



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

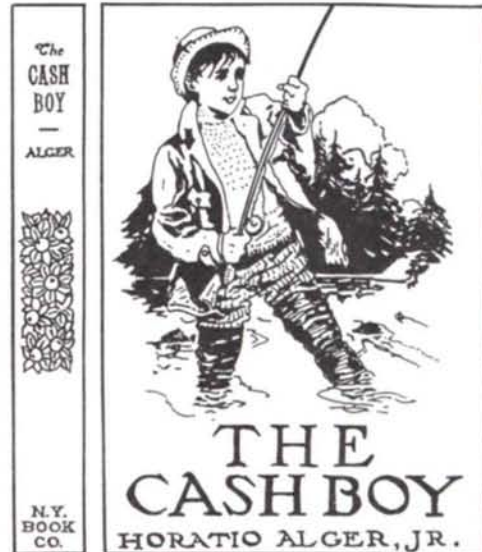
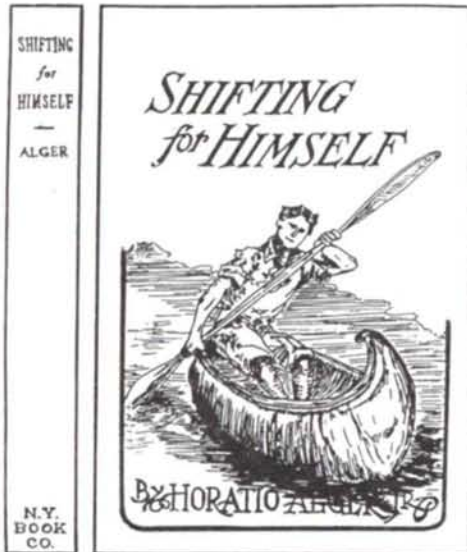
1832 - 1899

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

VOLUME XXXIV

JULY-AUGUST 1996

NUMBER 4



NEW YORK BOOK COMPANY ALGERS

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Signed and inscribed books

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Edward Stratemeyer: Teenage publisher

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President's column

Correction. Even with all the modern computing power we have at our finger tips, mistakes still sneak in. In my last column, I gave my e-mail address incorrectly. My correct e-mail address is — j.cadick@ieee.org. I hope my mistake did not cause any serious problems for anyone.

Just before starting this column, I spoke to Janice Morley on the phone about the H.A.S. home page on the World Wide Web. Janice is well into the planning stage. She is in the process of changing Internet servers, so it will be a while before anything is on-line for us to look at. She will be sending me copies of what she has in mind for the page.

Janice would love to hear from any member who has ideas on what should be included in our home page. In addition to the address and phone number found in the H.A.S. roster, Janice can be reached through e-mail at jmorley@clarify.com or at her work phone number of (408) 428-1170. Her husband Mike Morley's e-mail address is morley@mri.com and his work phone number is (408) 486-5632. Call them and put in your two cents' worth.

What is the World Wide Web?

For those of you who may not be familiar with the Internet and the World Wide Web, perhaps a few definitions might be in order:

Internet: This is an international network of computers. It started several years ago as a way for academic and military communities to stay in touch and interchange information. In the last 10 years or so it has been opened to the general public and has exploded in popularity. The Internet allows you to send messages, get information, read newspapers from all over the world — in other words, you can connect to an infinite world of information.

World Wide Web: The WWW is the newest, most exciting and fastest-growing part of the Internet. In fact, when you hear most people talk about the Internet, they probably really mean the World Wide Web. In the "Web," you can publish information pages that let people find out who you are, what you are selling, what you believe — and in our case — they can find out all about the Horatio Alger Society and what it stands for. The pages on the Web are extremely well done and published. There are home pages for major corporations as well as for individuals.

Our home page will allow literally thousands of people to learn about us and about Horatio Alger. Call or write Janice and Mike and let them know what you think.

Your partic'lar friend,
John Cadick
P.O. Box 495578
Garland, Texas 75049-5578
(214) 303-0449

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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Newsboy, the official newsletter of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any 12-month period is \$20, with single issues of **Newsboy** costing \$3.00. Please make all remittance payable to the Horatio Alger Society. Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to Executive Secretary Robert E. Kasper, 585 E. St. Andrews Drive, Media, PA 19063.

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY H.A.S.

- Horatio Alger, Jr., A Comprehensive Bibliography*, by Bob Bennett (PF-265).
- Horatio Alger or, The American Hero Era*, by Ralph D. Gardner (PF-053).
- The Fictional Republic: Horatio Alger and American Political Discourse*, by Carol Nackenoff (PF-921).
- Publication Formats of the 59 Stories by Horatio Alger, Jr. as Reprinted by the John C. Winston Co.*, by Bob Sawyer (PF-455) and Jim Thorp (PF-574).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt*, by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co.*, by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by Whitman Publishing Co.*, by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.*, by Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales (PF-258).

Newsboy ad rates: Full page, \$32.00; one-half page, \$17.00; one-quarter page, \$9.00; per column inch (1 inch deep by approx. 3 1/2 inches wide), \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to Horatio Alger Society, to Robert E. Kasper, 585 E. St. Andrews Dr., Media, PA 19063. The above rates apply to all want ads, along with ads offering non-Alger books for sale. However, it is the policy of the Horatio Alger Society to promote the exchange of Alger books and related Alger materials by providing space **free of charge** to our members for the **sale only** of such material. Send such ads or "Letters to the Editor" to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 923 South Lake St., Apt. 6, Mundelein, IL 60060.

NEW YORK BOOK COMPANY ALGERS

Some interesting initial findings

By Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)

I've just begun the research and writing for my next book on formats produced by old-time publishers of Horatio Alger books.

This latest book, on The New York Book Company, is similar in many respects to my three earlier books on Burt, Donohue and Whitman. All four companies produced hundreds of thousands of relatively inexpensive books around the turn of this century and into the twenties, each had interesting and distinctive cover and spine designs on their children's books and all four printed Alger's stories in many different formats.

