



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.

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NUMBER 1

2008 H.A.S. Convention preview

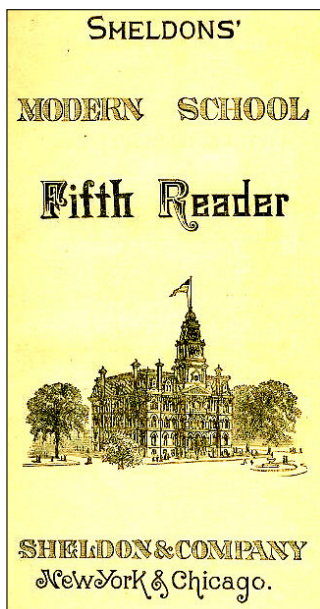
'Finding a Fortune in Carson Valley'

- Official registration form
- Schedule of events
- Travel and hotel information

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Photo by Mike Morley
The historic Nevada State Capitol in Carson City.



Horatio Alger's School Books and Educational Readers

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President's column

Preparations for the 2008 H.A.S. convention in Carson City are nearly complete: the hotel and meal logistics have been attended to and a special event, a guided tour of the Nevada State Capitol building, has been arranged. Please see Janice's convention preview article for more details. You can visit www.thehoratioalgersociety.org/archive/2008_auctions.html to view the 335 auction lots that have been cataloged. You will need to specify username: member and password: newsboy to view the current auction offerings.

If you are planning to attend the 2008 convention, please make your hotel reservations early as our block of rooms at the Carson City Plaza Hotel are only guaranteed through May 10th. The registration form and convention schedule are enclosed with this issue and can also be accessed from the H.A.S. Web site convention sub-page (www.thehoratioalgersociety.org/convention.html).

Carol Nackenoff sent word to me that Doug Fleming, our 2001 convention host and all-around good guy, underwent surgery on Feb. 1 for two aneurisms. The surgery went well, and Doug is doing fine, though Doug won't be able to move around much for a couple of months. If you would like to send Doug a get-well card, here is his address:

Doug Fleming
1557 Blakeney Road
PO Box 221
Pakenham ON K0A 2X0
Canada

Bill Gowen and Art Young will make presentations at the 2008 convention. Bill will reprise his 2008 PCA presentation "Worthy challenger to the Stratemeyer Syndicate: A.L. Burt's inexpensive series books." Art's presentation is titled "Beckoning at the Gate: Horatio Alger, Jr. and the Literary Canon."

I have been corresponding with Matt Hirshberg about how the phrase a "Horatio Alger Story" has become a cliché. The upshot of this discussion is that Matt will also make a presentation: "It's a real Horatio Alger Story: The History of a Newspaper Cliche," at the 2008 convention.

During the above discussion with Matt, I googled ("google" is now a verb, according to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary) on the phrase "Horatio Alger story" and got 18,300 hits! The first entry in the Google result list was the Wikipedia entry for Horatio

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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 — youngsters whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and inspired hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans for generations to come.

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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 \$25 (\$20 for seniors), with single issues of **Newsboy** \$4.00. Please make remittance payable to the Horatio Alger Society.

Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to **Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255**.

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography. You are invited to visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at www.thehoratioalgersociety.org

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, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255.

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 ads or "Letters to the Editor" to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047. E-mail: hasnewsboy@aol.com

2008 H.A.S. Convention preview

'Finding a Fortune in Carson Valley'

By Janice Morley (PF-957)

Welcome to Wonderful "Wild" West Nevada!

We welcome you to the eastern Sierra and Carson City area. Mike and I know you'll enjoy the Horatio Alger Society's 2008 convention on May 15-18, "Finding a Fortune in Carson Valley." Most of you know what to expect: lots of fun, great books for sale, and establishing and/or renewing long-term friendships. We Partic'lar Friends wouldn't have it any other way.

Here's something to consider: every person who has visited this area has said he or she does not want to go back home (even Mike's mother!). This is a magical place, so plan to spend a few days before or after the convention to enjoy the scenery and history of this wonderful part of the United States.

Be sure to check our Horatio Alger Society Web site at www.thehoratioalgersociety.org/convention.html for some of our favorite day trips. One special treat Mike and I have arranged is a docent-led tour of the Nevada State Capitol building on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. This tour is just for the H.A.S.!

Before you leave

Be sure to check with your travel provider to find out which documents will be required. The US Homeland Security Department is fluctuating on when the Real ID Act goes into effect — it might be as early as May 1, 2008. It's a good idea to get your passport in order now, before the summer rush begins.

Reno/Tahoe International Airport

As of January 2008, you can fly into the Reno/Tahoe International Airport using the following airlines:

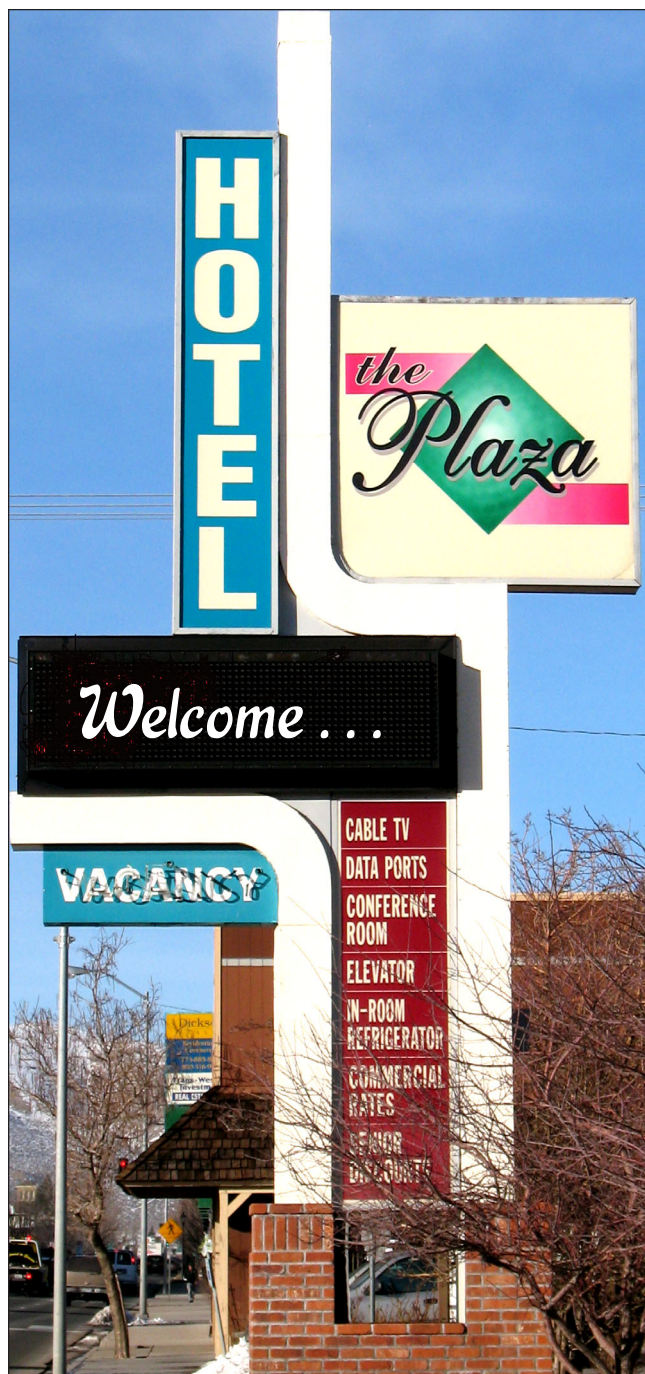
| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Alaska Airlines | Allegiant Air |
| Aloha Airlines | American Airlines |
| Continental Airlines | Delta Airlines |
| Express Jet | Horizon Air |
| Southwest Airlines | United Airlines |
| Ted (a United subsidiary) | US Airways |

For latest information, check the Reno-Tahoe airport's Web site at renoairport.com/flight_information/airlines.php regarding up-to-date flight schedules, reservations and current service.

