



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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Editor's notebook

In this issue we continue our survey of prominent publishers of boys' and girls' books and the methods they used (if any) for identifying first editions. As previously noted, many of the mass-market publishers of inexpensive series books did not specifically identify first editions, with a study of advertisements in the books and dust jackets (in particular) the best means of narrowing down first or subsequent printings.

The more mainstream publishers of adult fiction and non-fiction (which also produced juveniles to a somewhat lesser degree) usually used the various standard means of identifying first editions discussed in this space last issue, or they used their own proprietary means of identification. These publishers are the main focus of this ongoing study, which discusses them in alphabetical order. The previous installment ended with Cupples & Leon.

We should note that many of these publishers are still doing business today under the same or similar names, owing to the ongoing trend toward mega-mergers and consolidation of the book-publishing industry. The first-edition criteria as described are generally limited to the early and mid-20th century when these publishers became involved with series books and other juvenile literature.

Sources of information for this Editor's Notebook were *A Pocket Guide to the Identification of First Editions*, compiled by Bill McBride (self-published, Hartford, Ct., 1995); *First Editions: A Guide to Identification*, third edition, edited by Edward N. Zempel and Linda A. Verkler (Peoria, Ill.: The Spoon River Press, 1995); and *How to Identify and Collect American First Editions*, by Jack Tannen (New York: Arco Publishing Co., 1976). Additional information was gleaned by examining the books themselves.

Dodd, Mead & Co., New York

This longtime mainstream publisher of adult fiction and nonfiction also carried a decent catalog of juvenile titles, several in series that are avidly collected today.

Usual identification method: Prior to 1976, Dodd, Mead used matching years on the title page and copyright page (verso) or listed no additional printings on the copyright page. In a 1976 statement, the publisher said:

"We generally do not mark a book's first edition nor do we usually mark second or later printings, although there are exceptions to this practice and there seems to be no consistency about doing so. Naturally, if a second printing is marked, the absence of such notice would indicate a first edition. Any notice of editions would appear as such on the

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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 — lads whose struggles epitomized the great American dream and flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans.

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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.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY H.A.S.

- Horatio Alger, Jr., A Comprehensive Bibliography*, by Bob Bennett (PF-265); republished by MAD Book Co., 1999
- 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).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by The New York Book 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, 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.

Wallace Palmer: A true giant passes

By Ralph D. Gardner (PF-053)

My Partic'lar Friend Wallace Palmer died in his sleep during the weekend of March 3. He was 89 years old and lived at his generations-old family house at Independence, Mo.

I received the news in a phone call the following Monday morning from his niece, Martha Sue Miller of Waco, Texas; then, by mail a day later from another niece, Polly Palmer Brunkhardt of Prairie Village, Kansas, who, like her sister, Penny Lumpkin, lived near enough to visit their uncle regularly.

Wallace (PF-612) joined the Horatio Alger Society in 1980, but I knew him well before then through frequent correspondence discussing our mutually favorite reading of a bygone era. As a matter of fact, it was I who brought him into H.A.S., which he repeatedly proclaimed gave him many of the happiest hours and best friends of his long, eventful life.

Although his familiarity with Alger's works was vast, he knew even more about the writings of Edward

Stratemeyer, of whose books he had a virtually complete collection. Back in the 1920s, Wallace — visiting in New York — called upon Stratemeyer, and the great author-editor-publisher was so impressed with this young man's knowledge of the Rover Boys, Tom Swift and other Stratemeyer Syndicate products, that he assigned to him two synopses of novels to develop. Wallace did this, receiving one hundred dollars for his efforts. But these stories, Wallace recalled, were never published.

I often asked him to write his recollections of Stratemeyer for *Newsboy*, but that never came to pass.

Wallace's parents were leading educators in Independence. Wallace's father — whom President Harry Truman fondly recalled as his teacher — became that city's Superintendent of

Schools. Numerous H.A.S. members who attended our 1992 convention in Waco met Wallace's sister, Elizabeth Palmer Thompson, truly the *grande dame* of Waco and a staunch benefactor of Baylor University. Mrs. Thomp-

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Wallace Palmer (PF-612), center, with his niece, Martha Sue Miller, and Ralph Gardner (PF-053) in front of the bronze doors of Baylor University's Armstrong-Browning Library during the 1992 H.A.S. Convention in Waco, Texas. Photo courtesy Martha Sue Miller

An e-eulogy for a wonderful Partic'lar Friend

By Gilbert K. Westgard II (PF-024)

Ever since we've known him, going back to the convention held in Willow Grove, he was continually telling us that he was a dying old man. I'm so glad that he took such a very long time, just a bit shy of 18 years, to go about the process. It gave us the extraordinary opportunity to get to know and appreciate a really unique human personality, and not just the wizened old gnome that many saw, who only viewed the external. When we took the trouble to contact the fellow who inhabited the outer shell of clay, there was a witty and wide-ranging mind that encompassed many surprising topics.

His letters, almost his sole means of communication, were always as entertaining and enlightening, as they were especially eccentric, both in style and content.

Because he usually had so much to say, they ran for many pages, the margins were always narrow, and the type ran from the top to the bottom in a nearly uninterrupted flow, much as if it was a mighty Niagara that was conveying concepts and ideas in precious nuggets for our particular enjoyment.

I shall always regret that our good friend never had the speedy convenience of e-mail: it would have been a mighty two-way stream of fast flowing ideas, sent forth without having to prepare envelopes, attach postage, or wait for the Post Office to deliver it, or any concern for the conventional niceties of punctuation and appropriate capitalization of the first person singular.

He almost always referred to himself in the lower case

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear H.A.S. members:

Ever since Ralph Gardner brought my uncle, Wallace Palmer, into the Horatio Alger Society in 1980, he considered all of his Partic'lar Friends as very special. This association meant very much to him through the years — as he indicated in his many letters.

When the H.A.S. convention was held in Waco, at Baylor University in 1992, Wallace came with John Juvinal and family. My mother, Elizabeth Palmer Thompson, and I enjoyed meeting many of you at that time.

Peter Walther made a wonderful tribute to Wallace in his article "A Stratemeyer Necrology" in the March-April 1998 *Newsboy*, in which he wrote:

"All of us should be grateful to him for his letters and all the information he imparts, which is unavailable anywhere else. We need to do what we can to jog his memory and treat him as the national treasure that he is."

Wallace Palmer appreciated your friendship to the very end.

Sincerely,
Martha Thompson Miller
3912 Green Oak
Waco, Texas 76710

Wallace Palmer: A true giant passes

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son, who is nearing 100 years of age, survives him. His late brother, Bill, a publisher from Topeka, Kansas, also became a member of the Horatio Alger Society.

After attending the University of Missouri Law School, Wallace practiced law in Kansas City until he retired. His interests — some of which we shared — were extensive. These included foreign films of the 1930s: "Sous les Toits de Paris," "Grande Illusion," "Metropolis" and others. He knew the French film stars Sacha Guitry, Louis Jouvet and Fernandel. He traveled extensively and I was impressed with the impeccable usage of French, German, Italian and Latin phrases in his long letters.

He thoroughly enjoyed our annual conventions and attended as many as his health permitted. During the past few days a number of his H.A.S. pals phoned to ask if I knew he had died. While we realized that, like all people, Wallace must some day die, somehow we believed he never would. Wallace Palmer truly was a Partic'lar Friend to remember.

An e-eulogy . . .

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as i. Rarely was a capital I used. His typing abounded with capitalizations where none were needed, but he wanted no self promotion that went beyond an all too modest little lower case i for himself.

He occasionally doubted his sanity, saying that he feared he was going crazy, and then I let him know that I felt he was sane, though a bit eccentric, and, after all, has not most of human progress and beneficial change been due to some eccentric individual who thought of some new way to get the old deed done? Didn't the long ago inventor of the wheel ask his neighbor if he might like to roll something to where he was going, instead of toting it? Edison must have thought moving a switch, would be far more convenient than striking matches. Wally was a wonderful eccentric, and far saner than some of those we send to Washington.

He knew one of the great 20th century Presidents of the United States, for he was a neighbor to Harry S Truman, and his mother had been one of Mr. Truman's teachers in the local high school, of which his father was the principal. But even with such a friend, his great devotion was to Edward Stratemeyer, and since he was able to find a few other Stratemeyer fans at the conventions, he always thought of them as Stratemeyer meetings, as for him that is indeed what they were.

Talk of Alger passed him by, and not just because of his deafness, but because Alger wrote for a 19th century boy, and Stratemeyer creations, such as the Rover Boys, Dave Porter, and Tom Swift, were all 20th century heroes, models of manliness for lads of his century of science and invention, artd not just boys who overcame the grinding poverty and assorted greed and evil that surrounded them.

