

THE HORATIO ALGER



"World's only publication devoted to Horatio Alger"

Newsboy

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PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Our 1968 Convention Chairman, Ed Levy, and Mrs. Levy have been at Abano Terme, Italy, and Milan. Ed is working on convention plans while there and he is hoping for an avalanche of mail with many good suggestions when he arrives home later this month.

I recently acquired a nice first edition of "The Fiction Factory", by Quentin Reynolds. It contains some interesting references to the life of OUR hero — Horatio Alger, Jr. (some excerpts follow)

"Francis Smith, of Street & Smith, met a gentle, kindly young Unitarian minister the Rev. Horatio Alger, Jr. Alger had written one or two stories for boys which had appeared in The Student and Schoolmate, published in Boston. Smith persuaded the minister to try his hand at a serial, and in 1869 the name of Horatio Alger, Jr. appeared in the Weekly as author of Marie Bertrand. It was not a juvenile, but a novel in the classic Weekly tradition. Eventually Alger would become one of the best-known authors of boys' books the world had ever known. Later he wrote seventeen of his famous juveniles for the firm, but at this time he was determined to make his name with more "serious" fiction.....

...On May 15, 1890, the first issue of Good News appeared. It was a five-cent publication. The lead story was by Oliver Optic, at that time perhaps the most popular writer of boys' stories in the country. Horatio Alger, who, until then, had written Ragged Dick, Fame and Fortune, Sink or Swim, Tattered Tom, Brave and Bold, was coming along fast. The full name of his serial was Only an Irish Boy; or, Andy Burke's Fortunes and Misfortunes. It began in the style which within a short time would become familiar to almost every literate youngster in the country.....

...Horatio Alger, Jr., was one of those strange phenomena occasionally produced by our country. His writing talent was insignificant and he even lacked the inventiveness of a Frederic Dey, a Ned Buntline, or a Prentiss Ingraham, but he became better known than any of them. His great drawing power was his sincere belief that the poor boy had a very good
(continued at top of page)

chance of growing up, marrying the boss's daughter, and eventually becoming president of the First National Bank. Stewart H. Holbrook*, who wrote a brilliant essay on Alger in his Lost Men of American History (1946), called Alger's philosophy the Upward and Onward theory. Alger, according to his biographer, Herbert R. Mayes, wrote 119 books. Actually, he wrote one book and re-wrote it 118 times. Virtue always triumphed in his theme and many variations — something which did not always happen in Alger's own strange life....

...Edward Stratemeyer, a nervous, kindly, near-sighted, stocky man who had begun by editing Good News, was now (1890's) doing everything but set type. He was writing dime novels under the names of Jim Bowie, Nat Woods and Jim Daly, and writing serials aimed at women for the Weekly under the name of Julie Edwards. He was also acting as a sort of editor-in-chief without title for the firm (Street & Smith). When Horatio Alger died in 1899, he left a few unfinished manuscripts. Stratemeyer picked up where Alger left off and finished them to everyone's satisfaction.**

Stratemeyer was one of the few writers of his day who was also a good business man. He eventually left Street & Smith to start a little series called the Rover Boys. He wrote thirty of them in the form of novels (published by Grosset & Dunlap) which sold for fifty cents, and he lived to see five million copies of them bought. He did these under the name of Arthur M. Winfield. His Motor Boys (series), by Clarence Young, and his Tom Swift books, by Victor Appleton, were just as popular. Stratemeyer trained a whole stable of writers to manufacture these stories, and he died a wealthy man. But during the late 1890's he was just one of Ormond Smith's hired hands -- and one of his best..."

Also acquired this month, a November, 1938 copy of Reader's Digest, containing the story "Holy Horatio", by Frederick Lewis Allen (condensed from The Saturday Review of Literature). Some excerpts from this story follow:

The Alger style was incredibly matter-of-fact. Nor did any subtleties of
(continued on page two)

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS: continued -

character-drawing prevent one from determining immediately who were the good characters and the bad ones. And always virtue triumphed. Reading an Alger story was like watching a foot-ball game in which you knew all the players, and the home team made all the touchdowns....The period in which these books were the delight of millions of American boys was that very period when our economic expansion was going full tilt, and the Alger books offered them an intelligible picture of economic life and the making of an individual fortune: Work, save, shun the fleshpots, and presently the fortune will fall into your lap....