Taking the train to the convention

You can take the Amtrak California Zephyr to Reno, then rent a car to our convention site. If you are arriving from the San Francisco Bay Area, you can start your trip

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The main entrance sign for the Plaza Hotel, which will host the 2008 Horatio Alger Society convention. The hotel is a short walk from the State Capitol and numerous other attractions.

Photo by Mike Morley

A note of thanks from NIU

February 25, 2008

Dear Horatio Alger Society members,

As many of you know, the past two weeks have been a particularly trying time on the campus of Northern Illinois University, as we cope with a random act of violence that has rocked our community to its core. I'd like to take a moment to thank each of you, and the Horatio Alger Society as a whole, for your kind words of support in the past couple of weeks. It has meant a great deal to me, and to all of the staff of NIU's library, to see the outpouring of support, kindness, and offers of help that we have been blessed with in the wake of this tragedy. Our community has been profoundly changed by this act, but I know that we will emerge from our grief stronger than ever, determined to look forward, together, continuing the important work that we do, each and every day, to make Northern Illinois University a great place to learn, to work, and to be.

As NIU President John G. Peters said, we will not let ourselves be defined by this moment of violence, although we will always carry it with us. Our campus and our community have worked together to cope with this tragedy, in grief, in determination, in dignity, and in hope for the future. I have never been more proud to be a part of the NIU community than in the past two weeks.

Now, it is our community's job to determine what the new version of normal life on campus looks like. We have lost, we have grieved, and now we move "forward, together, forward," a line taken from the NIU fight song. Students have returned to classes today, and the university resumes its full operations, doing what we do



Several Northern Illinois University students pause to gather their emotions outside Cole Hall, site of the campus shooting, on their return to classes Feb. 25.

best: teaching, research, learning, and building fantastic collections in support of that scholarship, in the case of Rare Books and Special Collections, and the Horatio Alger Society Collection.

If you would like to support the work of NIU in moving forward, please visit www.niufoundation.org/ where you can designate donations to the scholarship fund that honors the students who lost their lives in the shooting, or to the Horatio Alger Society endowment, to benefit future students, who, like Alger's protagonists, need a timely boost on their way to becoming scholars of Alger's life and work.

Warmly,
Lynne M. Thomas
Head, Rare Books
and Special Collections
Northern Illinois University

Editor's notebook

As this issue was being prepared to send to the printer, the horrible shooting incident at Northern Illinois University took place, with a touch of sad irony, on Valentine's Day.

Of course, the Horatio Alger Society has had a close relationship with NIU since the mid-1990s, when it became the home of the official H.A.S. Repository Library. Lynne Thomas, head of rare books and special collections, has been kind to offer her comments on behalf of the university in the letter which appears on this page.

I had an opportunity to chat with Lynne on the phone Feb. 25, the day the NIU students resumed classes following a break of more than a week while the campus community began its healing process.

"It's been a little bit difficult, but we've all coped with it pretty well," Lynne said. "The whole experience for a lot of us who weren't directly affected has been kind of surreal.

"One of my students actually knew one of the students who was killed, so it's been difficult. One thing that has been reassuring has been the response of the community. In my own life I have heard from people I haven't spoken to in a couple of years, who made a point of checking in with me in the first couple of days.

"Everywhere you go around town, you see all the signs — people who have the letter signs where you can

(Continued on Page 16)

Horatio Alger's School Books and Educational Readers

By Robert R. Routhier (PF-889)

Most 19th Century school books and educational readers contained short stories and poetry from then well-known authors of juvenile literature including Edward S. Ellis, Oliver Optic, G. A. Henty and, of course, Horatio Alger, Jr. Many, if not all, of these contributions were likely pirated and provided no royalties to the author.

Alger bibliographers Ralph D. Gardner and Bob Bennett did the initial groundwork and identified some of the publications containing the short stories and poetry by Alger. But, with the advent of the Internet, additional editions and variants have been discovered.

According to Gardner and Bennett, there are four school books that contain a short story or poem by Horatio Alger. They are *Analytical Fourth Reader*, *American Educational Reader — No. 5*, *New Normal Fifth Reader* and *Sheldon's Modern School Fifth Reader*.

The *Analytical Fourth Reader* contained Alger's "How Johnny Bought a Sewing Machine," which first appeared in the August 1866 issue of *Our Young Folks*. Its first appearance in a school book occurred the following year published by Geo. & C. W. Sherwood Company in Chicago (see Ex. 1). It was subsequently published (possibly simultaneously) by Mason Brothers Publishing in New York and Boston (see Ex. 2) and by Taintor Brothers & Co., also located in New York (see Ex. 3). The Sherwood name appears on all three title pages of the above-mentioned books, but the relationship between these publishers is not clear.

The *Analytical Fourth Reader*, like most school books

of the time, was issued in series with each successive number designed for pupils that had completed the previous numbers. The preface of the 1873 edition states "The reading lessons, which consist of pieces of great variety both as to style and subject, have been selected chiefly from the works of standard authors, and are of

such a character as to interest the youthful reader, while imparting information and developing intelligence and thoughtfulness."

One of Alger's best-loved poems, "Carving a Name," also appeared in school books, the first being in the *American Educational Reader — No. 5*, published by Ivison, Blakeman & Taylor [New York] in 1873 (see Ex. 4). This poem was first published in *Harper's Weekly* on November 1, 1862, and was reprinted in dozens of publications.¹ A review of the *American Educational Reader* books in *Publisher's Weekly* in 1873 described the series as "in very neat shape, with a picture illustrating a separate motto on the cover of each number of the series. The illustrations are sensible, interesting, and very good."²

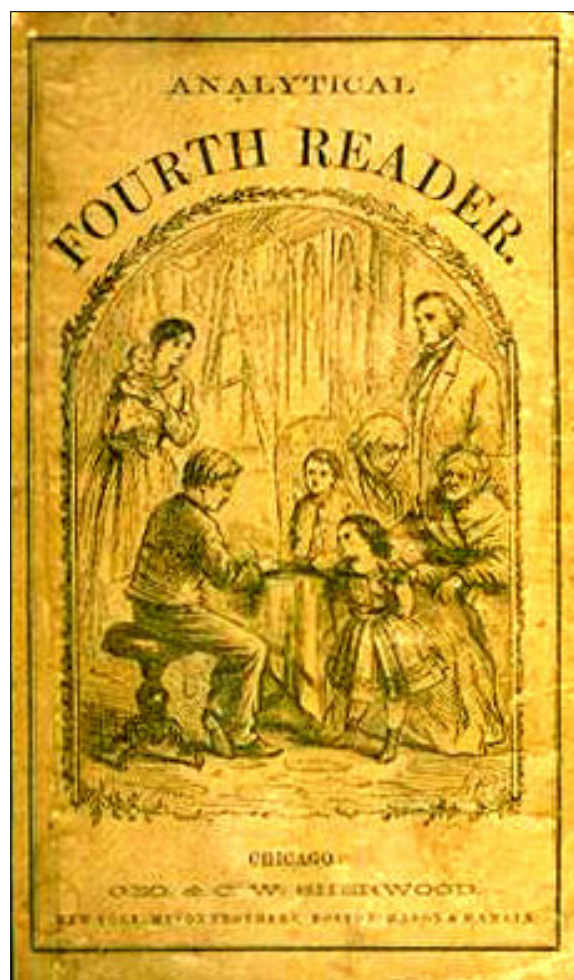
Ivison, Blakeman & Taylor reprinted "Carving a Name" in 1883, this time changing the title of the book to *Swinton's Fourth Reader* (see Ex. 5).

