



Horatio Alger, Jr.
1832 — 1899

THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



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

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NUMBER 2

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Altgeld Hall, oldest building on the NIU campus, dating to 1899.

Photo by Bill Gowen



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President's column

It is with much trepidation that I begin my last President's column. I have been writing to you for over three years as your President and I am struggling to place my feelings in black and white. I have enjoyed writing to you in each issue and hope that you enjoyed reading each column. I have enjoyed the dialogue, usually via e-mail, regarding my columns and I thank each of you who responded as it let me know that someone was reading the column and found it interesting enough to warrant further conversation. I challenge each of you to take the time to write to Bill Gowen, the editor of **Newsboy**, myself, or any of the H.A.S. leadership regarding the content of **Newsboy**. Tell us what you like, tell us what you don't like, or join the dialogue by providing additional information or a countering viewpoint.

I joined the Horatio Alger Society because of my interest in collecting boys' series books, including those by Horatio Alger, and I was welcomed with open arms. I have made many friends and have enjoyed conversing with you at conferences and via e-mail and phone. My knowledge regarding series books and literature in general has increased dramatically due to the conversations with fellow H.A.S. members and the ensuing research based on those conversations. We are linked together through our mutual interest in Horatio Alger and book collecting in general, and I hope to continue the dialogue with each of you.

We have updated the H.A.S. website to provide members and visitors high-value, relevant content. We also have a Facebook page that provides a forum for dialogue, including photos. These forums provide us with the ability to publish online articles and information, engage in dialogue with each other, post pictures of our collections or unique items, and ultimately further the goals and mission of the Society.

The Horatio Alger Society has now surpassed 50 years of existence and has experienced much change throughout the years. Our membership is slowly decreasing and the younger generations do not seem to have high levels of interest in collecting vintage literature. Much of the value of the H.A.S. is in the collective knowledge held by its members. Sharing this knowledge, not only of Horatio Alger, but of other authors and the impact and relevance of series literature, will help capture

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HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive & Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes. Our members conduct research and provide scholarship on the life of Horatio Alger, Jr., his works and influence on the culture of America. The Horatio Alger Society embraces collectors and enthusiasts of all juvenile literature, including boys' and girls' series, pulps and dime novels.

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Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to **Horatio Alger Society, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176**.

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography. You are invited to visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at www.horatioalgersociety.net.

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, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176.

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 advertisements or "Letters to the Editor" to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047. E-mail: hasnewsboy@aol.com

'Dash to DeKalb III'

Getting there ... and enjoying your visit

We are down to the final month before "Dash to DeKalb III" on May 3-6 at Northern Illinois University, the 48th convention of the Horatio Alger Society.

In the last issue of **Newsboy**, convention host Lynne M. Thomas, head of rare books and special collections at NIU, previewed "Dash to DeKalb III" in detail. That issue and this one enclose the convention registration form and schedule of events for the weekend.

In this issue we have added an insert map with driving instructions from the Chicago airports, which we'll elaborate below. Please send your registration form with a check for \$100 per person to Kathy Sherman at the address indicated as soon as possible.

Hotel reservations: The H.A.S. has a block of rooms reserved in the Holmes Student Center (HSC) hotel, but it is important to make your reservation as soon as possible. To do so, phone the hotel at **(815) 753-1444**, and mention you are with the Horatio Alger Society. You will get the special convention rate of \$65 (plus tax), which includes complimentary parking in the NIU visitors' lot a short walk from the HSC and Founders Memorial Library. The lot entrance is off Carroll Avenue (see instructions on the enclosed map).

If you must unload heavier items (boxes of books, etc.) and don't want to carry them from the parking lot, enter the hotel from the north and use the 30-minute "drop off" area. Ask at the front desk for instructions.

Friday night group dinner: This event, at Nat's on Maple in nearby Sycamore, is "Dutch treat," meaning it is not included in your registration fee, which does include Friday and Saturday lunches as well as the Saturday night banquet in the HSC Sky Room.

If you want to check Nat's menu in advance, visit www.natsonmaple.com, select "Menus," then click on "Dinner Menu." The PDF version shows the prices, which are quite reasonable.

Major activities (see schedule) will take place in the HSC's newly renovated Diversions Lounge on the lower level. These events include Friday morning's welcome session, the presentations, annual business meeting, the H.A.S. consignment and fundraising auction, and the Saturday morning book sale.

Driving to DeKalb: In the last issue, Lynne Thomas described air and train travel options, but for lack of space we had to wait until this issue to discuss "how to get there" if you are driving — either in your own car from home, or a rental car from one of the airports. The enclosed map gives detailed instructions on how to get



NIU's Holmes Student Center hotel at twilight.

Northern Illinois University

from the airports to the NIU visitors' parking lot.

DeKalb, a little more than an hour's drive west of Chicago, is located on Interstate 88, also known as the East-West Tollway or Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway. You can also drive to DeKalb via state or local highways, but the best bet is taking I-88 and driving to the main DeKalb exit, marked Annie Glidden Road.

Remember, this is a toll road. If you live in another state with a major toll highway system (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Massachusetts, etc.), you may already have a transponder, which uses computerized scanning to record your vehicle and bill your account. Most of the above states have reciprocal arrangements with Illinois, which allow you to use your transponder. However, if you don't have a transponder, you **MUST** pay cash. Most of the cash tollbooths on the Illinois Tollway system are manned, which means an attendant can make change. When you are approaching a tollbooth, follow the instructions to use the far right lanes. Follow the signs displaying "\$" with a green signal light over the open lanes.

Most of your cash tolls will be \$1.50 (tollbooths are 10 to 15 miles apart). An exception is the Annie Glidden Road exit at DeKalb — an **unattended** toll lane, which means you must have \$2.10 in coins (quarters, dimes or nickels) to toss into the basket. Don't get caught short, because a digital camera takes a photo of your license plate! In January, the Illinois Tollway Authority nearly doubled its fees, so that's why the Annie Glidden Road exit is now \$2.10 instead of its longtime toll of \$1.10.

Editor's notebook

As we note on Page 3, there is only one month remaining until the annual H.A.S. convention. Rare Books and Special Collections director Lynne Thomas and her staff at the Northern Illinois University library are in the final stages of "putting it all together" for what should be an enjoyable visit to DeKalb on May 3-6.

