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# Newsboy



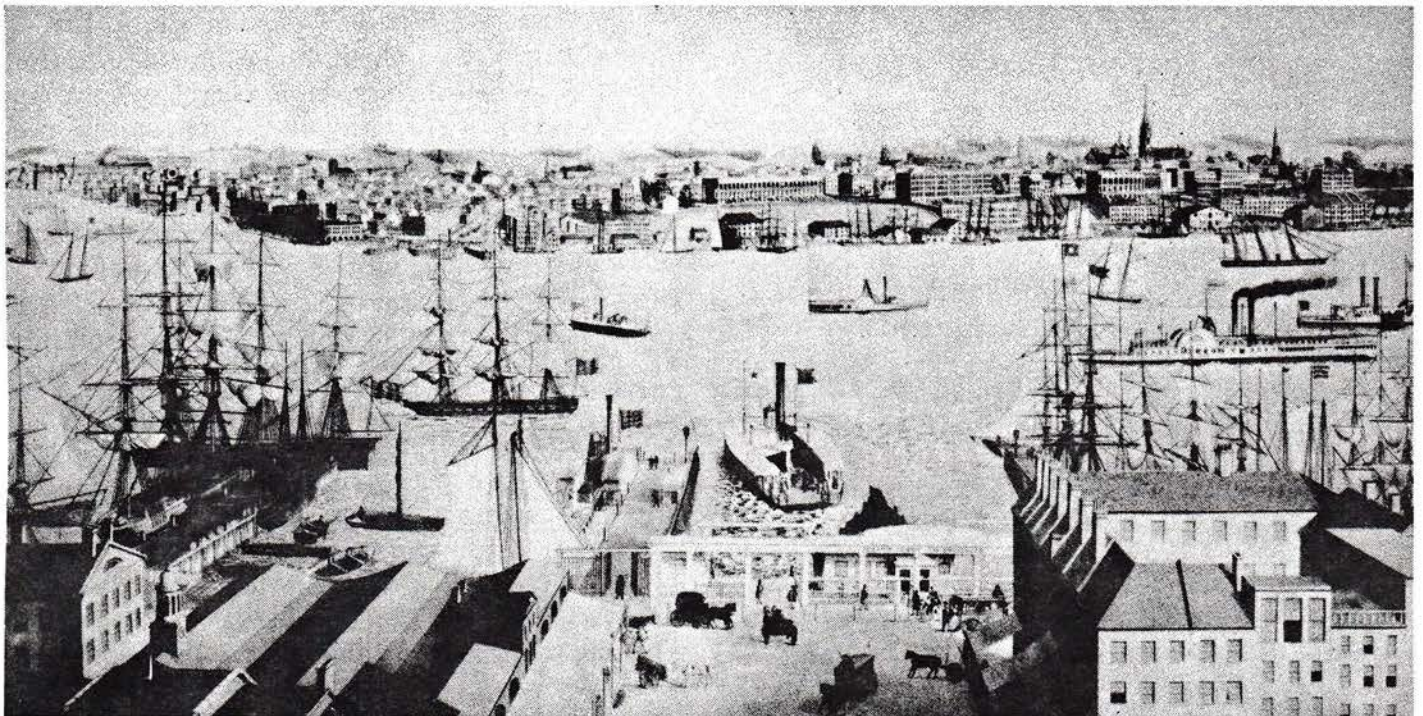
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Monthly Newsletter of  
the HORATIO ALGER  
SOCIETY. The World's  
Only Publication Devot-  
ed to That Wonderful  
World of Horatio Alger.



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler



The view here across the East River shows at the lower right Schermerhorn Row, a block of eighteen buildings built around 1825. In the middle is pictured the Fulton Ferry, taking off from New York for Brooklyn.

As all Alger readers know, the author mentioned the Fulton Ferry quite frequently. For example, In Mark the

Match Boy (chapter 8), Ragged Dick and Henry Fosdick place some money in Mark's pockets while Mark is asleep on the boat, with Dick noting, "I took care of myself eight years, and more than once took a cheap bed for two cents on a boat like this." (For another incident which occurred on the Fulton Ferry, see page 4. Print courtesy of Ralph D. Gardner).