...Possibly this explains something about the Gilded Age -- when America worked furiously, and opened up the West, and accomplished wonders in invention and manufacturing, when the average American of moderate means was hard-headed, diligent, and fairly scrupulous; but when the ethical level of the big operations in capital was often well-nigh barbaric... When 7,000 boys were questioned in 1932, the 100th anniversary of Alger's birth, it was found that only 14 per cent of them had ever read an Alger book, and not a single boy owned one. But during Alger's heyday, from about 1870 to the World War, boys of all ages and conditions ate them up....

...As they read, they must have dreamed of success -- wealth, power and a chance to marry well, live in a fine house and enjoy the good things of the earth. One wonders what they would have thought had they been able to see the man Alger himself -- scribbling away in his room in the bare, dour-looking building of the Newsboys' Lodging home; leaving his labors to play with the little newsboys and bootblacks; a man defeated in his real literary ambition, disappointed in love, awkward in the society of mature men and women, and apparently almost unaware, as he went obscurely about the city, that his influence was reaching into millions of families and helping to determine the trend and tradition of American business life... (unquote)

Please don't forget to remit promptly when you are billed for your dues by Secretary-Treasurer Max Sheldon. It will eliminate the need for a second billing and will also help us to maintain a solvent treasury.

Are you making plans now to attend the New Haven meeting next year? You should! As our Society grows -- our conventions get more efficient and interesting. Come and see for yourself. (Jack W. Row)

 (E.N. (*) Holbrook's "brilliant essay" was, as he admits, a personal opinion. (**) another personal opinion. Read Ralph Gardner's chapter on "The Stratemeyer Algiers," page 364.)

The advent of fall means the busy season at our home as it must in many of yours. With school opening, scouts, PTA, getting ready for the fall activities, hunting and football games, time once again is at a premium. Many things must take a back seat at such times but Alger collecting and Alger Collectors go on and on. Of course the leisure meandering through the country-sides on a beautiful summer day, wandering from small town to small town, checking every antique shop, second hand store and Rummage sales for Algiers and buttons is over for another year.

Now we settle down into a groove of domesticity gloating over our finds of the summer. Cleaning and repairing the books and buttons which we were lucky enough to find. On the long winter nights ahead, when we are able to convince the youngsters that they have seen enough of the idiot box, out will come the book catalogs, index cards, button manuals and boxes of books and buttons for sorting and cataloging.

As you may have gathered, my wife and I also collect buttons in addition to books. Don't you feel sorry for the person that collects nothing? I do. I often wonder what other hobbies our members have in addition to collecting Alger. I'm sure our editor would be more than happy to print your letters telling about other hobbies, so why not drop him a line right now.

In the last issue of the Newsboy, I told you about the flea market in Lansing. Two weeks ago Jean and I took a mess of junk over and did a thriving business. I also took 15 duplicate Algiers along. The interest was high and I sold most of them. Naturally I took the name of every person that showed interest and I do believe we will have a few more members and a few more new collectors.

Speaking of new collectors, Warner & Ella Conarton, PF-209, have added an original first edition by the name of Jerome Lawrence, born September 9th. Congratulations, Ella & Warner, may Jerome become a success as our Alger heroes. (Carl Hartmann, PF-102)

 (E.N. We are waiting for some proud parent to bestow the fast vanishing, but honorable name of Horatio to such a recipient. A desirable Alger book will be given to the qualifying parents, if a member in good standing. Two, if first and last names are alliterate. Three, if birthdate is on the thirteenth of any month. Four, if on January thirteenth! Alger collecting is never out of season. Take advantage of our dormant months by sorting out your saleable duplicate Algiers and offer them in our Book Mart or Ralph Anderson's (PF-144) COLLECTORS NEWS, Box 156, Grundy (off) Center, Iowa 50638.