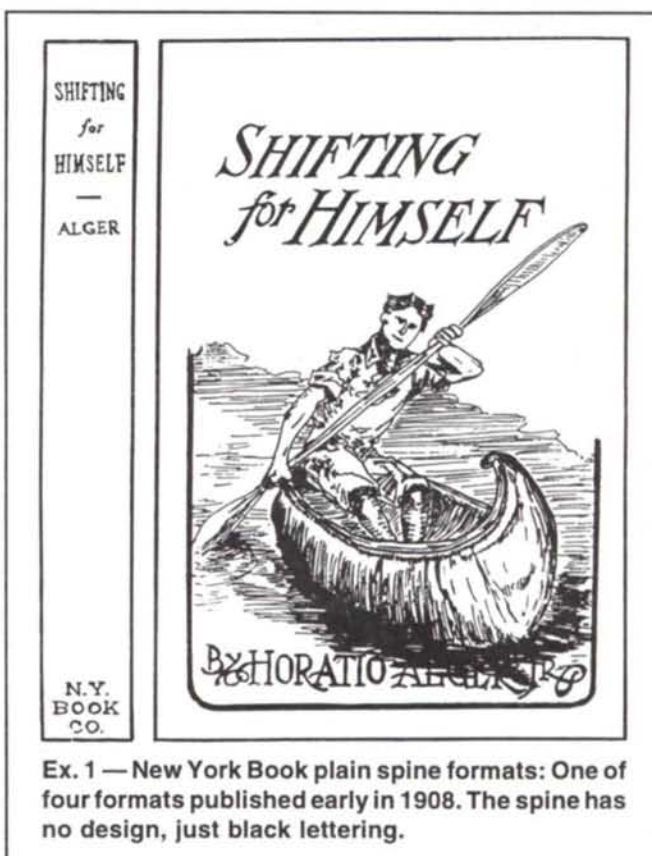
My interest continues to be in sorting out and explaining what Alger book formats were produced, when they were published and providing information about the men who worked behind the scenes in each company making decisions about its products.

Those products are what we collect today and having an accounting of what was produced aids the collection process immensely. Now some of you will undoubtedly say, "Who cares about New York Book Company Algiers?" You probably think there are too many to sort out, that very few are found in very good or mint condition, that they were all just cheap reprints and there are so many available for purchase now that the collecting challenge is minimal.

I would respond that those are precisely the reasons one should collect these attractive little gems. For example, I've found from my initial analyses that there are only four basic sets of formats, three of which have printed dates on the title page making them easy to sort. And, believe it or not, I've also been able to find many of these books in very good or better shape today. I've also found after examining literally hundreds of these Algiers, that there is a definite pattern to the formats produced.

That pattern defines the number of actual books one can collect to have a complete set. So if one knows the total number of New York Book Company Algiers to go looking for, having many of them available in used book stores today at a relatively low cost makes collecting them not only fun, but challenging as well.

So, what have I specifically found thus far in this world of New York Book Company Algiers? I well remember sitting cross-legged on my living room floor this past winter just looking in amazement at the 500 or so New York Book Company Algiers which were all piled around me in about 25 neat little stacks. Here was the result of many years of my collecting in the hopes that one of these days I'd find the time to try and sort out that company's Alger publishing pattern. It was snow-



Ex. 1 — New York Book plain spine formats: One of four formats published early in 1908. The spine has no design, just black lettering.

ing heavily outside and I knew I was going nowhere so that day became the time to get started.

I slowly proceeded to examine each book and relate it to all the rest. It took me hours and hours to pour through each of my books and in fact, I'm still finding myself studying them individually as I come across specific book comparison questions.

So as I started my detailed analyses, I found first that these 25 piles of neat, thin books were all about the same size and shape, except for one group which seemed thicker. A few were in very nice condition, almost pristine, but most were badly tattered, undoubtedly the result of constant fondling by many little fingers over the years.

There seemed to be an endless number of different cover pictures but, as I began the sorting process, I found that the pictures began to be duplicated. Many of the books have a curlicue design on the spine, but one group has no spine design, another has some leaves and berries on the spine's mid-section and the thicker books have a sketch of a fringed band of cloth and two titles on the spine.

Further investigation inside the covers produced dates on the title page, except for a few which exempted

(Continued on Page 5)

Editor's notebook

Is this Edward Stratemeyer's first work? As a publisher, quite possibly; as a writer, probably not. Yet, *The Tale of a Lumberman. As Told by Himself* is a unique piece of Stratemeyer-iana. It gives a glimpse of the teen-age years of a man who, according to legend (which we now know is untrue), came suddenly upon the literary scene with "Victor Horton's Idea" in *Golden Days* in November 1889.

Of course, nobody with as fertile a creative mind as Stratemeyer would have waited until age 27. Now, of course, we know about his story paper, *Our American Boys*, published out of Stratemeyer's home at 24 Palmer St., Elizabeth, N.J. starting in January 1883. *Our American Boys* was edited by "Robert Rollic" and offered stories under the "Ed Ward" pseudonym. Stratemeyer had not yet reached his 21st birthday.

But *The Tale of a Lumberman*, a 31-page pamphlet whose cover is shown actual size to the right, came much earlier. Stratemeyer (born Oct. 4, 1862) was either 15 or 16 at the time, depending on how early in 1878 it was published by the Elizabeth job printers, J.D. Baehr & Co. Even though you can call this a vanity publication, it remains at this point in our continuing research the earliest example of Stratemeyer's name appearing on professionally printed matter as writer or publisher.

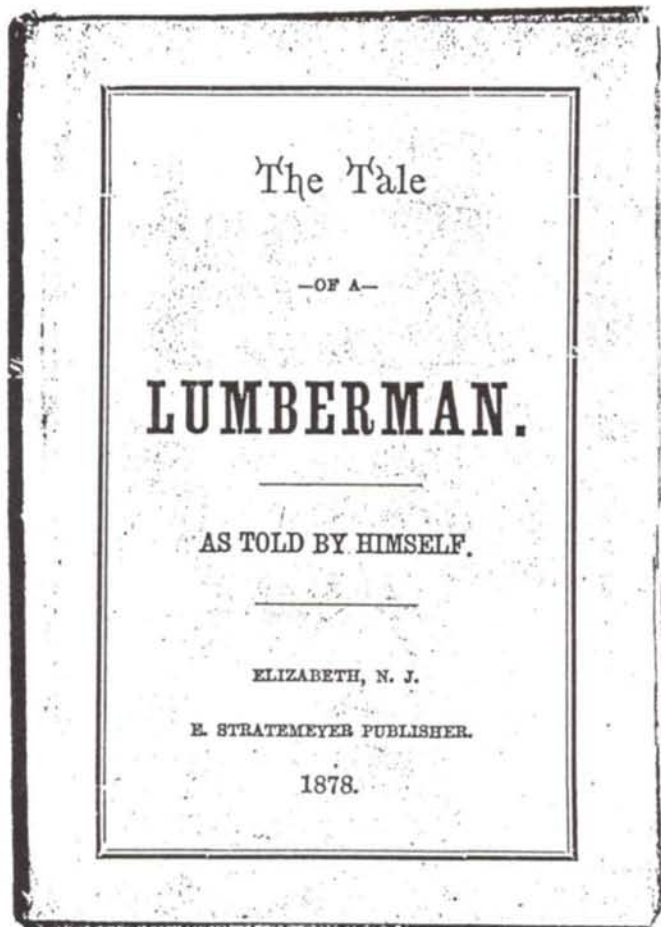
Mind you, it is not credited by Stratemeyer as author, and the writing style is not that of Stratemeyer. The vocabulary used and grammatical construction is different, the likely work of a mature writer rather than of a 15- or 16-year-old high school student.