## 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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The Newsboy, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society, is published monthly except January and July and is distributed free to our members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$10.00.

Newsboy recognizes Ralph D. Gardner's Horatio Alger or, the American Hero Era, published by Wayside Press, 1964, as the leading authority on the subject.

Manuscripts relating to Horatio Alger's life and works are solicited by the editor.

Please use membership roster for mailing addresses of our officers and members.

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NEWSBOY EDITORIAL

Before I discuss some of my plans for the H. A. S.'s Newsboy, I'd first like to thank Carl Hartmann for his five years of service as editor of it. I have long felt that if it weren't for Carl, Newsboy would have folded when Forrest Campbell retired in 1969. However, not only did Carl take on the task of editing it, but he managed its printing and distribution, besides performing his usual duties as Secretary of the Society. Therefore, I feel we all owe

him a heartfelt vote of thanks on his editorship retirement. WELL DONE, CARL!

As I begin my term as Newsboy editor, the feeling which I want to emphasize above all others is that since Newsboy is YOUR newsletter, all you readers deserve to have a part with each month's issue. Therefore, I earnestly solicit manuscripts from all H. A. S. members, for it is impossible for me both to edit and write each issue. Even if I could, all you would get would be MY thoughts, which would soon make for stale reading.

Also, every once in a while I see a new book being released that looks as if it would appeal to Newsboy readers. Two examples are Eight Dime Novels (Newsboy, June-July, 1974) and John Seelye's Dirty Tricks or, Nick Noxin's Natural Nobility. (Newsboy, March-April, 1974). I feel that these book reviews are extremely worthwhile and should be continued. Therefore, this type of article is also requested, as well as any dealing just specifically with Alger. (When the Alger-Mayes controversy hit the newspapers a couple months ago, the internationally known researcher, writer, and economist Joseph Mayer sent me for review in Newsboy a complimentary copy of his autobiography, The Making of a Rebel. As Mayer's career reads like a Horatio Alger story, his book will be reviewed in next month's issue).

I would also appreciate it if Newsboy readers regularly keep me informed of all Alger articles and works that they come across. Even if you can't send the piece itself for Volume II of the Horatio Alger Society Scrapbook (which together with Volume I now numbers over 300 pages), I would like the bibliographic information so that I can pass it on to any interested readers.

I always welcome old pictures of New York City for reproduction in Newsboy, particularly if they are of areas which Alger mentioned. Or, "Alger-type" pieces, similar to "Jerry the Newsboy" which appears in this issue, are also solicited.

And finally, by all means, please stay in touch. I wish to keep on having a "Notes from Members" section in which I can report readers' new finds or other interesting information. As soon as I determine how long it will take for an issue to be printed and distributed, I'll set a deadline for all articles, so that H. A. S. members will always know if they have time to get an article to me before I start typing the issue.

Jack Bales  
Editor

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### THE BOYHOOD ALGERS

by Jack Schorr

The small store where I bought my paperback Algers was owned and operated by a Greek family in the town I grew up in, Hamilton, Maryland. It was a suburb of Baltimore. Another place where I made periodical purchases was a candy store and snack shop across from City College High School, about four miles from Hamilton where I attended high school.

I can no longer recall the names of these stores, but I can vividly remember the interior of the Greek store. A large magazine rack occupied a large area in the front of the store. There was a section of this devoted to Street and Smith publications, Alger Series, Frank and Dick Merriwell Series, Optic Series, Ted Strongs, and others. Along one side was a long soda fountain and across from the fountain were eight round tables with four chairs to each table. This was a popular gathering place for the after-school crowd. There were along the mirror various ads; one which was usually there was the announcement of the local movie house, and other announcements of a church bazaar, the school play, and athletic events.

A nickle bought you a Coke then, and opportunity to look over a few of the choice magazines of that era, such as "Artists and Models" and spicy tales - the ones you wouldn't bring home.

The Street and Smiths came in every

other Thursday, as I can recall, so I would stop in on the way home from school and pick out a couple Algers, and have Alex hold them for me until I got my allowance on Saturday after I had rounded up empty returnable bottles for deposit, a supplement to my allowance then. These I would read over the week-end, and end up usually taking an Alger or a Merriwell to school. My hardback Algers I usually received as a gift for Christmas and they were of the reprint variety. I was a nut on condition then as now. I had a habit of cutting out a cover of wax paper and putting it around the paperbacks to keep them from being soiled. I did some trading then, but usually kept what I had in a box in my room. Paperbacks in a box and the hardback books in a book case.

