

newsboy



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NOVEMBER, 1969

Monthly Newsletter of
the HORATIO ALGER
SOCIETY. The World's
Only Publication Devot-
ed to That Wonderful
World of Horatio Alger.



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

STREET & SMITH ALGER SERIES

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY STREET & SMITH PRODUCED A NUMBER OF PAPERBACK AND HARD COVER EDITIONS. THE ONE PICTURED HERE IS #74 "MARK MANNING'S MISSION", OF THE ALGER SERIES. STREET AND SMITH MAINTAINED THEIR ALGER SERIES, LISTING SOME FORTY OF HIS TITLES UNTIL WELL INTO THE THIRTIES. TO FIND THESE PAPERBACKS IN MINT CONDITION IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN ONE WILL TURN UP.

WE HAVE SEEN MANY WITHOUT COVERS OR WITH THE BACK PAGES MISSING AND EVEN THESE MOST DEALERS WANT AT LEAST ONE DOLLAR AND SOMETIMES MORE. A GOOD ALGER SERIES PAPERBACK IN MINT CONDITION WILL SELL FOR MUCH MORE. THE COVERS ARE COLORFUL AND ADD TO ANY COLLECTION.

(Most of the above information was taken from "Horatio Alger or the American Hero Era", by Ralph Gardner, Published by the Wayside Press.

ALGER SERIES MARK MANNING'S MISSION BY HORATIO ALGER, JR.



STREET & SMITH CORPORATION
PUBLISHERS NEW YORK

PAGES FROM FAMOUS GEMS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE PUBLISHED 1899 (YEAR ALGER DIED)

HORATIO ALGER

As a writer of books at once entertaining and at the same time of a healthy and earnest character a parent cannot recommend to his boys a more wholesome author than Horatio Alger, Jr. Mr. Alger always writes with a careful regard to truth and to the right principles. His heroes captivate the imagination, but they do not inflame it, and they are generally worthy examples for the emulation of boys. At the same time he is in no sense a preacher. His books have the true juvenile flavor and charm, and, like the sugar pills of the homoeopathist, carry the good medicine of morality, bravery, industry, enterprise, honor - everything that goes to make up the true manly and noble character, so subtly woven into the thread of his interesting narrative that the writer without detecting its presence receives the wholesome benefit.

Mr. Alger became famous in the publication of that undying book, "Ragged Dick; or, Street Life in New York." It was his first book for young people, and its success was so great that he immediately devoted himself to writing for young people, which he has since continued. It was a new field for a writer when Mr. Alger began, and his treatment of it at once caught the fancy of the boys. "Ragged Dick" first appeared in 1868, and since then it has been selling steadily until now it is estimated that over two hundred thousand copies of the series have passed into circulation. Mr. Alger possesses in an eminent degree that sympathy with boys which a writer must have to meet with success. He is able to enter into their plans, hopes, and aspirations. He knows how to look upon life as they do. He writes straight at them as one from their ranks and not down upon them as a towering fatherly adviser. A boy's heart naturally opens to a writer who understands

him and makes a companion of him. This, we believe, accounts for the enormous sale of the books of this writer. We are told that about three-quarters of a million copies of his books have been sold and that all the large circulating libraries in the country have several complete sets of them, of which but few volumes are found on the shelves at one time.

Horatio Alger, Jr., was born in Revere, Massachusetts, January 13, 1834. He graduated at Harvard University in 1852, after which he spent several years in teaching and newspaper work. In 1864 he was ordained as a Unitarian minister and served a Massachusetts church for two years. It was in 1866 that he took up his residence in New York and became deeply interested in the street boys and exerted what influence he could to the bettering of their condition. His experience in this work furnished him with the information out of which grew many of his later writings.

To enumerate the various volumes published by this author would be tedious. They have generally been issued in series. Several volumes complete one subject or theme. His first published book was "Bertha's Christmas Vision" (1855). Succeeding this came "Nothing to Do", a tilt at our best society, in verse (1857); "Frank's Campaign; or, What A Boy Can Do" (1864); "Helen Ford", a novel, and also a volume of poems (1866). The "Ragged Dick" series began in 1868 and comprises six volumes. Succeeding this came "Tattered Tom" first and second series, comprising eight volumes. The entire fourteen volumes above referred to are devoted to New York street life of boys. "Ragged Dick" has served as a model for many a poor boy struggling upward, while the influence of Phil the fiddler in the "Tattered Tom" series is credited with having much to do in the abolishment of the padrone system. The "Campaign Series" comprised three volumes; the "Luck and Pluck Series" eight; the "Brave and Bold" four, the "Pacific Series" four; the "Atlantic Series" four; "Way to Success" four; the "New World" three; the "Victory Series" three. All of these were published prior

PAGES FROM FAMOUS GEMS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE PUBLISHED 1899 (YEAR ALGER DIED) - Continued

to 1896. Since the beginning of 1896 have appeared "Frank Hunter's Peril", "The Young Salesman" and other later works, all of which have met with the usual cordial reception accorded by the boys and girls to the books of this favorite author. It is perhaps but just to say, now that Oliver Optic is gone, that Mr. Alger has attained distinction as the most popular writer of books for boys in America, and perhaps no other writer for the young has ever stimulated and encouraged earnest boys in their efforts to rise in the world or so strengthened their will to persevere in well-doing, and at the same time written stories so real that every one, young and old, delights to read them. He not only writes interesting and even thrilling stories, but what is of very great importance, they are always clean and healthy.