If you haven't already done so, please send your registration to Kathy Sherman at NIU Libraries, using the address on the enclosed registration form. If you have yet to make your reservation at the Holmes Student Center Hotel, phone (815) 753-1444. The special H.A.S. convention rate is a very reasonable \$65 plus tax per night (multiple occupancy), and the hotel guest rooms have recently been completely modernized.

In addition to Nat's on Maple in the nearby historic town of Sycamore, the location of our Friday night group dinner, there are many fine restaurants in the DeKalb-Sycamore area for those desiring a nice place to dine Thursday evening. A list of area restaurants will be available in the hospitality room when you register.

Stay and visit Chicago! Because I have been a resident of the Chicago area since the 1970s, I want to take a few moments to urge all H.A.S. members to pay a visit to this great city either before or following the convention. The so-called "city of big shoulders" has just celebrated the 175th anniversary of its incorporation on March 4, 1837.

Unfortunately, the city is best known to outsiders for two things: most of it was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and Al Capone and his fellow gangsters ruled during the Prohibition Era in the 1920s and early '30s, the era noted by the "Saint Valentine's Day Massacre" in 1929. A living reminder of the gangster era remains in operation today: the Biograph Theatre at 2433 North

Lincoln Ave., where Public Enemy No. 1 John Dillinger was gunned down by FBI agents in 1934.

Of course, Chicago and Illinois have been known for their political corruption. How many states can claim TWO former governors in prison at the same time? It's happening right now, and in the 1960s and 1970s two other ex-governors also served time for corruption.

What is Chicago's positive legacy? First, two world's fairs, the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 and the Century of Progress in 1933, attracted tens of millions of visitors. George Ferris built the world's first Ferris Wheel for the Columbian Exposition, and a smaller replica now entertains visitors on Navy Pier, Chicago's most-visited public attraction.

The first steel-framed skyscraper (as well as the name "skyscraper" itself) was invented in Chicago. Today, the

Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower) and John Hancock Building are joined by the new Trump Tower in defining the Chicago skyline. Architecture has long been a major part of Chicago history, led by Frank Lloyd Wright, Dankmar Adler, Louis Sullivan and Daniel H. Burnham, the latter planning Chicago's popular lakefront parks system.



The Chicago city skyline from Lake Michigan. The Willis (former Sears) Tower in the tallest building in the United States.

from the Chicago area include Ernest Hemingway, Carl Sandburg, Saul Bellow, Studs Terkel and L. Frank Baum, among many others. George Pullman invented the railroad sleeping car on the South Side, and retail catalog sales were pioneered by Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. Chicago was for more than a century the railroad hub of America as well as the home of the American meat-packing industry. The Union Stockyards are long gone, but memories of author Upton Sinclair's expose, *The Jungle*, remain.

On Dec. 2, 1942, one of the seminal events in the history of science took place in a squash court under the football stadium at the University of Chicago, when a team of physicists led by Enrico Fermi created the first man-made nuclear chain reaction.

If you don't have time for a lengthy visit, just drive down Lake Shore Drive and take in the spectacular skyline. You won't regret it.

Horatio Alger interviews Brad Chase (PF-412)



Editor's note: On the 113th anniversary of Horatio Alger's death and his 180th birthday year, Horatio Alger returns to earth to interview H.A.S. members regarding their Alger collections. This is a new regular feature of *Newsboy* written by an anonymous author posing as Horatio Alger. Enjoy.

Horatio Alger here, How are you doing?

Brad Chase: Good morning. I'm doing fine. How are you?

H.A.: Not bad for a 180-year-old man.

B.C.: Well, we all live longer these days.

H.A.: How did you get started collecting my books?

B.C.: Well, that goes back about forty years, Mr. Alger. My mother, who had three older brothers, read your books because she had no other books to read. Later, when she was in her eighties and had visited many antique stores, she had a lot of Horatio Alger books. She lived nearby to Connecticut in Massachusetts, so one day she brought a box of old tattered books to my house. I said, "Gee, thanks Mom" and put them aside. Later, I opened the box and there were a bunch of your books, mostly the older ones. They didn't have dust jackets, but they had pictorial covers and I loved pictorial covers because I liked to draw. So, I studied those covers and began to read the books. Then, I wondered if there were other Algers. I looked around at flea markets and antique shops. One antique store lady said "I'll look for Algers for you." Before I knew it, I had a whole bunch of your books, so I started reading some more. I really loved the pictorial covers. So eventually, my living room was filled with your books. I asked myself, "What's going on here? How many do I have?" I must have had at least 75 at the time. My, you wrote a lot of books.

H.A.: Yes.

B.C.: Then, a bookstore person told me about the Horatio Alger Society and their convention. So I joined.

H.A.: So what Alger books do you collect now?

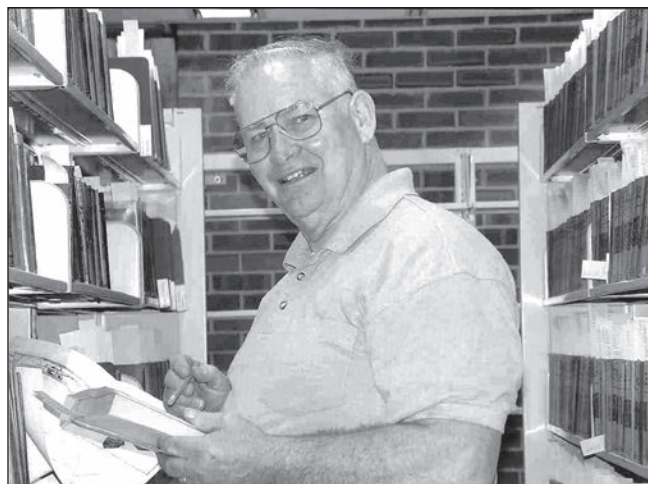
B.C.: I still collect Algers, but I don't find them much any more.

H.A.: Do you specialize, collect certain titles?

B.C.: I have several different collections. I have first editions, but not many. I have over 100 dust-jacketed books. I collect Goldsmith and Porter & Coates publishers. I like gold and brown apples and I like McKays. I collect certain publishers and try to find out how many titles and different formats they have.

