog and retrieves a record for an item that is available from our Web site, he/she can merely click on the link

in the catalog and bring up the digital record.

Since I began this venture, the Horatio Alger Digital Repository has become a fully-recognized digitization project of the Rare Books & Special Collections Department of the NIU Libraries. The site receives several visits every day and I routinely field reference questions from all over the world. For instance, I recently received a reference request from a student

in Indonesia who wanted to know more about Alger's writing.

The goal of this project is to make special materials in our Horatio Alger Collection available over the World Wide Web, including letters, manuscripts, and short stories.

In one year's time, I have completed and mounted on our Web site three letters, three poems, and 21 short stories. We

have approximately 30 letters in our holdings and, according to Bob Bennett's authoritative bibliography, there are known to be 94 poems and 537 short stories by Alger. This will certainly be a multi-year project.

The URL for this project is:

<http://libws66.lib.niu.edu/alger/>

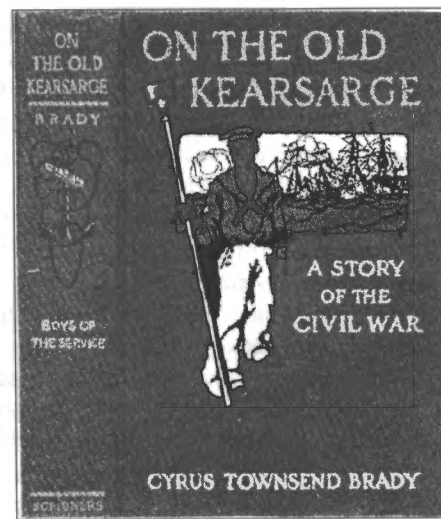
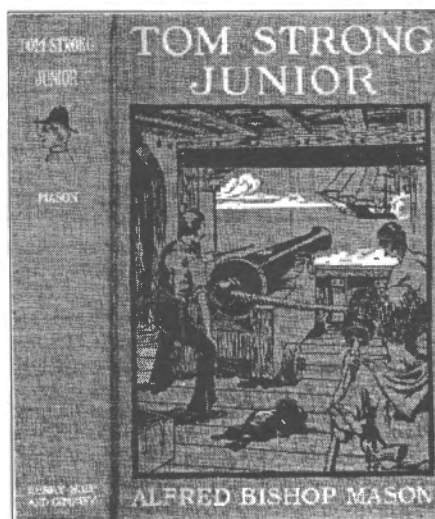
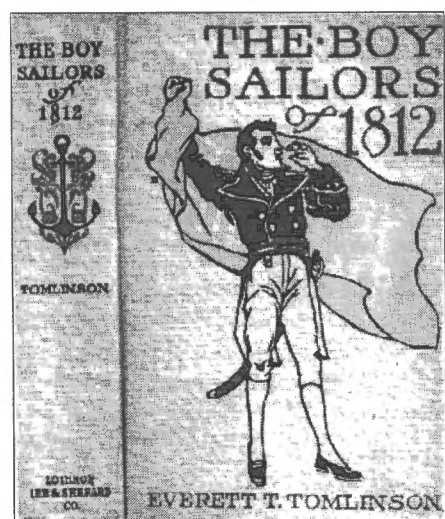
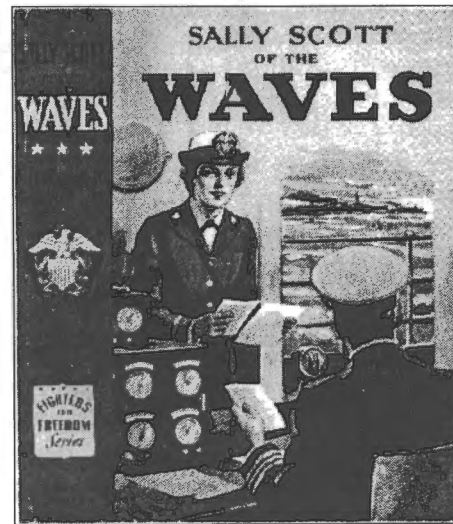
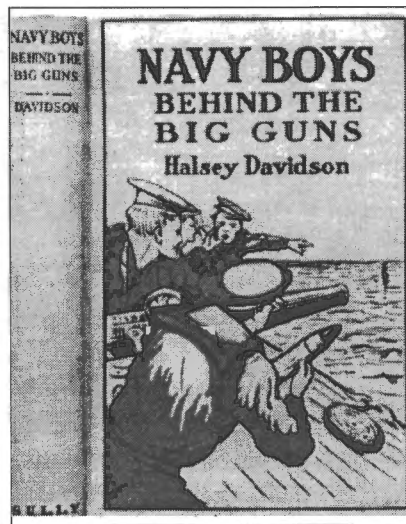
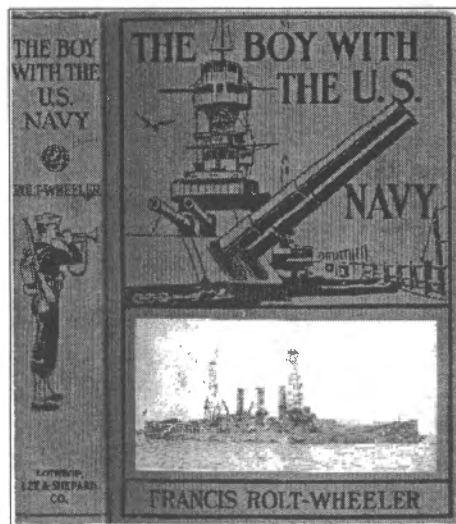
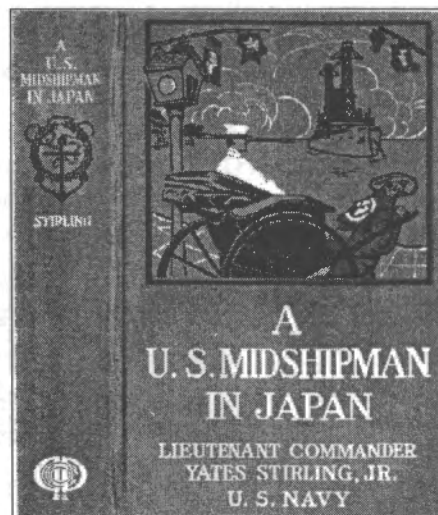
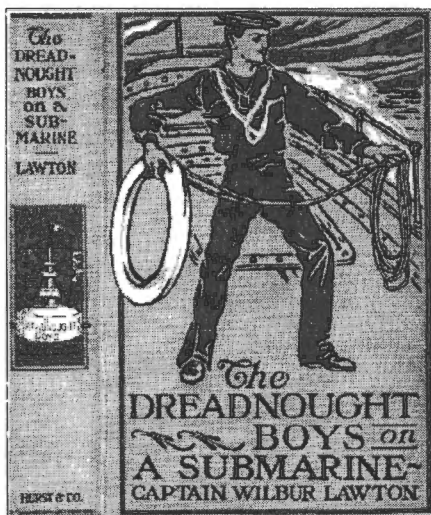
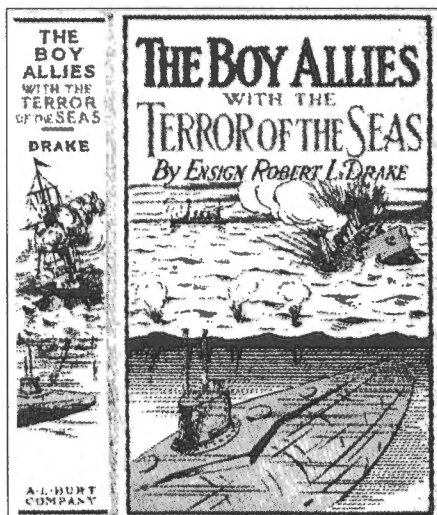
Please take a look at it and if you have any suggestions, I would be most happy to hear them. You can contact me at this address:

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**The Rare Books & Special Collections Department, home of the Horatio Alger Repository Library at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.**





Examples of series books in which the U.S. Navy plays a role either in true historical context or pure adventure.

# Anchors Aweigh!

## Series books and the United States Navy

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

Is there anything more dashing and romantic than the following?

From Richard Pearson, captain of the British Frigate *Serapis*:

"Has your ship struck?"

Reply from John Paul Jones, captain of the U.S. Navy frigate *Bon Homme Richard*:

"I have not yet begun to fight!"

That battlefield declaration is right up there with "Give me liberty or give me death!" and "...that government Of the People, By the People and For the People, shall not perish from the Earth."

John Paul Jones remains the ultimate American hero. His tomb in the U.S. Naval Academy chapel at Annapolis is watched by a Marine sentry 24 hours a day, an enduring symbol of the U.S. Navy in the days of sail, stout ships and strong-willed men.

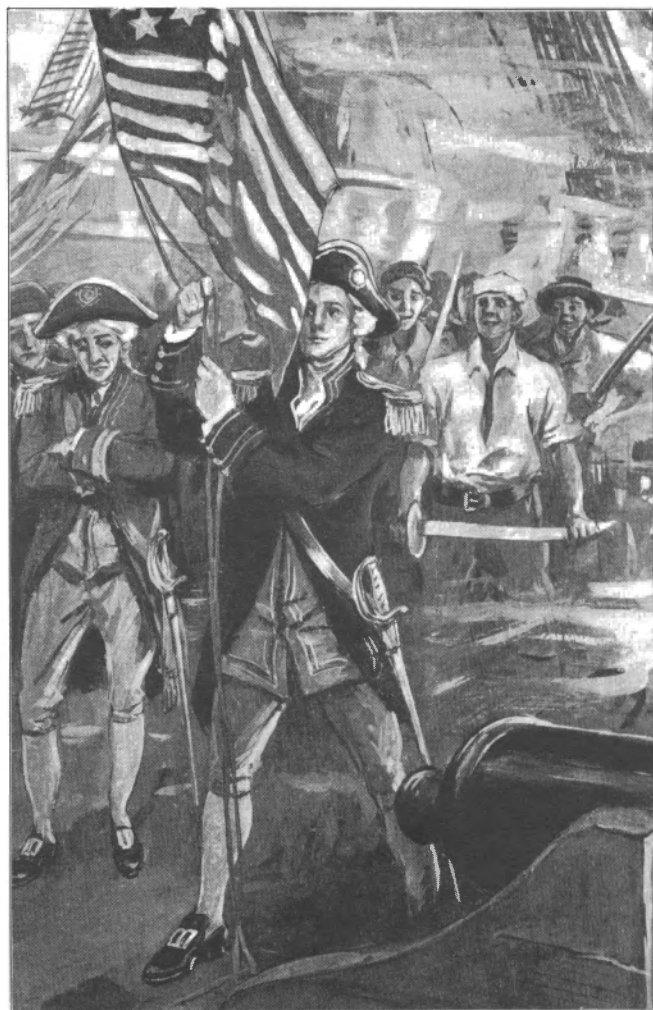
But lest you think life in the Navy is a glorious profession, it is not. War is hell, no matter the era. Yes, those were true fighting words by John Paul Jones that day in September 1779, but who remembers that

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

the *Bon Homme Richard* battled to a standoff that day and that two days later, she was sunk? And what about the casualties? One of Jones' officers described the blood on the decks as "running over one's shoes."

Not only did Jones become a legend because Captain Pearson struck his colors in *Serapis*, but because of the arrival of the American frigate *Alliance* on the scene to assist Jones' battle-damaged command. "I saw, with inexpressible grief, the last glimpse of the *Bon Homme Richard*," Jones recorded in his captain's log, as she slipped beneath the waves.

I offer this tidbit of history because John Paul Jones and his "I have not yet begun to fight" exploits were



"Paul Jones boarded the *DRAKE*, and with his own hands ran up the Stars and Stripes." — *Frontispiece, Dashing Paul Jones* by Frank Sheridan

**The exploits of John Paul Jones were the inspiration for numerous series books involving the U.S. Navy beginning in the late 19th century.**

used in numerous boys' books, giving the Navy hero a prominent place in juvenile literature. And he was not alone: Stephen Decatur, Oliver Hazard Perry, David Farragut and George Dewey have all played prominent roles in boys' series books.

It fell to Dewey to utter another of the classic statements in the history of Naval warfare. Bringing the U.S.S. *Olympia* into Manila Bay against a hopelessly outclassed Spanish foe, he gave the classic order as the distance to the Spanish ships at anchor in the harbor grew shorter and shorter:

"You may fire when you're ready, Gridley."

During a lull in the fighting, when a pall of smoke obscured the fish-in-a-barrel targets, Dewey ordered his men to go eat breakfast while the smoke cleared. "For God's sake, don't let us stop now!" yelled one gun

(Continued on Page 16)

*Editor's note: This article was first presented as a paper at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association meeting in San Diego, Calif., on April 2, 1999.*

# Anchors Aweigh!

## Series books and the United States Navy

(Continued from Page 15)

captain. "To hell with breakfast!"

Back to series books. Is it any surprise why the Navy was a hot topic for the authors of the day? First, you had the so-called "historic" Navy, the days of Jones, Farragut, Decatur and Perry, fighting their battles in the Revolution and the War of 1812. Then there was the Civil War, with its Naval battles along the Mississippi and along the Atlantic coast. The *Monitor* vs. *Virginia* changed the face of Naval warfare forever.

Then came the Spanish-American War, sparked by the sinking of the U.S.S. *Maine* in Havana harbor, and subsequent naval battles in and around Cuba and the Philippines.

World War I was mostly a land war, although mighty battles were fought at Jutland and against the German submarine fleet. Yet this war was a hot topic for series books because the years of the Great War coincided with the period in which series books were in their greatest wave of popularity.

World War II brought about a decrease in series books with a Navy theme. There were two main reasons:

First, the Great Depression had dealt series-book publishing in general a big blow, and with wartime paper shortages, there weren't that many books written or printed. The Stratemeyer Syndicate kept going during the war with its most popular series, but many publishers either folded or got out of series books, concentrating on adult mysteries and pulp novels.