1968 CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

PF-004 Mr. Edward G. Levy
Pleasant Hill Road,
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

PF-139 Dr. Martin H. Boone, Jr. M.D.
4253 Sunrise Avenue,
Springfield, Missouri 65804

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-218 Mr. Everett H. Whitlock T-000
Morris Road,
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

PF-219 Mr. Russell A. Trufant T-070
1883 Redbird Road,
North Madison, Ohio 44057

PF-220 Mr. Karl K. Weber T-105
28 Liberty Street,
Warsaw, New York 14569

PF-221 Mr. Milton Reissman T-001
41-09 41st Street,
Sunnyside, L.I., New York 11104

PF-222 Mr. Peter A. Scollo T-100
24 Earle Street,
Norwood, Massachusetts 02062

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Everett is a business acquaintance and personal friend of Ed Levy. He is a book-seller, and specializes in estates. Although not an Alger collector, he has handled hundreds of them. His stock of books will be found at the Whitlock Farm in Bethany, near New Haven.

Russell is manager of Winkelman's Shoe Store in Ashtabula, Ohio. He heard of us through Mrs. Florence Sharp, PF-208. In addition to his collection, he has about 20 duplicates. He also collects other books, Stamps, Coins, Picture Postcards, and Indian Relics.

Karl heard of us through Don Fay, a book dealer in the vicinity, and a personal acquaintance of the Campbell's. Karl is School Librarian at Niagara Falls, New York. He owns a Gardner book and enjoys it. He is interested in back issues, and has received all available copies.

Milton heard of us through Ralph Gardner, and immediately applied for membership through Carl Hartmann. He is a collector of Juveniles and was pleased to learn that he has a first edition of Ragged Dick.

Peter heard of us through Ken Butler. He read Alger as a boy and is still interested. He is an Import Specialist and also collects Dime Novels. Wishes to obtain new titles in any edition.

The listings in this department are free to our members. One full column will be devoted to this department each month. Please list title, publisher, condition and price.

Offered (postpaid) by: Edward A. Reynolds, PF-051, QUABOAG BOOKSHOP, 47 High Street, Thorndike, Mass. 01079.

Adrift In New York,	World	Fair	\$.50
Bound To Rise,	N.Y. Book	Fair	.50
Brave And Bold	N.Y. Book	Poor	.50
Brave And Bold	Hurst	Good	1.50
Brave And Bold	Hurst 18mo.	Fair	1.50
Helping Himself	Donohue	* V.G.	1.00
Helping Himself	Donohue	Poor	.50
Helping Himself	Hurst 18mo.	Fair	1.50
Facing The World	N.Y. Book	Good	1.00
Herbert Carter's Legacy,	N.Y. Book	V.G.	1.25
Making His Way	Value **	Fair	.75
Paul, The Peddler,	Donohue	Good	1.50
Shifting For Himself,	Hurst	Good	1.50
Shifting For Himself,	Mershon	Good	2.00
Strive And Succeed,	Whitman	Poor	.50
Strong & Steady	Whitman?***	Poor	.50
Strong & Steady	N.Y. Book	Good	1.00
Young Acrobat	Donohue	Poor	.50
Young Acrobat	Burt****	Good	1.50
Young Adventurer	MacLellan	***** Poor	.50
Young Adventurer	N.Y. Book	Good	1.00

Note: *End paper missing; **Paper back; ***Title page missing; ****Front end paper missing; *****Covers missing.

E.N. I note in the September issue of the DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP that Edward LeBlanc, Editor, 87 School Street, Fall River, Mass. (02720), has for sale, a copy of Herbert R. Mayes (1928 edition) ALGER, A Biography Without A Hero. Ed, of course is a society member, PF-015.

We'll have a new member next month from Minneapolis, with another long list of duplicate titles for sale or trade.

RALPH REPORTS & RECOMMENDS

(E.N. Ralph has just returned from his annual trip to Europe)

"Just returned...The Newsboy was the first thing I read when I got home & it gave me much pleasure as it always does.