When Ivison, Blakeman & Taylor was taken over by the American Book Company in

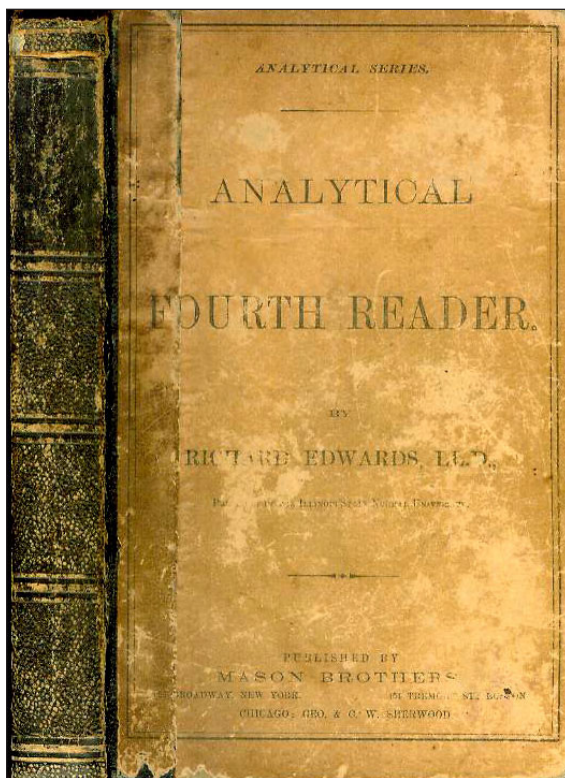
the 1890s, the latter firm subsequently published *Swinton's Fourth Reader* in several editions into the early 1900s (see Ex. 6).

A synopsis of *Swinton's Fourth Reader* in *Publisher's Weekly* in 1883 stated that this volume "carries forward

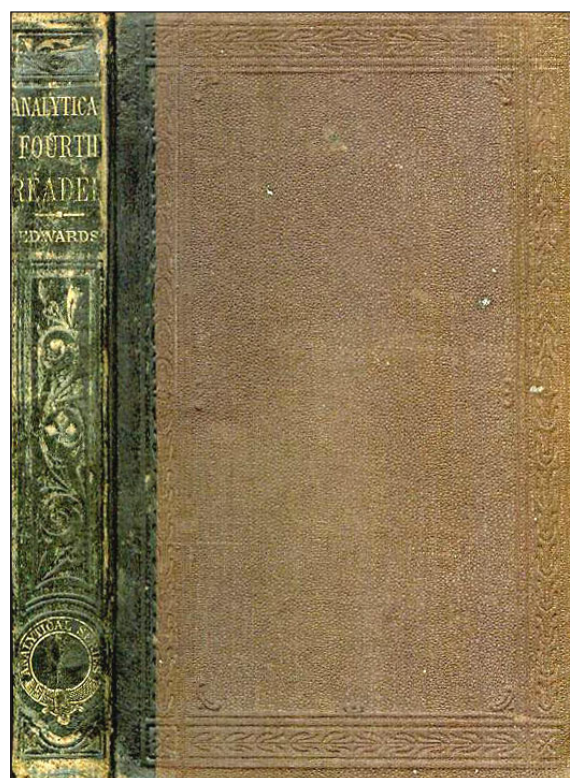
(Continued on Page 6)



Ex. 1: *Analytical Fourth Reader*
First Publisher: George & C.W. Sherwood, 1867



Ex. 2: Analytical Fourth Reader
Second Publisher: Mason Brothers, ca. 1870.



Ex. 3: Analytical Fourth Reader
Third Publisher: Taintor Brothers & Co., ca. 1870

Horatio Alger's School Books and Educational Readers

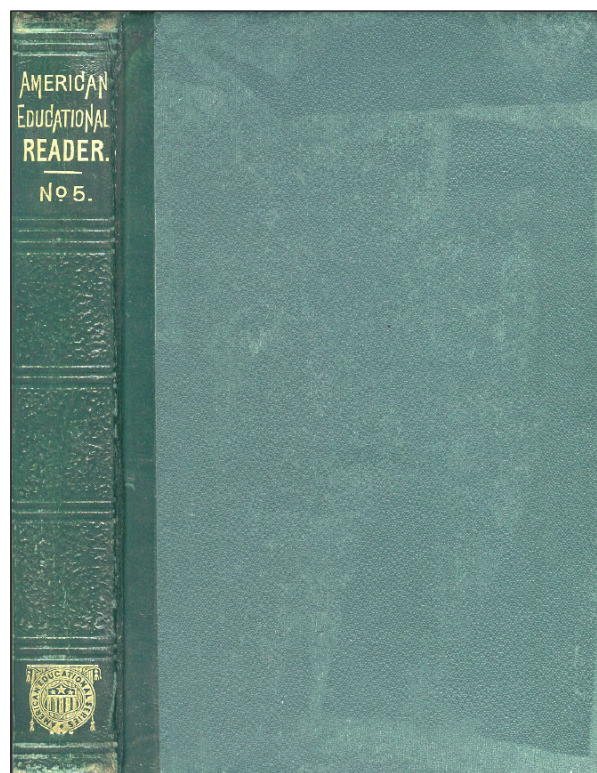
(Continued from Page 5)

and develops the special language work and methods of the "Third Reader;" introduces occasional exercises in the analysis of sentences, and gives simple instruction and practice in the art of elocutionary expression... The selections for reading are both amusing and instructive, and those for recitation embrace many gems.³ Mr. Alger would be pleased.

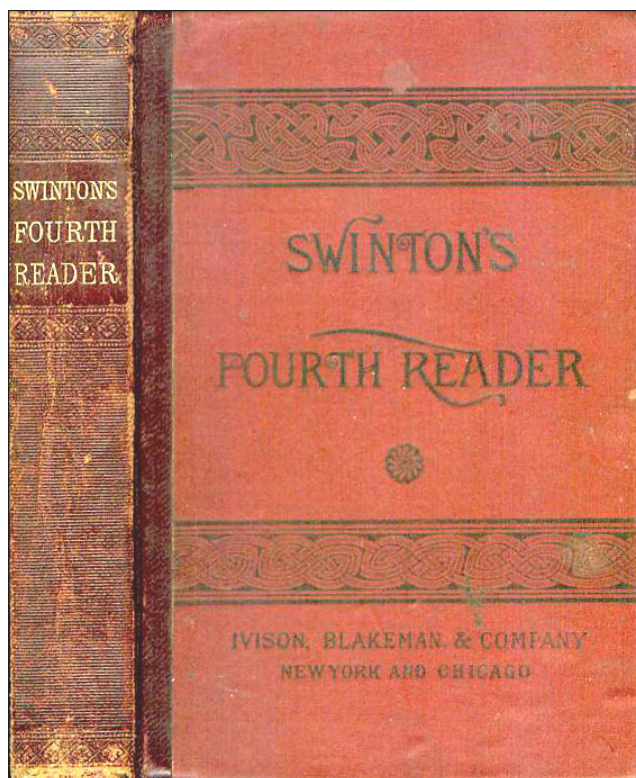
Alger's most famous poem, "John Maynard," was published in school books and readers also, first appearing in the *New Normal Fifth Reader*, published in 1878 by Porter & Coates in Philadelphia (see Ex. 7). The title was changed to *The Werner Educational Series — New Normal Fifth Reader* when the book was reprinted in 1894 by the Werner School Book Company (see Ex. 8). The book reverted back to its original title when published by the American Book Company circa 1895 (see Ex. 9).