I often attempted to get him to write down a coherent and connected account of how as a teenager he had been employed by Edward Stratemeyer, but he was far too modest and felt that any writing he might do on this topic would be unworthy of the magnitude of the subject. However, once you got him started on this time of his life in a face-to-face conversation, he would hold you enthralled for as long as nature would permit.

Because of the booming quality and volume of his voice, what was intended to be a private session of written questions, followed by lengthy and complicated spoken answers, often took others in the room by surprise. Once they realized what Wally was saying, they fell silent, and tuned into a recitation of a unique individual whom Edgar Allan Poe would have called, in

"The Raven," "A quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore," and only when his long-enduring voice became tired, sometimes not until more than an hour had elapsed, could a bit of respite be obtained.

I remember one of the staff in a fast food restaurant asking me if what he had been listening to with rapt attention was true. It was a pleasure to inform him that what Wally had to say was reliable, and to later tell our good friend about the awe-struck quality he engendered in the young questioner.

The number of authors about whom he could relate interesting anecdotes in his letters was astounding. You could ask him a question that could easily be answered in a simple sentence, or even by a single word, and Wally would take the opportunity to convey a genuine educational experience that no other individual I've ever known could accomplish.

And sometimes these wonderful treasures would fill entire pages of an individual letter that was laboriously prepared for just a single reader, but could easily have been addressed to all lovers of good literature around the world. What a great experience it was to sort the mail, and recognize his Independence, Missouri, return address and knowing that soon you were going to be once again in touch with his unusual genius. These were not letters that could be digested in a quick scan. Often their total comprehension took a whole evening.

The love of his life was his wife Helen, and even though she had divorced him many years earlier, he always spoke and wrote of her in the tenderest of terms. He realized quite keenly what she had to put up with, and was grateful for the time they had been together. He always had her picture with him, and liked to display it for your inspection and praise.

He appreciated all kinds of women, though I fear he did not understand them as fully as he would have liked.

Any small kindness they bestowed upon him was instantly returned with a wealth of genuine gratitude and an ample mental appreciation. He enjoyed their beauty, and could convey his pleasure in many rich terms of endearment.

His only great fear was death, or at least what would possibly happen to him in a post-mortal existence. I hope that if there is such an afterlife of the uncon-

ventional kind I occasionally wrote to him about, in an effort to assuage the anxiety he expressed on the subject of his own mortality, that he is now pleasantly reminiscing with Edward Stratemeyer about his heroes, and reliving some of the scenes in which we contributed to his comfort and convenience on the assorted "pilgrimages" he made to several Alger conventions in search of Edward Stratemeyer.

And if an afterlife is but a pleasant myth, concocted to calm our fear of the unknown, then at least a fine old gentleman has come

to the end of the conscious trail, and now has a well earned eternal rest.

A good and generous fellow, a truly fine partic'lar friend, has gone from our midst. We shall see him no more, but in our treasured memories he continues to shine. Sadly, there is no one of his great and noble stature to fill the deeply shadowed vacancy.

In remembering Wally, several individual lines come appropriately to mind from what Horatio Alger wrote of Shakespeare, in his "In the Church at Stratford-on-Avon":

*I stood in silent thought by Shakespeare's tomb.
The many-sided Shakespeare, rare of soul,
And dowered with an all-embracing mind.
Stand with bare head in reverential awe.
While in his grave our Shakespeare lives and sings.
Born in the purple, his imperial soul
Sits crowned and sceptered in the realms of mind.*



Wallace Palmer with his sister, Elizabeth Palmer Thompson, and 1961-1981 Baylor University President Abner V. McCall (a Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans honoree in 1963) during the 1992 H.A.S. Convention in Waco, Texas.

Photo courtesy Martha Sue Miller

H.A.S. Repository Endowment

By Samuel T. Huang (PF-963)

On behalf of the Horatio Alger Society and Northern Illinois University Libraries, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Robert G. Huber (PF-841) for his generous matching gift program. For those H.A.S. members who have made a contribution to the Horatio Alger Society Endowment Fund since 1997, we have received a dollar-for-dollar matching amount from Dr. Huber.

At the 1997 H.A.S. Convention, Dr. Huber stated that the Repository is a significant step forward in furthering the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and encouraging the spirit of "Strive and Succeed." Dr. Huber, through his actions, has demonstrated his trust that the H.A.S. Repository will continue to further research on Alger's works and provide valuable resources and research materials for both private book collectors and scholars. Dr. Huber's matching gift brought a new challenge to the Society's members and fueled contributions to the H.A.S. Endowment Fund.

Through his generosity and our members' support, we exceeded the minimum requirement to establish an endowment and will be able to generate income to preserve and to acquire additional materials. These valuable materials will attract qualified scholars to continue researching and publishing scholarly works relating to Horatio Alger and his philosophy. Although Dr. Huber's matching gift program was scheduled to end on Dec. 31, 2000, we have already exceeded the maximum amount of his offer and can expect no matching gifts.

For those of you who attended the 1999 H.A.S. Convention in DeKalb, you may have seen the Horatio Alger Society Endowment Plaque in the Horatio Alger Reading Room. This plaque proudly displays the names of contributors who have given a minimum \$50 to the fund.

Anyone who wishes to make a contribution to the Endowment, please make your check payable to **Northern Illinois University**, with notation that it is intended for the Horatio Alger Society Repository Endowment.

Checks should be mailed to:

**The University Libraries, FO 463
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115**

For a gift of \$50 or more, we will engrave a plate with your name and place it under "Contributors" on the endowment plaque. If you contribute \$500 or more, your engraved plate will be placed under "Charter Members" on the plaque. Before making your contribution, check with the personnel office to see if your employer offers a "matching gifts" program which, in effect, will double your donation to the Repository. Your support is greatly appreciated. All donations are tax-deductible.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (815) 753-9838.

For Sale

by Gilbert K. Westgard II (PF-024)

Timothy Crump's Ward is now in very short supply. I have only two individual copies of my edition for sale at \$24.00 each, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. After those are gone, the remaining copies, just twelve, will only be available as part of the final twelve complete sets of Westgard Limited Editions of the rarest titles of Alger's works.

Alger Street: The Poetry of Horatio Alger, Jr., Edited and Arranged by Gilbert K. Westgard II, is now totally out of print. I only discovered this about a week ago. At that time an out-of-print specialist quoted me a copy for \$160.00, plus shipping and handling. I have about a half-dozen publisher's seconds, with slight defects that in no way damage the text or completeness of the book for sale. Price subject to negotiation. Trades will be considered. Copies will be personally inscribed and dated for the purchasers.

First come, first served. Reserve by contacting:

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Visit the official Horatio Alger
Society Internet site at:

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Widow Brown's Oil Well

A Tale of Petroleum

By Horatio Alger, Jr.

Mrs. Anastasia Brown, better known as the Widow Brown, owned and cultivated a small farm of ten acres in a little Pennsylvania town. The humble homestead corresponded in size to the farm, being a one-story cottage, comprising but three rooms. The land was not very productive, but Mrs. Brown had only herself to provide for, and though her income would hardly warrant her in living luxuriously, on the other hand there was no danger of the alms-house. On the whole the widow might be considered comfortably provided for, though her farm and house together would have been dear at a thousand dollars.

But Mrs. Anastasia was not contented. She was an ambitious woman, and bent on bettering herself if the opportunity ever presented itself. To a lady under her circumstances a second marriage with an eligible party seemed to be the readiest road to higher station. But the widow's personal advantages were hardly of a character to inspire very lively hopes in that direction. She was tall and gaunt, and her share of the perishable but rather desirable gift of beauty had been below the average. Besides, she was near forty-five, and therefore of rather doubtful juvenility.

It chanced that the wealthiest man in town was a certain Squire Ebenezer Pogram, who, in addition to an excellent farm of three hundred acres, had a comfortable sum invested in stocks and bonds. He was a widower, and in the market. His wife would be the foremost lady in the village. For this position there was more than one aspirant, but among them all none apparently stood so poor a chance as Mrs. Anastasia Brown. But none the less the widow laid her plans to capture the citadel, and circumstances, aided by her own shrewdness, assisted her to accomplish it.

About this time the petroleum fever was at its height. There was a wild excitement general not only in the districts where petroleum had been discovered, but speculation was rife in the commercial capital, and companies with flaming pro-

spectuses were daily springing into existence. Farms which would have been considered dear at twenty dollars an acre, all at once enhanced in value fifty, or even an hundred fold, and the owners, who had hitherto found it difficult to earn a scanty subsistence, all at once found themselves rich beyond their wildest dreams.

Among those who cherished hopes of wealth from this source was Squire Pogram. He saw no reason why his own acres might not prove to be flowing with oil, and he had instituted some preliminary investigations which had only resulted in disappointment. Though already a man of abundant means, he was inclined to be grasping, and had no objection to doubling or trebling his present property. In fact the love of money was the ruling passion with the Squire, and this was not unknown to his townsmen.

