

Monthly publication of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY,
a magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr.,
his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

Newsboy



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899



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1214 W. College Ave.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

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Number 4



Dick Seddon (left) looks on as HAS member Gilbert Kapelman studies Dick's Alger Scrapbook. Featured in this month's Newsboy is the conclusion of the Alger short story that began in the previous issue, and an article by Alger scholar Gary F. Scharnhorst. (Photographs here and on page 4 were taken by Jerry Friedland).

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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Please make all remittances payable to the Horatio Alger Society. Membership applications, renewals, changes of address, claims for missing issues, and orders for single copies of current or back numbers of Newsboy should be sent to the Society's Secretary, Carl T. Hartmann, at 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

A subject index to the first ten years of Newsboy (July, 1962 — June, 1972) is available for \$1.50 from Carl Hartmann at the above address.

Manuscripts relating to Horatio Alger's life and works are solicited, but the editor reserves the right to reject submitted material.

* * *

REMEMBER: The HAS Convention — the Connecticut Conclave — will soon be here!! Hosted by HAS Vice-President Brad Chase, the May meeting will surely be a noteworthy event.

* * *

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-585 Toshio Ueno
5-5-9, Higashikaigan-minami
Chigasaki, Kanagawa, JAPAN

Mr. Ueno is a professor at a Japanese university and he heard of the Society through a publishing company in Japan.

Mr. Ueno and his family traveled to the United States this summer and they visited with Carl and Jean Hartmann and Dick and Mary Seddon. Letters from Carl and Dick said that they thoroughly enjoyed spending time with them.

When the Ueno family was on the east coast, they got to visit other Alger Society members. Dick Seddon writes: "We went over my collection, then we went over to Morris Olsen's where Mr. Ueno bought some books and asked some questions about Alger. Then we went on to Max Goldberg's where Max went into Alger's history and then we made a tour of the Alger cemetery, parsonage, church, etc."

Mr. Ueno announces that he plans to attend the 1981 convention. We are all looking forward to meeting him then!!

PF-586 G. W. Owens
General Delivery
Crozet, Virginia 22932

Mr. Owens is an equipment repairman for the Central Telephone Company, and he heard of HAS from Ken Butler and Ralph Gardner. He writes that "I'm very interested in collecting as many different Alger titles as possible. At the present time I have about 150 books, but only about 80 different titles. I would like to do some swapping or buying, and I have obtained copies from yard sales, flea markets, antique shows, and book stores." Good to have you with us, G. W.

PF-587 James A. Maxwell
P.O. Box 473
Redwood Estates, Calif. 95044

James has 10 Algers and he also likes

radio/wireless related juvenile fiction (152 titles of this type). He learned of the Alger Society in an article about dime novels. Glad you joined, James.

* * *

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-318 Evelyn Grebel
1329 S. 6th St.
Abilene, Texas 79602

* * *

B O O K M A R T

The listing of Alger books in this department is free to HAS members. Please list title, publisher, condition, and price.

Offered by Lester Bird, Old York Rd., Bordentown, N. J. 08505

Bound to be an Electrician, by Edward Stratemeyer, Grosset & Dunlap, very good condition, \$10.00.

* * *

THE RIVALRS

by Horatio Alger, Jr.

(Editor's note: The first part of this Alger short story appeared in last month's issue of Newsboy. It is from the collection of Evelyn Grebel).

"I didn't think Gilbert would have been so mean," ejaculated David. "He wants to spoil Fred's chances of winning the prize. I'll just put a spoke in his wheel."

David opened the window and entered the schoolroom in the same way that Gilbert had done, and at once proceeded to Fred's desk. He took out the essay and opened it.

"It's too bad," he said, as he discovered the blots. "Fred'll have to copy this all over again. I'll carry it to him tonight."

He put it into his pocket and hurried to the house of Mr. Bangs. Fred had already seated himself to study.

"What's the matter, David?" he asked, as that young gentleman entered the room out of breath. "You haven't seen a ghost, have you?"

"Not exactly, but look at that!"

Fred gazed with astonishment and dismay at his soiled manuscript.

"What does this mean?" he asked, "and how came you by it? I left it in my desk at the school room."

"I know you did, but there has been a visitor since then."

"Who do you mean?"

"Gilbert Simmons."

"You don't say he was mean enough to blot my essay in order to secure the prize himself?"

"Yes, I do."

"I can't believe it."

"I can, for the very good reason that I saw him do it."

"Did he know that you saw him?"