"John Maynard" also appeared in *Sheldon & Co's Modern School Fifth Reader* (see Ex. 10) published in 1882 by Sheldon & Co. [New York and Chicago]. This title also went through several editions; in 1885 the title was

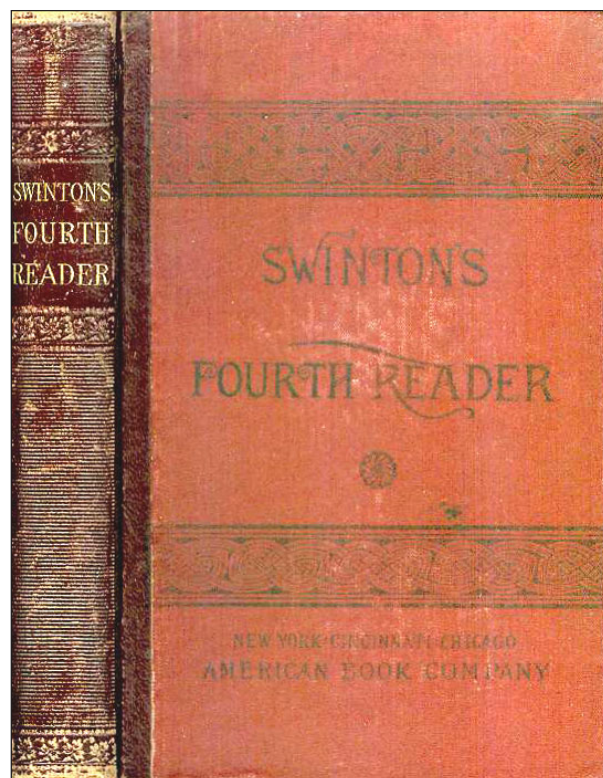
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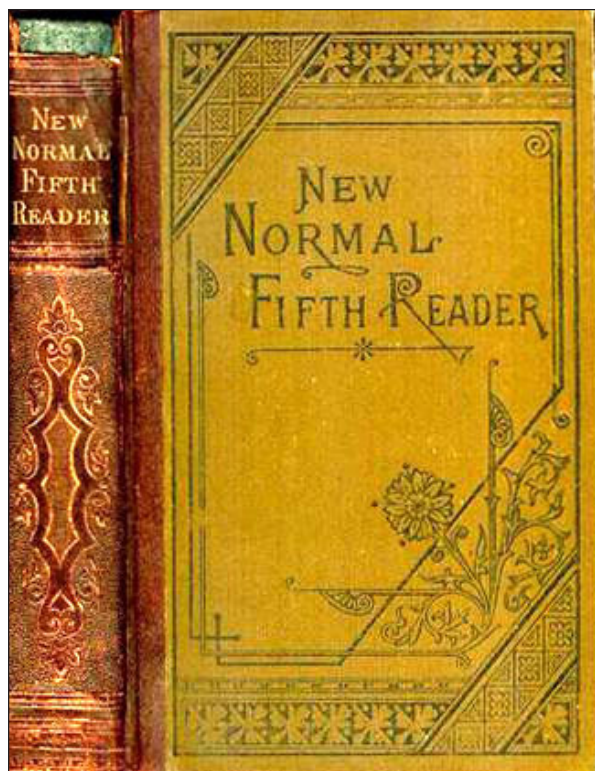
Ex. 4: American Educational Reader — No. 5
Publisher: Ivison, Blakeman & Taylor, 1873



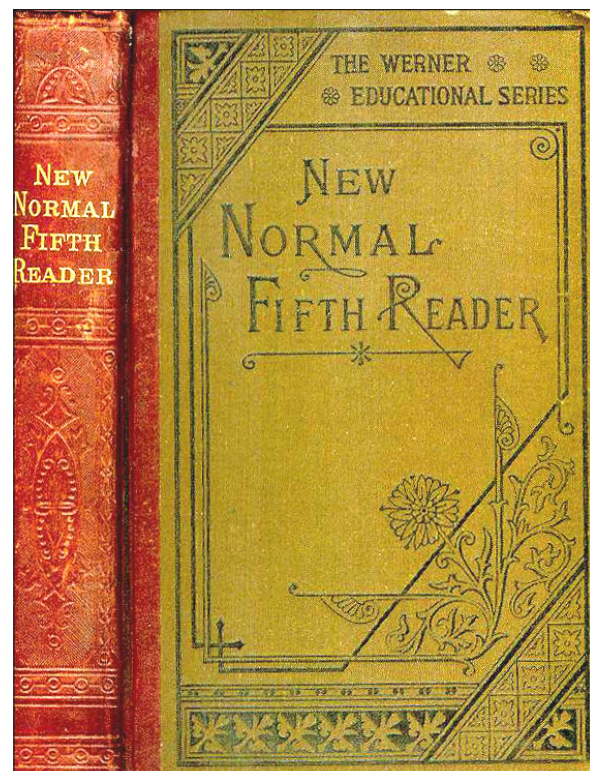
Ex. 5: *Swinton's Fourth Reader*
First Publisher: Ivison, Blakeman & Taylor, 1883



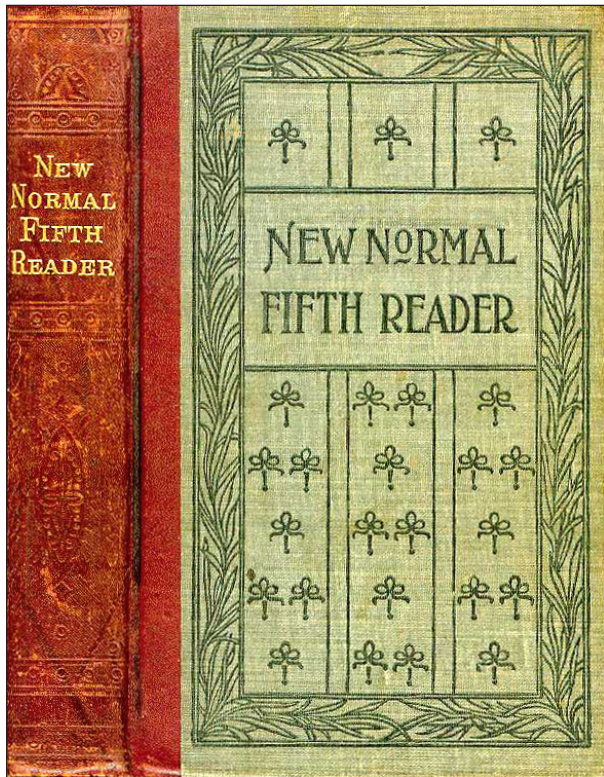
Ex. 6: *Swinton's Fourth Reader*
Second Publisher: American Book Co., 1890s