H.A.: I hear you've been writing books about my publishers. Are they about me, or my publishers?

B.C.: Not about you, Mr. Alger. There are a lot of books about you. I write about publishers. In 1973 I was fascinated by the Burt publishers. Albert L. Burt was from Belchertown, Massachusetts, and I knew that area well. So I published a



Brad Chase at the Horatio Alger repository at Northern Illinois University. Chase will introduce his latest book, *Thomas D. Hurst and his Publication of Horatio Alger Books*, at the annual H.A.S. convention at NIU on May 3-6. A review of the book appears on Page 16.

format book in 1983 about Mr. Burt and his books. It was well received by the H.A.S. membership, so in the last 20 years I've done five different books and another one coming out soon.

H.A.: Five books! Wow.

B.C.: I've got six now.

H.A.: So tell me about your new book.

B.C.: It's coming out at the H.A.S. convention that meets every year. Do you know about that, Mr. Alger?

H.A.: Oh yes, I've heard about that. Oh my! Your new book?

B.C.: It's about Thomas Hurst, the publisher. He published reprints of your books from about 1899 to 1917. My book is about all the formats published by Hurst.

H.A.: Let's get back to my books. What's your favorite? I wrote over 112, you know?

B.C.: Oh, I know. The very first book I read was *Frank's Campaign*, about the Civil War. I've kind of gotten away from reading them, sorry.

H.A.: Who is your favorite character?

B.C.: I think the boys in New York City, Ragged Dick, Mark The Match Boy and Phil The Fiddler were my favorites. Those guys, mostly street urchins, I enjoyed following their activities; they started out with nothing, on the streets of New York and they made it because they were honest and they did the right thing, which is unusual these days.

H.A.: What else can you tell me about your collection; anything unusual?

B.C.: Unusual is in the eye of the beholder, I guess. The fact

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Bill,

We received our copies of *Newsboy* and were duly impressed. A nice piece on Eaton, reminding me I read the first two Boy Scout stories years ago, but never finished the series, so that is now on my list. We're glad the bookstore piece was a good fit, and reading it again, it does strike a warning note concerning the ability to examine and buy used books in person.

I have a few updates for Eaton; I only wish I could have checked these in advance. There is one title missing from the "Other juvenile fiction" section: *On the Edge of the Wilderness: Tales of Our Wild Animal Neighbors*. This was published by Wilde in 1920, where there is a four year gap in the Boy Scout series. The book is in off-white cloth with a full cover applique by Charles Livingston Bull, and has a frontispiece and six on glossy paper by the same illustrator. The book has ten short stories in anthropomorphic form, with subjects like a fox, a wolf, a moose, etc., telling their tales. It is an exact physical match for the Boy Scout books.

Both *The Adventures of the Duck Family* and *The Cow that Lived in a House* were published by Wilde, format unknown. The illustrator was Carl Rose. They sound like a venture into the tot field that did not take, as I can't find any copies for sale.

The **Cumulative Book Index** lists Samuel French as the publisher of all four of the plays listed as "publisher unknown," along with several others. "The Purple Door-knob — A Comedy for Three Women," was actually published in 1936. ABE has listings for several "One-Act Plays" titles that you can check also, but the plays you list are also scarce — I could find only a 1962 reprint for one title.

Eaton also evidently did some writing for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. Two volumes appeared between 1930 and 1937, *The Yankee Clipper — New York to Boston* and one simply called *Plymouth*. Both listings in the CBI referred me to the name of the railroad, but I could locate nothing under that name. I haven't checked these on ABE,

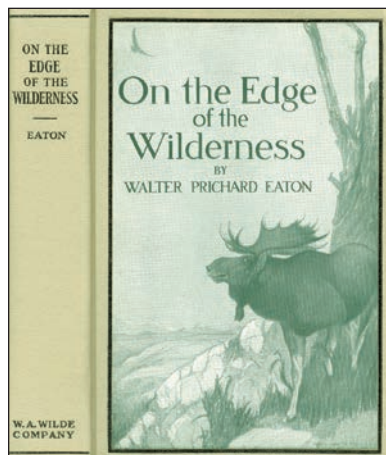
but you may want to. They sound like professional railroad books for the business, not something the public would buy.

I hope to start on your Verrill list tomorrow. We have been working a collection of Norwegian material that we acquired just before closing, and we have had some luck marketing to a collector in Norway. A number of the books concerned Polar exploration in the original Norwegian (Nansen, Sverdrup, Amundsen), and we are still involved. We also had problems with our feet from the constant pounding on the concrete floor of the store during our last two months, sometimes limiting our ability to get up and down stairs. But things are improving, and I should be able to get your Verrill information soon.

Sure glad I hauled these CBIs home.

Yours,
Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879)
4657 Mason St.
Omaha, NE 68144

My omission of Eaton's On the Edge of the Wilderness was a simple oversight. The book provides a fascinating "first-person look," so to speak, at the behavior of wild animals in their natural habitats. The cover of my copy is shown at left.



MEMBERSHIP

New member

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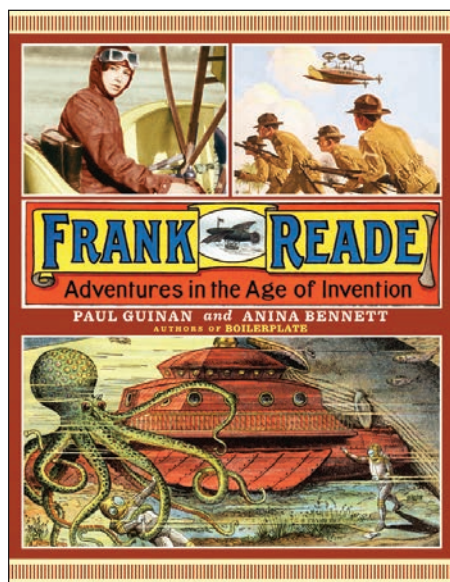
Jim Thorp (PF-574)
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President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

the interest of the younger generation.

An example of this is the renewed interest in various dime novels and boys' books related to steam power



by those interested in the steam-punk genre and culture. Dime novels containing characters such as Frank Reade and Jack Wright and inventions such as steam-driven robots and airships are in much higher demand than most other dime novels of the same era.