When I finally left Maryland I had three boxes filled with Street and Smith paperbacks and a large book case filled with Algers, Merriwells, Jerry Todds and Tom Swifts and Rover Boys. All my possessions I left at my stepfather's house when I suddenly one day decided to cast my lot with my father's family. This left not a very friendly feeling in this area. The huge old house where my stepfather lived still stands in a suburb of Baltimore, now occupied by his near recluse daughter. When I was back in 1968 and 1971, neighbors who had lived there for years told me the inside of the place had not changed, nothing was thrown out. By judging from the outside, I would say this is true, except for regular coats of paint always the same color. I was fascinated by the idea that my possessions still remained and I believe they do. I am working on this, but to no avail so far.

The results of this will make an interesting story later.

\* \* \*

Through an unfortunate oversight, it was not mentioned in the June-July, 1974 Newsboy that Jack Row took the Convention pictures that were included in the issue. Jack, with his portable Minox, has taken pictures for all Conventions in which he has been in attendance.

### JERRY THE NEWSBOY

(Tableau.)

(See Poem "Jerry," page 299.)

"Long ago, my faithful readers,  
Happened this that I have told,  
Long ago that sturdy newsboy,  
All his daily papers sold."



### JERRY.

By MARY L. DICKINSON.

"BUY a paper, plaze! She is frozen,  
almost;  
Here's the Commercial and News and  
Mail,  
And here's the Express and the Avening  
Post!  
And ivery one has a tirrible tale,—  
A shipwrick—a murther—a fire-alarm—  
Whichiver ye loike;—have a paper,  
marm!

Thin buy it, plaze, av of this bit av a gur-  
rul,  
She's new in the business, and all of a  
whirrul;  
We must lend her a hand," said little  
Jerry,  
"There's a plinty av trade at the Fulton  
Ferry.

"She's wakely for nade av the tay and the  
toast—  
The price uv a paper—plaze, sir, buy a  
Post?  
Thru as me name it is Jeremiah,  
There's a foin report av a dridful fire—  
And a child that's lost—and a smash av a  
train;—  
Indade, sir, the paper's just groanin' wid  
pain!  
Spake up, little gurrul, and don't be  
afraid!  
I'm scratchin' for two till I start yez in  
thrade,

While I yell, you can sell," said little  
Jerry,  
Screeching for two at Fulton Ferry.

The night was black and the wind was  
high,  
And a hurrying crowd went shivering by;  
And some bought papers, and some bought  
none,  
But the boy's shrill voice rang cheerily on:  
"Buy a Post, or a News, or a Mail, as you  
choose,  
For my arm just aches wid the weight av  
the news.  
Express? Not a single one left for to-  
night—  
But buy one av this little gurrul, sir—all  
right.  
She's a reg'lar seller here at the Ferry,  
And I rickomind her high," said Jerry.

In the whirl of the throng there paused a  
man,  
"The bell is ringing—I can not wait;  
Here, girl, a Commercial as quick as you  
can!  
The boat is starting—don't make me late!"  
And on through the hurrying crowd he  
ran,  
The wee girl following close behind,  
After the penny he could not find;  
While, with a spring through the closing  
gate,

After her money bounded Jerry,  
Ragged and panting, at Fulton Ferry.

"One cent from the man in the big fur  
coat!  
Give me the change, or I'll stop the boat."  
Up from the deck a laugh and a cheer,  
It changed to a shuddering cry of fear,  
As he bent his head for the fearful spring,  
And then—like a wild bird on the wing—  
Over the whirling waters swung,  
Touched the boat with his hands and  
clung,  
Gasping and white, to the rail, and cried:  
"Where is that mean old man who tried  
To steal one cent from a girl at the  
Ferry?  
A poor little girl with no friend but  
Jerry?"