HOW DICK BEGAN THE DAY*

(From "Ragged Dick; or, Street Life In New York".)

Wake up, there, youngster," said a rough voice.

Ragged Dick opened his eyes slowly and stared stupidly in the face of the speaker, but did not offer to get up.

"Wake up, you young vagabond!" said the man a little impatiently; "I suppose you'd lay there all day if I hadn't called you."

"What time is it?" asked Dick

"Seven o'clock" ; "Seven o'clock! I oughter've been up an hour ago. I know what 'twas made me so precious sleepy. I went to the Old Bowery last night and didn't turn in till past twelve."

"You went to the Old Bowery? Where'd you get your money?" asked the man, who was a porter in the employ of

a firm doing business on Spruce Street.

"Made it on shines, of course. My guardian don't allow me no money for theatres, so I have to earn it."

"Some boys get it easier than that", said the porter, significantly.

"You don't catch me stealing, if that what you mean", said Dick.

"Don't you ever steal, then?"

"No, and I wouldn't. Lots of boys does it, but I wouldn't".

"Well, I'm glad to hear you say that. I believe there's some good in you, Dick, after all."

"Oh, I'm a rough customer," said Dick. "But I wouldn't steal. It's mean."

"I'm glad you think so, Dick," and the rough voice sounded gentler than at first. "Have you got any money to buy your breakfast?"

"No; but I'll soon have some."

FROM COLLECTION OF W. CHASE

PF-273

A YEAR OF GROWTH

There is no good reason why the Horatio Alger Society should not hit the 500 mark by convention time in 1970.

There are thousands, possibly millions of men in their seventies and eighties who are grateful to our hero for their good start and success in life. They still enjoy re-reading Alger books and in acquiring those that they failed to read when a boy.

Alger plots may have a sameness, but they are still exciting and interesting even though no telephones or trolley cars or airplanes or atomic bombs or space explorations are mentioned therein.

As one reads, he cannot help but contrast life today with that of two (or three) generations ago.

So, fellow members and Particular Friends, pass along the word and do some oldtimer a favor.

DON'T FORGET . . . THE 1970 CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN REVERE, MASS., JUNE 19, 20, 21

- *Jed the Poorhouse Boy
- *Phil, The Fiddler
- *Ragged Dick
- *Struggling Upward -crown- new hard cover - \$2.00

(The four titles above are all in one book).

- Digging for Gold-Collier-New Paperback-\$1.50
- Do and Dare-Whitman-Fair Paperback-\$1.00
- Fame and Fortune-Whitman-Good-Hard Cover \$2.00
- Jack's Ward-Donohue-Fair-Hard Cover-\$1.50
- Making his Way-Donohue-Poor-Hard Cover-\$1.00
- Making his Way-Value-Good Paperback-\$1.00
- Only an Irish Boy-N.Y.Book-Poor-Hard Cover - \$1.00
- Ralph Raymond's Heir-Donohue-Poor-Hard Cover-\$2.00
- Ralph Raymon's Heir-Hurst-Good-Hard Cover-\$1.00
- Telegraph Boy (Miniature Copy)-Hurst-Good-Hard Cover-\$2.00
- Risen from The Ranks-N.Y. Book-Poor-Hard Cover-\$1.00

The above offered by:

John M. Lohn
709 S. Lorraine Boulevard
Los Angeles, Calif. 90005

- Adrift in New York-Hurst-Fine-\$2.50
- Bob Burton-Hurst-Fine-\$2.50
- Bound to Rise-Burt-Fine-\$3.50
- From Canal Boy to President (1st Ed.) Very Good-\$12.00
- Helen Ford-Winston-Fine-\$7.00
- In A New Word-Hurst-Almost Mint-Fine-\$8.00 (with dust jacket)
- Making His Way-Donohue-Very Fine-\$2.50
- Only An Irish Boy-Hurst-Fine-\$2.50
- Paul the Peddler-Burt-Very Good-\$
- Sams Chance-Donohue-Very Good-\$4.00 (with dust jacket)
- Sink or Swim-Hurst-Very Good-\$4.00 (with dust jacket)- Small size book 12 mo.?
- Try and Trust-Hurst-Fine-\$2.50
- Your Acrobat-Hurst-Fine-\$2.50

Slow and Sure-Burt-Very Good-\$2.50
The Young Musician-Burt-Fine-\$2.50
(missing front end paper)

The above offered by:

Norman G. Peterson
Rt. #1, Box 51
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

FROM PAGE #3

Then, look up your fathers with growing boys, and you'll be surprised at the possibilities in that field.

Yes, with a little effort, we can hit the 500 mark by June 19th.

GEORGE C. CLARKE
Publicity Chairman

The 1970 Roster will be made up of all members in good standing (dues paid) as of December 15, 1969. Any changes must be in by that date, to wit: change of address, new acquisitions, or any other information, please let your Secretary, Carl Hartmann know in time.

The NEWSBOY, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society is published monthly except January and July, and is distributed free to Society members by our Executive Secretary, Carl Hartmann, from 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Mich. 48910.

Each individual membership begins with date of application. Junior membership, \$3.00 annually; adult membership, \$5.00 annually, to be paid in advance. Each new member receives a membership card, membership roster, and ten issues of the NEWSBOY.

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