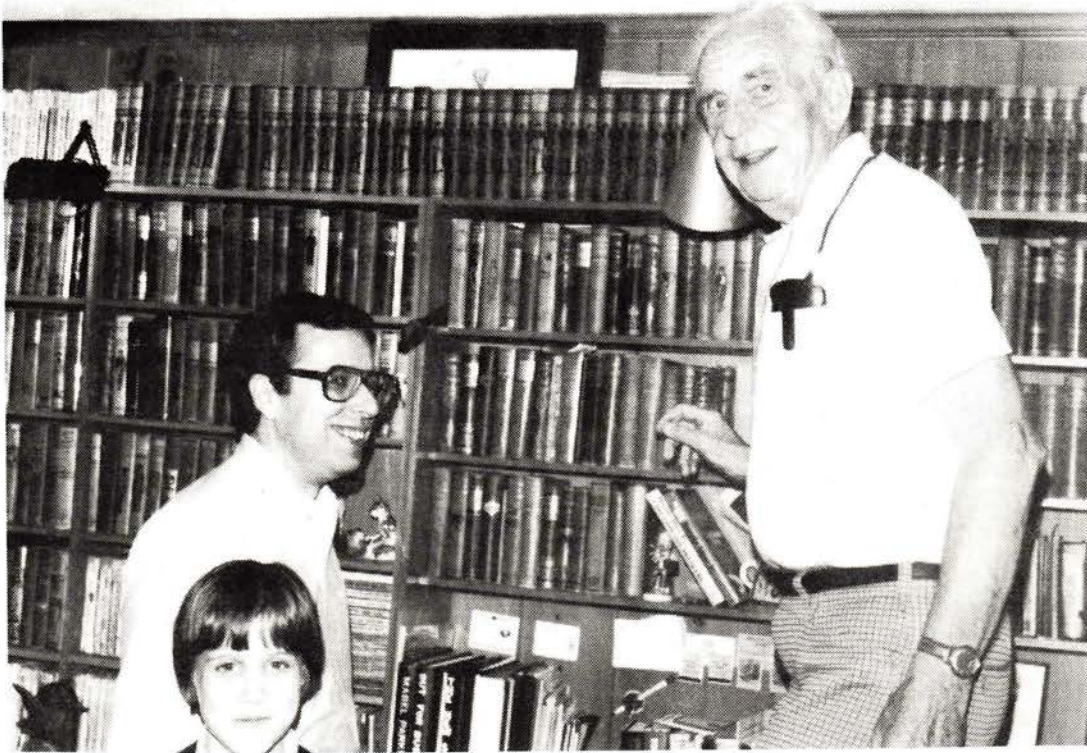
"Not he. I looked in through the window, and then hid behind the corner of the house till he had left. Then I climbed in at the window and got the essay for you. Of course you will make a new copy tonight."

"Yes, though it will compel me to sit up very late. I am ever so much obliged to you, David."

"You're quite welcome, Fred. I couldn't bear the idea of Gilbert's profiting by his rascality. Won't he be astonished tomorrow when you get the prize?"

"Perhaps I shan't."

"I'll bet on that. We won't say anything about it, but just watch Gilbert when the time comes."



Dick Seddon (right) shows off his huge Alger collection to Gilbert Kapelman and Jerry Friedland's young son John.

Fred did not get to bed till half past eleven that night. Besides copying his essay, he had his regular lessons to get, which, even under present circumstances, he was not disposed to neglect.

He went to school early, and put the blotted manuscript out of the way, handing in, in its stead, the new copy. He stole a casual glance at Gilbert as he passed it to the teacher, and detected an unmistakable glance of exultation. But Gilbert, aware that he must be on his guard not to attract suspicion, quickly averted his eyes, and seemed absorbed in his Andrews' and Stoddards' Latin Grammar.

Mr. Perkins adopted the practice of reading aloud the essays in the afternoon, and at the close, announcing his decision in regard to them. Of course, all the boys waited anxiously for the afternoon.

Several of the boys stayed at noon,

and among them the subject of the essay came up.

"I know well enough who'll get the prize," said David, to a little knot of schoolboys.

"Who, then," inquired Gilbert, whose jealousy got the better of his prudence.

"Not you," said David, significantly.

"Thank you, I'm sorry I don't stand higher in your good opinion," said Gilbert with a sneer. "It's lucky for me that you don't decide the matter. But I didn't ask you who you thought wouldn't get the prize."

"If you want to know who I think will, it's Fred Bangs."

"No doubt Fred is a distinguished author," said Gilbert, with another sneer, "but I can tell you this, he won't get the prize."

"Why won't he?"

"Because somebody else will."

"That's a fine reason."

"You'll see how it'll turn out."

"Perhaps you'd like to bet on the subject," said Gilbert, getting provoked.

"I'm not in the habit of betting," said David.

"I figured you'd say that," sneered Gilbert.

"You didn't hear me through. I said that I wasn't in the habit of betting, but I was going to add that I shouldn't mind betting something on Fred's success."

"Well, what'll you bet?"

"An India rubber ball."

"Done."