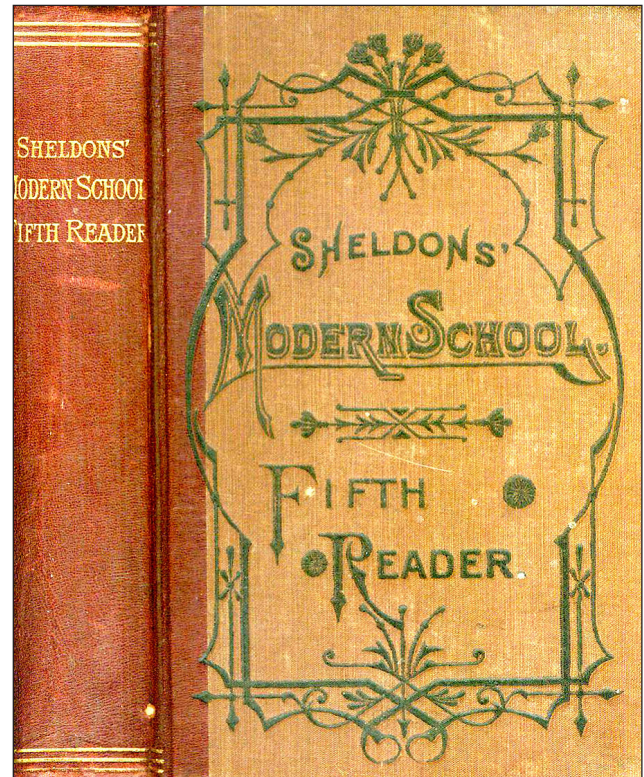
Ex. 7: *New Normal Fifth Reader*
Publisher: Porter & Coates, 1878



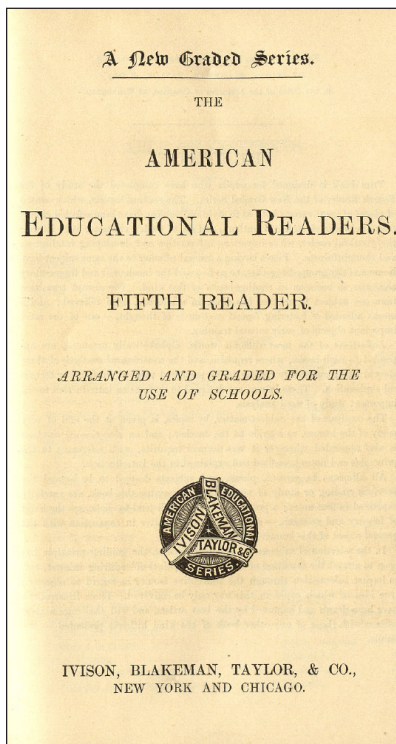
Ex. 8: *The Werner Educational Series — New Normal Fifth Reader*. Publisher: Werner, 1894



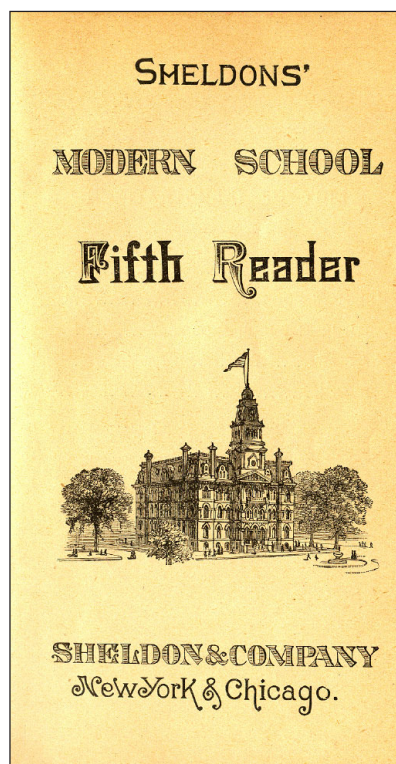
Ex. 9: *New Normal Fifth Reader*
 Publisher: American Book Co., ca. 1895



Ex. 10: *Sheldon & Co.'s Modern School Fifth Reader*
 was published by Sheldon & Co. in 1882. The above 1885 printing shortened the title to *Sheldons' Modern School Fifth Reader*.



Title pages for *American Educational Reader No. 5* and *Sheldons' Modern School Fifth Reader*.



Horatio Alger's School Books and Educational Readers

(Continued from Page 6)

shortened to *Sheldons' Modern School Fifth Reader* and even later was issued by Butler, Sheldon & Company.

It's always exciting to find something new by Horatio Alger, Jr. I sincerely hope that your Alger discoveries have been exciting as mine!

NOTES

1. Bob Bennett, *A Collector's Guide to the Published Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.* Newark, DE, MAD Book Company, 1999, p. 249.

2. *Publisher's Weekly*, Vol. IV, Nos. 2 and 3, July 1873 (Educational Number), Whole Nos. 78-79, p. 68.

3. *Publisher's Weekly*, Vol. XXIII, No. 26, June 30, 1883, Whole No. 597, p. 750.

Additions to the Alger bibliography

By Gary Scharnhorst

Over the past few years I've located a number of hitherto unknown reprintings of Alger poems and stories, which I list below. Among the most interesting, to me, is the first item: a reprint of an early Alger poem from the *Boston Transcript* in the *Liberator*, the leading abolitionist newspaper, edited by William Lloyd Garrison.

In addition, I have found a brief, untitled essay by Alger published in the *Christian Union* in 1883 that has been lost to scholarship until now. In it, Alger defends his brand of juvenile literature and asserts that books for children should be entertaining as well as instructive.

POEMS

"The Child of the Street," *Liberator*, 4 May 1855, 72.

"Apple Blossoms," *Friends' Intelligencer*, 16 June 1860, 220.

"Song of the Croaker," *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, 16 July 1863, 4:3.

"Song of the Croaker," *Haverhill Gazette*, 15 July 1864, 1:1.

"Song of the Croaker," *Springfield Republican*, 20 July 1864, 2:5.

"Song of the Croaker," *San Francisco Bulletin*, 17 February 1868, 4:1.

"Song of the Croaker," *Atchison Daily Champion and Press*, 13 June 1875, 2:6.

"A Child's Question," *Zion's Herald and Wesleyan Journal*, 30 December 1863, 1.

"Carving a Name," *Zion's Herald and Wesleyan Journal*, 3 February 1864, 1.

"Carving a Name," *Herald of Gospel Liberty*, 9 November 1916, 1417.

"Where is My Boy Tonight?" *San Francisco Bulletin*, 19 August 1864, 4:1.

"Out of Egypt," *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, 3 December 1864, 4:5.

"John Maynard," *Springfield Republican*, 10 February 1868, 6:1-2.

"John Maynard," *New England Farmer*, 17 August 1872, 4:1.

"John Maynard," *Boston Globe*, 25 December 1908, 10.

SHORT STORIES

Carl Cantab, "The Elite of Elltown," *Trenton Daily True American*, 5 August 1854, 1:4-5.

"A Gift by the Wayside," *Rochester Democrat*, 7 November 1863, 3:1.

"A Gift by the Wayside," *Christian Register*, 28 November 1863, p. 192.

"A Gift by the Wayside," *San Francisco Alta California*, 25 June 1865, 4:1.

"What Came of a Valentine," *Newport Mercury*, 29 April 1865, 1:2-4.

"Squire Pitman's Peaches," *Boston Commonwealth*, 12 August 1865, 4:1-2.

"The Fallen Bridge," *Ohio Farmer*, 23 September 1865, 304.

"How Johnny Bought a Sewing Machine," *Christian Inquirer*, 2 August 1866, 7.

"Job Warner's Christmas," *St. Louis Daily Missouri Republican*, 26 December 1866, 1:4-5.

"Job Warner's Christmas," *Philadelphia Press*, 30 December 1866, 6:1-4.

"Job Bradshaw's Luck," *Boston Globe*, 26 December 1867, 5.

"The Managing Wife," *Massachusetts Ploughman and New England Journal of Agriculture*, 21 July 1888, 4.

"How John's Idea Came Out," *Boston Globe*, 29 October 1893, 27:4-6.

Christian Union, 10 May 1883, 368.

I am indebted to the courtesy of the *Christian Union* for the proof of an article by Mr. Mabie on "Literature for Children,"¹ accompanied by a request that I should give my views on the same subject.