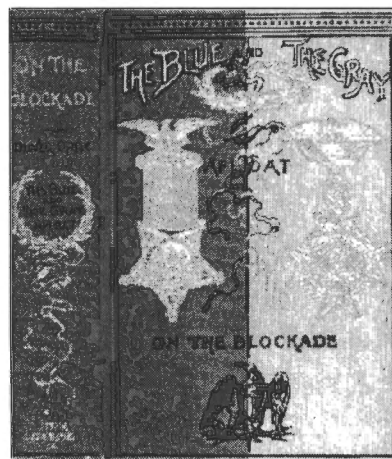
Second, war itself changed, signaled by the attack on Pearl Harbor, which effectively brought an end to the battleship era. Starting in May 1942 with the Battle of the Coral Sea, naval battles were fought with long-range aircraft instead of big guns. When U.S. Navy dive bombers sank the Japanese aircraft carriers *Akagi*, *Kaga* and *Soryu* within a 20-minute span at Midway on the morning of June 4, 1942, naval warfare was never the same.

To this day, basic U.S. Navy doctrine revolves around the aircraft carrier. The Iowa-class battleships, brought out of retirement during the Reagan administration and some of them later used during the Gulf War in 1991, are back in mothballs, likely forever.

So let's take a survey of the series-book landscape, roughly in chronological order.

You can't look at series books without mentioning the name William Taylor Adams ("Oliver Optic"). *The Sailor Boy* (1863), *The Yankee Middy* (1865) and *Brave Old Salt* (1866) were published as the Navy-oriented titles in Optic's *Army and Navy Stories* and later as the *Sailor Boy Series*.

Military adventures remained a subject for Adams throughout his career. Particularly popular was *The Blue and the Gray Series*, 12 books published between 1888 and 1899, the last volume, *An Undivided Union*, completed by Edward Stratemeyer following Adams' death.

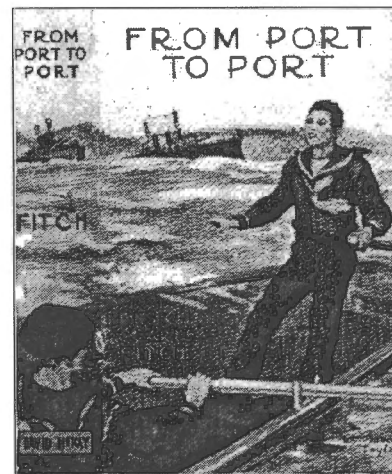


The series was divided into two sections, *The Blue and the Gray Afloat* comprising the first six books and *The Blue and the Gray On Land* the second six. It is the former group of six books that are of interest here: *Taken By the Enemy* (1888), *Within the Enemy's Lines* (1889), *On the Blockade* (1890),

*Stand By the Union* (1891), *Fighting for the Right* (1892) and *A Victorious Union* (1893).

Many early boys' series books were reprints of popular magazine serials. That was the case with Navy-related stories like *Out With Commodore Decatur* by "Lt. Lionel Lounsberry"

(a Street & Smith pseudonym); or five books written by Henry Harrison Lewis as "Ensign Clark Fitch", published by S&S and McKay in the *Boys' Own Library*. At left is the McKay dust jacket for *From Port to Port* (1903).

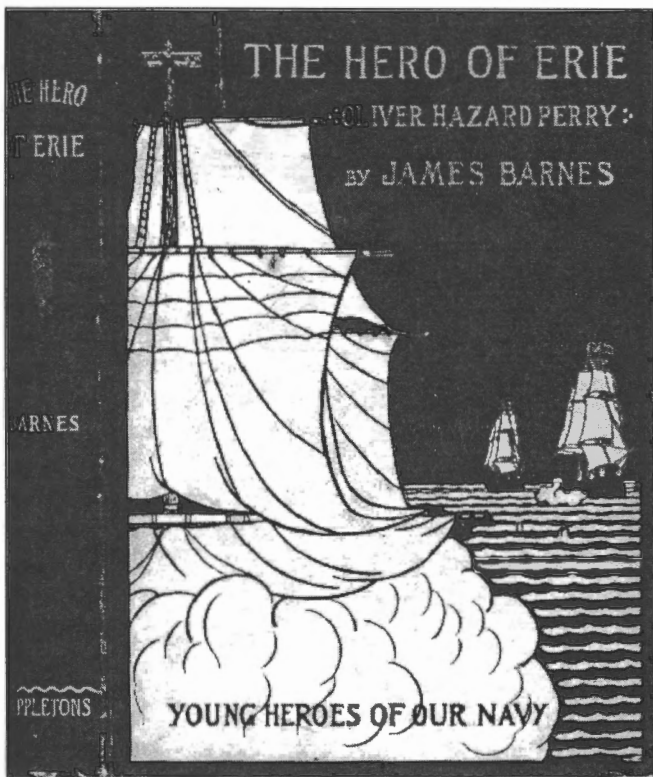


There are also three Navy stories by Frank Sheridan,

found in McKay's *Boys of Liberty Library*. Note that one title is *Dashing Paul Jones, The Hero of the Colonial Navy*, the man who lost his ship and was a victor only because he received assistance at the last minute.