Stratemeyer probably interviewed the title subject, transcribing his first-person tale, or merely published a submitted manuscript.

"You could assume that it was dictated to him; you could also assume if you wanted to, it was polished considerably either by Stratemeyer or his folks," said noted Stratemeyer scholar John T. Dizer (PF-511). "To me, the significant thing is here is a kid, either 15 or 16, in publishing for himself, supposedly interested enough in this kind of thing to take dictation, or at least get the article by some means and publish it."

And Dizer confirms that the writing style is very unlike Stratemeyer.

"The wording is not like Stratemeyer, the phrasing is not like Stratemeyer, the English is not like Stratemeyer," Dizer said. "On the other hand, it does not sound like an uncouth, unkempt, illiterate lumberman. For a lumberman, he's an awfully erudite, cultured individual."



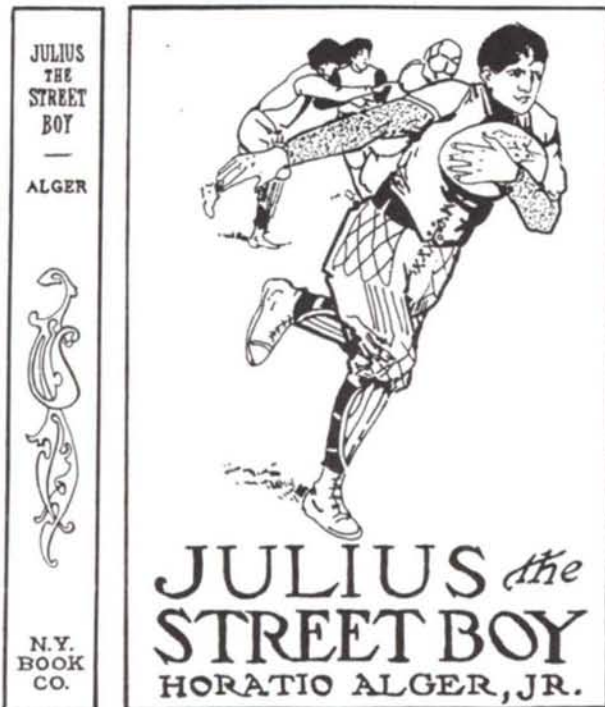
Dizer cites an example, from Page 6:

After the day's labor, the evening was dissipated in card-playing, swearing, and hard drinking. Many a scene or riot and orgies did those log-walls witness. Such is generally the life in a lumber camp: hard wholesome labor in the day, loud revelling at night. The rough, adventurous life, with no home charm or female influence to refine or restrain, is probably the principal reason of such low practice of life in the lumberman's group.

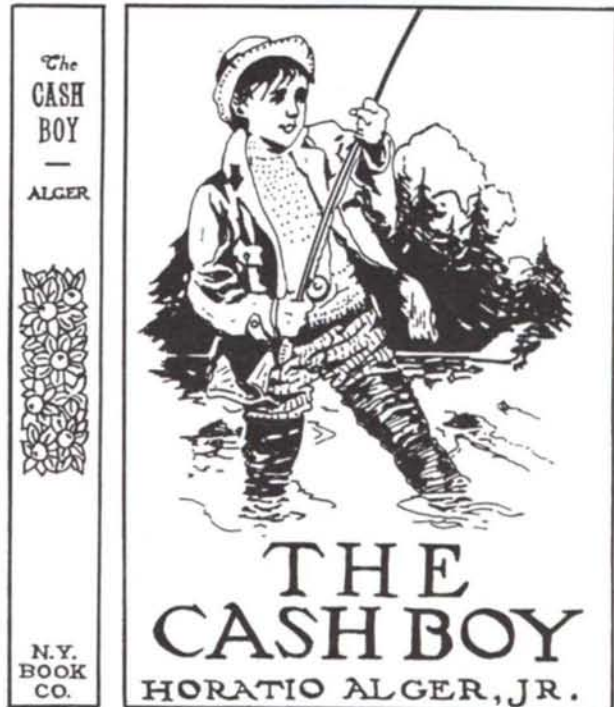
So how did Stratemeyer get hold of this material, which in this example seems to take a moral low road untraveled by the Stratemeyer we all know? "More to the point, why would he?" asked Dizer.

The Northern Illinois University Library was graciously given a complete photocopy of *The Tale of a Lumberman* by the pamphlet's owner, Joseph J. Felcone, of Princeton, N.J. A dealer and avid collector of New Jerseyana, Felcone is doing additional research for NIU on the printer of the pamphlet, J.D. Baehr & Co.

Director of NIU Libraries Arthur P. Young has given us permission to reproduce the cover, above, and selected excerpts. We hope this adds just a little bit more to the growing world of Stratemeyer research.



Ex. 2 — CURLICUE FORMATS: One of eight formats published between late 1908 and at least 1913. The spine has a distinctive curlicue design in the middle along with black lettering at the top and bottom.



Ex. 3 — LEAVES AND BERRIES FORMATS: One of eight formats published in 1914 and after. The spine shows a leaves and berries design. There is one paper edition (red leaves and berries on the spine) and two cloth editions, one in red cloth with silver lettering and green leaves and berries on the spine and the other in tan cloth with black lettering and red leaves and berries on the spine.