Over the side went a hundred hands,  
From a hundred mouths rang forth com-  
mands:  
"Pull him in!" "Stop the boat!" "Take  
his stock!" "Let us buy  
All the papers he has!" "Send him home  
to get dry;"

The preceding poem is from the Horatio Alger Society Scrapbook. The source is not given, but written across it in ink are the words, "These pages taken from book published in 1901." Unfortunately, I cannot recall who sent me the piece. I suspect that the volume is a book of poetry, for this poem was published under the heading, "Pathetic Selections." Can anyone help me?

\* \* \*

As a souvenir of the 1974 Horatio Alger Society Convention in New Philadelphia, Ohio, Irene Gurman specially prepared a limited first edition booklet of two Alger works. Quoting from her introduction appearing in the pamphlet: "The two very elusive early pieces printed in this souvenir volume for the first time in a book were originally published in Philadelphia by Peterson's Monthly Magazine in the year 1853. They were both published under his by-line. The first piece is a light poem concerning the Season of Spring, titled, 'A Welcome to May,' and the second a short story, 'Borrowing from Economy,' . . ."

"No, indade," said the boy—"that's not  
w'at I meant;  
I doant want yer money; I want that one  
cent  
From the man in the warr'm fur coat an'  
hat,  
Who could stheal a cent from a gurrul like  
that!  
Af iver he thries that game agin  
He'd better take me, and not Margery  
Flynn!"  
Then cheer on cheer for little Jerry  
Rang across the Fulton Ferry.

Long ago, my youthful readers,  
Happened this that I have told,  
Long ago that sturdy newsboy  
All his daily papers sold.  
And the pluck that dared a ducking  
To set right a weak one's wrong,  
Served him well in every struggle;  
And his life, both kind and strong,  
Is a blessing and a comfort  
To a world of needy boys,  
Who, like him, must work in play-time,  
With boot brushes for their toys.  
But around the Fulton Ferry,  
Still the newsboys talk of Jerry.

This first edition is limited to 295 numbered and signed copies. They are available for \$2.50 apiece plus .30 postage from Irene Gurman, 540 Sherman Drive, #49, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067.

\* \* \*  
B O O K M A R T

The listing of Alger books in this department is free to our members. Please list title, publisher, condition and price. P = Poor, F = Fair, G = Good, Exg = Extra good.

Offered by Mrs. Rohima Walter, 1307 Greenbush, LaFayette, Indiana 47904.

Adrift in New York	Dono.	G	\$2.00
Adrift in New York	Gold.	G	2.00
Adrift in New York	World	G	2.00
Andy Gordon	World	G	2.00
Andy Gordon	Dono.	F	2.00
Erie Train Boy	Dono.	P	2.00
Erie Train Boy	Dono.	P	2.00
Erie Train Boy	Sup.	P	2.00
Bound to Rise	World	Exg	2.00
Driven from Home	Mersh.	G	2.00

Driven from Home	Dono.	G	\$2.00
Brave and Bold	Burt	Exg	10.00
Brave and Bold	Hurst	Exg	3.00
Erie Train Boy	Hurst	G	3.00
C. Codman's Cruise	Winst.	Exg	15.00
Cousin's Conspiracy	Burt	F	5.00
Chester Rand	Dono.	P	2.00
Chester Rand	Dono.	P	2.00
Frank's Campaign	Burt	P	5.00
Facing the World	Dono.	F	2.00
Facing the World	NYB	G	2.00
Facing the World	NYB	G	2.00
Facing the World	Dono.	G	2.00
Helping Himself	Dono.	Exg	2.00
Cash Boy	NYB	P	2.00
Cash Boy	Gold.	P	2.00
Herb. Cart. Leg.	Hurst	Exg	3.00
Making His Way	NYB	Exg	2.00
Making His Way	Gold.	Good	2.00
Only an Irish Boy	NYB	Exg	2.00
Only an Irish Boy	Dono.	Exg	2.00
R. Raymond's Heir	Dono.	F	2.00
Risen from t. Ranks	Dono.	P	2.00
Strong and Steady	Dono.	F	2.00
Strong and Steady	Dono.	F	2.00
Store Boy	Dono.	Exg	2.00
Store Boy	Hurst	Exg	2.00
Slow and Sure	Dono.	Exg	2.00
Slow and Sure	Dono.	Fair	2.00
Strive & Succeed	NYB	Exg	2.00
Strive & Succeed	Dono.	Exg	2.00
Sink or Swim	NYB	Exg	2.00
Sink or Swim	Dono.	Exg	2.00
Strugg. Upward	NYB	Exg	2.00
Strugg. Upward	Whit.	Exg	2.00
Strugg. Upward	NYB	Exg	2.00
Shift. for Himself	Burt	Exg	15.00
Shift. for Himself	NYB	Exg	2.00
Paul the Peddler	Dono.	F	2.00
Paul the Peddler	Mersh.	F	2.00
Paul the Peddler	Dono.	Exg	2.00
Paul the Peddler	NYB	Exg	2.00
Paul the Peddler	Sup.	Exg	2.00
Phil the Fiddler	NYB	G	2.00
Try and Trust	Whit.	Exg	2.00
Tony the Hero	Sup.	F	2.00
T. Thatcher's Fort.	Burt	P	10.00
Tom Temp. Career	Whit.	Exg	2.00
Tom the Bootblack	Dono.	G	2.00
Telegraph Boy	Dono.	Exg	2.00
W. Sherwood's Prob.	Dono.	F	2.00
Wait and Hope	Winst.	F	15.00
Young Adventurer	Burt	Exg	15.00
Young Outlaw	Sup.	Exg	2.00
Grit	Hurst	Exg	3.00