Another publishers' series, and one of the first series of any kind put out by D. Appleton & Co., was the *Young Heroes of Our Navy Series* (1891-1902). This series concentrated on headline-making heroes like John Paul Jones, Oliver Hazard Perry, Stephen Decatur, Gustavus Coyningham and George Dewey, among others. A consortium of authors took part, including James Barnes, Molly Eliot Seawell, Rossiter Johnson and Cyrus





**Young Heroes of Our Navy, a series published by Appleton between 1891 and 1902, depicted through the eyes of fictional young midshipmen or seamen the exploits of America's legendary Naval leaders.**

Townsend Brady. This is an excellent series, using fairly accurate historical reports, and utilizing the novelist's trick of inserting a fictional character (in this case, a young midshipman or seaman) into an actual setting. Edward Stratemeyer and others made a cottage industry of this literary method.

Of the above authors, one of the best-equipped to write boys' books in a Navy setting was Cyrus Townsend Brady (1861-1920), whose contribution to the genre is the excellent four-volume **Boys of the Service Series**, published by Scribner's between 1902 and 1909.

Brady, who was born in Allegheny, Pa., of Scottish-Irish descent, was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, class of 1883, and served on active duty for three years before leaving the service in order to pursue a career in the ministry. Although born into a Presbyterian family, he was confirmed an Episcopalian while a teenager and was ordained a priest in 1890.

But Brady, perhaps best known for his **American Fights and Fighters Series** which centered on the New World frontier, never forgot his life at sea, and the **Boys of the Service Series** reflects his love for the Navy.

Each book is based upon true incidents. They are titled *In the Wasp's Nest, A Story of a Sea Waif in the War of 1812*, published in 1902; *In the War With Mexico, A*

*Midshipman's Adventures on Ship and Shore*, published in 1903; *A Midshipman in the Pacific, His Adventures on Whaler, Trader and Frigate*, published in 1904; and *On the Old Kearsarge; A Story of the Civil War*, published in 1909. In each story, a young midshipman or seaman goes in harm's way side by side with many of America's greatest Naval heroes.

Also published by Penn around the same time were Navy stories authored by John T. McIntyre. Included were *With Paul Jones* — that man again! — in 1906 and *The Boy Tars of 1812* in 1907.

Of course, no article about early boys' books would be complete without mentioning Edward Stratemeyer.

It was Stratemeyer who capitalized on the Spanish-American War in a big way, and made himself wealthy in the process with the **Old Glory Series**. Within weeks after the U.S.S. *Maine* was blown up, *Under Dewey at Manila* appeared in bookstores. This six-volume series (1898-1901) covered the war on both land and at sea, with the above title recounting Dewey's exploits aboard the U.S.S. *Olympia*, while *Fighting in Cuban Waters*, described the victory of Commodore W.S. Schley.

How did Stratemeyer do it? The Spanish-American War was the first war fought on the front pages of the world's newspapers in which wire reports of battles were in print the following day. With this technological breakthrough in reporting, it was easy for an author like Stratemeyer to study these news reports in depth and create a story of a particular campaign that placed a young fictional hero alongside real leaders like Dewey, Teddy Roosevelt or Arthur MacArthur.