Mrs. Brown, aware of this fact, determined upon a *coup d'etat*, if we may so call it, with a view of taking by assault the hand of the Squire — for his heart she cared little.

One morning the expressman brought to Mrs. Brown's cottage a keg, which was evidently full of some liquid.

"Fifty cents, widder," he said, as he lugged it into the back-room, and deposited it in the corner. "It's rather hefty."

"Yes," said the widow, "molasses is heavier 'n most anything else."

"Molasses, is it? Well, now, I reckon it'll take you a mighty long time to use up a keg full of molasses."

"I'm fond of it," said the widow, shortly.

"Yes, but there ain't but one on ye."

"I don't know but I shall take on a boarder, or two if I can get them," said Mrs. Brown, improvising a fib on the spur of the moment.

"Then you'll have to piece out your house, I reckon."

The widow was glad when the expressman with his intrusive curiosity was gone. In the country it is very common to comment with the utmost freedom upon the plans and proceedings of one's neighbors, and this sometimes has its disadvantages.

The widow did not open the keg till the next day. Then, instead of molasses, she found the contents to be petroleum oil. It might have been supposed that the substitution would have proved vexatious, but the widow took it very coolly. She managed to get the keg down the cellar stairs where she locked

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Editor's note: This is the third of three short stories by Horatio Alger, Jr., submitted to Newsboy by Gary Scharnhorst. These stories were published in the little-known magazine Public Spirit. Widow Brown's Oil Well appeared in issue No. 2, Feb. 1868.

Widow Brown's Oil Well

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it up in a closet. First, however, she filled a common water-pail with the precious liquid, and going to the well deliberately poured it down. After this rather singular proceeding, she looked carefully up the road until she saw a horse and buggy approaching, which she well knew belonged to Squire Pogram, who always came over the road about that time, to visit a small house which he was building for tenants a mile beyond.

The Squire was just abreast of the cottage, when the widow ran out and hailed him.

"O, Squire Pogram," she said, "won't you just drive into the yard a minute? The water in my well tastes so strangely. I do believe it's petroleum."

"Petroleum! The Squire pricked up his ears, and made all haste to do as requested.

"You don't say so, widder!" he exclaimed. "When did you notice it first?"

"I really didn't notice it much till today," said Mrs. Brown. "It might have tasted a little queer maybe, but today it's very strong."

"Let me taste," said the Squire. "I can tell if it's that, or something else. It may be some dead critter that's got drowned in the well and poisoned the water."

"O, I hope not," said the widow in a tone of alarm. "I wouldn't have my well sp'iled for a good deal."

"Except by petroleum," suggested the Squire. "I s'pose you'd be reconciled to that."

"Well, yes," owned the widow. "I wouldn't mind that."

By this time they had reached the well, and the Squire had already commenced lowering the bucket.

The widow was quite confident of the result, the oil having been so recently poured in. Still she felt a momentary alarm lest it had become so diffused that the portion of the water drawn up would show scant traces of admixture. But when the bucket came again to the top, she was reassured. On the surface of the water was a coating of oil. That was clear enough.

The Squire looked at it eagerly. His recent experiments qualified him to judge in the matter. He was silent a moment.

"Well, Squire Pogram, whet do you think?" asked Mrs. Brown eagerly.

"I do believe you're right, widder," said the Squire. "I'm inclined to the opinion that it's genuine petroleum."

"You don't say so, Squire! Well, I'm in luck for once in a way."

"I ain't certain. Suppose you give me a dipper,

and I'll taste on 't."

The dipper was brought, and Squire Pogram did taste. The taste produced some contortions of the face, for petroleum oil as a beverage can scarcely be regarded as pleasant, even when largely diluted with fresh well water.

"Well, Squire?"

"Mrs. Brown, there ain't no doubt of it. There's a petroleum string on your farm, and it has broken out in your well."

"Land sakes, Squire, who would have thought it! And there ain't another petroleum well in town?"

"No, that is, none has appeared yet, though I have reason to think some may be found on my farm."

"It's so unexpected, Squire," said the widow meditatively. "I really don't know what to do about it. What would you advise? You've always been a friend, and I can depend on your advice."

"Well," said the Squire clearing his throat, and speaking in a cautious tone. "I think I'd sell the farm."

"Sell the farm!" ejaculated the widow.

"Yes," continued her advisor, more confidently. "Being a lone woman, you can't sink wells, and work the petroleum yourself."

"But, Squire Pogram, I'd ought to get the benefit of it."

"Certainly, the farm is worth more than it was. I shouldn't mind givin' two, well, three thousand dollars for it, and that is more than three times what it would have fetched before."

"I don't hardly think I want to sell it for that, Squire. I get my livin' off it."

"Yes, widder, but consider what would be the interest of three thousand dollars invested in gov'ment bonds — seven-thirties, for instance. Why, it would be more 'n two hundred dollars a year."

"Yes, Squire, but that wouldn't hardly support me."

"I'll tell you what, widder. I'll give you three thousand dollars and you shall live in the house, rent free as long as you choose. Come, that's sayin' fair, isn't it?"

"On the whole, Squire," said the wily widow. "I don't think I'll decide just yet. Seems to me the farm ought to bring more 'n three thousand dollars. I'm much obliged to you for your friendly offer, but I guess I'd better take time to consider, and perhaps consult some other friends."

"Widder," said Squire Pogram, feeling that the rich prize was in danger of slipping from his grasp. "I'll tell ye what, I know it's foolish, but, as you're an old friend, I won't mind sayin' four thousand dol-

lars. It may be my loss, but it'll be your gain."

"I'm sure you're very kind, Squire Pogram, and I hope I'm properly grateful for your kind interest, but I hope you won't be offended if I don't decide just yet. I think I'd better go and see lawyer Norcross."

"Don't go and see *him*, whatever you do," said Squire Pogram hastily, for he feared that the lawyer would over-bid him. "Promise me to consider my offer till afternoon, and until then not to tell a livin' soul about what you've found in the well."

"Very well, Squire, I'll agree to that. 'Tisn't long to want till then."

"I'll call ag'in at three," said the Squire. "Don't forget your promise."

"I won't," said the widow.

The Squire drove out of the yard, and the widow, with a smile of triumph, looked after him.

"I'm pretty sure of being Mrs. Pogram if I work my cards right," she thought.

Meanwhile, the Squire drove away in a brown study. To think that the prize for which he had sought should after all have fallen to the lot of the widow with her ten poor acres. It was certainly strange. Now how should he find his own profit in it? If he could buy the farm even at five thousand dollars, he could readily make it pay him fifty thousand. The indications were that the oil spring was a rich one. At any rate the water he drank smacked strongly enough of the oil.

But would the widow sell? That was an important question. The more time she had for thought, the higher probably would her price advance. If she consulted Norcross he might as well give it up as a last chance, for the lawyer would be as anxious to secure it as himself. That was not to be thought of for a moment. But what if Mrs. Brown declined his offer? Was there no other way?

It was just at this moment that the other way suggested itself. He was a widower, Mrs. Brown was a widow. By marrying her he would secure the farm, and not be compelled to pay down a dollar, beyond the minister's fee for uniting them. Mrs. Brown was not exactly the woman he had intended to marry for his second wife; she certainly was not handsome, but Squire Pogram was a practical man, and he knew that she was a smart, practical woman, and would keep his household in good order. Perhaps it would not be a bad plan. At any rate he could hold it in reserve.

Punctually at three the Squire rode up to the door of the cottage.

"How about the well, widder?" he asked. "Does it taste as strong as ever?"

"Wuss and wuss, Squire. Here's some water I just drew up."

The Squire did not need to taste it. He could see

for himself that the proportion of oil was greater than in the morning.

"Well, widder," he said, "have you decided to take the four thousand dollars I offered you? You see that will save you all trouble, and you can live comfortable the rest of your days."

"Thank you, Squire," said the widow, "but I've about made up my mind to send for some man that knows about these things, and get him to attend to it for me. I'll see Mr. Norcross first, and —"

This was enough. The Squire had made up his mind.

"Widder," said he. "I've got another plan to propose. It may seem kind of sudden to you, but I've been thinkin' of it for some time (how long, Squire?) and that is, that I need a wife. Things is gettin' slack at home, and it needs a woman to straighten 'em out. I ain't a man of words. Widder, will you become Mrs. Pogram?"

"O Squire," said the widow. "It's so unexpected that it quite frustrates me. But I'm free to say that I've always respected your character, and thought you a man that any woman might be proud to marry."

"You consent, then?"

"I do," said the widow promptly, "and I'm glad to have this new burden off my shoulders."

"Yes, widder, it ought to be attended to at once. I think we'd better marry tomorrow so as to lose no time."

"Just as you say, Squire. I'll be ready."

The next day the clergyman's services were called in requisition, and to the astonishment and anger of all the aspirants to Squire Pogram's hand the prize was carried off by the widow Brown, "who's as ugly as sin; goodness knows what he saw in her."