I have read the article with interest, and am disposed to agree with the writers² in the main. I have always held that it is injudicious to write down to the supposed comprehension of children, or to keep them in leading strings too long. An author who shows respect for their intelligence will stand in higher favor with them, and will seldom find that he has overestimated it. When a young boy I applied to a lady for the loan of one of Fredrika Bremer's novels.³ She was perfectly willing to lend it, and did so, but expressed a doubt as to whether it were not too "old" or me. I silently resented the imputation, feeling my intelligence underrated.

Some children mature mentally much earlier than others. I have known boys of fourteen who could appreciate the *Waverley* novels,⁴ while others would not care for them at eighteen. A thoughtful parent or teacher will not confine a boy or girl to books prepared for children longer than is necessary. The taste for reading ought to be progressive. A young man ought not to be satisfied with the same class of books which he enjoyed as a boy. It will be a sign that he has stood tall intellectually. The realm of books opens more widely as we advance in age, and we find ourselves at maturity embarrassed by the

(Continued on Page 10)

Additions to the Alger bibliography

(Continued from Page 9)

wealth of wisdom, wit, and imagination that invites our enjoyment.

The great works which are our most precious legacy from the past should not be abridged or simplified to bring them down to the comprehension of childhood. It is better for the young to wait till their minds are mature enough to enjoy them in their original form.

I do not approve the arbitrary repression of a boy's natural taste. Those who are most ambitious to serve as literary advisers to the young are often most incompetent. Had Sir Walter Scott, instead of being allowed to browse at will in the library where he gathered the lore of story and legend of which in after years he made such profitable use, been committed to the tutelage of some such narrow-minded guide, his loss and that of the world would have been incalculable. Books read from a sense of duty seldom

benefit. I remember so reading a voluminous history during a college vacation, when I thirsted for something entirely different, and was entitled to it after months of hard study. Instead of being refreshed I was mentally wearied, and gained no advantage from the tiresome chronicle. Children doubtless stand in need of advice, but it should come from one who understands them since there can be no uniform rule applying to all varieties of taste and temperament.

Horatio Alger, Jr

NOTES

1. Hamilton Mabie (1846-1916) argued for the didactic function of juvenile fiction in his article (*Christian Union*, 10 May 1883, p. 367).

2. The other contributors to the symposium on children's literature were the writers Frank H. Converse, Eliot McCormick (1849-1891), Charles Barnard (1838-1920), and J. T. Trowbridge (1827-1916), former editor of *Our Young Folks*.

3. The Scandinavian feminist and author Frederika Bremer (1801-1865) traveled through the U. S. in 1849-1851, when Alger was a student at Harvard.

4. The Waverley novels such as *Ivanhoe* by Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) were among Alger's favorite works.

A comment from the editor ...

Horatio Alger's short stories and poems constitute a crucial element of the Alger legacy, and from the earliest days of the Horatio Alger Society, researchers have diligently worked hard to come up with new information.

In the December 1974 *Newsboy*, a list of known short stories was printed under the headline "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Horatio Alger's Shorts," from primary research by Gilbert K. Westgard II and Bob Bennett, with contributing research by Jack Barker, Brad Chase, Max Goldberg, Dave Kanarr, Paul Miller, Stanley Pachon and Alex Shaner.

This material (including all known reprints at the time) appeared in Bennett's Alger bibliography in 1980, and new information gathered by Bennett prior to his death has been added to the current edition of Bennett's book, *A Collector's Guide to the Published Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.* (1999, Newark, Delaware, MAD Book Co.).

The original periodical publishers of Alger's poems and short stories are known, for the most part. However, because of Alger's popularity, many of these pieces were republished again and again, including a good number of them in *Newsboy* over the years. The finest collection of Horatio Alger poems remains *Alger Street* (Boston: J.S. Canner Co., 1964), compiled and edited by Gilbert K. Westgard II. A very noteworthy collection of

the short stories is *The Lost Tales of Horatio Alger*, compiled by Gary Scharnhorst (Bar Harbor, ME: Acadia Press, 1989).

But the aforementioned known reprints of these stories remain an open book. They were picked up by community newspapers, usually in New England, as well as big-city papers as far away as San Francisco.

Victor Berch and Eddie LeBlanc presented all the then-known information in their self-published bibliography, *The Alger Short Stories*, in 1990 (above). For example, the book lists some 30 reprintings of Alger's famous poem, "John Maynard."

Over the years, more information has emerged, and the list in Scharnhorst's article is just the latest chapter in bringing our knowledge of the reprintings of Alger's poems and short stories up to date. Incidentally, You will notice Scharnhorst has found yet another reprint of "John Maynard" — in the *Boston Globe* in 1908.



'Finding a Fortune in Carson Valley'

(Continued from Page 3)

in Emeryville, Calif., or catch the train in Sacramento. One of the treats about taking this travel venue is that you'll have docents who provide commentaries on the building of this famous section of the Trans-Continental railroad. If you take the train from points east, you'll see spectacular scenery through the Colorado Rockies.

Ride sharing and/or shuttle service

We will have information regarding rental car ride-sharing on the Horatio Alger Society Web site.

Through our hotel, the Plaza Hotel Carson City, you can arrange your own shuttle service to and from the Reno/Tahoe International Airport. You can contact the hotel by calling 1-888-227-1499 or visiting its Web site at www.carsoncityplaza.com to schedule your shuttle pick-up and to find out current shuttle rate.

Driving to the convention

If you are driving westbound on Interstate 80, take Exit 15, (U.S. 395 south) toward Carson City when you get to Reno. After 10.1 miles, take Exit 57B toward Virginia City/Carson City/South Lake Tahoe. After 17.6 miles, take Exit 43, the North Carson street exit.

The Carson City Plaza hotel (801 South Carson Street) will be about 4 miles down North Carson street on the left hand side.

If you are driving westbound on Interstate 40, stay on 40 until it becomes Interstate 15 south. After going 3.4 miles on I-15 south, take California highway 58 west exit



The Carson Station Hotel Casino, located across the street from the H.A.S. convention hotel, serves full breakfasts daily.

Photo by Mike Morley

toward Bakersfield. Go 30 miles and take the US 395 North exit (you will be crossing into Nevada). Drive 350 miles on 395 north and you will arrive in Carson City. The Plaza Hotel (801 South Carson Street) will be on your right.

If you are driving eastbound from Sacramento, take U.S. 50 East toward Placerville. Go about 125 miles; Highway 50 intersects Highway 395. Turn left on 395; the Carson City Plaza hotel is about 3 miles on the right.

Detailed directions to the Carson City Plaza Hotel are available at www.carsoncityplaza.com/Directions/

President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

Alger. I read through this entry again (like many wikipedia entries, the Alger entry is frequently modified), and added a link to the H.A.S. home page in the "External Links" section.

Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.com) is the world's largest encyclopedia on the Web. Anybody can contribute to Wikipedia (like I did) on nearly any conceivable subject. This has its good and bad sides: there are so many people looking at an entry that erroneous information is usually caught quickly; on the other hand, nothing stops a contributor from editing a definition to suit their particular bias. And Wikipedia custodians have to exercise constant vigilance to repair deliberate or accidental vandalism.

But I digress. I largely agreed with what the Horatio Alger, Jr. wikipedia entry said about Alger's life and work. You might have a look at this entry for yourself (at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horatio_Alger,_Jr.) and see if you agree. If you have any additions or corrections that you believe need to be made to the Alger wikipedia entry, please go ahead and make them, or contact me, and I'll make them for you.

Again, don't forget to send in your registration form as well as reserve your hotel room. Janice and myself look forward to seeing you May 15-18 in Carson City!