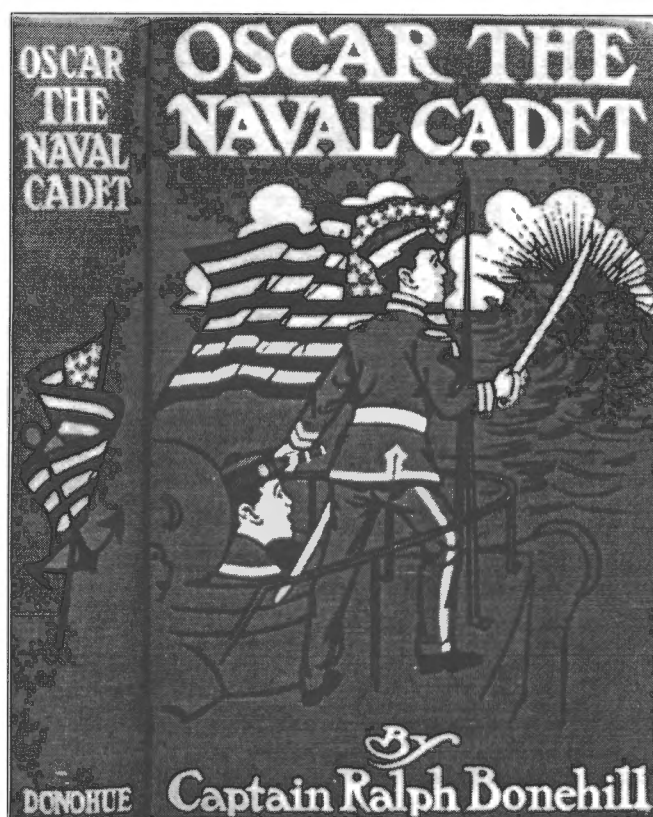
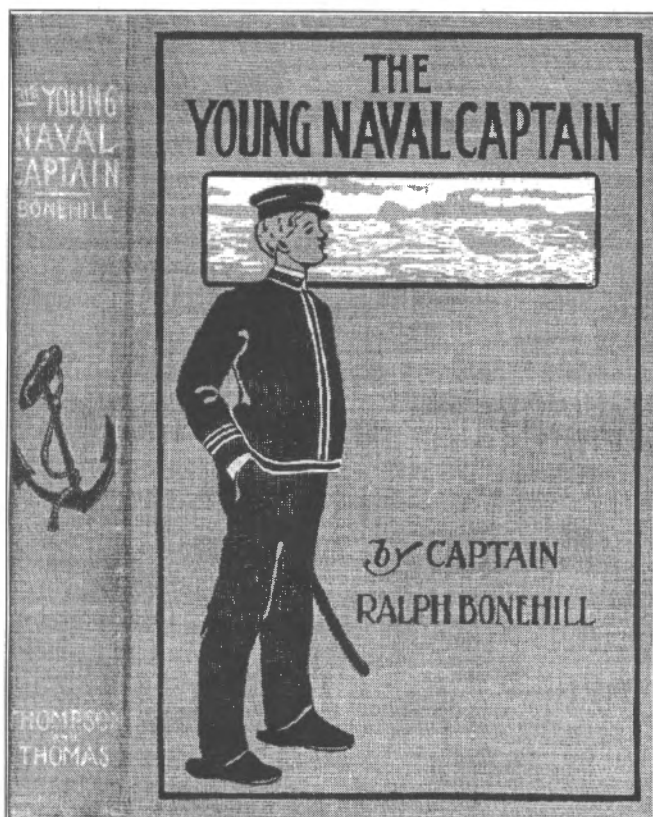
Stratemeyer also wrote the **Soldiers of Fortune Series** (1900-1906) in which our young heroes serve with the Japanese Navy in the Far East, again involving them in actual historic battles.

However, Stratemeyer wasn't afraid to try something different. In 1900-01 he authored a serial, "Holland the Destroyer; or, America Against the World," published in **Golden Hours** under the pseudonym "Hal Harkaway."

The non-series story, retitled *The Young Naval Captain, or A War of All Nations*, was published in hard cover in 1902 by Thompson & Thomas under Stratemeyer's "Capt. Ralph Bonehill" pseudonym. It is a boys' novel set in the future — the mid 1930s — in the administration of a mythical U.S. president, Jefferson McKinley Adams (there's nothing like using recycled names!), with the book's young hero named Oscar Pelham. This story later underwent a title change to *Oscar, The Naval Cadet*, also published by Thompson & Thomas, before reprint rights were sold to M.A. Donohue.

The story involves Pelham's design of a new high-tech submarine named the *Holland XI*, and how he leads it to victory after being promoted to captain. Of course,

(Continued on Page 18)



World War I was more than a decade away when Edward Stratemeyer, under his "Captain Ralph Bonehill" pseudonym, published in hard cover *The Young Naval Captain*, later retitled *Oscar, The Naval Cadet*. The story first appeared as a serial, "Holland the Destroyer," in Golden Hours between Nov. 24, 1900 and Jan. 12, 1901.

## Anchors Aweigh!

### Series books and the United States Navy

(Continued from Page 17)

following his triumph, Oscar becomes Rear Admiral Pelham, "... commander of all the United States submarine craft afloat, a worthy officer and one to be trusted with any mission, no matter how sacred or how dangerous."

One of the most interesting authors of this period was Edward L. Beach, Sr. (1867-1943), a veteran of the Spanish-American War who also happened to write series books as an avocation. Beach struggled at times while a Midshipman at the Naval Academy, but once he received his commission, he became exposed to the corruption within the Navy officer corps' promotion system that was rampant at the time. Beach vowed to never lower his ethical standards, a moral stance he held for the remainder of his career.

According to Navy historian Thomas B. Buell, Beach incorporated his system of values into his 13 juvenile novels about the lives of midshipmen and young Naval

officers, which, according to Beach's biographer, Edward F. Finch, "Written in the tradition of the Horatio Alger stories, these novels extol the virtues of honesty, self-reliance, and hard work to achieve the American dream of poverty to success . . . Using his own life as a framework, Beach, Sr., wove tales that offer situations where clear moral choices can be and are made."

Beach's boys' books are found in three series: the **Annapolis Series** (Penn, 1907-1910), **Roger Paulding Series** (Penn, 1911-1914) and the **Ralph Osborn Series** (W.A. Wilde, 1909-1912).

Incidentally, Beach was the father of Capt. Edward L. "Ned" Beach, Jr., author of the popular World War II novel, *Run Silent, Run Deep* and several nonfiction books relating his service in submarines, including *Around the World Submerged: The Voyage of the Triton*. Beach captained that nuclear sub on its historic voyage in late 1959.