Illustrations for this article were drawn by the author

NEW YORK BOOK COMPANY ALGERS

(Continued from Page 3)

the date. I found no copyright dates in any edition. I should observe, however, that many non-Alger series books published by the New York Book Company about the same time do contain a copyright date.

I've now spent a couple months studying these 500 books in an attempt to discover new and exciting tidbits about this very visible Alger publisher and its pattern of publishing Algers. These tidbits are things that we as collectors can sort of drop into cocktail conversations now and then to impress our friends.

For example, there were 49 titles produced by the New York Book Company, not 48 as listed in Bennett¹ and as shown in all the company's advertisements that appear in the books themselves. Try that blockbuster over a martini with friends sometime!

The thicker volumes fascinated me. They are about the same size as all the other New York Book Company books, but are thicker primarily because they contain two Alger stories rather than one. They were only

produced in 1910. Since the company was carrying 36 Alger titles in 1910, combining two to a book results in 18 double volumes. So if you have two double volumes in your collection, you now know 16 other similar volumes exist, each containing two Alger titles.² I've never seen any other set of double volumes published by this company containing stories by other authors, so I have concluded that there were only 18 of these volumes published in 1910, all authored by Alger.

My pile of books were easily sorted by date and those having no printed dates on the title page. I found books with the printed dates extended from 1908 to 1913; no-date volumes have generally similar covers to those having dates, but contain a leaves and berries drawing mid-spine. Since there is always an exception, I did find one scarce edition that had the curlicue design on the spine but contained no printed date. Haven't figured that one out yet.

In my earlier books on Burt, Donohue and Whitman

(Continued on Page 6)

NEW YORK BOOK COMPANY ALGERS

(Continued from Page 5)

Alger editions³ I defined a format as a book that has a cover and spine which is unique as a unit. My examination of dates produced two formats for 1908; one (See Example 1) has no design on the spine and four cover pictures and the other (See Example 2) has the curlicue design on the spine but eight different cover pictures. These latter covers are also carried by all the remaining single volume books extending to 1913 and beyond.

Recently I decided to sort through my no-date New York Book Company Algers to see what type of patterns emerged. To my delight I have found there are four editions that carry no dates, only one of which carries the curlicue design on the spine. The other three have the leaves and berries design in mid-spine, some of which are colored red while others are green (See Example 3).

These three no-date editions include: one that has tan or cream cloth, red leaves and berries on the spine and black lettering; a second has red binding cloth, silver lettering and a green leaves and berries design on the spine; and the third is the only non-cloth Alger edition published by New York Book Company.

This latter edition has hard paper or cardboard covers very similar to several of the cheap books produced by the M.A. Donohue & Co. publishing firm in the 1920s. The leaves and berries design on the spine of this paper edition is red. The three inscription dates I have for this edition, all being 1918, suggest it was published that year making it most likely the last Alger edition published by the New York Book Company.

The covers on the double volumes are completely different from any of the single-volume editions. There are six covers in all, each of which features a detailed sketch of an actual person in an oval shape in the center.

For example, one shows a bust sketch of Teddy Roosevelt (See Example 4). In addition, there are bust drawings of three other men and two Indians on the five other covers, one to a cover.

My friend and fellow Alger collector and publisher Gilbert K. Westgard II (PF-024) has helped me tentatively identify these individuals. They are apparently people who were prominent during the 1910 time period when the books were published. My thanks to Gil for his help.

The 49 titles carried by the New York Book Company are some of the more common Alger titles, except for *Harry Vane*. All the others are fairly easy to find, which is good news if you are a title collector.

What is of interest is that the title *In a New World* was added in 1912, along with 12 others (13 total) as the company expanded its Alger title offerings from the 36 it had offered in 1911. The title *Harry Vane*, which had

been carried since 1909, was not published by the company in 1912. This is logical since *In a New World* is the same story as *Harry Vane*.⁴ Thus, the total number of titles produced for 1912 was 48, which is number shown in the advertisement in the 1912 books.

Now comes the complicated part. In my copy of *In a New World* dated 1912, the advertisement lists that title as No. 44, shows *Harry Vane* (which wasn't published that year) as No. 28 and does not list *The Young Acrobat* at all. In my copy of *The Young Acrobat* for 1912, it lists that title as No. 44, does not list *In a New World* and lists *Harry Vane* as No. 28. (which we now know was not published that year). Apparently the titles — *The Young Acrobat* and *In a New World* — were interchanged as No. 44, depending upon what book the advertisement was in.

The bottom line of all this is that the New York Book Company produced and carried 49 Alger titles counting *In a New World* and *Harry Vane* as two different titles. The company never published both of these titles at the same time, however.

Speaking of titles, I had assumed prior to my analyses that all titles were produced for all formats. I have discovered that this is not the case. For example, the company started producing Algers in 1908 with each of four formats carrying three titles for a total of 12 titles.

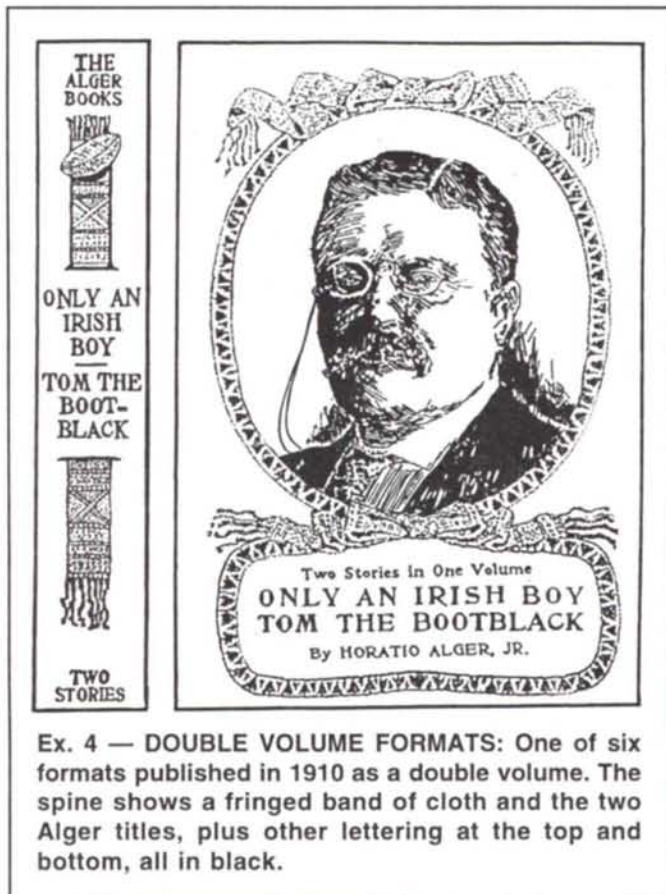
Apparently this new Alger line sold well because, also in 1908, the company discontinued the first four formats and came out with eight different formats (all having the curlicue design on the spine), each of which carried three different Alger titles, for a total of 24 titles.