The day after there was another surprise. A company of workmen were seen busily engaged in sinking deeper the new Mrs. Pogram's old well, and the rumor spread that petroleum had been discovered there. But for some incomprehensible reason the first strong indications were not borne out by subsequent discoveries. The water regained all its old purity, and after sinking several hundred dollars the Squire was obliged to abandon the attempt in disgust.

Mrs. Pogram, now installed in the great farmhouse as mistress, bore the disappointment with equanimity. She at least had got what she bargained for, and was satisfied. Whether her husband ever suspected her complicity is not clearly known. It may be generally stated, however, that any gentleman desirous of starting a Petroleum Company, may obtain the Brown farm on reasonable terms, with no extra charge for one oil well already sunk.

The end

Horatio Alger Society Constitution and By-laws for the new Millennium

By Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)

What follows is a proposed set of new rules to govern how our Society will operate in this new millennium. This proposal is essentially an adjustment of the Society's existing set of by-laws to reflect how we actually operate as an organization and in response to problems the Society has encountered in the past.

Your Board of Directors, officers and staff at the meeting in DeKalb, Ill., in October 1999 and subsequently, have been involved in an intense and detailed discussion about developing new and adjusting existing operating rules.

A major effort was made to find a better way to differentiate between basic and operating rules; to reflect our broadening interests as an organization; to include new rules on dissolution, membership and how we relate to other organizations; and to make adjustments in the responsibilities of staff, officers and the Board of Directors.

At the October Board meeting, attendees responded to a draft set of governing rules which included the concept of dividing them into two types of provisions: basic (Constitutional) and operating (By-laws). An important difference between these two types of rules is that the former is harder to change than the latter; the former would take a larger vote than the latter. This meets the need, as noted above, to differentiate between different types of rules. A draft incorporating all the changes discussed in DeKalb was subsequently reviewed by the attendees who were asked to "vote" on thirty-eight (38) major changes. Nine responses were received. The only three changes which had close votes included whether or not to keep the Historian position (voted yes); whether or not to spell out the details of the "100 Club" (voted no); and whether or not the President can succeed himself/herself (voted yes). Results of the other issues were fairly unanimous.

These and all other corrections and adjustments are included below in what is now a proposed Constitution and set of By-laws of the Horatio Alger Society. Following final acceptance by the Board of Directors at the annual Horatio Alger Society convention May 4-7, 2000, in West Chester, Pa., the entire membership of the Society will be given an opportunity to vote on the ratification of this document.

Proposed Constitution and By-laws of the Horatio Alger Society

Part I: Constitution

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Horatio Alger Society, organized at Mendota, Illinois on May 22, 1965. The name of the registered agent and his/her office location shall be determined by the Society's Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purposes of the Horatio Alger Society are:

A. To study, analyze and promote interest in the philosophy primarily of Horatio Alger, Jr. and other authors whose stories for young readers embrace the concept that success is earned and character is developed by following principles of honesty, hard work, integrity, industry and good sportsmanship.

B. To make annual awards to individuals and organizations.

C. To produce publications exchanging information among its members.

D. To implement an Estate Service.

E. To convene meetings for the purpose of conducting Society business and sharing information.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section I. There shall be three classes of membership in the Horatio Alger Society.

A. Regular Membership: Any person interested in the writings of stories for young readers by Horatio Alger, Jr. or other authors may, upon proper application and payment of appropriate dues to the Executive Director, become a regular member.

B. Sustaining Membership: Any person, corporation or organization interested in the writings of stories for young readers by Horatio Alger, Jr. or other authors, may, upon proper application and payment of appropriate dues to the Executive Director, become a Sustaining Member and is thereby offered the opportunity to provide financial support to the Society.

C. Life Membership: Any person, corporation or organization interested in the writings of stories for young readers by Horatio Alger, Jr. or other authors may, upon proper application and payment of appropriate dues to the Executive Director, become a Life member.

D. A schedule of dues shall be in the By-laws.

Section 2. The benefits and obligations of these memberships shall be identical as set forth in this Constitution and set of By-laws.

Section 3. Although each member is an integral part of the Horatio Alger Society, it is recognized that the termination of membership of certain members may be necessary for the good of the Society as a whole. Partial refunds of dues for early termination of membership are not provided. Termination of membership may take place in the following ways:

A. For non-payment of dues.

B. In response to a written request by a person or his/her custodian concerning his/her own membership. This could be an option for those who are mentally or physically incapable of a continuing membership and whose custodian advises the Society.

C. As the result of membership termination actions taken by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Membership shall be on a yearly basis to start from the time dues are received.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1. There should be one Annual Convention which shall be held between May and October of each year and should include one Annual Meeting and a meeting of the Board of Directors. Other Board meetings may be called by a majority of the officers.

Section 2. The purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be as follows:

A. To elect and install officers for the following year.

B. To receive reports from the officers and committee Chairpersons.

C. To present Horatio Alger Society Awards.

D. To conduct Horatio Alger Society Estate Service or other auctions.

E. To discuss any other matters pertaining to the Society.

F. To inform the membership at large of the financial status of the Society.

Section 3. At all meetings of the Society, Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters not specifically covered in this Constitution and set of By-laws.

ARTICLE V: VOTING

Section 1. Only individual members in good standing (current dues paid) and in attendance at the Annual Meeting shall be entitled to vote on any measures brought before the Society.

Section 2. In the election of Officers, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes for any given office shall be declared elected.

Section 3. All matters involving the policies of the Society, selection of the convention site, amendments to the

Constitution and By-laws and election of Officers shall be submitted to, and acted upon only at, the Annual Meeting. Board members may, at their discretion, discuss any of the above prior to the annual meeting.

Section 4. Amendments:

A. A proposed Constitutional amendment or change in the By-laws must be presented in writing to the President. The president, after concurrence by the Board of Directors, may decide that said amendment or change is frivolous or not appropriate to be presented for a vote.

B. If determined appropriate, the membership shall be provided through *Newsboy* with a written copy of the proposed Constitution or By-law amendment at least 30 days prior to a vote on the proposed change.

C. Changes in the Constitution of the Society require a 2/3 majority vote of members in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

D. Changes in the By-laws of the Society require a simple majority of members in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND STAFF

Section 1. The Officers, who make up the Board of Directors of the Horatio Alger Society, shall be elected and consist of the following:

A. President

B. Vice President

C. Treasurer

D. Directors (9)

Section 2. Persons to fill the Staff Positions of the Horatio Alger Society are appointed by the Board of Directors. Staff positions are:

A. Executive Director

B. Editor of *Newsboy*

C. Historian

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICE HOLDERS

Section 1. The President shall perform the usual duties of such office and shall serve a two-year term. The President also shall:

A. Preside at the Annual Meeting

B. Approve activities which will be eligible for reimbursement up to a certain limit set by the Board of Directors.

C. Recommend to the Board of Directors candidates for the three staff positions who shall serve three-year (3-year) terms.

D. Appoint:

1. A Chairperson and two members of the *Nominating Committee*.

2. A Chairperson of the *Newsboy Award Committee*.

3. A Chairperson of the *Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award Committee*.

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Proposed Constitution and By-laws of the Horatio Alger Society

(Continued from Page 11)

4. A member to help him/her choose a recipient for the *Dick Seddon Award*.

5. The above persons should be instructed by the President and the office holders as to the guidelines which are customary for these awards and responsibilities.

E. Appoint members to, and create, ad hoc committees he/she feels are needed.

F. Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

G. Secure written site proposals for upcoming Annual Conventions and present those received to the Board of Directors which shall make a site recommendation to the membership for vote at the Annual Meeting.

H. Decide, with the Executive Director, qualifiers for the "100 Club" Award.

I. Receive and disseminate written amendments to the Constitution and By-laws.

Section 2. The Vice-President serves a two-year term, co-terminous with the President and shall:

A. Aid and assist the President in any way possible.

B. Assume the office of President during his/her absence, or at his/her written request. (or in the event of his/her death/incapacitation).

C. Be Chairperson of a Membership Committee and appoint other members to the Committee as he/she deems appropriate.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall serve for a two-year term. If the Treasurer is unable to sign checks for any reason, an alternate shall be appointed by the President. The Treasurer shall:

A. Keep a record of all funds received and funds paid out by the Society.

B. Balance the books and prepare a written financial report for the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.

C. Arrange the financial reports so as to show separately the transactions of each fiscal year. The fiscal year shall run from May 1 to April 30. Said financial reports should be distributed to the membership at the annual meeting if it is feasible. If it is not feasible these reports should be included in *Newsboy*.

D. Set up such depository bank accounts he/she feels required for the convenience of those persons such as Editor of *Newsboy*, who will have occasion to draw on such accounts.