"You see, Fred, how much I have at stake on your success," said David, a while afterwards. "Now don't disappoint me."

"Not if I can help it," said Fred, smiling, "but there is one way in which you might lose the bet, and not feel disappointed."

"How is that?"

"You might get the prize yourself."

David shook his head.

"If you and Gilbert were out of the way, and Tom Jackson," he added, with a comical smile, "I might stand something of a chance. But you fellows cut in ahead of me."

"Your time'll come, David. You know you are not so old as we are."

At length the intermission was over,

and the afternoon session commenced.

"Boys," said the teacher, "I have looked through your essays this noon, and have formed my own opinion as to which one deserves the prize which I offered a fortnight since. I shall now read them aloud to you, and will see if your judgment coincides with mine. I am glad to remark a considerable improvement in them over previous occasions, and cannot help feeling that you have been stimulated to a higher point of excellence by the reward in view. Of course but one can be successful. Yet in one way all will have succeeded. The improvement in composition is of more importance than the prize."

Mr. Perkins commenced with some of the shorter compositions, chiefly by the younger boys. When he announced that he would read Tom Jackson's, there was a deep silence, for Tom, as has already been remarked, though a capital hand at games outside the school room, was not very famous for proficiency in his studies. He had an off-hand way of expressing himself in his compositions, which used to amuse the boys not a little, freely introducing the language of the playground into his written sentences. This was Tom Jackson's essay:

"OLIVER CROMWELL"

"Cromwell was a distinguished feller. He was born in 1599, so of course if he'd been living now he would have reached a good old age. He was principally distinguished for cutting off the head of King Charles the First. For my part, I pity Charles, and think Cromwell was an old ruffian. He ought to have sent him to State Prison, where he might have made himself useful in pounding stone. Of course, after his head was cut off he couldn't have been of any use to anybody. Cromwell fought a good many battles, and most generally licked. He thought some of coming over to this country when he was a young man but he didn't. If he had, very likely the Indians would have scalped him, and Charles would have saved his

head. Cromwell made himself King, or Protector, which is very much the same thing, only another name for it, as puss is for cat. He died in 1658, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, but when Charles II came into power, his body was dug up and hanged on a gibbet, but I guess it didn't hurt him much."

The boys laughed considerably over Tom Jackson's essay. There was a little twinkle in the eye of the teacher as he said, "The style of this essay is lacking in that dignity which we usually expect in historical composition. I cannot call to mind that Bancroft or Macaulay ever characterize any of their heroes as distinguished fellers, and it is not usual to say that a successful general licked his adversary. I must, however, give the writer credit for saying what he means so clearly that no one can pretend to misunderstand him."

Tom Jackson for some time afterwards rejoiced under the name of "The Historian," applied to him by the boys, who comically condoled with him on not getting the prize.

"I'd have got it," said Tom, good naturedly, "if the teacher hadn't been prejudiced. Talk about Bancroft and Macaulay, they can't shake a stick at me."

"Of course they can't," said David, "for they are dead."

"Bully for you, David!" said Tom. "It's the first bright thing you have said."

Meanwhile the reading went on. Last of all were read the essays by Gilbert and Fred.

"In my opinion," said the teacher, "the last essay, by Bangs, is the best, and deserves the prize. But I am willing to leave it to the judgment of the scholars. Those that think with me will raise their hands."

Every hand was raised except Gilbert's.

Angry and surprised, Gilbert spoke on the impulse of the moment:

"I thought a blot was enough to prevent an essay's receiving the prize."

"You are right," said the teacher, somewhat surprised, "but what has that to do with the question?"

"Isn't the essay by Fred Bangs blotted?" he stammered, beginning to see, by the surprised looks directed towards him, that he had "put his foot into it."

"No," said the teacher, after a careful examination, "there is nothing to mar its neatness. What made you think it was?"

"I---don't---know," stammered Gilbert, in embarrassment. "Somebody told me so, I believe."

"Then you were misinformed," said Mr. Perkins. "Bangs, you may come forward and receive the prize, to which you are justly entitled."

Fred went up to the desk with pardonable pride, and received two handsome volumes, in which the teacher subsequently wrote his name. The sight of his triumph was gall and wormwood to Gilbert, who started home with flushed face and mortified air, as soon as school was over.

"Gilbert!" called out a voice from behind.

Gilbert paused, and David Eaton caught up with him.

"I want to present you a copy of the successful essay," and David handed him the blotted copy.

Gilbert dashed it aside with an ejaculation, and with a blush of shame pursued his way home.

Fred never intimated by word or look that he knew who had tampered with his
(continued on page 12)

On June 6th Toshio Ueno, Professor of English literature at Attomie Gakuen Women's University in Japan, wrote to Carl Hartmann expressing his interest in Horatio Alger Jr. He and his family were coming to this country the first week in July. They were to arrive in Boston and spend the rest of the summer traveling westward.