...I must tell you that the item in Sept. Newsboy that gave me great pleasure was publication of Roy Wendell's list of Alger reference material.

...I have received from the author, Jeanne Horn, a copy of her fine, new paperback book, "You Can Find a Fortune" (almost sounds like an Alger title), just published by ARC Books, 219 Park Avenue South, New York, 10003. It costs \$1.45 and has some 200 pages plus pages of illustrations. My reason for calling this to attention of our members is that her section of book treasures includes two pages on Alger, and this will be effective in furthering our wish to bring Horatio's works to public notice. Her book also includes chapters on all sorts of Americana as well as sunken treasures, antique cars, autographs, clues to famous unsolved mysteries, stamps, furniture, porcelain, etc. etc.

I think it would be enjoyable worthwhile reading for any collector or hobbyist.

In a few days I shall phone Ed Levy & see if I can be of any help to him in his preparations for our 1968 New England gathering. (Ralph D. Gardner)

A NEW PUBLICATION

A new organization with a publication is being planned by Robert Johnson, PF-080, of Bisbee, Arizona. It is being designed for Leo Edwards fans. Leo wrote juvenile stories with settings around Ottawa, Illinois.

The name of the proposed organization is to be "Leo Edwards' Juvenile Jupiter Detectives" (Tutter Branch). The name of the proposed publication will be "The Tutter Bugle" and the first edition of this four-page newspaper is scheduled to be released about December 1st. Sample copies will be mailed upon request.

Johnson is to be the editor. The job will not be new to him since he is currently a linotype operator for the Bisbee Daily Review. He is already the author of three short stories which were privately published in miniature book form. His fourth, "Mystery at the Falls" is scheduled to be released by Nov. 1st.

Edwards wrote possibly 38 stories in five different series, all in the familiar red bindings and published by Grosset & Dunlap.

(continued at top of page)

Johnson does not have a complete collection, and none has ever been reported.

I have ten of the Edwards books and have applied for membership. I am told that I will be announced as a Charter member in the first edition of The Tutter Bugle. If interested, but want additional information, write Johnson at Box No. 1732, Bisbee, Arizona, 85603.

THE BOOK WORM turns -

Jacqueline Steele, PF-199, editor of The Book Worm, has successfully completed the first year of her bi-monthly publication. She will celebrate its first anniversary this month with a special edition.

As The Book Worm turns to enter its second year of publication, Mrs. Steele has great plans and high hopes of improving the contents for the reader's interest. She plans to include biographical sketches occasionally of popular authors, and other interesting organizations and publications.

Horatio Alger, and the Newsboy will be featured with illustrations in her coming February (1968) issue.

To get on the Book Worm mailing list, write her in care of The Book Worm, Box No. 76, Rockport, Maine, 04856.

PLAY BALL!

As we go to press, the Boston Red Sox has just won the American League pennant. Our congratulations to our Massachusetts members, and condolences to our members in Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota, whose teams were also runner-up contenders.

Our congratulations and sympathy is extended in advance to the winners and the losers of the World Series, whoever they may be!

Organized, or professional baseball did not appear until after the turn of the century, yet the game of "ball" did appear in many of the Alger stories. The rules of the game seem to have changed little since Alger's description of the game.

The Alger heroes were always proficient in some sport, contest or game, such as boating, riding, boxing, or as the star pitcher for the team. Can you name others?

And in spite of their limited education they always seemed proficient enough to coach other slow-to-learn students in their studies.

As for the New York "street-boy" characters, they had little time for participation in sports, although many spent some time at the Barnum's Museum and the old Bowery Theatre, "our heroes" spent many idle moments at study.

NOTES FROM NORMAN

During the past summer I did considerable traveling in Western Michigan on the look-out for Alger books. I am happy with my progress for the year. As I recall I joined with less than 25 titles, today I have 58. My most recent addition was "From Canal Boy to President" with the tipped in errata slip, "scarce as hen's teeth" according to Gardner.