STANDARD LIBRARY REFERENCE BOOKS  
FOR THE BOOK COLLECTOR  
by Jack Bales

The idea for this article grew out of a comment by Denis Rogers in the January 15, 1972 issue of the Dime Novel Round-up (p. 13). Discussing the Garfield Library Algers, Rogers noted that, "He [Stanley Pachon] believes that there is one complete run of 'Young Israel' in a Hebrew University Library in the Midwest but, in the absence of any more information, it has not been possible to check out what must be regarded as an idea sufficiently promising to merit vigorous follow up by some Alger enthusiast not too remote from the area of potential research."

As a student of library science at the University of Illinois, I knew which source would answer the above problem, and in my course work I had come across many other standard library tools - valuable books that I previously never knew existed and which have aided me in my own research in the area of Horatio Alger's works.

The source to consult in order to locate holdings of magazines is the five volume set of the Union List of Serials in Libraries of the United States and Canada. Under the title of each periodical there is a listing of all libraries owning copies of that particular magazine. What is especially attractive about this tool is that the libraries' holdings are minutely detailed. For example, if a library only owns volume 2, volumes 3-10, and volume 12 of a serial, all this is noted after the name of the library. In the instance previously mentioned, the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati has the library which owns a complete run of Young Israel.

This set of books is useful to the researcher wishing to travel to the nearest library having the copies of the periodical he wishes to study. Or, if he cannot visit the library, oftentimes he can obtain photocopies of the desired material - a practice which is invaluable

to scholars.

In the 1965 edition of the Union List of Serials, 156,449 serials in 956 libraries are listed. For periodicals which commenced publication after December 31, 1949, New Serial Titles, published by the Library of Congress, is the book to consult.

When it is finished (in 610 volumes), the National Union Catalog will be the most monumental national bibliography in the world. Listings are completed (entry under author) for all books published after 1956, with the Catalog including the holdings of the Library of Congress and major libraries of the United States and Canada. However, for the Pre-1956 Imprints which is still being compiled, volumes only through the letter "J" are indexed. Thus, if you are looking for the libraries owning books by Horatio Alger, Jr. or Edward S. Ellis you're in luck, but you'll have to wait a while for holdings of Gilbert Patten's Frank Merriwell books to be published.

One can easily see the usefulness of this indispensable tool. In my research of Horatio Alger's works, I photocopied all the entries under, "Alger, Horatio, 1832-1899," with well over 600 being included. Each entry is a miniature catalog card, giving such bibliographic information as name of publisher, place of publication, illustrator (if known), size of volume, and number of pages. Furthermore, the library(s) which holds that particular book is noted.

Naturally, if a book were published by more than one company, it is likely that it will be listed more than once. For example, there are ten entries for Alger's Risen from the Ranks, with the following publishing companies listed: A. L. Burt, M. A. Donohue, A. K. Loring, J. C. Winston, Porter & Coates, Hurst, and Whitman. Thus, the researcher wishing to examine a particular edition can locate the one he wants by studying the information in each catalog entry.