Another series, also published by Penn, was the **United States Midshipman Series**, by Lt. Cmdr. Yates Stirling, USN (1872-1948). These adventures, published between 1908 and 1913, take place in such far-away places as China, Japan, the Philippines and the South Seas.

The six-volume **Dreadnought Boys Series** (1911-1914) was among the earliest of the "fifty-center" type of series



books to use the Navy as a theme. Published by Hurst, this series was authored by John Henry Goldfrap (1879-1917) under the "Captain Wilbur Lawton" pseudonym. Unlike most of the series already described, these stories are not historical novels but pure escapist fiction.

But it was the outbreak of World War I in 1914, and the United States' joining the conflict two years later, that really got the ball rolling. The Great War became fertile ground for series-book authors, with teenage war stories on land, in the air and at sea becoming commonplace.

The best-known series of Navy stories emanating out of World War I was by Clair W. Hayes (1887-1958): **The Boy Allies of the Navy** (A.L. Burt, 1915-1919), which Hayes wrote under the pseudonym "Ensign Robert L. Drake."

These books, which sold in the hundreds of thousands at 50 cents apiece, were real potboilers, pulp fiction at its wildest. Clair Hayes has these boys (16 and 17 years old) — one of whom gets to command a British destroyer — doing more heroic deeds in four years than all our real Naval heroes did over four wars.

A slightly more realistic group of related series, in this case published by Altemus, covered the exploits of H. Irving Hancock's Dave Darrin, who went to Annapolis and then served in the war at Vera Cruz, on Mediterranean Service, on a South American Cruise, on the Asiatic

Station, wiping out German submarines and laying mines to help beat the Germans. While **The Dave Darrin Series** (1914-1919) described numerous heroic exploits, the stories were somewhat more believable than those of **The Boy Allies of the Navy**, maybe because Hancock was a correspondent during the Spanish-American War.

Another World War I series with Naval participation was **The Brighton Boys Series** by Scott Francis Aaron, under the pseudonym "James R. Driscoll." While most of the books involve the land campaigns in France and Belgium, the boy heroes also get a chance to serve in the battle fleet and with the submarine fleet.

The Stratemeyer Syndicate was relatively quiet as far as the U.S. Navy was concerned. Its only dedicated Navy series was the six-volume **Navy Boys Series**, published by George Sully between 1918 and 1920. The books were authored by W. Bert Foster under the "Halsey Davidson" house name.

World War II, as already mentioned, brought a major change in Naval fighting tactics. Big guns were out and air power was in. To that end, the Robert Sidney Bowen's **Red Randall Series** (G&D, 1944-46) introduces our hero at Pearl Harbor and then brings him as a naval aviator to the Battle of Midway, where he helps sink those Japanese carriers. He also flies over the Aleutians, New Guinea and Burma, etc.

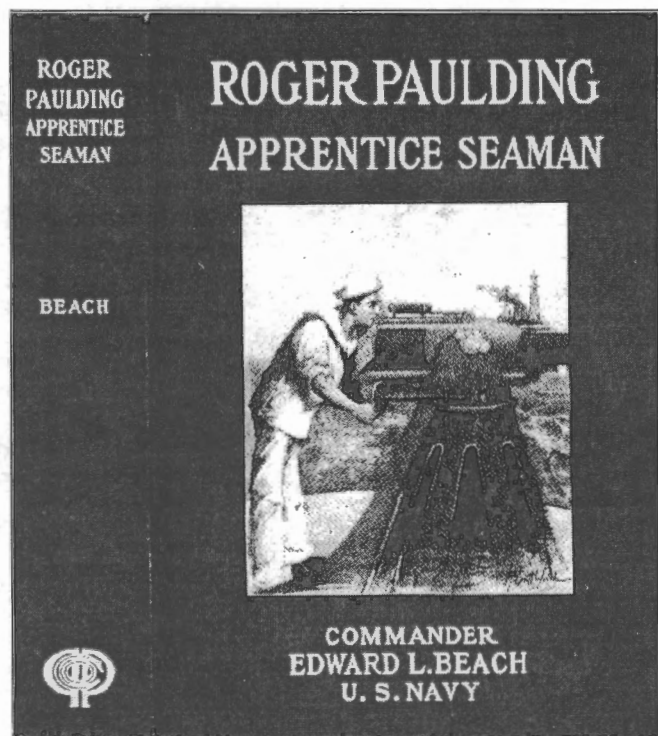
Another series with the Navy as setting is the four-volume Grosset & Dunlap **Don Winslow Series** (1940-41). This series is set just prior to our entry into the war, and the title hero is a member of the Navy Intelligence Service. The books were written by Frank V. Martinek (1895-1971), and are based on a popular comic strip. Incidentally, a highly collectible first volume in this series titled *Don Winslow, U.S.N. in Ceylon*, was published by Rosenow in 1934 but was not picked up by G&D in its continuation of the series.