A new book, *Frank Reade Adventures in the Age of Invention*, by Paul Guinan and Anina Bennett, details Frank Reade's life. This book is very nicely put together with a large number of period images and images from various dime novels and is interesting and captivating.

I am not sure that Horatio Alger will ever have the same

level of appeal as the precursors to science fiction such as Frank Reade and Edward Ellis's *Steam Man of the Prairies*; however, we must engage in interesting dialogue, create new, interesting, and relevant content for **Newsboy** and the H.A.S. website, and continue to promote the H.A.S. as a society embracing collectors and enthusiasts interested in all forms of juvenile literature.

I hope to visit with each of you in DeKalb, Illinois during the upcoming H.A.S. convention at Northern Illinois University. Brad Chase will be releasing his new book, *Thomas D. Hurst and his Publication of Horatio Alger Books*. I am sure he would also enjoy signing a copy for you. We will also be auctioning many Alger and related series books that will make great additions to your personal collections. If you haven't registered for the convention or hotel, you still have time. Information is enclosed with this issue.

This is not a goodbye as I will continue to write articles for **Newsboy**, participate on the H.A.S. website and Facebook page, and attend conventions; however, I will leave the President's column to the incoming president Barry Schoenborn, who I am sure will entertain, inform, and inspire you with his candor, humor, and brilliant personality!

Thank you again ... it has been a pleasure!

Your Partic'lar Friend
Bob Sipes (PF-1067)
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Horatio Alger interviews Brad Chase (PF-412)

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that I don't focus on first editions is unusual. Most collectors like to collect first editions. My focus is on the formats and to try to figure out how many have the same spine and things like that.

H.A.: So, you must have many of my books.

B.C.: Over the years I've given most of them to the repository at NIU — over two or three thousand I'd guess. When I finish writing a book, I give all the Alger I studied about that publisher to NIU.

H.A.: How long have you been a member of the Horatio Alger Society?

B.C.: I joined in 1973. My first convention was at Kent State University in Ohio in 1974, where I met one of the two founding fathers, Kenneth Butler, and the H.A.S. had only been formalized under its current name for ten years. I met all the old original members. They were a marvelous group.

I had not read Alger (you) as a kid like they did. They were delighted to have my wife Ann and me there.

H.A.: I'm 180 years old. I hate to ask — how about you?

B.C.: I've been retired for 20 years. Ann and I and four kids, all grown.

H.A.: That's wonderful. Anything else you'd like to add?

B.C.: We need more members. It's hard to get younger people interested in Alger. I'm sorry, but you are very much out of date, Mr. Alger. I hate to tell you that, but your principles are not out of date. Good principles and good deeds lead to success and good things; and that philosophy is not out of date. It's very disappointing to see what's happening in the world today. There is a flaw in society today that makes your philosophy and message quite relevant and needed in the world.

H.A.: Well, I must agree with you. Thanks, Brad for talking with me.



Founders Memorial Library, the home of the Horatio Alger Society repository and other special collections.

DeKalb and NIU in focus



This eastern entrance to the City of DeKalb is marked by this official Lincoln Highway monument. Known as the National Road, the Lincoln Highway (Illinois Rt. 38 in DeKalb) stretches nationwide from New York's Times Square to San Francisco. For more, visit www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org



Huskie Stadium, on the west side of campus, is home of the 2011 Mid-American Conference champion Northern Illinois University football team.

Photos by Bill Gowen



The Northern Illinois University campus entrance off Lincoln Highway.



The East Lagoon nature preserve borders the eastern edge of the NIU campus and the Kishwaukee River.



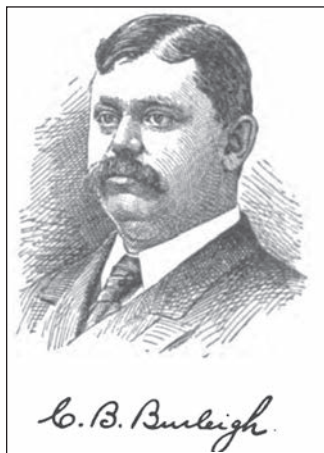
The Visual Arts Building and its Jack Olson Gallery, along with the adjacent school of music's Boutell Memorial Concert Hall are integral elements of NIU's College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Into the North Woods: *The Boys' books* of Clarence B. Burleigh

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

Clarence Blendon Burleigh, newspaperman and author, wrote only six boys' books, but that does not diminish his importance among his generation's writers of books for young people. His books, comprising two three-volume series written in the latter years of his life, are highly collected today, both for their literary quality and scarcity.

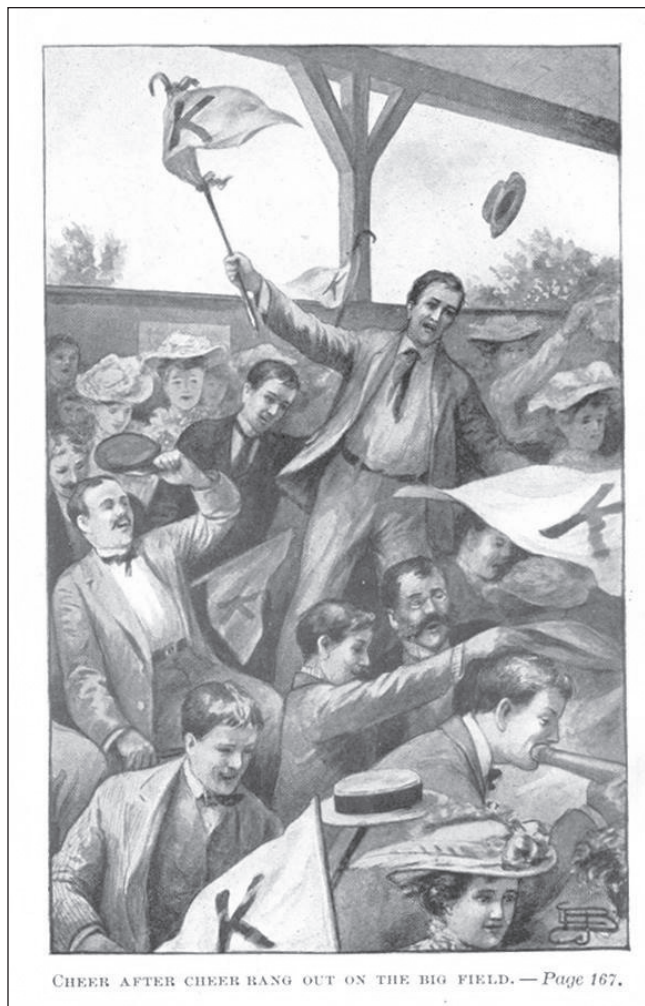
Burleigh was born into one of Maine's most prominent political families, most notably his father, the Honorable Edwin Chick Burleigh (1843-1916), who was elected the 42nd governor of Maine in 1888 and served one term in that office from January 2, 1889 through January 4, 1893, when he was succeeded by Henry C. Cleaves.