In tracing correct titles, names of

publishers, dates of publication, and prices, two essential tools for the bibliographer are the United States Catalog and the Cumulative Book Index. The United States Catalog lists (or at least tries to) all books in print as of January 1, 1928, and is brought up to date by the Cumulative Book Index. Books are entered under author, subject, and title, all arranged in one alphabet, with the publisher and price always included. Another feature is the directory of publishers, which lists their street addresses.

However, there are two faults with these reference works. Occasionally one does not find mention of books that WERE in print since 1928, and of course, the United States Catalog is naturally not always definitive for all books printed during the first quarter of the century.

The Publishers' Trade List Annual began in 1873, and it is a collection of yearly publishers' catalogs, alphabetically organized under the companies' names. This tool is handy for the scholar who desires a list of all the books in print and for sale by a particular publisher. In 1948 an index, Books in Print, was added, which has entries under author and title.

For those who wish to investigate the publishing companies themselves and the people who controlled them, the periodical Publishers' Weekly (since 1872) is clearly invaluable. Here one can locate the date a company was founded, who owned it, and other information of a similar nature.

Besides researching their favorite authors, many book collectors regularly visit bookstores across the country and the American Booktrade Directory can save countless hours of searching time. Issued biennially, it contains a list of booksellers arranged geographically so that one can locate all the bookstores in any city. Furthermore, the directory indicates the specialty (if any) of each store, and whether it deals with antiquarian or new books.

Other features of the American Booktrade Directory include a list of the addresses of publishers and bookdealers, a record of defunct publishing firms and the companies which succeeded them, names of dealers who specialize in foreign books, and names of auctioneers who handle literary property.

For directories of other countries, Cassell's Directory of Publishing with British publishers and Publishers' International Year Book: World Directory handles all nations.

Myriads of informative articles have been published in numerous magazines, and W. F. Poole, while a student at Yale University, was the first to index their contents. Poole's Index to Periodical Literature (1802-1906) is only a subject index (except for poems and stories which are entered under title), but is now being updated by the Nineteenth Century Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (presently 1890-1899) which will cover the entire century when completed. This author and subject index of 51 leading periodicals of the 1900's, covers magazines not included in Poole's Index and does a more thorough indexing of some serials already in the latter reference work, especially those most likely to be in libraries today.

And lastly, for current material, the Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (1900 to date) indexes over 160 popular magazines, with entries under author, subject, and oftentimes title. The Readers' Guide is published semimonthly (except for July through August, when it is once a month), and each issue is regularly cumulated with other issues to form one large number.

Although the above reference works are standard tools in numerous libraries, it is likely that some libraries (especially small public ones) do not own them all. For example, the National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints costs many thousands of dollars and only the college, university, or very large

public library can afford this bibliographic set. Also, the local library with little if any nineteenth century periodicals undoubtedly deems it unnecessary to purchase Poole's Index to Periodical Literature.

However, the majority of these reference books are in most libraries, and for the less common ones, the researcher can go to other libraries (particularly college or university ones) in his area, where he is apt to find the works he needs.

How do you locate all the libraries in your city and surrounding communities? Consult the American Library Directory, which is a geographically divided listing of all libraries in the United States.

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DIME NOVEL DEPOSITORIES

by Jack Bales

While a library science student at the University of Illinois, I was fortunate in meeting one of the librarians, who, like myself, was interested in nineteenth and early twentieth century juvenile literature. After a lengthy discussion, he invited me into the closed and locked stacks section of the Library, where there was housed a vast array of old children's books. Besides many Algers, one of the Library's most significant collections was a complete set of the Street and Smith Frank Merriwells, most in very good condition.

Also, I have just recently read in the book American Library Resources by Robert B. Downs that the Beadle collection of dime novels was given by Frank P. O'Brien to the New York Public Library. The 99 page New York Public Library Bulletin for 1922 (#26) details the holdings.

And finally, only last month I discovered where one of the largest collections of dime novels ever accumulated - the famed Johanssen collection - is now housed. But that's another story, and can wait until the next issue of Newsboy.