E. Make disbursements by check as reimbursements to persons authorized, by either the Board of Directors or the President, to make expenditures on behalf of the Society out of personal funds. A request for such reimbursement shall include an invoice properly approved by the person responsible for the expenditures and a reference citing the specific authorization.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Presi-

dent, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and nine (9) Directors, each of whom has one vote. The immediate Past President shall be a non-voting member of the Board for one year. Each of the Nine (9) Directors, shall serve three (3) year terms, to be staggered in three year groupings. The Board shall:

A. Uphold the Constitution and By-laws of this Society and manage the day-to-day business of the Society such as:

1. Establishing written guidelines for the Estate Service, for the hosting of Annual Conventions, for the specific duties of the Executive Director, Editor and Convention Host, for the explicit procedures for termination of membership and for qualifying for the 100 Club. He/she shall update such guidelines as changes occur publicizing them in *Newsboy*.

2. Appointing persons to staff positions guided by recommendations from the President.

3. Deciding any matters pertaining to the incorporation of the Society.

4. Making recommendations to the members at the Annual Meeting such as the location of future convention sites.

5. Approving Society activity which will be eligible for reimbursement.

6. Deciding the level of honorarium to be given annually to the Executive Director and Editor.

7. Meet at the Annual Convention prior to the Annual Meeting. Additional meetings of the Board may be called by request of a majority of the Board.

Section 5. The Executive Director is not an officer of the Society and has no vote on the Board of Directors. The duties of the Executive Director, under direction of the Board of Directors, shall be as follows:

A. Keep minutes of the Annual Meeting and of any other meetings of the Society.

B. Sign, countersign or attest all official papers and perform the usual duties of an Executive Director. He/she shall also be a cosigner on all Society bank accounts.

C. Conduct Society business such as completing tax returns, developing draft guidelines, handling membership applications and dues, ordering supplies and, with the President, decide qualifiers for the 100 Club.

D. Revise the Constitution and By-laws when amended, print in *Newsboy*, and distribute them to all members within three months of the Annual Meeting.

E. Ensure any proposed Constitution and By-law amendments are published in *Newsboy* prior to the Annual Meeting.

Section 6. An Historian may be appointed by the Board of Directors. He/she is not an officer of the Society and has no vote on the Board of Directors. The duties of the Historian shall be as follows:

A. Compile and keep a scrapbook of newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. that relate to Horatio Alger, Jr. and/or the Horatio Alger Society. This/these will be on display at

all Annual Meetings and shall be permanently housed at the Horatio Alger Repository at Northern Illinois University.

B. Keep the Horatio Alger Society history up to date.

C. Conduct research as deemed necessary by the President or Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII: STANDING COMMITTEES

The standing committees of the Society and their duties shall be as follows:

Section 1. The *Editorial Committee* for Newsboy shall consist of the Newsboy Editor, and such other members as the Editor may choose.

Section 2. The *Membership Committee* shall be headed by the Vice-President as Chairperson. He/she may appoint such other Society members as he/she deems necessary. The function of the *Membership Committee* shall be:

A. To increase the membership of the Society.

B. To secure adequate publicity for the Society.

C. To generally promote good public relations.

D. To promote interest in Horatio Alger, Jr. and other authors of books written for young readers.

Section 3. The *Nominating Committee* shall consist of three Society members appointed by the President, one of which shall be designated as Chairperson. This Committee shall present to the Annual Meeting for vote a slate of candidates for nomination to fill all available Society elective positions.

Section 4. The *Strive and Succeed Award Committee* shall consist of the Annual Meeting Host and other members or non-members of the Society as the Host deems necessary. Their task shall be to select a high school student to receive the *Strive and Succeed Award* who conforms to the standards described by Horatio Alger, Jr. and should be a typical Alger Hero.

Section 5. The *Newsboy Award Committee* shall consist of a Society member appointed by the President as Chairperson who then may choose two other members for the committee. The *Newsboy Award Committee* may select that person, (not necessarily a member of the Society), or organization that has done the most to add to the image of Horatio Alger, Jr.

Section 6. The *Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award Committee* shall consist of a Society member appointed by the President as Chairperson who then may choose two other members for the committee. The *Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award Committee* may select that member of the Society who served the Society in an outstanding manner during the past year.

Section 7. The *Richard Seddon Award Committee* shall consist of the President and any other person he/she may choose. The *Richard Seddon Award Committee* may select that member of the Society who best emulates the qualities and comradeship possessed by Dick Seddon, and so admired by those who knew him.

ARTICLE IX: AD HOC COMMITTEES

For the length of his/her term, the President may create ad

hoc committees to assist in addressing specific issues of concern to the Society.

ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

In the event of the dissolution of the Horatio Alger Society, all Society-owned property (excluding records, correspondence, original writings, computer files, past copies of Newsboy and any other such ephemera) will be disposed of by the Board of Directors for cash within three months of the final decision by the Board to dissolve. Such cash will then be given to the Horatio Alger Repository at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, for use in the acquisition of new repository materials. Immediately upon dissolution of the Society, the excluded ephemera materials noted herein shall become the property of the Horatio Alger Repository.

(End of Constitutional Provisions)

Part II: By-Laws

ARTICLE I: INCORPORATION

Section 1. The Horatio Alger Society is incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as recorded in La Salle County, Certificate No. 1278, dated July 27, 1965.

Section 2. The Registered Office of the Horatio Alger Society is located at 820 North County Line Rd., Hinsdale, Illinois and its registered agent is John R. Juvinal of the same address.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. The dues schedule for the three classes of membership are:

A. **Regular Membership** is \$25 (\$20 for seniors, age 65 or older) per year.

B. **Sustaining Membership** is \$50 per year

C. **Life Membership** is twenty (20) times the regular annual dues if paid with the application or twenty-two (22) times the regular annual dues if paid in two annual installments.

Section 2. A Society roster and other items of interest to Society members may be printed and circulated to the membership, as income permits.

Section 3. The "100 Club": Each member determined by the Executive Director and President to meet the requirements of the 100 Club shall receive a framed Certificate of Acknowledgment from the Society. The Board of Directors shall establish guidelines for this award.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS

Section 1. The Society will strive to hold its Annual Convention in a different location in North America each year in order to make it more accessible to a greater portion of the membership and to provide an opportunity for different members to host.

Section 2. A potential volunteer member to host the next Annual Convention shall either attend the meeting at which

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Proposed Constitution and By-laws of the Horatio Alger Society

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the choice of the site is to be made and confirm their written bid intention to attendees or, if absent at that meeting, shall be contacted directly by the President during that meeting to confirm his/her willingness to host.

Section 3. The designated host has primary responsibility for developing the agenda and making appropriate arrangements for the Annual Convention following guidelines established by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall decide the number, auctioneer, type and financial arrangements for any auctions or sales to be held at the Annual Convention. The host shall assure space and agenda time is provided for such auctions or sales.

Section 5. There are two types of auctions the Society may conduct at its Annual Convention:

A. The "Society Auction" which is usually held at the Annual Meeting as a fund-raiser. One hundred per cent of the proceeds from this auction go into the Society's treasury.

B. Commission auctions are held at different times during the Annual Convention. Commissions to the Society for these auctions are 25% of gross revenues, except when such revenues realized from one consignment exceed \$10,000; in this case the Society receives 15% up to \$10,000 in gross revenues and 10% for all in excess. Commissions charged for auctions held under the Society's Estate Service are the same as other commission auctions.

Section 6. The Society is committed to implementing an Estate Service which provides a vehicle for the disposal of book collection items contained in the estate of a member. The Board of Directors shall establish written guidelines detailing Estate Service procedures.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND STAFF

Section 1. Presidential appointments shall serve for the length of the President's term.

Section 2. Compensation received by any officer or staff person consists of reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the conduct of official Society business as approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. An honorarium, in appreciation for services rendered, shall be given to the Executive Director and Newsboy Editor, The specific amount of which is to be determined annually by vote at the annual meeting and is dependent upon the Society's financial conditions.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICE HOLDERS

Section 1. The Executive Director may appoint another member to be responsible for keeping minutes of any official meeting.

Section 2. Persons authorized by the President and Board of Directors to make miscellaneous expenditures for the

Society out of personal funds may be reimbursed upon receipt of an invoice properly approved by the person responsible for the expenditure.

Section 3. The Editor of *Newsboy* shall:

A. Produce a magazine (called *Newsboy*) to be devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr. and other authors of books for young readers, their lives, works, and influence on the culture of America

B. Produce a minimum of six issues of *Newsboy* per year.

C. *Newsboy* coverage may, in addition to Horatio Alger, Jr., include a variety of authors of juvenile books.

D. Mail *Newsboy* by first class mail.

E. Accept paid advertisements, the proceeds of which go into the Society's treasury.

Section 4. The Board of Directors may develop and implement advertising programs to publicize the Society's function and activities and may develop resolutions to recognize or commemorate special individuals or events. Any proceeds realized from these programs shall be deposited into the Society's treasury.