As the total number of Alger titles expanded in subsequent years to 36 in 1909 to 1911 and 49 in 1912 as noted above, the company policy of every format not carrying all titles continued. Starting from 1909 and from then on, the same title may or may not be carried by more than one format.

For example, in 1911, I have *The Telegraph Boy* in the Baseball Pitcher, Golfer and Skater formats. The most number of formats I've found for any title is three. In 1913, I believe the company cut back at least the first 18 titles it had been offering for I have never seen or been able to find any of them. *Harry Vane* was not produced in either 1912 or 1913. *In a New World* and *The Young Acrobat* were published for 1913, although I haven't been able to find the former title yet.

In sum, this all means that only 30 titles were offered in 1913. The no-date editions were apparently produced after 1913 as I have eleven inscription dates for these editions extending from 1914 to 1919. I do not have enough examples of all four no-date editions to draw final conclusions about the total number of titles carried by each edition, however.

Using my collection, I've found that *Harry Vane* was



carried in both the red edition with silver lettering and the plain edition with red leaves and berries on the spine.

So far I have managed to find only one copy of *In a New World* with no-date which has the curlicue design on the spine; it was printed from the same plates as *Harry Vane*. These no-date editions will require a lot more analysis before more definitive conclusions can be made.

One final interesting aspect about Alger titles carried by The New York Book Company relates to stories supposedly authored by Alger as listed under his name on the title page of the books. For example, in *Hector's Inheritance*, *The Cabin Boy* and *Frank Mason's Victory* are listed, but are obviously bogus Alger titles.⁵

Also, in *The Young Salesman*, *Canal Boy to President* is listed which, of course, is close to an Alger title; that particular title was never published by the New York Book Company, even though it is listed on the title page as a story by Alger.⁶

So these have been some of my initial findings as of this point. Much work still needs to be done. I will continue working with the ultimate goal of presenting a complete picture of New York Book Company Algers in book form, probably in April 1997.

I'm currently researching the company itself and

have found so far: when it was organized, who some of the men behind the publishing activities were and where the firm was located during its Alger publication time.

I have found earlier work on the New York Book Company done by former Society members Bob Eastlack, as carried in the May-June 1983 issue of *Newsboy*, and Paul Fisher, as carried in *Newsboy* in December 1975, to be very helpful. Also, I must thank Bob Kersch (PF-946) of Great River, New York for recently sending me copies of many of his New York Book Company books with his incisive, helpful and detailed observations about similarities and differences contained therein.

At this point, I would really appreciate hearing about any other references anyone knows about this company and/or its Alger book publishing activities. Who knows? You may be able to provide me that vital piece of information that will tie several facts together for me so we both will be able to dazzle our friends at future social events about the Alger book publishing activities of the New York Book Company!

NOTES:

1. Bennett, Bob, *Horatio Alger, Jr.: A Comprehensive Bibliography*. Mt. Pleasant Michigan: Flying Eagle Publishing Co., 1980, pp. 151-152.

2. Time for a commercial here: I have all but one of these and would love to obtain a copy of *The Cash Boy/The Telegraph Boy* double volume. Please let me know if you have a copy of that book available for sale or trade.

3. *Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt* (1983), *Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue* (1994) and *Horatio Alger Books Published by Whitman Publishing Co.* (1995) are still available for sale by writing the author at 6 Sandpiper Rd., Enfield, CT 06082.

4. This Alger story was originally published in 1885-86 as a serial in *Golden Argosy*. The first-edition book was published seven years later by Porter & Coates in 1893 as *In a New World; or, Among the Gold-Fields in Australia*. It was reprinted several years later by M.A. Donohue & Co. and New York Book Company, now carrying the title *Harry Vane; or, In a New World*. The story was also reprinted as *The Nugget Finders. A Tale of the Gold Fields of Australia*, published in England by John F. Shaw & Co., Ltd.

5. *The Cabin Boy* is definitely not an Alger title. *Mark Mason's Victory; or, The Trials and Triumphs of a Telegraph Boy*, was first published by A.L. Burt Company in 1899. *Frank Mason's Victory* is not an Alger title. The New York Book Company is the only publisher to carry the title *Mark Mason's Triumph*, which is an alternative title for *Mark Mason's Victory*.

6. Alger, Horatio, Jr., *From Canal Boy to President; or, The Boyhood and Manhood of James a Garfield*. This book was first published by John R. Anderson & Company in 1881.

MEMBERSHIP

If you want to place a phone call...

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

When I moved to the Chicago area in 1969, there was only one telephone area code: 312, plus the 815 code for the far outer counties, stretching from Rockford to Joliet. By the end of 1996 we will have five area codes, plus the existing 815 (see map at right). This year alone, three new codes are in use, or are about to arrive: 847, 630 and 773. In October, the original 312 area code will serve only downtown Chicago, the rest of the city going to 773.

So here are some changes:

William R. Gowen (PF-706) — New area code: 847

Jeff Farmer (PF-951) — New area code: 847

Robert S. Brooks (PF-828) — New area code: 847

Glenn S. Corcoran (PF-339) — New area code: 847

Christopher J. Novak (PF-539) — New area code: 630

Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879) — New area code: 630

Other major metropolitan areas are also in periodic area code flux, and we'll pass along information as we receive it.