Carl answered the letter saying he would be happy to meet with them in Lansing and giving Dick Seddon's phone number to Toshio.

On July 6th Toshio, his wife Sumiko, and their daughter Yurika arrived in Boston. During their visit Mary and Dick

Seddon, Max and Ida Goldberg and Beverly and Morris Olsen enjoyed introducing them to "Algerland".

August 17th Carl and Jean Hartmann met Toshio, Sumiko and Yurika in Lansing. They showed them around Lansing and took side trips to Greenfield Village in Dearborn and a trip to Mt. Pleasant, Michigan to view Past President Bob Bennett's collection of alger. Everyone that met the Ueno's enjoyed every minute and hated to say goodbye. We all are looking forward to seeing them at the 1981 Convention.

This page is to introduce them to all the rest of you PF's.



Sumiko, Yurika and Toshio with Carl, at Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan.



Standing outside of an Ice Cream parlor that was moved from Natick, Mass. (Maybe Alger had Ice Cream there) to Greenfield Village.



Sumiko and Yurika.



Outside their motel in Lansing.

This is just one of the many articles on Alger that HAS member Gary Scharnhorst has written in numerous scholarly journals. His lengthy doctoral dissertation was completely on Alger, and it featured a biographical essay on the author — the only completely documented and footnoted piece on him in existence. Gary's book on Alger has recently been accepted by a major publishing company, and he is currently working on another, co-authoring it with Newsboy Editor Jack Bales. (I wish to thank the editors of The Dreiser Newsletter for permitting this article to be printed).

THE DREISER NEWSLETTER

Volume Nine, Number One

Spring 1978

A POSSIBLE SOURCE FOR SISTER CARRIE: HORATIO ALGER'S HELEN FORD

Gary Scharnhorst

University of Texas at Dallas

Theodore Dreiser, who recalled in his autobiographical work *Dawn* that as a boy in Indiana he had read such vintage Horatio Alger juvenile novels as *Brave and Bold*, *Pluck and Luck*, and *Work and Win*,¹ obviously did not subscribe as an adult to the pulp-magazine portrayal of success. According to Kenneth S. Lynn, one of the few critics who pays more than passing heed to Dreiser's boyhood reading of Alger, as an adult "Dreiser categorically denounced 'the Pluck and Luck, Work and Win theory of achievement.' In place of Alger, he hastily substituted Marx."² Still, Dreiser the novelist apparently meant the middle name of his financier, Frank Algernon Cowperwood, to be read quite literally: not an Alger hero. Except for the fact that both earn money, Cowperwood and Alger's scrupulously moral hero have little in common.³ It seems on this basis that Dreiser, while satirizing Alger, at least read him aright, for the Alger juveniles always were less about the acquisition of money, as is commonly believed, than about the moral uses of money once acquired.⁴

Dreiser perhaps could trace his novelistic lineage to Alger even more directly, for it seems possible that one chapter in *Sister Carrie* was modeled upon a similar chapter in an Alger novel, entitled *Helen Ford*. Although Alger's work was first published in 1866, at least two editions of it could have been available to Dreiser in 1899 as he began to write his novel. An inexpensive reprint from the original plates of *Helen Ford*, written as a story for mature girls but indiscriminately sold among Alger juveniles, was published in the late-

19th century by the John C. Winston Company of Philadelphia. Moreover, soon after the Alger juvenile *Work and Win*, which Dreiser claimed to have read as a boy, was serialized in 1884 in the pulp magazine *Golden Argosy*, its only publication under that title before 1908, that magazine republished *Helen Ford* under the title "A Child of Fortune."⁵ Perhaps not coincidentally, Dreiser describes Carrie at the beginning of chapter IV as "a child of fortune." That Dreiser may have used Alger's story much as he used the experience of his sister Emma or George Ade's *Fables in Slang* in the composition of *Sister Carrie* is suggested by a comparison of the following excerpts from chapter XI of Alger's work and chapter XXXVIII of Dreiser's novel. Both chapters describe the young heroine's frantic search for a job in a New York theatre:

Helen Ford

"Who did you wish to see?" inquired the clerk, with some surprise visible in his manner.

The request was repeated.

"The manager? Can't say whether he's in or not. You must go to the back entrance and turn to the left. Then knock at the first door."

Helen looked bewildered.

"Have you been here before?"

"No, sir."

"Stop a minute, and I will show you, then. I shall close the office directly."

Helen was very glad of the delay, as it gave her time to assume an outward semblance of calmness.

Mr. Bowers, the manager, was seated in a small room connected with the stage. He was a man of comfortable proportions, and bore the appearance of one whom the world had used not unkindly.