Edwin Chick Burleigh's public service began following a brief stint as a teacher following graduation from the Houlton Academy in his native Linneus, Maine. With the outbreak of the Civil War, he attempted to enlist in the District of Columbia Cavalry but was rejected for health reasons. For the duration of the war he served as a clerk in the Maine adjutant general's office, and then, following his earlier professional training as a surveyor, he was appointed in 1870 as clerk in the state land office in Bangor.

Various political positions followed, a major step his election as state treasurer in 1885, winning re-election in 1887. The following year he entered the governor's race

This article was presented as a paper at the 41st annual Popular Culture Association conference in San Antonio, Texas, on April 23, 2011, and at the 2011 Horatio Alger Society convention in Canton, Ohio.



The Kenton Pines — frontispiece

Illustration by L. J. Bridgman

and won a two-year term by a plurality of 18,053 votes. He was re-elected in 1890 by 18,899 votes, his administration described as "pre-eminently constructive and progressive," and he was very popular with the people. While governor, he successfully defeated a plan to move the state capital from Augusta to Portland.

A run for the U.S. House of Representatives fell short in 1892, Burleigh losing to Seth L. Milliken in a close race. However, when Milliken died suddenly in 1897, the seat was given to Burleigh by acclamation. He went on to serve in the house for 14 years and followed that with three years as a U.S. Senator, from 1913 until his death at age 72 in 1916.

Away from public office, the elder Burleigh's life held great influence over that of his eldest son, Clarence B. Burleigh, who was born November 1, 1864, in Linneus, following Edwin Burleigh's marriage the previous year to the former Mary Jane Bither.

Edwin Chick Burleigh had financial investments in



Maine timberlands, most notable in very rural Aroostook County, and he and his brother, Albert, were involved with building the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad, which opened this northern wilderness region to Maine's burgeoning lumber industry. Of course, as we'll note, Clarence Burleigh's boys' books centered life in northern Maine with their tales of school life, camping and the logging industry.

The other Burleigh family connection was the newspaper **The Kennebec Journal** of Augusta, in which Edwin served as principal owner and publisher, with Clarence later joining his father as managing editor and part-owner. Whenever Congress was not in session in Washington, the elder Burleigh could usually be found at his desk at the **Journal**.

As noted, Clarence Blendon Burleigh was born Nov. 1, 1864, in Linneus, and following early schooling there, went to college preparatory school at the New Hampton Literary Institute, from where he graduated in 1883 and entered Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, that fall.

Following college graduation in 1887, he joined the **Old Orchard Sea Shell**, a seasonal daily newspaper located in that southern Maine resort town. Late that summer, when the Old Orchard tourist season wound down, Burleigh returned to Augusta to join his father at **The Kennebec Journal**, where he purchased an ownership interest and was installed as city editor. In 1889, he became managing editor of the paper, a position he held until his sudden death in 1910.

In 1887, Burleigh married the former Sarah P. Quimby of Sandwich, New Hampshire. A third generation of Burleighs later became associated with **The**

Kennebec Journal: Clarence's sons, Edwin Clarence Burleigh (born 1891) and Donald Quimby Burleigh (born 1894), both held editorial positions with the newspaper. Like Clarence, his two sons were graduates of Bowdoin College.

In 1895, Clarence Burleigh was elected official state printer by the Maine Legislature and held that post until the office was abolished. He also served as president of the Augusta Board of Trade in 1899-90, was president of the Maine Press Association in 1896-97 and was president of the Augusta General Hospital since its founding in 1897. That same year, he began a six-year term as a member of the Augusta Board of Assessors.

His work with **The Kennebec Journal** included a trip to St. Louis as a correspondent to cover the Republican National Convention, which nominated William McKinley to his first term as president, and he also traveled to Philadelphia to cover the convention nominating McKinley for a second term.

Because he was officially the Bowdoin College class of 1887 secretary, in 1900 Burleigh had the press of **The Kennebec Journal** publish his first known long-form commercial work: *Bowdoin '87: A History of Undergraduate Days* (cover, frontispiece and title page shown above), which credits "Compiled by Clarence B. Burleigh" in his role as editor of the 150-page work. Updated professional and personal sketches of members of Bowdoin's class of 1887 are included.

Burleigh also was a member of numerous fraternal and service organizations in the Augusta area, including the Odd Fellows, Knights Templar, Benevolent and

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Into the North Woods

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Protective Order of Elks, Knights of Pythias and several others. While at Bowdoin, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

The boys' books of Clarence B. Burleigh

Burleigh's first venture into boys' fiction came in 1891, with the publication of *The Smugglers of Chestnut*, published by E.E. Knowles and Company of Augusta. This handsome-looking and scarce book recounts the adventures of two boys, Raymond Benson and Ned Grover, who live on adjoining farms in the small town of Chestnut Corner in Aroostook County. While attending the local Free High School, the author notes that several citizens had described Raymond as "a bad boy" and Ned as "a spoiled boy," most likely out of jealousy.