Change of address:

Deidre A Johnson (PF-596)

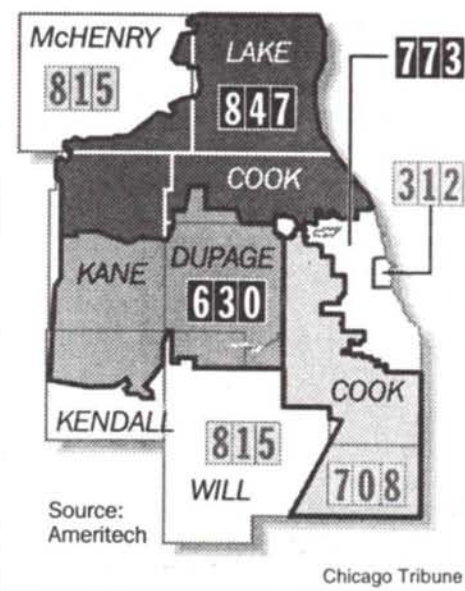
701 Hillary Court

West Chester, PA 19382

Date to be implemented:

847 : April 20 **630** : Aug. 3

773 : October



Chicago's changing telephone map.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

Today I received my May-June issue of *Newsboy*. It seems to me when considering everything that this is the best issue of *Newsboy* that I have ever seen. You have done wonders with the format, the editing and the subject matter. There is something for everyone. My thanks to you for a job especially well done.

Kitty and I have hopes that we will be moving to a delightful retirement colony about 15 miles north of Tucson, Ariz. As much as we like Nevada, the winters at 5,200 feet at the base of the Sierras are becoming a little too much for us. The timing depends on the sale of our Carson City home. I have been threatening to attend an H.A.S. annual meeting for some years. Most of them are so far removed from here that it hasn't worked out that way. But, if we are in Tucson by May of 1998, we shall make every effort to attend the one in Scottsdale.

Again, thanks for your effort — the results reflect many hours you have devoted to the job as editor.

Sincerely,
 Rolfe B. Chase (PF-602)
 4731 Fox Creek Road
 Carson City NV 89703

Dear Bill:

I recently came into possession of the Stratford Edition of *Ralph Raymond's Heir*. The title page of this copy indicates the address for F.M. Lupton as 72-76 Walker Street. As outlined in Robert Kasper's fine article in the January-February 1994 issue of *Newsboy*, the publishing history of *Ralph Raymond's Heir* is a complex one, with first-edition honors going to the paperback edition published by F.M. Lupton in *The Idle Hours Series* (March 30, 1892) and followed four months later by a reappearance as No. 65 in its *Bijou Series* (July 13, 1892). Kasper indicates that Lupton published *Ralph Raymond's Heir* in hardcover as part of its Stratford Editions in August 1892.

Thanks to Rob's generosity in sharing the title pages of these two paperback editions, I believe that some fine tuning of the publication date of the Stratford Edition is appropriate. Since the March 30, 1892 *Idle Hours* paperback issue indicates a publisher address of 65 Duane Street, and the July 13, 1892 *Bijou Series* issue indicates the 72-76 Walker Street address, we can conclude that the first hardcover Stratford Edition must carry the 65 Duane Street address. The earliest Stratford Edition must have been issued prior to the July 13, 1892 change of address to 72-76 Walker Street. One cannot, in fact, rule out simultaneous publication of the hardcover Stratford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Edition and the *Idle Hours Series* paper edition.

I have another F.M. Lupton volume, *The Gold Brick*, by Ann S. Stephens, with a gift inscription of Christmas 1894. This volume still retains the 72-76 Walker Street address, confirming at least a two-year run of Lupton publications from that address. Many collectors will never acquire the paper editions and the true first Stratford Edition appearance, with a maximum three- to four-month issuance period, will also be a difficult acquisition. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has additional information concerning the publication sequence of this title.

Sincerely,
Arthur P. Young (PF-941)
912 Borden Ave.
Sycamore, IL 60178-3200
(815) 899-2032

How to use those bookmarks

Dear Partic'lar Friends:

I was hooked on Alger books several years ago but could not find many of his books. I finally read a copy of *Mabel Parker* and got in touch with Gary Scharnhorst, who suggested I contact Carl and Jean Hartmann. Carl immediately sent me some back issues of *Newsboy* and I was thrilled to join the Horatio Alger Society just two years ago. I would have joined this select group several years ago but I did not know of its existence. How many other people would be thrilled to join if they only knew of its existence? How could information about the Horatio Alger Society be spread to people who are genuinely interested?

Would you help me with an experiment? For the past couple of months I have been placing bookmarks like the ones you will find enclosed in this issue of *Newsboy* in every Alger book I see, either in used bookstores or libraries, or even in the new *Ragged Dick* and *Mark the Matchboy* editions in Super Crowns!

I have phoned the Los Angeles County Library, the Santa Barbara Library and quite a few bookstores, and gotten the name of somebody in the literary section or a salesperson to whom I can send a supply of bookmarks, and have had them place one in each of their Alger books!

If you could help me by going to your favorite source of Alger books and either place one in each book, or simply phone your library or bookstore and get the name of someone who will place these bookmarks for you, I believe many more people would discover the Horatio Alger Society and join. I will be happy to provide you with additional bookmarks. While I was shy about placing the bookmarks at first, I found every-

one was interested in this experiment and got cooperation from everyone I talked to.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have 500 or more people show up at the Alger conventions, and have many more books to choose from and friends to meet?

In visiting all the bookstores in the Los Angeles area, several had more than 10 Alger titles which I did not purchase. In addition, Powell's Books in Portland, Oregon has a toll-free number (1-800-878-7323) with 29 Alger titles available (as of a few weeks ago), A sample:

Donohue: *Erie Train Boy*, \$3.50; *Farm Boy to Senator*, \$25; *Shifting for Himself*, \$15; *Phil the Fiddler*, \$4.50; Loring: *Jack's Ward*, \$3.95; *Lost Tales of Horatio Alger* (Scharnhorst), \$10.95.

Berkeley's Books in Los Angeles (213) 466-3321 has in their children's section: *Ben the Luggage Boy*, *Rufus and Rose*, *Fame and Fortune* and *Rough and Ready*, all by Porter & Coates in very good condition, and all at \$25 each. *Joe's Luck* by A.L. Burt is \$10.

Josef's Books in Riverside, CA (909) 788-3063 has about 20 Alger books, mostly Winstons in very good condition.

The Bookie Joint in Reseda, CA (818) 343-1055 has among its 25-plus Alger books such titles as *Helping Himself*, *Struggling Upward*, *The Cash Boy*, *Risen from the Ranks*, *Mark the Match Boy*, *Brave and Bold*, *Making his Way* and *Do and Dare*.