Section 5. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the Horatio Alger Society, recognizes the Horatio Alger Repository at Northern Illinois University as the Society's official repository for all materials relating to, about and written by, Horatio Alger, Jr. Society members are encouraged to provide copies of books written by Horatio Alger, Jr. and other related Alger items to the Repository. The Society shall be a member of the Friends of the Northern Illinois University Libraries upon payment of the annual fee in effect at that time.

Section 6. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the Horatio Alger Society, recognizes and supports in any way it can, the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans.

ARTICLE VI: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Chairman of any standing or ad hoc committee shall have the power to replace any member of his/her committee who does not satisfactorily perform the duties required of him/her.

Section 2. As a matter of practice and custom, the Chairperson of the *Newsboy Award* and the *Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award* committees may be the winner of that specific award the previous year.

Section 3. The Executive Director shall develop a system for Board of Directors approval to enable members to contribute to the annual *Strive and Succeed Award*.

ARTICLE VII: AD HOC COMMITTEES

The President shall assure that any ad hoc committee is working as intended and will produce results as expected. The President shall report the activity of his/her ad hoc committees at the Annual Meeting.

(End of By-Laws)

Convention preview: 2000

A beautiful place in the country

History comes alive at Baldwin's Book Barn

By Terry Conway, for *Biblio Magazine*

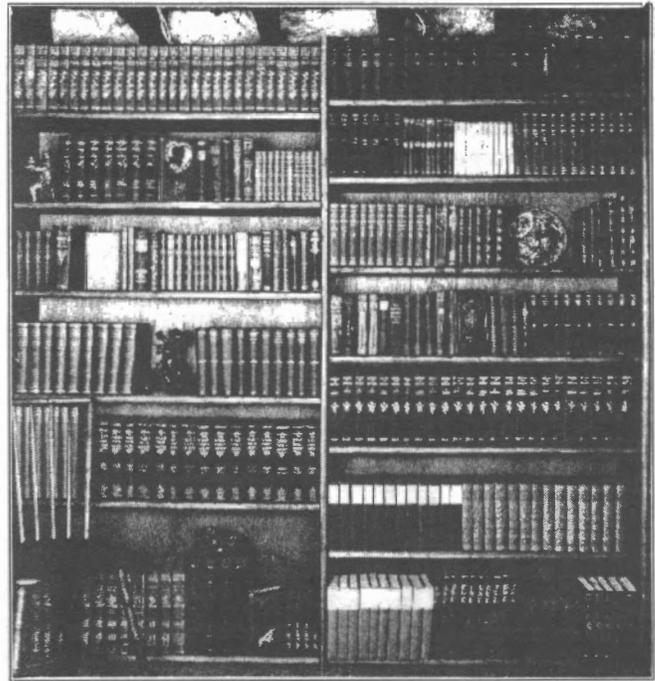
Back when America's founding fathers met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to hammer out a declaration of freedom, firebrands met at area taverns to debate vital issues and to discuss the distinguished books being churned out by the thriving publishing industry.

"Books came in from England and around the world to the port cities of Philadelphia and Wilmington, Delaware," says Tom Baldwin, the owner of Baldwin's Book Barn, located just outside West Chester, Pennsylvania. "In the 1700s, this was a great place to mine books."

It still is today, thanks in no small part to Baldwin's Book Barn. Set deep in the heart of the historic Brandywine Valley, where momentous Revolutionary War battles unfolded, the rustic, renovated dairy barn is stuffed to the rafters with some 300,000 used, fine and rare books, plus maps, prints, paintings and ephemera — piled in stacks, in glass cases, in orange crates, on tables and in bookcases lining the stairwells that snake through the five-story labyrinth of rooms.

Book Barn patrons troll in some of America's richest book waters. Philadelphia was the home of many early private libraries and the site of such pioneering American publishing houses as Mathew Carey. A proliferation of colleges and universities added another abundant source of books to the mix, as did the buying sprees of 19th-century business and professional men made prosperous by the city's flourishing finance, publishing and shipping industries. In more recent times, residents leaving the region for retirement or new jobs in the Sun Belt have left behind a wealth of rare and good books. Though dealers may find the Book Barn's inventory appealing and important to their business, the main beneficiaries are the average collector and book hunter.

"So many books," remarks Rio de Janeiro businessman Henrique Coimbre admiringly as he browses the second-floor shelves of biography. Coimbre heard about Baldwin's while visiting Longwood Gardens, a 1,050-acre horticulture treasure just 20 minutes away. "The staff doesn't pester you, but they are knowledgeable enough to answer my questions about writ-



An example of the offerings found in the rare book room at Baldwin's Book Barn, West Chester, Pa.

ers. There is truly no place like this at home."

A Short Drive into History

At home is exactly the feeling long-time customers and first-time visitors get when they walk through the entrance to the 1822 Pennsylvania stone barn. And that family feeling has remained the overriding constant since the day in 1948 when Tom's parents, William and Lilla, opened the rough-hewn doors of Baldwin's Book Barn.

"Booklovers have been coming here for half a century," says Paul Rodebaugh, a Chester County historian. "With the rolling countryside and the charming atmosphere of the barn, many people believe the Book Barn is one of the best general bookstores in the country. History comes alive here."

During a 30-minute ride north from Wilmington, visitors navigate tree-lined Route 100, which hugs the Brandywine River and straddles the Delaware-Pennsylvania border. The route passes through the tiny village of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania — home to the legendary artists Andrew Wyeth, his father, N.C. Wyeth, and his son, Jamie — and glides by verdant meadows dotted with fieldstone barns. A short dogleg veers right onto Route 52, where the book shop awaits several miles

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Editor's note: This article appeared in the October, 1997, issue of Biblio, a magazine for collectors of rare books, manuscripts and related ephemera. Biblio ceased publication in 1999.

A beautiful place in the country

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down the road. The route from Philadelphia is about 35 miles from the east.

Adirondack chairs perched on five acres of emerald lawn flank picnic tables set under a spreading cherry tree. The barn and attached frame milking house, a superb example of classic colonial workmanship, features some walls 24 inches thick and 16-inch-square oak beams held together by wooden pegs to support the enormous lofts once redolent with the smell of hay. Inside, through an old wagon bay, the hand-hewn oak beams, softly worn floorboards, an inviting woodstove, and the ticking of an old regulator clock provide a comfortable backdrop to the book hunt.

A gallery of photographs of the store and its customers from the 1940s and 1950s frames the inside entrance. Postcards, autographed manuscripts, new arrivals and an imposing collection of books from the famous Brandywine School of Art — founded by Pyle, Wyeth and Schoonover — occupy positions of honor. The front room, where horses once were stabled, has the look and feel of an Old West general store: a pot-bellied stove, a partner's desk, and a counter that appears to have come straight from an 1880s Colorado mining town. Nearby lurks Pip, the Book Barn's mascot — the latest generation of Jack Russell terriers to run the place.

From Cellar to Barn

It all began in 1934 with William Baldwin's small collection of history books and a batch of postage stamps Lilla had saved. With these modest resources, the couple opened Chester County's first used-book store in the basement of a well-known West Chester real estate broker's office. To increase their stock, they spent a few days each week foraging the county's farms and small villages, looking for people willing to part with books, maps, magazines, stamps, letters or any other printed material the Baldwins found appealing.

The autumn of 1937 brought an invitation to attend the estate settlement of a noted West Chester politician. Among the various items was a shoe box jammed with old letters, on one of which was glued a bisect cover for 12 cents, with half of it showing (until 1879 people could tear a stamp in half if they needed less postage). The Baldwins bought the 1851 bisect cover, and shortly thereafter a dealer paid them \$400 for it, a huge sum at the time and their biggest sale to that date.

The foraging paid off again a few years later, during which time the Baldwins moved to Wilmington and opened a book shop on Shipley Street, when they bought a collection of books from a prominent Wilmington family. Among the books were six letters written by Thomas Jefferson and six from the pen of

Aaron Burr. But the greatest strike was the diary of Dr. John Vaughn, kept during a ravaging outbreak of yellow fever in Wilmington in the years 1802-1805. Vaughn and another doctor were the only two physicians who remained to help the sick and tend to the dying. A renowned collector of Americana paid \$500 for the diary shortly after the discovery.

World War II interrupted the Baldwin book enterprise. When William was called into the navy in 1943, he sold the business, knowing it would be too much for Lilla to manage by herself. However, during his shipboard watches in the Pacific, he had plenty of time to dream of the couple's next book shop. It would be in the country, with plenty of peace and quiet.

After William came home from the war in 1946, he and Lilla pursued their dream with vigor and more than a fair amount of imagination. To raise capital for the old dairy barn they had spotted in their travels through the rolling countryside northwest of Wilmington, they gathered 10,000 books (most of which had no real value to collectors), rented a house, and advertised a "Dutch" book sale — books sold for one dollar the first day, 90 cents the second, 80 cents the third day and so on. To everyone's surprise, the Baldwins sold 9,000 books in the first week.