Sister Carrie

"Where shall I find Mr. Gray?" she asked of a sulky doorman at the stage entrance of the Casino.

"You can't see him now; he's busy."

"Do you know when I can see him?"

"Got an appointment with him?"

"No."

"Well, you'll have to call at his office."

"Oh, dear!" exclaimed Carrie. "Where is his office?"

He gave her the number.

She knew there was no need of calling there now. He would not be in. Nothing remained but to employ the intermediate hours in search.

Carrie saw the manager at the Casino once.

"Come around," he said, "the first of next week. I may make some changes then."

He was a large and corpulent individual, surfeited with good clothes and good eat-

... She looked earnestly in his face. Her bonnet had partly fallen back, revealing the rare loveliness of which she was unconscious.

Helen experienced another revolution of feeling. The clouds seemed breaking. The recall was evidently favorable to her prospects of an engagement.

Five minutes found her once more in the manager's presence.

"What is your name? he asked, abruptly.

"Helen Ford."

"Humph! that will do."

Helen hurried home, not as before with a heavy heart, but with a feeling of deep and thankful joy. It seemed as if she could not get over the ground fast enough. She was anxious to report her success to good Martha Grey, who, she felt sure, would sympathize with her. She bounded along . . . until she entered, breathless with haste, the room of her friend. . . .

"I have succeeded, Martha. Only think of that. I am to sing to-night at the theatre. I am engaged for a week, and am to receive six dollars."⁶

ing, who judged women as another would horseflesh. Carrie was pretty and graceful. She might be put in even if she did not have any experience. One of the proprietors had suggested that the chorus was a little weak on looks.

On the morrow Carrie reported promptly and was given a place in the line. . . . Oh, if she could only remain, how happy would be her days!

"What is your name? said the manager, who was conducting the drill.

"Madenda," she replied, instantly mindful of the name Drouet had selected in Chicago. "Carrie Madenda."

"Well, now, Miss Madenda," he said, very affably, as Carrie thought, "you go over there."

Carrie came away worn enough in body, but too excited in mind to notice it. She meant to go home and practice her evolutions as prescribed. She would not err in any way, if she could help it.

When she reached the flat Hurstwood was not there. For a wonder he was out looking for work, as she supposed. She took only a mouthful to eat and then practiced on, sustained by visions of freedom from financial distress--"The sounds of glory ringing in her ears."⁷

The affinity of these passages suggests, in short, both that Dreiser may not have dismissed Alger as readily as has been supposed until now, reading him as the moralist he was rather than as a mercenary, and that Dreiser imaginatively could transform a subject that had "all the triteness of a Horatio Alger situation"⁸ into an episode with genuine merit.

¹Theodore Dreiser, *Dawn: A History of Myself* (New York: Liveright, 1931), pp. 122, 125. The correct title of the second novel Dreiser mentions is *Luck and Pluck*.

²Kenneth S. Lynn, *The Dream of Success* (Boston, MA: Little, Brown, 1955), p. 72.

³Robert Penn Warren ("Bearers of Bad Tidings: Writers and the American Dream," *New York Review of Books*, 20 March 1975, p. 16) seems to have been the first to interpret Cowperwood's middle name in this manner. Philip L. Gerber ("Frank Cowperwood: Boy Financier," *Studies in American Fiction*, 2 [Autumn 1974], 165-174) suggests that Cowperwood's middle name indicates a compatibility with the Alger hero.

⁴See, for example, Michael Zuckerman, "The Nursery Tales of Horatio Alger," *American Quarterly*, 24 (May 1972), 201.

⁵Ralph Gardner, *Horatio Alger, or The American Hero Era* (Mendota, IL: Wayside Press, 1964), pp. 426-427, 474-475.

⁶Horatio Alger, Jr., *Helen Ford* (Philadelphia, PA: John C. Winston Co., n.d.), pp. 69-76.

⁷Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*, ed. Donald Pizer (New York: Norton, 1970), pp. 277-282.

⁸William J. Handy, "A Re-examination of Dreiser's *Sister Carrie*," *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*, 1 (Autumn 1959), 389.

* * *



The Tombs Prison in N. Y. - mentioned in many an Alger story - from an old postcard belonging to HAS member Colonel Paul Webb.

manuscript, but it was long before Gilbert felt comfortable in his company. It taught him a lesson, however, that success is never worth purchasing by foul means.

* * *
CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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* * *
ITALIAN CHILD SLAVERY
AND THE PADRONE SYSTEM
(Part IV)

by
Douglas Tarr

(Editor's note: Parts I, II, and III of this paper were presented in the April, May, and September issues of Newsboy).