During the summer I found a nice outlet for my duplicates. I visited Historical Museums in Ludington and Manistee. Both of them now have two or three Algers which they did not have prior to my visit. The Mecosta Historical Society will receive a few books when they develop a better cataloging system of their books. Osceola County will receive a few when their building is completed. Perhaps others would like to contribute to their local historical museum and share with others this literature which was so common in the past.

My Alger display is now in the new Ferris State College Library and will be there until after the library dedication in October. Following the Ferris exhibit, I have also promised a smaller display to the Big Rapids Library and our local historical society.

My books are displayed in several groups. It has been fun assembling them. The various arrangements focus on the many different publishers, the Stratemeyer Algers, biographies, and the numerous boy's names. Also used were photographs and biographies of Alger and numerous items pertaining to our Society.

I took my family to see the display, and my 11 year old daughter, Nancy observed something which I think is very interesting. Perhaps our members are aware of it from the past but it was new to me. Have you noticed the play on identical letters are used in the titles of Algers books? The play on identical letters is certainly not a chance item, but must have been a part of Alger's thinking.

Look at a few titles: Ben Bruce, 2 B's; Charlie Codman's Cruise, 3 C's; and about 50 of the 177 titles have this type of play on letters. Perhaps the best is "Trials & Triumphs of Mark Mason, 2 T's & 2 M's. This play on letters makes reading our title sheet quite a lot of fun.

Question: I have six different cover styles of the Donohue books. What was the order of issue?

Answer: Donohue is one of many reprint publishers. To my knowledge no statistics have been compiled on the order of issue of reprints. Generally, the various covers denote a difference in quality.

Question: A number of my Hurst copies have a pasted on picture on the cover. Does a certain title always have the same picture design? Or might it be possible to have one title with a large number of pasted on pictures? The same question could apply to the later Burt issues.

Answer: To my knowledge there is no relation between the picture on the cover and the subject of the story. If there seems to be, it is perhaps by pure coincidence. It would be interesting to know just how many variations Hurst used. The illustration of a newsboy used in our newsletter masthead was fashioned after a Hurst cover. Do you have a cover to match it? The same answer applies to the Burt editions. Generally it means a change of quality and a difference in price. For example, Burt issued some deluxe editions which are easily identified to buyers who didn't mind paying for quality items.

Question: A number of books were re-issued at a later date under a new title. What is the state of research to show what is the first edition of a story with a new title.

Answer: Of course Ralph Gardner is our leading, and accepted authority, however, it is my belief from a study of copyrights that reprint publishers sometimes obtained permission to use original plates by an agreement with the copyright owners, and using a different title. The title variations of a known story, often denote a different publisher for each variation. I know of no research being done in the field of first issues of title variations.

Inscriptions on the fly leaf, if a presentation copy from the author, adds to the value of the book. Other names and dates may prove to be interesting and help to establish the age of a particular item, but the publisher, quality and condition are the only important factors.

P.S. I have finally produced a first draft of a short article pertaining to coins mentioned in Algers books; I shall send it soon. This could be quite a research paper, but rather it will be only a very brief descriptive article.

Your Particular Friend, Norman, PF-184

100 CLUB ? WHAT THEN?

After you have qualified for the 100 Club, the next step is to acquire the rare, or difficult titles. They will not come so easy. The first 100 titles will be a fairly easy goal. For those who are keeping score, I have just acquired a copy of Victor Vane, for a total of 127 titles. From those of you who already have 100 titles or more, I would like to hear of your most recent acquisition. Perhaps we can establish a rare title list in our monthly newsletter. Upgrading of books and stories not in book form should not be reported. (PF-000)

EDITORIAL ERUPTIONS

Since next year will be the centennial of the year in which Horatio Alger became famous for his best seller, Ragged Dick, I thought it might be interesting to do a little research on the year 1868.

Next year will be a National Election Year with two major political conventions. The Republicans will convene in Miami Beach, Florida on August 5th. The Democratic National Convention is as yet unreported.

In the year of 1868 the Democratic National Convention was held in New York City, at Tammany Hall on East Fourteenth Street. Andrew Johnson was President, (and as such, history repeats itself), filling the unexpired term of Abraham Lincoln, who was assassinated about a month after his inauguration. In spite of impeachment proceedings against him, he declared himself a candidate of the Democratic Party for re-election.