World War II, the so-called "Good War," also was the inspiration for the eight-volume **Fighters For Freedom Series** (Whitman, 1943-44), in which men and women of the various services fight the good fight. On the Navy side, we have *Sally Scott of the WAVES* and *March Anson and Scoot Bailey of the U.S. Navy*.

We also must make a brief mention of single titles involving the U.S. Navy included as part of more general series. Prime examples are Francis Rolt-Wheeler's *The Boy With the U.S. Navy* (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1927) part of the 20-volume **U.S. Service Series**; and *The Wonder of War At Sea* (LL&S, 1919), part of the four-volume **Wonder of War Series**.

So there you have it. From John Paul Jones, hero of the colonial Navy, to *Sally Scott of the WAVES*, series books have covered two centuries of war at sea.

War may have been hell to those who fought on the seas, but for millions of young readers, it was fun.



Edward L. Beach, Sr., an Annapolis graduate who served at Manila on the *U.S.S. Olympia* under Adm. George Dewey, wrote three boys' series with a Navy theme, including the Roger Paulding Series.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



ELISABETH BALL

Elisabeth received the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Sociology, with Distinction, Dean's Honor Roll, on June 14, at the convocation at the University of Guelph. She has been accepted at the University of Western Ontario, Althouse Teacher's College. Elizabeth is the daughter of Anne and Gerry Ball, and the granddaughter of Margaret Ball, Goderich. She is a graduate of St. Joseph's School and Central Huron Secondary School, Clinton.

Dear Bill:

This girl received the Horatio Alger Society's **Strive and Succeed Award** at the Stratford, Ontario, convention in 1996. It seems we hand out the money each year to deserving young people but never hear anything further about them.

Sincerely,  
Ivan McClymont (PF-722)  
R.R. #1  
Varna, Ontario  
Canada NOM 2RO

## MEMBERSHIP

### New members

Doug Shoemaker (PF-1048)  
5050 Marbury Run Road  
Marbury, MD 20658

Doug's membership was a gift from Norman A. Jones (PF-1032), who joined the Society last year at the recommendation of Tom Davis (PF-976). Doug, a retired professor of history at George Washington University, is a G.A. Henty collector and he also collects 17th and 18th century books and Chinese art and artifacts dating back to the 12th-13th centuries.

### Moving?

Send your new address, e-mail address and phone number to:

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

## Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

York: Arco Publishing Co., 1976). Additional information was obtained by examining the books themselves. The last installment ended with The Mershon Co.

### The New York Book Company

The epitome of the inexpensive Alger reprint publisher, The New York Book Co. also was the original publisher of many series which are collectible today, in bindings that are of a much higher quality than any of the Algers the company produced. A history of this publisher can be found in Brad Chase's *Horatio Alger Books Published by The New York Book Company* (1999).

**Usual identification method:** The New York Book Company, as a publisher of inexpensive books, did not identify its first editions. Knowledgeable collectors can identify earlier printings by examining advertisements in the back of the books or on dust jackets.

**Prominent series and authors:** In terms of binding quality, one of the best is the **Wonder Island Boys Series** (1914-15) by Roger T. Finlay. Other series include the **Boy Globe Trotters Series** (1915) by Elbert Fisher, **Hickory Ridge Boy Scouts** (1913-19) by "Capt. Alan Douglas" (St. George Rathborne), **Campfire and Trail Series** (1913-18) by Lawrence J. Leslie, **Motion Picture Comrades Series** (1917) by Elmer Tracey Barnes and **Phil Bradley Series** (1915-19) by Silas K. Boone.

### L.C. Page and Co., Boston

This publisher produced several of today's most highly collected series, and was particularly known for high-quality bindings. Page is perhaps best remembered as publisher of the first editions of the initial three titles in L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* stories in 1908, 1909 and 1915, respectively.

**Usual identification method:** On the copyright page (verso), L.C. Page listed each impression, as follows: *First Impression, May 1915*. Each subsequent impression was added to the list, thus the book's publication history is available. In a 1928 statement, Page said, "We use practically the same method as Doubleday, Page & Co. to designate our first editions. We print 'First impression' with the month and year on the reverse of the title page. We do not, however, add the date on the title page."

**Prominent series and authors:** **Minute Boys Series** (1898-1912) by Edward Stratemeyer (two volumes) and James Otis Kaler (nine volumes), **Pioneer Boys Series** (1912-28) by "Harrison Adams" (St. George Rathborne), **Boys' Story of the Railroad Series** (1905-12) by Burton E. Stevenson, **Jack Lorimer Series** (1906-12) by "Winn Standish" (Walter Leon Sawyer), **Rival Campers Series** (1905-07) by Ruel Perley Smith, and the **Woodranger Tales** (1899-1906) by George Waldo Browne.

(To be continued next issue.)