On this side of the Atlantic, the indefatigable Caesar Moreno was prodding the United States Congress into action. Moreno had been interpreter during the proceedings in the Joseph case. Perhaps this experience now led him to write the famed abolitionist Senator, Charles Sumner of Massachusetts. Writing on November 10, 1873, Moreno appealed to Sumner to fight this new form of slavery just as he had fought black slavery before the Civil War.

Sumner replied four days later that he was very willing to do so, but he admitted he had little knowledge of the subject. He suggested Moreno draft a bill, or else have one drafted by lawyers. (52) Sumner would then submit the bill to Congress. Moreno thus drafted and Sumner submitted an "act to protect persons against inveigling from abroad, kidnapping, forcible constraint, or involuntary service. The bill became law in 1874. (53)

By June, 1874, a third measure against

(52) The New York Times, December 4, 1873, p. 6.

(53) Bremner, p. 281.

child slavery had become law when the New York legislature passed a bill outlawing the padroni. (54) Evaluating the impact of this new law, the New York Times was disappointed by the results. Only two genuine padroni children were freed and no padroni convicted. To the dismay of the anti-padrone forces, more children were being sent out by parents than padroni, a situation not covered by the law. (55) For the increasing number of poor families arriving in the United States there was little opportunity to earn money except by having the children beg or work. (56)

To overcome this impasse and to prosecute the genuine padroni, a fresh infusion of energy was needed to get things moving again. The needed energy came through a new agency, the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Founded in 1875, the NYSPCC Charter specifically authorized it to prefer charges against violators of laws concerning children. To the Society belongs the credit for ending Italian child slavery in the United States. (57)

(Editor's note: As mentioned in Part II of this article, contrary to public opinion, Alger's Phil, the Fiddler had little if any effect on the bringing about of laws relating to the padrone system).

Within a year of its founding the Society induced the New York Legislature to pass "An Act to Prevent and Punish Wrongs to Children."

"SECTION I. Any person having the care, custody or control of any child under the age of sixteen years, who shall exhibit, use, or employ, or who shall in any manner, or under any pretense, sell, apprentice, give away, let

(54) Editorial, The New York Times, June 14, 1874, p. 6

(55) Ibid.

(56) Robert H. Bremner, "The Children with the Orgar Man," American Quarterly, VIII, No. 3 (1956), p. 281.

out, or otherwise dispose of any such child to any person, in or for the vocation, occupation, service or purpose of singing, playing on musical instruments, rope or wire walking, dancing, begging or peddling, or as a gymnast, contortionist, rider or acrobat, in any place whatsoever; or for or in any obscene, indecent or immoral purpose, exhibition, or practice whatsoever; or for or in any business, exhibition, or vocation injurious to the health or dangerous to the life or limb of such child; or who shall cause, procure, or encourage any such child to engage therein, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor." (58)

Among other provisions, the act authorized the courts to turn children over to the care of the Society for their well being. Also, in case initiated by the Society, any court penalties or fines were to go to the Society to carry on its work. (59)

The NYSPCC now had three laws to work with, the 1874 and 1876 New York laws plus Sumner's federal statute of 1874. The latter carried the heaviest penalties because the two New York laws considered violations as misdemeanors.

To pass a law is one thing, to enforce a law is another, and to prove a law is applicable is yet another problem. This was the situation faced by the Society as it set out to bring padroni to justice. The problems encountered by the Society were typified by the Antonio Briglia case.

In July, 1878, the Society brought charges against Briglia under Sumner's act prohibiting inveiglement or abduction of children to hold in involuntary servitude in the United States. The maximum penalty was five years and a thousand dollar fine. (60)

(58) Grace Abbott, The Child and the State, Volume I (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1938), pp. 298-99.

(59) Ibid., p. 299.

(60) The New York Times, July 14, 1878, p. 12.

In a hearing before the United States Commissioner, Briglia's lawyer claimed the children left Italy with the consent of the parents who knew how their children would be employed. Briglia himself denied any inveiglement, meaning enticement, inducement, deception or allurement under the terms of the act. He said he promised the parents nothing except that he thought the children would make some money. The Society's counsel countered that there was evidence of inveiglement and this was a classic example of the type of situation for which the 1874 law was designed. (61)

The Society lost. The Commissioner discharged Briglia saying there was no evidence of inveiglement. Osborn doubted the children were better here than in Italy, but there was nothing illegal in that. Nonetheless, the Society was allowed to keep custody of the children while it brought charges against Briglia under the 1876 New York law. (62)

To prove inveiglement was a stumbling block which prevented Sumner's act from having any effectiveness for the first few years after its passage. However, there were still the two New York laws plus an occasional unorthodox approach as in the case of Tomaso Dunderi and Antonio Mazzoni.