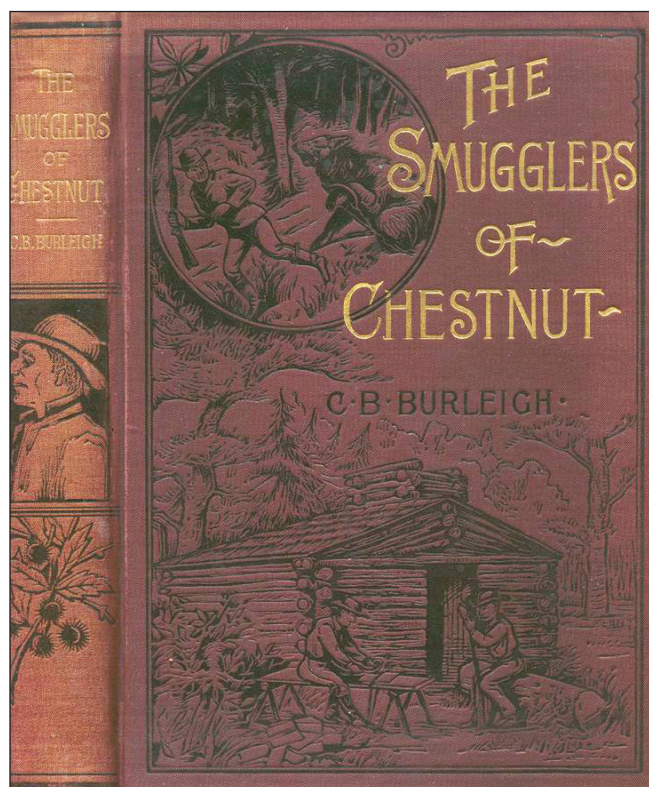
In his preface, Burleigh states:

"The writer has endeavored to impart to Raymond Benson such a human interest as shall insure him fellowship with those who may make his acquaintance. He has aimed to make him a truthful, a fearless, a manly boy who, with all his faults, will exert a healthful influence upon those who may know him – in short, has endeavored to make him the central figure of a volume in which readers may find not only something to enlist their interest, but also a stimulus to do what is honorable and right."

The book's title describes an unusual adventure in town and at Letter K Camp, during which Raymond and Ned work to solve a burglary, kidnapping and a scheme through which an evil gang led by Pete Atkins and his son, along with fellow baddie Simon Dart, are involved with smuggling liquor and other taxable goods from Canada, evading U.S. Customs.

If you look at the title page from *The Smugglers of Chestnut*, you see "Raymond Benson Series" at the top, so it is evident Burleigh planned one or more sequels. In traditional series book fashion, on the final page of text, the author announces a future volume titled *Krampton Academy Life, or Raymond Benson's Fit for College*.

But that book never appeared. In fact, it was 15 years before readers were to become re-acquainted with Raymond Benson and Ned Grover. This time, the publisher was Lothrop, Lee & Shepard of Boston, and the book's title was *The Camp on Letter K, or Two Live Boys in Northern Maine*, as advertised in the November 24, 1906 **Publishers' Weekly**. This L, L & S advertisement, reproduced on Page 15, also includes familiar titles by Edward Stratemeyer,



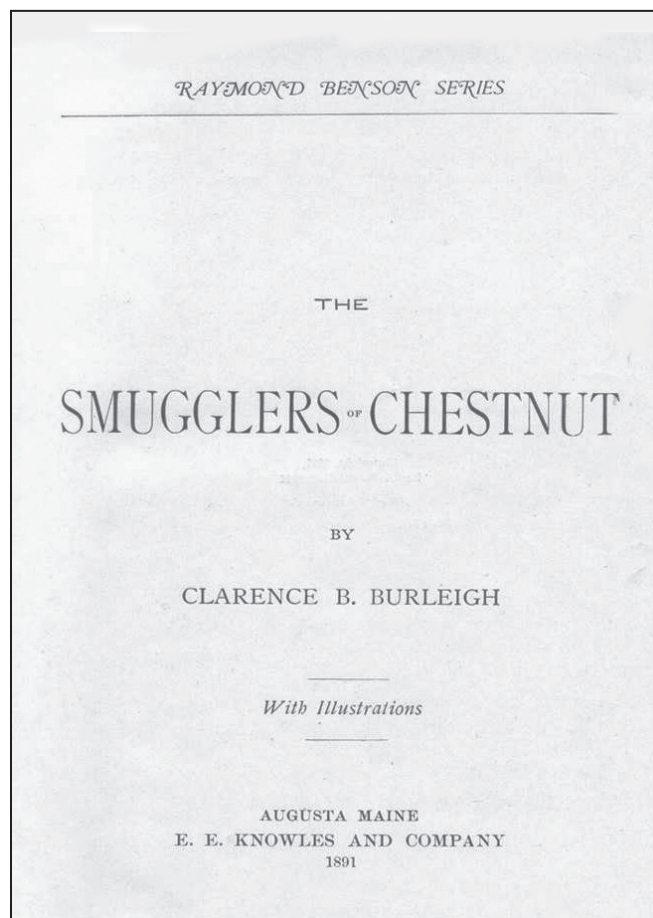
***The Smugglers of Chestnut*, published in 1891 by E. E. Knowles and Company of Augusta, Maine, was Clarence Burleigh's first boys' book.**

Everett T. Tomlinson, Albertus T. Dudley and William O. Stoddard, among others.

But this book is not quite the long-promised sequel: it is *The Smugglers of Chestnut*, issued under a new title! However, unlike the usual practice of printing plates sold or leased to a new publisher, this story has been totally overhauled by Burleigh. The original narrative with lengthy paragraphs has been brightened up in a more snappy style, with added dialogue and quicker transitions—much easier to read than the earlier version. Many chapter titles are the same, and whole sections of the story survive word-for-word.

The LL&S version has 383 pages compared with 301 for the E.E. Knowles original. Most of this difference is due to the fact that the new version is printed in a slightly larger typeface with a narrower column width. Because of the revisions, *The Camp on Letter K* carries a new copyright of 1906. We can only speculate, but *The Smugglers of Chestnut* is copyrighted personally by Burleigh in 1891, not by E.E. Knowles. That indicates it may have been originally published as a serial in a youth magazine or story paper, or possibly in **The Kennebec Journal**, Burleigh's own newspaper.