Your Partic'lar Friend,
 Michael Morley
 1891 Colt Lane
 Gardnerville, NV 89410
 Phone: (775) 265-3063
 E-mail: mmorley@carsonvalleybooks.com



This road sign welcoming visitors to Nevada's Carson Valley is in Gardnerville, home of convention hosts Janice and Mike Morley.



Carson Valley and the great Sierras beckon

Photos
by Mike Morley

A bronze statue honoring the legendary Kit Carson is located on the State Capitol grounds.



The beautiful Eastern Sierras, as viewed from Carson Valley.



This replica of a historic railroad station is located in the Nevada State Train Museum.



The Nevada state legislature building in downtown Carson City.

Book review

Come fly with me: Boys' aviation series books

By Arthur P. Young (PF-941)

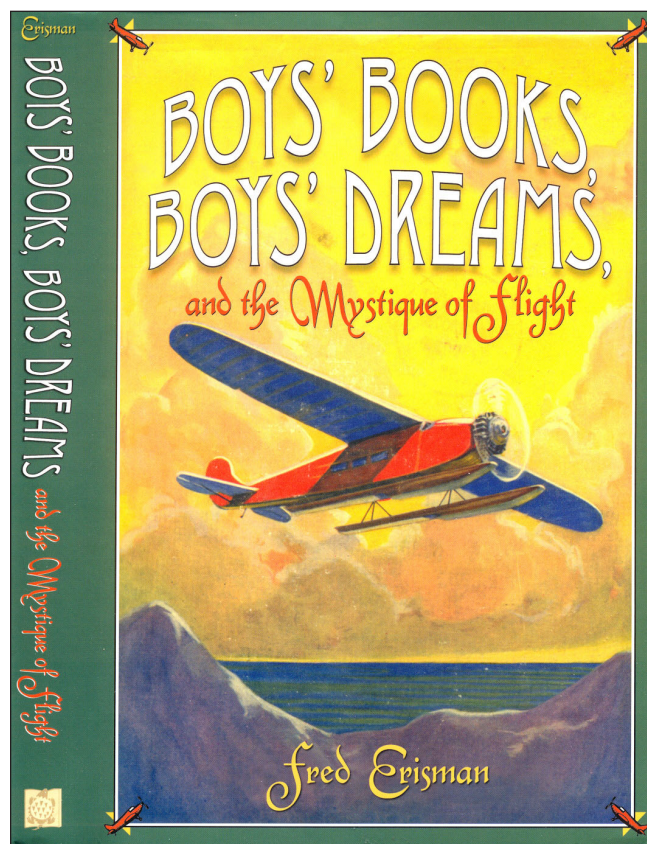
Fred Erisman is superbly qualified to write this volume on boys' aviation series books from 1910-1950. He is emeritus professor of literature at Texas Christian University, with specialties in children's literature, science fiction, and detective fiction. He has also served as Charles A. Lindbergh chair of Aerospace History, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

Erisman begins with a refrain familiar to series book collectors: "They are the outcast orphans of the serious literature and the starveling step children of American technological history. Large-scale histories of literature normally make no mention of them, histories of children's literature fob them off as a little consequence, and only specialized popular-culture studies give them anything resembling attention. Histories of American technology ignore them out right, or give them only passing notice." Erisman's rescue effort is propelled by his knowledge of popular series literature and his expertise in the real-world technological underpinning represented in these stories.

Divided into eight chapters, Erisman focuses on the following areas: technology and the series book; bird men and boys, 1905-1915; World War I and after; Charles A. Lindbergh and Atlantic flight; the Lindbergh Progency; the Air-minded Society; World War II and modern aviation; and Aftermath, A.-bombs, Rockets, and Space Flight. Summarizing the unifying themes of the early Stratemeyer series books, Erisman highlights pluck, patriotism, honesty, and right will prevail.

The earliest aviation series books by such authors as H.L. Sayler, a James Otis, Wilbur Lawton, and John L. Langworthy introduced readers to the details of aircraft construction, conveyed the challenges of early flight, empowered every reader to pursue the requisite skills, and "... affirmed a vision of the future in which powerful airplanes under the command of careful, conscientious

Erisman, Fred, Ph. D.: *Boys' Books, Boys' Dreams and the Mystique of Flight*. ISBN 13: 978-0-87565-330-3. Fort Worth, Texas: Texas Christian University Press, 2007, 345 pages; bibliography and illustrations. \$29.95.



flyers will crisscross the world, making the society of the future a truly aeronautical one."

The originator of boys aviation series books, H. L. Sayler (1863-1913), receives special credit for technical realism and buoyant optimism about the potential of flight. Horace Porter's "Our Young Aeroplane Scouts" is noted for its realistic depiction of war and for its technological accuracy. Following World War I, Thomson Burtis' "Russ Farrell" series introduces the notion of the "...overt linking of aviation with personal worth and national, even cultural, progress."

Moving into the post-World War I period, Erisman's best chapter examines the Lindbergh legacy as reflected in such series as Rex Lee, Andy Lane, and the Stratemeyer Syndicate's Ted Scott. These books advanced aviation series by their invocation of flight as a liberating experience and by connecting flight to societal advances. As for WWII aviation series, Al Avery's "Yankee Flier" stories rate high marks for authenticity and the incorporation of world events. The Robert Sidney Bowen series', "Dave Dawson," and "Red Randall" are downgraded for their unrelenting bellicosity.

Fred Erisman has delivered a splendid volume, a model for others to emulate. Only two overlooked series were noted — "Bob Thorpe," by Austin Bishop, and "Arnold Adair," by Laurence Latourette Driggs.

Another previously unknown series

By Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879)

In the fall of 2001, Mary Ann took me to a small town in Iowa known for its antique stores. It also had a small bookstore at that time. In the back of one antique store, there were several cases of books, and we went through them. Nothing much came to light, but I did purchase a book titled *Boys' Camp* by an author unfamiliar to me. His name is Max Siegel. The book was published by Wm. Penn Publishing Corp. in 1942. This copy is signed and inscribed by the author as a Christmas gift from Marie to one Stanley Lehnhardt, but the inscription is undated. I took it home, shelved it, and promptly forgot about it for five years.

We took another trip to this town in the fall of 2006. The bookstore had closed, but the little antiqueshop with the cases in the back was still there, so we had another look. And there, in a different case, was another book by Max Siegel, this one in dust jacket. The title is *Boys' Club*, and it was

published by Houghton Mifflin Company in 1939. This copy is also signed by the author, and it has another inscription — from Marie to Stanley Lehnhardt, dated Christmas 1945.

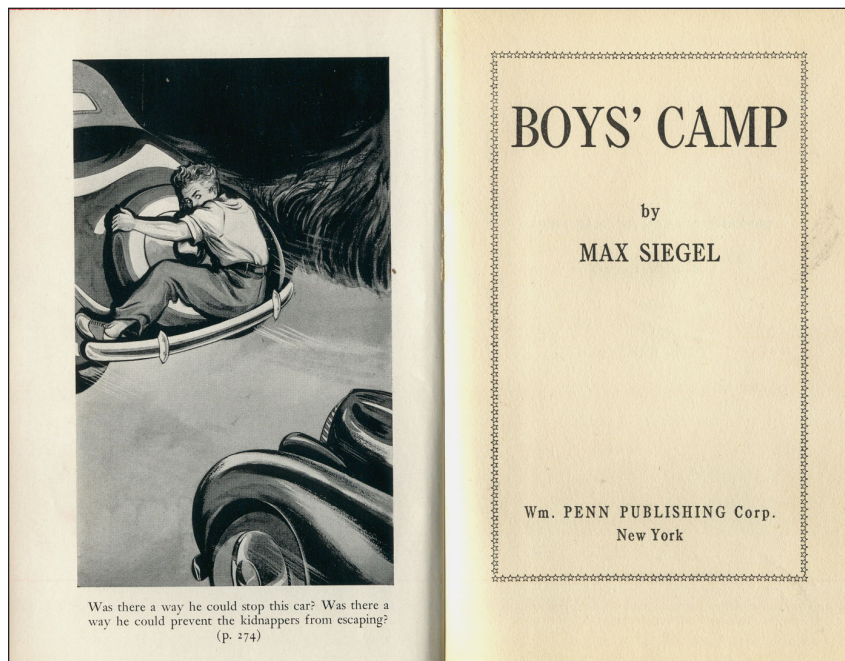
The book is illustrated by Paul Quinn, with numerous half-page line drawings throughout. It is also a tall octavo, whereas the Penn title is standard series-book size. Obviously, I had missed this book on our first tour, as the two, coming from the same person, must have both been in the store on our first visit. In five years no one else had spotted it.