Dunderi and Mazzoni were brought to justice in March, 1877, on charges filed by the Society. Both men were charged with cruelty to children, but Mazzoni was also charged with cruelty to the general public, a charge "which will undoubtedly meet with the approval of all right-minded persons," in the words of the New York Times. Mazzoni's offense was "that the said Antonio has made a practice of perambulating the public streets, carrying a square box, with a crank attached thereto, by the turning of which he causes the box to emit frightfully discordant sounds,

(61) Ibid., July 18, 1878, p. 3; July 20, 1878, p. 3.

(62) Ibid., July 20, 1878, p. 3.

to the great disgust of the residents of our glorious Metropolis."

Oddly, Mazzoni, found guilty on both counts, was fined fifty dollars while Dunderi to thirty days in jail. (63)
[TO BE CONCLUDED]

(63) Ibid., March 21, 1877, p. 2.

* * *

HORATIO ALGER, SR. LETTER DISCOVERED

Carl Hartmann reports that recently he received a letter from Mrs. Joan Foley of Revere, Massachusetts, saying that she enclosed "a copy of an Alger letter found by my 12 year old son, Marc, in some rubble." Following is the extremely interesting letter:

Chelsea Nov. 5, 1838

To the members of the first religious society in Chelsea, Christian Brethren & Friends,

One of the conditions of my settlement as minister of this parish was that the connexion should be dissolved by either party who might desire its dissolution, giving three months' notice of that wish & intention to the other. In conformity with that condition, I hereby notify you that at the close of three months from this date, I shall resign the ministerial office, which I have held for more than nine years in this place.

The reason of my taking this step is readily & cheerfully given. On some accounts my situation here has been quite pleasant & desirable. I have esteemed it quite an advantage to be so near to Boston & Cambridge, so near to public libraries,—& connected with such a ministerial association as that of Boston and the vicinity. But this advantage has been attended with great disadvantages. All the expenses of living (except house-rent) are as great here as in the city. But while my brethren in the city are receiving from fifteen to twenty five hundred dollars a year, I have only six hundred. I find this sum quite inadequate to the wants

of my family. Those wants are more likely to increase than to diminish; and I feel that my duty to my family requires me to seek some place where my income will better correspond with my expenses. I do not take this step hastily or without due consideration. For more than two years past it has been with me a subject of frequent thought. I have felt for some time past that I was making a sacrifice in staying here. I have been repeatedly assured by my friends out of town, and especially by my brethren in the ministry that without being less useful, I might do much better in a pecuniary point of view elsewhere than here. Moreover, it would not be consistent with my ideas of integrity to remain in a situation where I must incur expenses without any adequate means to defray them.

Such, plainly & briefly, is my reason for leaving you. And when to that is added the conviction I feel that I can do more good somewhere else than I have done or am likely to do here, I cannot hesitate a moment as to what is my duty. I entertain a grateful sense of the uniform kindness with which I have been treated by a large majority of the parish, and I shall not carry away with me any unkind feelings towards any individual. I shall always rejoice in hearing of your prosperity, and I heartily commend you to God & to the word of his grace which is able to build you up & give you an inheritance among them that are sanctified.

With great regard I am

Your Christian friend & Pastor

Horatio Alger

[Outside of letter says: "To the Standing Committee of The first parish in Chelsea" "(To be communicated)"]

I wish to thank Mrs. Foley and her son Marc for providing us with this letter. It is definitely one of the more important Alger, Sr. letters in existence.

The following article is from the collection of Jack Bales. It is taken from the December 9, 1895 issue of the New York Times.

 BRACE TABLET UNVEILED
 Interesting Ceremonies
 Duane Street Newsboys' Home
 Presented by Egisto P. Fabbri

Addresses by President D. W. James of the Children's Aid Society, W. M. F. Rounds, and C. E. Whitehead.

Many distinguished persons were at the services at the Brace Memorial Lodging House, 9 Duane Street, last night, because of the unveiling of a tablet, with a medallion portrait of the founder, Charles Loring Brace.

The tablet is over 6 feet in height, and the medallion is a life-size bust. It was presented to the society by the late Egisto P. Fabbri, was placed in front of the building in October last, and was unveiled last night. The inscription on the tablet is:

"In memory of Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children's Aid Society."

The services were opened by D. Willis James, President of the society. Those on the platform were A. B. Stone, C. L. Brace, Secretary, Frederick Delabro Weeks, Charles E. Whitehead, Vice President, and William M. F. Rounds, Secretary of the Prison Association.

About 100 newsboys, neat and clean, were seated on the left of the hall, under the charge of Superintendent Heig.

Mr. James delivered a fitting eulogy to Mr. Brace's memory, and turning to the boys, he said:

"He did all this for you and those boys who have preceded you, and whatever they and you are in the future, you will always be grateful to him."

A large picture of Mr. Brace hung facing the hall, and pointing to it, Mr.

James added:

"He lived that he might make the world brighter and better, and assumed the burdens of others, and though his earthly work and service is done, his life's work has not ceased.