I hope the above sources will help fill in your collection and I hope you will help me by placing the enclosed bookmarks in Alger books in your local library or bookstore so many more people can become acquainted with the Horatio Alger Society. Chances are, some of these people will someday become your Partic'lar Friends!

If you wish to share your favorite source of Alger books, please contact *Newsboy* editor William Gowen (PF-706) at 923 S. Lake St., #6, Mundelein, IL 60060 and he will print them in an upcoming Letters to the Editor column. If you have any interesting experiences placing these bookmarks, also let Bill know.

If you have any questions or comments, I may be reached at (818) 246-2468.

I recently was able to borrow *Striving for Fortune*, a Street & Smith paperback. I carefully took it apart and copied it in signature form, as was this original. It is at the bookbinders now, where a limited number (probably 20) will be bound in paperback form with colored cover like the original. This has been quite time-consuming and costly and it is not perfect, due to the extreme frailty of the original, but it is complete.

If you wish to buy a copy, please send a check to me at the address below.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
David Lee Collier (PF-943)
1845 Crestmont Court
Glendale, CA 91208-2619

BOOK MART

E. Christian Mattson (PF-067)

Four Turtlerock Court

Baltimore, MD 21234

Tel.: 410-668-4730 FAX: 410-882-9137

The following Alger books are for sale:

Postage extra. Phone call or FAX holds for seven days

First editions:

<i>Ben Logan's Triumph</i>	VG	\$85.00
<i>Out for Business</i> (shaken)	Fair/good	50.00
<i>Tattered Tom</i> (with wear)	G	125.00
<i>The Western Boy</i> (has been totally restored)	Ex	100.00
<i>Adrift in the City</i> (loose)	G	100.00
<i>Wait and Win</i> (replaced title page)	VG	50.00
<i>The World Before Him</i>	G	65.00

Non-firsts, but scarce titles:

<i>Backwoods Boy, DeWolfe-Fiske</i>	VG	\$40.00
<i>Farm Boy to Senator, McKay</i>	VG	35.00
<i>Canal Boy to President, McKay</i>	VG	35.00
<i>Dean Dunham, McKay</i>	VG-plus	50.00
<i>The Young Book Agent, G&D/C-P</i>	VG	35.00
<i>Erie Train Boy, S&S</i>	G-plus	25.00
<i>A New York Boy, S&S</i>	Fair	15.00

A.L. Burt, fez editions in deluxe format:

<i>Tom the Bootblack</i>	VG	\$25.00
<i>The Train Boy</i>	VG	35.00
<i>The Errand Boy</i>	VG	25.00
<i>Tom Thatcher's Fortune</i>	VG	30.00

A.L. Burt, deluxe green format:

<i>A Debt of Honor</i>	Ex.(2nd issue)	\$30.00
<i>Walter Sherwood's Probation</i>	Ex.	20.00
<i>The Train Boy</i>	VG	20.00
<i>The Errand Boy</i>	VG	25.00
<i>Paul the Peddler</i>	G	8.00

A.L. Burt, various formats:

<i>Driven from Home</i>	VG	\$10.00
<i>A Cousin's Conspiracy</i>	VG	10.00
<i>Adrift in New York</i>	VG	12.00
<i>Luke Walton</i>	VG	10.00
<i>Andy Gordon</i>	VG	8.00
<i>Tom Thatcher's Fortune</i>	G-plus	15.00

Porter & Coates, H.T. Coates editions:

<i>Sink or Swim</i> (small ed.)	VG	\$15.00
<i>Sam's Chance</i> (small ed.)	G	12.00
<i>Wait and Hope</i> (small ed.)	G	12.00
<i>Strong & Steady</i> (flying wheel ed.)	G	10.00
<i>Hector's Inheritance</i> (large ed.)	VG	10.00

Various publishers:

<i>The Cash Boy</i> Hurst	G	\$5.00
<i>In a New World</i> Hurst	VG	5.00
<i>Making his Way</i> Hurst	VG	5.00
<i>Jack's Ward</i> Hurst	VG	5.00
<i>Lester's Luck</i> Winston	G	8.00
<i>Facing the World</i> Winston	G	8.00
<i>Bob Burton</i> Winston	VG	10.00
<i>Phil the Fiddler</i> Street & Smith	VG	10.00
<i>Phil the Fiddler</i> Thompson & Thomas	G	5.00
<i>Adventures of a Telegraph Boy</i> Federal	G	8.00

The following two are first editions but missing pages:

<i>Walter Sherwood's Probation</i>	Ex.	\$15.00
<i>The Young Salesman</i>	About fair	5.00

WANTED

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Bart Nyberg (PF-897) is presented the Dick Seddon Award from outgoing H.A.S. President Mary Ann Ditch.

'96 H.A.S. Award Winners



Carol Nackenoff (PF-921) receives the Newsboy Award from Executive Secretary Robert E. Kasper.



Executive Secretary Emeritus Carl Hartmann, right, presents the Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award to Dick Pope (PF-722).

Autographed for and
presented to

Edward Stratemeyer,

Leo Edwards
(Edward Edson Lee)

Hi-Lee Cottage at Lake Ripley,
Cambridge, Wis.,
Dec. 12, 1927.

Inscribed copy of Poppy Ott's Pedigreed Pickles

To

Edward Edson Lee

With the compliments
of a fellow author.

Edward Stratemeyer

Dec. 21,
1927.

Inscribed copy of The Rover Boys Winning a Fortune

Signed . . . sealed and delivered

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

Today, a "book signing" is a common marketing tool used by publishers to push their product. A best-selling author tours major cities and sits for hours at a time (usually at a large bookstore), pen in hand.

When former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell visited Chicago last fall to promote and sign copies of his book, fans lined up in the rain for nearly two blocks outside one of the city's major bookstores.

First in a series

But back in the 1870s, when Horatio Alger, Jr. signed a copy of *Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving* for his aunt (right), this was strictly a gesture of love — not money.

Collectors recognize two types of signed books: those with just the author's signature (a "signed copy") and those with a personal message in addition to the signature (an "inscribed copy"). It goes without saying that a signed or inscribed-by-author copy commands considerably more money than an unsigned copy.