The fact that the illustrations by noted artist Lewis

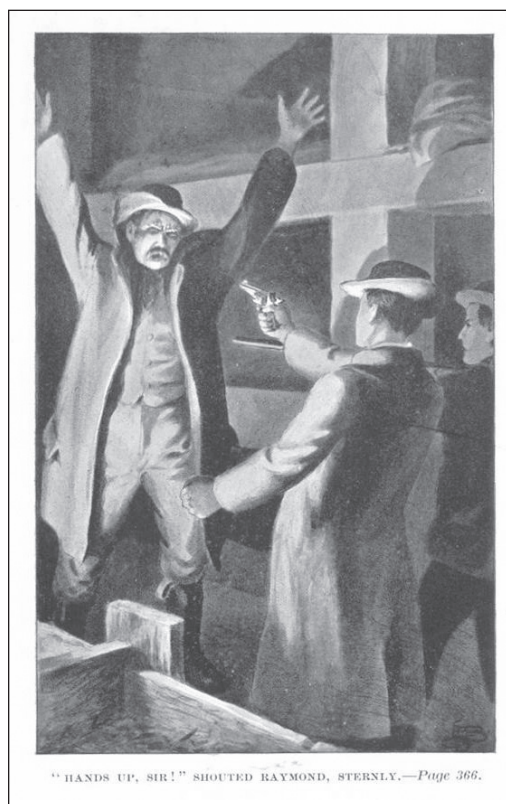


The title page for *The Smugglers of Chestnut* shows this as the first book in the Raymond Benson Series, but the second book was not published until 1906 by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, when it was revised and retitled *The Camp on Letter K*.

Jesse Bridgman are in horizontal (landscape) format, may also suggest the story first appeared as a serial. Interestingly, illustrations, again by Bridgman and reduced from 11 to eight, appear in *The Camp on Letter K*, but they have been re-drawn by the artist in vertical (portrait) format. Shown at the right is a comparison of the climactic capture by Raymond of gang leader Pete Atkins in the book's original version and in the revised edition as published by L, L&S. The words of the caption are identical: "Hands up, sir!" shouted Raymond, sternly.

Finally, in 1907, the long-awaited sequel arrived: *Raymond Benson at Krampton or, Two Live Boys at Preparatory School*, a change of title as proposed 16 years earlier. Later that year, a third volume appeared: *The Kenton Pines or, Raymond Benson in College*. These books also contained eight illustrations by Bridgman.

Burleigh's companion series, the **Norman Carver**



A comparison of the same scene showing the capture of smuggler Pete Atkins (both drawn by artist L.J. Bridgman) from *The Smugglers of Chestnut*, top, and *The Camp on Letter K*.

Series, takes advantage of the author's knowledge of the subject via his father's involvement with the northern Maine timber and logging industry.

The following three titles in the **Norman Carver Series** were published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard in 1908, 1909

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Into the North Woods

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and 1910, respectively:

1 — *All Among the Loggers*; or, *Norman Carver's Winter in a Lumber Camp*.

2 — *With Pickpole and Peavey*; or, *Two Live Boys on the East Branch Drive*.

3 — *The Young Guide*; or, *Two Live Boys in the Maine Woods*.

The books describe the exploits of Norman Carver and his close friend Fred Warner, who work in the forest and on the Penobscot River as loggers.

In his preface to the first title, Burleigh notes that Maine had 22,800 square miles of wilderness, and he adds that the logging industry is little known to the general population. To make the stories more realistic, the publisher has augmented illustrations by artist H.C. Edwards with photographs taken at lumber camps and on the river.

The relatively unknown nature of the logging industry may be why this subject was a "tough sell" to young readers. The scarcity of this series (as well as the **Raymond Benson Series**) are likely a product of poor sales when the books were issued. LL&S did produce subsequent printings in less-expensive bindings, but they are scarce among collectors as well.

Other logging industry books for young people also were not top sellers. In 1903 for Lee & Shepard, Edward Stratemeyer came out with *Two Young Lumbermen*, which was the proposed first title of the **Great American Industries Series**, which never saw another volume published.

Burleigh's fellow Maine author, Hugh Pendexter (1875-1940), wrote the **Camp and Trail Series** in 1911-1917. Two of its six titles, *The Young Timber Cruisers* and *The Young Loggers*, were centered on that industry. Again, sales were weak and the books, published by Small, Maynard and Co., are extremely collectible.

Yet another example is Edward G. Cheyney's six-volume **Scott Burton Series**, which D. Appleton & Company produced in the 1917-1926 period. Again, they didn't sell very well and are hard to find today.

Alongside those excellent books, Clarence B. Burleigh's **Norman Carver Series** and **Raymond Benson Series** have a rightful place in the history of boys' series books. They are accurate depictions of rural Maine life and the logging industry, and are darn good reads. It is unfortunate that Burleigh's death at age 46 in 1910 (his father outlived him by six years) likely deprived us of further youthful adventures in the great north woods.

A review of *The Camp on Letter K*

NEW ENGLAND MAGAZINE

February, 1907

VOLUME XXXV

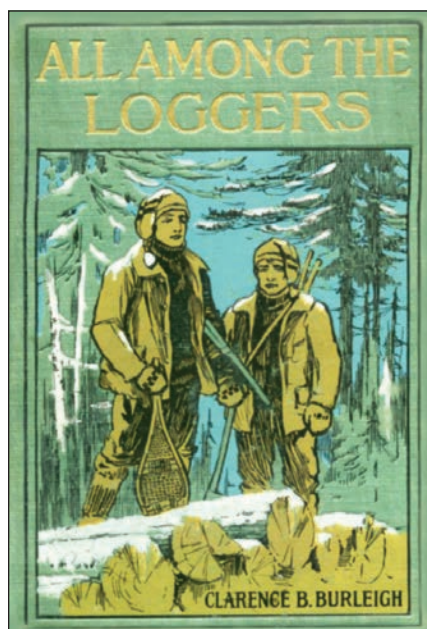
PUBLISHED MONTHLY

NUMBER 6



THE CAMP ON LETTER K, By Clarence B. Burleigh.