"The bankers thought my father was mad," says Tom Baldwin, grinning broadly at the notion. "Here he was proposing to sell books in a barn out in the middle of nowhere. They almost didn't give him a mortgage."

But they did. The Baldwins purchased the old barn, set about converting the hayloft to a book area and milking shed to family quarters, and the book odyssey continued.

"My brother, David, my sister, Joanne and I would bike, hitchhike, or walk from our house in West Chester to watch the barn as it was renovated and the family quarters were added," recalls Tom. "My bedroom looked out onto the road and is now one of our offices."

The book shop needed shelves to display the books, but the cost of building them was prohibitive. A rare-book dealer friend suggested that William scour local grocery stores and buy all the orange crates he could find. In many of the barn's rooms, those crates still do service in the display and stacking of the books.

Baldwin's Book Barn opened to the public in August 1948 and over the last half century-plus has steadily carved out a reputation among booklovers from across the country and from around the world.

The Prodigal Bookson

Although he grew up in a bookselling family, Tom did not pass smoothly into the family business. He served a stint in the Marines after joining at age 17, then sold Cadillacs for a Wilmington dealership and spent two decades in the restaurant industry before his father's illness in 1982 (William passed away in

1986) beckoned him back to the bookstore.

"My father was pleased when I came back from my time in the restaurant business, and he was probably a lot happier than if I had stayed here before," acknowledges Baldwin. "He was pretty set in his ways back then, so it was better for me to try something else. When his health failed he was physically unable to do a lot of things he was able to do in the past. He died very pleased that the Book Barn would go on."

Lilla, who remained active into her eighties doing minor repairs on leather bindings and waxing books, passed away in 1992. All along, William and Lilla had lived in the barn's family quarters and worked closely together in running the business.

"My mother tended the shop and was responsible for buying the books, prints and paintings," recalls Tom. "She was very proud of it. To her, it wasn't just a business. She believed our books were a service to the community."

Tom and his wife, Kathy, who have a home about four miles away, now carry the book shop's banner and 50 years later, Tom still feels right at home. "I was brought up in the barn," he says with fondness. "I never realized what a wonderful lifestyle this is compared to what I had been doing."

As a youth, Tom learned how to carry books and later accompanied his father on trips into Wilmington and to the estates along Philadelphia's Main Line as well as private homes throughout the region. Two of William Baldwin's most prominent customers in those days were S. Hallack du Pont and Henry Francis du Pont, distant cousins and great grandsons of E.I. du Pont, founder of the giant chemical/technology company. They collected antique guns, firearms, swords and rare books.

"What I learned early on was that books are not an exact science," Tom admits. "Different people often look

at the same book in different ways. To some it's the binding; to others it's the content or an infatuation with the author; to still others, it's how old and what condition. I learned a lot of the business by osmosis. The more you handle books, the more you know books. It eventually becomes an instinct."

Through These Portals

Volumes of stories fill not only the bookshelves but also the book shop's past. There was a time when Gregory Peck, Bette Davis, Claude Rains and Malcolm Forbes dropped in to explore. "Good Morning America" paid a visit in 1995 to film a segment for the popular morning television show, after which co-host Charlie Gibson purchased a set of rare Jane Austen novels. Andrew Wyeth and his wife, Betty, dropped in from time to time to browse; his books and prints, many of them signed, are popular items regularly



Owner Thomas Baldwin and his Jack Russell terrier, Pip, welcome visitors to Baldwin's Book Barn in West Chester, Pa, located minutes from the Holiday Inn West Chester, site of the May 4-7 Horatio Alger Society convention.

USA Today Photo

found at the Book Barn. And then there's the exiled Curtis, the pot-bellied pig who served as the shop's unofficial mascot in the mid-1990s — until he grew too large and developed a taste for knee-level novels.

The Book Barn employs a staff of seven and has a waiting list of other bibliophiles who would love to join the crew. A typical weekend brings about 200 to 300 customers, mostly residents from the region but also visitors from far and wide, and the parking lot overflows. Although the stock covers some 200 topics, the most popular subject areas are religion, American history, cooking, gardening and children's books.

The Book Barn has held books dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries. In 1985, acting as an agent for a foreign private collector, it made its biggest sale: \$3 million for a copy of Audubon's *Birds of North America*.

The rare-book room on the second floor displays

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A beautiful place in the country

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exquisite leather bindings and significant books, manuscripts and ephemera in elegant bookcases flanked by artwork and spacious windows. Stokely Holland, who has been in the rare-book business for three decades, moved from Florida to become the Book Barn's curator and travels to several dozen book auctions each year in the U.S. and Europe. Among the highlights to pass through the shop's doors in recent years:

- ❖ The first translation of Machiavelli's 1532 masterpiece *The Prince*.

- ❖ A 1750 edition of *Poor Richard's Almanac*, by Benjamin Franklin.

- ❖ *Journal of Travels over the Rocky Mountains. To the Mouth of the Columbia*, by Joel Palmer, an account published in 1847 that is considered one of the most authoritative early guides to Oregon.

- ❖ *North American Indian Portfolio*, an 1844 collection of color plates by the noted Western artist George Catlin.

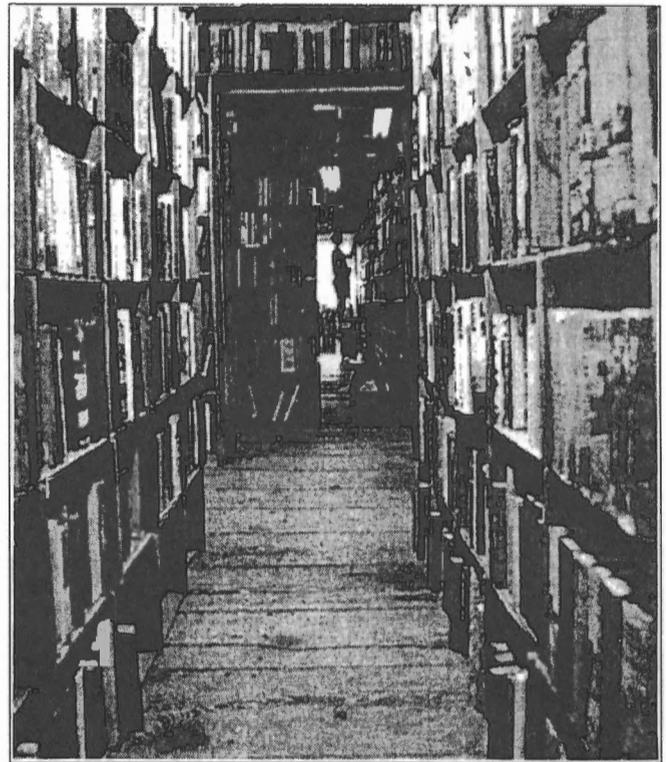
- ❖ The printer's color proof of an N.C. Wyeth illustration for a gunpowder company's calendar. Called "A New World," it shows a boy playing with a chemistry set in the basement. In an inscription for Tom Baldwin, Andrew Wyeth wrote that Tom was the model for his father's illustration.

Although rare books garner a lot of interest, store manager Tom Doherty points out that most books in the Book Barn's stock go for under \$20. The mountain of books is arranged by subject, with the entrance room offering a representative display of the books to be found on all five floors. The shop has now computerized its inventory.

"A lot of old great bookstores are gone," sighs Baldwin. "You need to keep up with technology, or you're not going to last. We now have access to millions of books by searching on the Internet. This will give us the ability to search the Web for books on, say, the Civil War. If we locate the book on-line we'll get it to our customer."

Dorothy Grover, who has been making the 45-minute trek to the Book Barn from her home in Sharon Hill, Pa., since 1962, says she doesn't know why anyone would want to surf the Internet when they can stop by Baldwin's in person and spend a splendid day.

"My husband worked for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and a friend of his who was a collector told us about Baldwin's," Grover said. "It's just a very comfortable place. I like the way it's laid out. They're knowledgeable about the authors and the topics they have in stock. You know, they used to have a Christmas room in the back that Tom's mother ran, and the front room used to be a country store museum with all kinds of things. I remember we came here once when my son



was about eight and he was fooling around with a cigar cutter and cut off a bit of the tip of one finger!"

But make no mistake about it: Grover returns frequently for the same reason so many others keep coming back for more. "I've taken home so many wonderful books," she said. "I got a great autobiography of H.G. Wells for two dollars. Sometimes I see something I want but I don't want to spend the extra money, but then I get home and wind up calling them back to ask them to hold it for me anyway."

All in all, it's been a pretty good career for Thomas Baldwin. Although he recently experienced the thrill of racing a sports car in a Daytona 24-hour endurance run and pilots a Porsche on the International Sports Car of America circuit, he's firmly entrenched at the Book Barn. "It's a family legacy to me," he says simply.

That legacy breeds loyal customers, who return time and again to browse, to settle into one of the cozy wooden chairs and read for awhile before making their selections.