I began attempting to locate information on the books and the author. Most searches for Max Siegel result in information about the movie producer from the 1930s or the man sponsoring Dale Earnhardt's racing career. But I did locate a bare bones record of a person by this name who was born 15 August 1904 and died in April 1972 in

Chicago. I know from records from Houghton Mifflin that Siegel lived in Chicago in 1938 and 1950, so it is likely that was his permanent home.

In November 1938 the author obtained a contract with Houghton Mifflin to publish *The Boys' Club of Mason Street* (oddly enough, we live on a street with the same name). Houghton later pared the title down to just *Boys' Club*. The story centers on a group of youths in a Midwestern city who form a club in an empty house to promote their healthy activities, as the local bully and his cohorts attempt to take over the club to extort protection

money from local businessmen. This fellow is defeated, and one of his followers changes his stripe to become a club member. This fellow is a main character in the second book, which follows the group's adventures in a locally promoted summer camp as they solve a mystery. The two are well-written and mildly exciting. The city in the first book seems more like Des Moines (as it was



Was there a way he could stop this car? Was there a way he could prevent the kidnapers from escaping?
(p. 274)

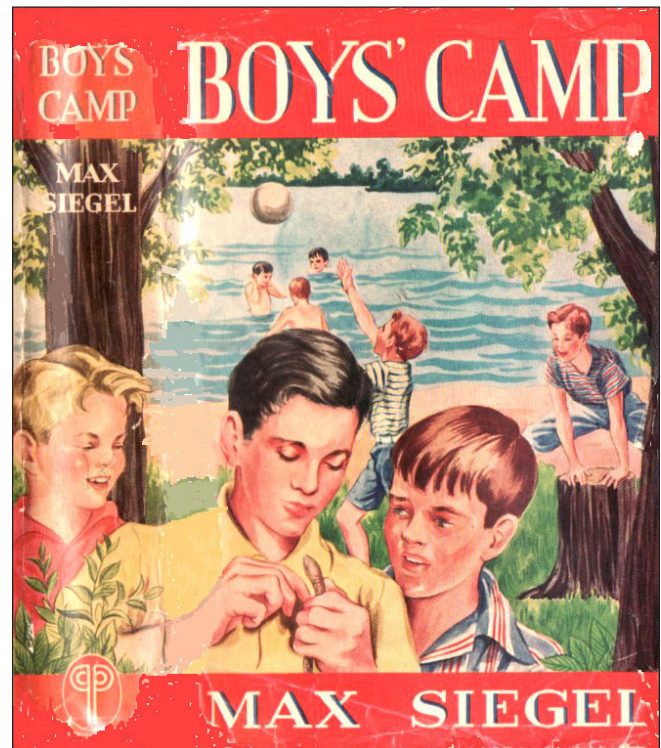
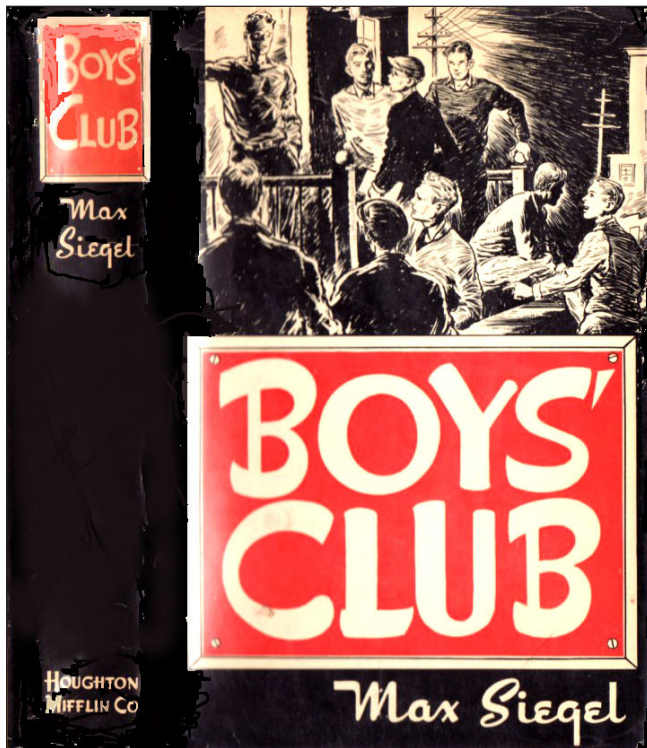
circa 1940) than a large city like Chicago, and the camp is in a country setting on a lake some miles out of town.

Although Houghton Mifflin had an option on Siegel's second book, they must have declined, as the book eventually was published by Penn. *Boys' Camp* physically resembles the first book (both are in red cloth with titles in black), but the art has been cut back to an uncredited glossy frontispiece (above).

I have also obtained a dust jacket for this book, and the artist is obviously different. The most interesting thing about this jacket is the rear flap, which carries a blurb for the very scarce *A Microphone for David*, Rick Brant Series author Hal Goodwin's first book.

Together, these two titles constitute a new series, as they have a continuing cast of characters and a common location. As the boys named their club The American

(Continued on Page 16)



Another previously unknown series

(Continued from Page 15)

Boys Club, I think for reference we can use that name for the series. It seems probable that the author would have chosen that title had Houghton Mifflin continued to publish the books.

In April 1950, Houghton Mifflin shipped 21 copies of

Boys' Club back to the author. Later that month the publishers offered the plates to Siegel, as all copies were disposed of, and they declined to reprint the book. The results of this offer were not recorded, but it does seem safe to assume that all copies of *Boys' Club* are first printings. No information concerning the publication of *Boys' Camp* was located, as the publisher has been out of business for years.

Although not common, copies of both books are available on the Internet, but they may not last long.

Happy hunting!

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

change the letters — all of them have something along the lines of 'We support you, NIU,' or 'We're thinking of you. You're in our prayers.' Every business around town has shown its support. I have never seen anything like that, and people are just really going out of their way to be kind to one another, which is always a good thing.

"I'm really, really proud of how our campus and community has responded to this tragedy," Lynne added. "We've handled the whole thing with a lot of dignity, and it's been a very appropriate response, where people are able to acknowledge their feelings and do what needs to be done in terms of dealing with it, but at the

same time, we're all very aware that the eyes of the country have been on us."

Cole Hall, where the shootings took place during a lecture, resulting in six deaths (including the shooter), is just a short walk to the west of the Holmes Student Center, the location of our conventions in 1999 and 2004. In fact, the rare books department at Founders Memorial Library faces toward Cole Hall.

This kind of event is happening too often in American high schools and colleges, and one of the amazing "coming together" responses was the moral support from Virginia Tech students and faculty, who underwent their own horrible tragedy a year ago. The NIU "family" certainly appreciated the gesture.

Let's just hope and pray these kinds of events do not happen again.