We have often wondered who would write the book that would win the boys of to-day along the same lines that the books of Elijah Kellogg gained their population a generation ago and which they still retain. The man has appeared, and very properly is also a graduate of Bowdoin College. He is Clarence B. Burleigh, the well-known editor of the "Kennebec Journal," Augusta, Maine, and the son of Ex-Governor Edwin C. Burleigh, the present congressman from his district. His first book deals with two active boys in Aroostook County close to the north-eastern boundary of our country, and where smuggling across the Canadian line has been prevalent. Equally ready in athletics, hunting, or helping their families on the rich farms of that section, these good chums have many exciting adventures, the most important of which directly concerns the leading smugglers of the district, and an important public service is rendered by the boys. The tone is manly throughout, the fun of the best kind, and the book is distinctly readable for any age. (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. Price \$1.50.)



Acknowledgements: The author wishes to thank James D. Keeline (PF-898) and Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879) for their assistance in providing biographical reference materials and information on the books of Clarence B. Burleigh

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Lothrop, Lee & Shepard advertisement in *The Publishers' Weekly* of November 24, 1906, which includes Burleigh's *The Camp on Letter K*.

Nov. 24, 1906 [No. 1817]

The Publishers' Weekly.

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BOOK REVIEW

Bradford S. Chase: *Thomas D. Hurst and his Publication of Horatio Alger Books*. Enfield, CT: Sandpiper Publishing Company, ©2012. 242 pages, illustrated, hardcover with color dust jacket. Price \$25, plus \$3 postage. Will be introduced and first go on sale at the Horatio Alger Society Convention in DeKalb, Illinois, May 3-6, 2012. To reserve a copy, write Bradford S. Chase, 6 Sandpiper Road, Enfield, CT 06082; e-mail bschase@aol.com

Reviewed by William R. Gowen (PF-706)

It all began in the 1970s when Brad Chase joined the Horatio Alger Society and began an interest in the Alger books produced by A.L. Burt because ... "I had more Burt Algers in my collection than any other Alger publisher."

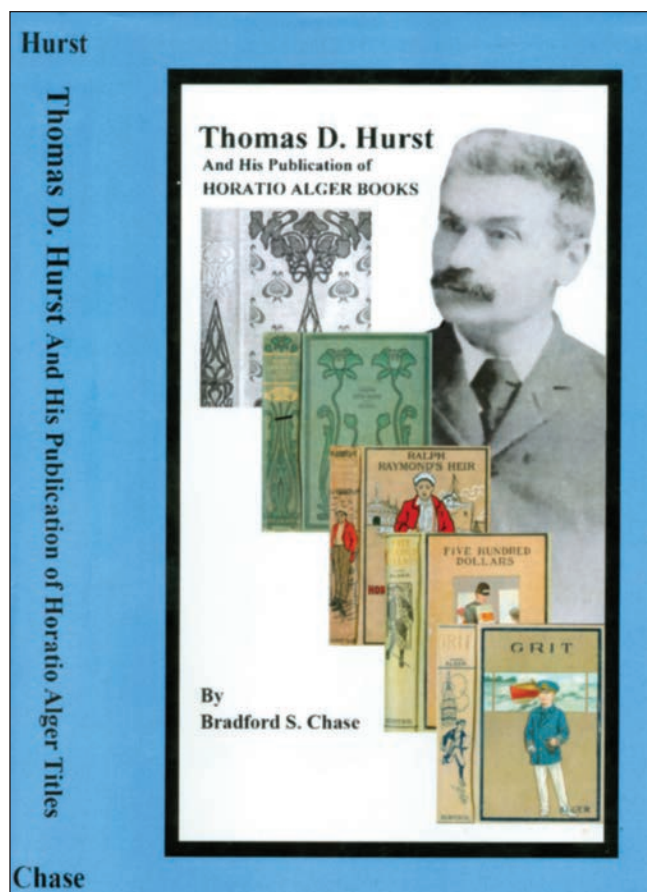
The result was Chase's initial book, *Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt*, which came out in 1983 and included the 13 Burt first editions and that firm's numerous reprint formats. Following a style used in his subsequent books on Alger reprint publishers, it contained a brief history of Albert L. Burt and the publishing firm he founded, along with detailed descriptions (with hand-drawn tracings of the myriad Burt cover designs), listing the Alger titles known to exist in each format.

The book was so popular among Alger collectors that Chase followed, between 1994 and 2001, with four additional books covering publishers Whitman, M.A. Donohue, New York Book Co., and a single book collecting data on 12 small Alger publishers.

In the following years, Chase was continually asked, "When are you going to do a book on Hurst?" He dreaded that thought because he knew researching formats of the Hurst Alger reprints was likely an impossible task given the number of formats and titles involved. Also, finding historical background on the Hurst firm was challenging, to say the least.

Finally, at the 2008 H.A.S. convention in Carson City, Nevada, the late Bob Routhier (the new book's dedicatee) helped convince Chase to take up the challenge, with the assistance of Routhier and other Society members. However, gathering data on the many Hurst Alger formats took a very long time. Through genealogical research, Hurst family members were found living overseas and were willing to assist with information about Thomas D. Hurst and his New York-based company.

Now, nearly four years of research, writing and editing are over, and *Thomas D. Hurst and his Publication of Horatio Alger Books* is about to be released. The book will be unveiled at the 2012 H.A.S. convention in DeKalb,



Illinois. For more about how this book came about you are referred to Chase's Letter to the Editor in the most recent issue of **Newsboy** (January-February 2012). Also, Chase wrote a preliminary article on this project for the March-April 2009 **Newsboy**.

Chase's main collaborator in creating the finished book is Jim Towey (PF-975), whose computer expertise has resulted in a handsome, hard-cover volume bound in cloth and enclosed in a full-color dust jacket (shown above). Instead of the labor-intensive cover tracings of Chase's earlier books, this volume uses crisp photo scans of front covers and spines for each Alger format.

Chapters include: **Part I**, an Index to Formats; **Part II**, T.D. Hurst, His Family & Business; **Part III**, The Scope of the Hurst Alger Books; **Part IV**, The Presentation of Formats; along with comprehensive appendices, including bibliography, tables listing business locations of the Hurst company and home locations of the Hurst family; and endnotes for all chapters.

Chase's sixth and latest book is an important addition to Alger scholarship and a must-have for any collector interested in the Hurst Algers. Incidentally, this book focuses on the full-sized (12mo) Hurst Algers; a companion book on the famous "Hurst miniatures" is in the works for projected completion in two years.