"Let us take a lesson, each and all of us, to be useful to others and make the world better for having lived in it."

"Nearer, My God, to Thee" and "Where is my Wandering Boy To-night?" were sung, and Mr. James read from the Ninth Chapter of St. Mark. Mr. Rounds in an address said that Mr. Brace believed that there was no boy so bad that he could not be reclaimed.

Charles E. Whitehead, in an address, said:

"If we should read the simple, modest, pleading appeal by which Mr. Brace's lifework in New-York was inaugurated, bearing date of March, 1853, and turning from that, visit the twenty-one industrial schools, the twelve night schools, the seven lodging houses, and five country charities which adorn this city and its neighboring shores, we would recognize some of the fruits of his labor.

"Read that modest little appeal and then the forty-third annual report of the Children's Aid Society, just published, showing 5,700 children taught and fed in the Industrial Schools, and over 2,000 sent to Western homes and employment, and reflect that this is the annual result of the work of one, earnest, persistent Christian man, we are moved to exclaim it was not he but Christ that worked in him. Shakespeare says in Julius Caesar, that the good that men do is interred with their bones, the evil lives after them. This statement could not be applied to our friend as his work is growing, though he is turned to dust.

"In reading his life and letters, most admirably and judiciously prepared

by his daughter, his manifold character appears. The loving son, husband, and father; the friend who made friends with the wise and good; the charming correspondent; the champion of the oppressed, and the comforter of the sorrowing, he appears to fill all needs of humanity. To this was added a cheerful, joyous disposition, that took part in every amusement that did not interfere with his work. When weary and feeble—for at times strength failed him as years grew on—his restorative was the country, and, above all, the woods and water.

The exercises closed with the recital of the Lord's Prayer, by all.

Nearly all the Trustees of the Children's Aid Society were present with their wives and daughters, among those present being, besides those mentioned, Mr. and Mrs. William Church Osborn, Gustave E. Kissel, J. Kennedy Tod, Mrs. Knniout, Evert Jansen Wendell, the Misses Schuyler, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Crosswell, James B. Ludlow, and nearly all the principals of the twenty-one schools of the society and the superintendents of the Ladies' Houses.

The society, last year, furnished over 1,000,000 meals and sheltered and clothed more than 20,000 children.

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RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND by Jack Bales

The Popular Culture Collection at Michigan State University has been named "The Russel B. Nye Popular Culture Collection," in honor of HAS member Russel B. Nye, a renowned student of the genre. The collection contains Alger books, and volumes by Stratemeyer and other authors. Science fiction, comics, detective stories, western books, and women's fiction are also included.

A booklet concerning the collection has been published. One part reads: "The juvenile series book displaced the dime novel among young readers in the years around the turn of the century

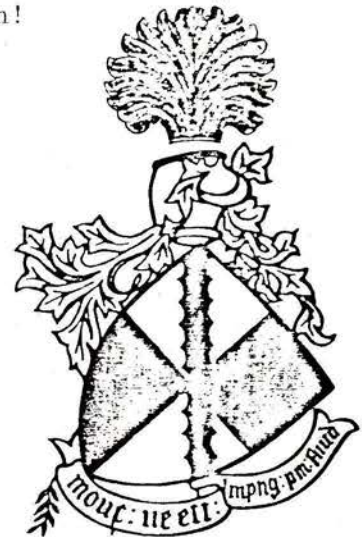
and remained the principal reading matter of the young until the 1940s. Horatio Alger's Ragged Dick appeared in 1865 [Editor's note: Wrong, it was 1867]. Alger's 'rags to riches' success formula, which interpreted the changing social and economic world of post-Civil War America in ways congenial to the outlook of the late nineteenth century, rapidly eroded the popularity of the 'blood and thunder' adventure stories of the dime novels."

Evelyn Grebel reports that in Texas "we are having 98 degree weather in the afternoons. But then I have air conditioning so I don't feel it. I am a volunteer at Rose Park Senior Citizens' Center, and am also teaching a group of Cambodians English. And the rest of the time I spend gardening — when I'm not reading!"

Carl Hartmann reports that the Horatio Alger Society has acquired a large number of Ralph Gardner's bibliography, Road to Success. The HAS is offering these paperbound books for \$6 each. Please write Carl at 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910. Make checks payable to the Horatio Alger Society.

Dr. Max Goldberg reports that he is sorry that he hasn't answered his mail from HAS members and other friends; a series of health problems has plagued him. Here's hoping that you get better soon, Max!! We all want to see you at the next convention!

While doing research on Alger publisher Aaron K. Loring, I located the Loring genealogy. With it was the Loring coat of arms, which I reproduce here. Loring published a great many of Horatio Alger Jr.'s first editions.



THE LORING COAT OF ARMS