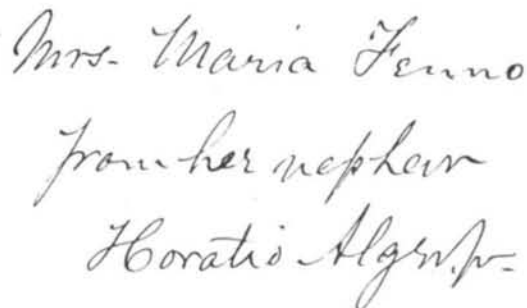
Certain authors signed or inscribed books very infrequently. The Percy Keese Fitzhugh signature, below right, found in a copy of *Roy Blakleley Lost, Strayed or Stolen*, is a rare example from that writer.

Most uncommon of all, is an inscribed copy presented to a famous person, i.e., Ernest Hemingway to President Franklin Roosevelt (a fictitious example).

In many cases, authors inscribed books to each other. One of the most interesting examples is on Page 12. In December, 1927, Edward Stratemeyer was in the Midwest and he made a personal visit to Edward Edson Lee ("Leo Edwards") at Hi-Lee Cottage in Cambridge, Wisconsin. Lee presented Stratemeyer with an inscribed copy of *Poppy Ott's Pedigreed Pickles*.

Nine days later (presumably after Stratemeyer had returned to New Jersey) Lee was sent, in return, an inscribed copy of *The Rover Boys Winning a Fortune*. Often, authors exchange books on the spot, but a logical explanation for the nine-day delay in this case is that Stratemeyer received the *Poppy Ott* book on Dec. 12 and didn't have one of his books with him to complete the exchange, so he waited until he returned home.

Most authors of boys' and girls' books signed or inscribed copies to fans, some more frequently than others. Of course, the Stratemeyer Syndicate's books were signed as by "Franklin W. Dixon" or "Carolyn Keene," etc. How was that done? When a young person visited the Syndicate offices with his parents and asked for an autograph, the receptionist would take the book into an inner office, where an unseen "Franklin W. Dixon" or "Victor Appleton II" would sign it. That way,



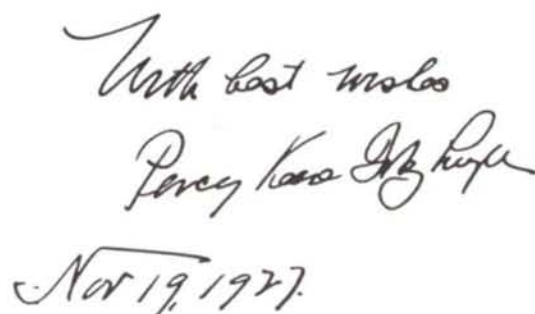
Horatio Alger, Jr. inscribed this copy of Loring's *Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving* for his aunt.

the integrity of the Syndicate's house names was preserved.

This ongoing series will offer signatures and inscriptions of some of the most famous and lesser-known authors of books for young people. The Newsboy editorial files have accumulated numerous photocopies over the past several months in preparation for this series. If any readers have other examples, send them in and they will be considered for publication.

Signatures already on hand and planned for reproduction in future issues include Gilbert Patten, Roy J. Snell, William O. Stoddard, Jonathan Brooks, William Heyliger, Ralph Henry Barbour, Leslie W. Quirk, Everett T. Tomlinson, Henry Augustus Shute and Edgar Rice Burroughs. If you have any other names, send them along.

Newsboy wishes to thank Jerry Friedland, Bart J. Nyberg and Robert Kasper for their assistance in providing the signatures and inscriptions used with this article. (For more examples, see Pages 14-15).



A rare example of Percy Keese Fitzhugh's autograph in one of his books.

Clarence Budington Kelland (1881-1964) is another author who rather infrequently signed or inscribed his boys' books.

6/20
 E. G. Ripp
 as an earnest of the
 appreciation of
 Clarence B. Kelland
 for
 his sound advice
 and
 example.

Inscribed copy of the first edition of *Mark Tidd* (Harpers, 1913)

To -
 Nancy Lawrence
 with love and kisses
 from Edwin Alger
 May 9th, 1930.

Inscribed copy of *Phil Hardy's Greatest Test* (G&D, 1930)

"Edwin Alger" was no relation to Horatio Alger, Jr. This was a pseudonym used by author Jay Jerome Williams originally in the nationally syndicated Bound to Win cartoon strip, from which the Phil Hardy books were based.

"Old Ironsides."

May this frigate, with her
patriotic history, prove a
constant inspiration to
the youth of our land.

Edward Stratemeyer.

Sept. 25th 1901.

Edward Stratemeyer gives a touching tribute to the frigate U.S.S. Constitution in this inscription found in one of his earliest boys' books based on historical events.

Inscribed copy of *Under Dewey at Manila*

My, Ed Mrs. G. B. Montgomery
with its compliments
of the author,

Edward Stratemeyer

May 21, 1924.

Stratemeyer, now nearly 62 years old, has seen his penmanship deteriorate markedly from the example, above, signed when he was one week short of his 39th birthday.

Inscribed copy of *The Rover Boys Shipwrecked*

HORATIO ALGER JR.

FOR SALE



Hurst & Co.

Tom the Bootblack
 Slow and Sure
 Jed - The Poorhouse Boy
 Tony the Tramp
 Strive and Succeed
 Driven From Home
 Only An Irish Boy
 Sink Or Swim
 Bound To Rise
 Ralph Raymond's Heir
 Andy Grants Pluck
 Young Musician
 Erie Trainboy
 Walter Sherwoods Probation
 Grit (Pgs 1-16 zerox'd)
 Herbert Carters Legacy
 Adrift In New York
 In A New World
 Jacks Ward

Donohue & Co.

Chester Rand
 Hectors Inheritance
 Try & Trust
 Young Adventure
 Struggling Upward
 Young Salesman
 The Tin Box
 The Young Explorer
 Young Acrobat
 Store Boy
 Risen From The Ranks
 Franks Campaign

Worlds Syndicate: Franks Campaign

Winston Co.: The Young Messenger

Mershon Co.: Facing The World

Saalfeld Pub.: Joes Luck

Goldsmith Pub.: Helping Himself

A.L. Burt: Grit

Whitman Pub.: Do & Dare
 Sams Chance

N.Y. Book Co.

Making His Way
 Luke Walton
 The Young Outlaw
 Bob Burton
 Wait & Hope
 The Cash Boy
 Strong & Steady
 Phil The Fiddler
 Shifting For Himself
 Julius The Street Boy
 Andy Gordon
 Paul The Peddler
 Sams Chance

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