The convention convened on July 4th, 1868, with the names of Andrew Johnson and four others placed in nomination on the first ballot. For 21 ballots which meant extra days in session, a two-thirds majority could not be reached.

On the 22nd ballot, a favorite of the Party, Horatio Seymour, a former Governor of New York State, was named against his wishes and nominated. Of course he was defeated in the National Election by a more popular man, U.S. Grant.

Horatio Seymour was a great credit to the name of Horatio, and he gave Grant a close race in the popular vote. The name of Horatio must have been on everyone's lips that year. The name of Horatio Alger has survived the past 100 years, but the name of Horatio Seymour, perhaps only a politician would recall.

(research credit is due to Cal Noell, PF-082, Reference Room, Kalamazoo Public Library, and Miss Vera Sutfin, (sister of Ray), PF-202, (reference provided: THEY ALSO RAN).

Patch is selling papers on the steps of the Astor House. He spies a country gentleman entering Broadway at Vesey with a carpet bag in his hand.

"Can I sell you a paper, Gov'ner?"
"Well, I don't know; have you got a Fall River paper?"
"No, sir; I'm all sold out. Carry your baggage, then?"
"Well, let's see. Ain't this the Astor House?"
"Yes, sir. You stopping here?"
"Well, I cal'lated to. It's a good place, ain't it?"
"One of the best." (sizing him up)
"there's others incourse."
"What others do you recommend?"

"That depends on what yer gonna do an' how long yer gonna stay."
"Well, I'm a delegate to the National Convention, and I cal'late to stay about a week."

"Then you ought'ta git closer to de Hall."
"I don't mind walkin' a couple a blocks."
"It's farther'n a couple o' blocks, mister. It's most half way up town."
"Ain't we uptown, now?"
"No, sir," (smiling) "We're down town."
"Well, I declare!"
"It's a big city, sir."
"Ain't that Tammany Hall over yonder?"
"No, sir. That's City Hall."
"Well, how far is it to Tammany Hall?"
"Bout a mile I 'spect."
"Well, I never—" (pulling at his beard) "Which way is it? Mebbe I'll walk arter all."

"You ought'ta have a guide, mister. You'll git lost; mebbe run over an' killed, or somethin'."

"I ain't no greenhorn. I'm from Fall River. I've been around horses, too!"
"Suit yerself, mister. Jist walk up Broadway to Union Square, turn right on Fourteenth to Irving Place. The Hall's in the next block."

"Thankee, son. I'm good at foller'n directions. I'll find it all right."

"Then you won't be stopping at the Astor House?"

"Well, no. 'at's quite a piece to walk mornin' 'n night. Say! is there a nice place near the Hall?"

"Want a fancy place, don't yer?"

"I reckon I do. I'll be hob nobbin' with some big poloticians, I cal'late."

"Then yer better put up at de Fi't Avenoo Hotel."

"Is that near the Hall?"

"It's nearer'n this."

"How'll I find it?"

"Take Broadway from Union Square to Madison Square. It's on the corner of West 23rd."

(a drunken sailor escorted by Tinhorn approaches and attracts the attention of the country gentleman)

"Say! lookit that drunk; he'd ought'ta be run in!"

"There's a Soldiers and Sailors convention in town. He's just celebratin'."

"But that other young'in, ain't he apt to rob him?"

"Who, Tinhorn? No, I don't think so. Tinhorn's reformed. Protectin' him from pick-pockets, I 'spect."

"Reform School, hey?"

"No, by our friend Horatio Alger."

"Horatio? Say! That's the man we want to nominate. Gov'ner Seemore, I mean."

"He'd make a good President, I've heard."

"Say! You're all right! Mebbe I do need an escort arter all. I've got nigh onto fifty dollars in my money belt. Couldn't afford to lose it, you know!"

It's no use looking. The above dialogue will not be found in any Alger story.

It may be used, however, in my next play, THE REFORMATION OF TINHORN -PF-000