"We try to create the sense that you have stepped back in time," Baldwin says, adding that the idea is for customers to enjoy the experience, not be pressured into buying something or be hurried out the door.

"Our motto is 'Let it happen rather than make it happen.'"

You can also browse Baldwin's Book Barn on the Internet at www.bookbarn.com

Editor's notebook

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copyright page. We would only be certain to mark a second edition if there were changes extensive enough to warrant a change in copyright notice and the second edition came out in a year different from the first."

After Dec. 9, 1976, Dodd, Mead joined many of its fellow publishers in using an ascending number system to identify first editions, in both adult and juvenile titles. As the publisher states: "A line of numbers — 1 through 10 — appears on the copyright page of the first printing of the book. On the second printing, the number 1 is simply blanked out, leaving the first number of the sequence a 2, and so on for each subsequent printing."

Prominent series and authors: The *Football Eleven Series*, *Tod Hale Series* and *Adventure Club Series* by Ralph Henry Barbour; also, the *Christy Mathewson Baseball Series*, plus the *Og Series* by Irving Crump.

M. A. Donohue & Company, Chicago

One of the most well-known publishers of Alger reprints, M.A. Donohue and its short-lived predecessor, Donohue Brothers, was deeply involved in series books, most of them of the inexpensive variety.

Usual identification method: This publisher (which ceased operating in the early 1970s) said in a 1947 statement: "We have never made it a practice to mark our first editions and are not now doing so. Sometimes there is a little difference between the first and second editions but we have no general rule to follow. Ordinarily we print from plates and all editions are the same. Our lines today consist primarily of children's books and for that reason we operate as we do."

Observant collectors of M.A. Donohue series books will note that subsequent printings usually became thinner (lighter-weight paper) and cheaper in quality, with press runs in the late 1920s often abandoning cloth for paper-covered cardboard covers.

Prominent series and authors: They include the *Boy Scout Series* by "G. Harvey Ralphson" (most likely a pseudonym), *Clint Webb Series* by W. Bert Foster, *Canoe and Campfire Series* by St. George Rathborne, *Motorcycle Chums Series* by "Andrew Carey Lincoln" (Rathborne), and the *Duffield/Honeywell/Whipple, etc. Radio Boys Series*, plus numerous reprints of other publishers' series. More than 40 boys' series were published by Donohue, either as originals or reprints.

Doubleday & Co., New York

This imprint, still in use today, has a complex history through various mergers, not uncommon in the publishing industry. In terms of juvenile books, you can look back prior to 1927, when Doubleday and L.C. Page had already created Doubleday, Page & Co. Then, on Dec.

30, 1927, it further merged with the George H. Doran Co. to form Doubleday, Doran & Co, Inc. On Dec. 31, 1945, the firm changed its name to Doubleday & Co., Inc.

Usual identification method: Back in the Doubleday, Page days in the early to mid-1920s, this firm's books had "First Edition" printed beneath the copyright notice on the verso, slightly different from the L.C. Page practice of stating "First Impression" on the verso, along with the month and year of publication.

Doubleday, Doran, in a 1928 publisher's statement, said: "We always plan to indicate right under the copyright line on the first printing the fact that the book is a first edition," and in 1937 the company reiterated, "Our method of indicating first editions is the printing of the words "First Edition" beneath the copyright notice which backs the title page. Unfortunately, there is no record of the date on which we began to follow this plan. It was many years ago."

Prominent series and authors: The first four volumes of the *Russ Farrell Aviation Series* by Thomson Burtis were issued by Doubleday, Page, with the fifth and final volume and reprints of the first four issued by Doubleday, Doran. Doubleday, Page also reissued a few of Owen Johnson's *Lawrenceville Stories* (originally published by Baker & Taylor). Another series published by Doubleday, Page and later by Doubleday, Doran was Howard Pease's *Tod Moran Series*. The most prominent of the contemporary series by the renamed Doubleday & Co. was Donald Wollheim's *Mike Mars Series* of space adventures (1961-64).

Dana Estes & Company, Boston

This publisher was preceded by Estes & Lauriat, which produced books until 1899, when the firm became Dana Estes & Co. It later became part of L.C. Page.

Usual identification method: There is no first-edition designation (no year appears on the title page and there is no "First Edition" declaration on the verso) for the Estes & Lauriat books. The same is true for the Dana Estes & Company books, although occasionally a line such as "Published, September 1902" appears under the title on the copyright page.

Prominent series and authors: The most well-known Dana Estes series is the 11-volume *Minute Boys Series* by James Otis (the first two titles were written by Edward Stratemeyer). Also published by Estes were the two-volume *Roy Hillman Series* by Edward S. Ellis and Stratemeyer's three-volume *Mexican War Series* (written under the Capt. Ralph Bonehill pseudonym).

Goldsmith Publishing Co., Chicago

Known primarily as an inexpensive reprint publisher of series books originally issued by such publishers as Altemus and Cupples & Leon, Goldsmith also initially published several important series, such as the *Lend-a-*

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Editor's notebook

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Hand Boys Series by St. George Rathborne.

Usual identification method: Since it was a publisher most noted for inexpensive reprints, Goldsmith used no proprietary means for identifying first editions. However, Goldsmith's earlier printings are known for slightly higher-quality cloth bindings; later reprints often used composition bindings.

Prominent series and authors: In addition to the above-mentioned **Lend-a-Hand Boys Series**, Goldsmith also published Harold M. Sherman's **All-American Sport Series**, Graham Dean's **Herb Kent Series**, plus the **Bill Bolton Naval Aviation Series** by Noel Sainsbury, Jr. and **Sorak Series** by "Harvey D. Richards" (Sainsbury).

Griffith and Rowland Press, Philadelphia

One of the more interesting turn-of-the-century publishers, Griffith and Rowland Press was the successor to A.J. Rowland Press, both the official press of the American Baptist Publication Society, which is often listed as the copyright-holder. Although only a half-dozen boys' series were produced by this organization, they were by two prominent authors: Everett T. Tomlinson and Edwin J. Houston, and the books are highly collectible.

Usual identification method: There is no set pattern. Many of the books in the 1900-1903 period have matching year of publication on the title page and copyright page and yet, many of the books have no year on the title page; often, a month-year statement like "Published January, 1909" is found on the verso, either in the presence or absence of a matching year on the title page.

Prominent series and authors: The **Ward Hill Series**, **Winner Series** and **Blue and Buff Series** by Everett T. Tomlinson; the **Young Mineralogist Series** and **Pacific Series** by Edwin J. Houston.

Grosset & Dunlap, New York

As a mass-market producer of the "fifty-center," G&D is best known for its publication of such Stratemeyer Syndicate staples as the **Tom Swift Series**, **Hardy Boys**, **Nancy Drew**, etc., over roughly a 75-year period.

Usual identification method: Grosset & Dunlap did not self-identify first editions, although knowledgeable collectors can usually figure out first printings from the book ads in the books, and more importantly, ads on the dust jackets, along with changes in the binding itself.

Prominent series and authors: Many of the most highly collected series today were issued by this publisher, including the Stratemeyer Syndicate's **Tom Swift**, **Hardy Boys** and **Nancy Drew**. Many prominent non-Syndicate series were published by G&D, including the five series authored by Leo Edwards in the 1920s and '30s; followed in the 1950s and '60s by the **Chip Hilton Sports Stories**, **Rick Brant Series** and **Ken Holt Series**.

Harper & Brothers Letter Codes

A — January	G — July
B — February	H — August
C — March	I — September
D — April	K — October
E — May	L — November
F — June	M — December

M — 1912	Z — 1925	N — 1938
N — 1913	A — 1926	O — 1939
O — 1914	B — 1927	P — 1940
P — 1915	C — 1928	Q — 1941
Q — 1916	D — 1929	R — 1942
R — 1917	E — 1930	S — 1943
S — 1918	F — 1931	T — 1944
T — 1919	G — 1932	U — 1945
U — 1920	H — 1933	V — 1946
V — 1921	I — 1934	W — 1947
W — 1922	J — 1935	X — 1948
X — 1923	L — 1936	Y — 1949
Y — 1924	M — 1937	Z — 1950

Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York

Today's international imprint, HarperCollins, is a generations-removed successor to Harper & Brothers. Harper & Row became HarperCollins in 1990.

Usual identification method: This is one of those publishers that for many years used a proprietary code system to identify editions, in this case the month and year of publication. A 1928 Harper & Brothers statement:

"It is our custom to print on the copyright page of all first editions the two words 'First Edition.' There are removed from the plate on all subsequent printings.

"In addition to these you will find on our copyright pages two key letters beneath the copyright. These give the month and year when the edition was printed."

In 1937, the publisher added more information:

"The use of the key letters on copyright pages began in 1912. The use of the words "First Edition" began a number of years later, so that there are early copies of books by Harpers in the area between 1912 and perhaps 1920 thereabouts (unfortunately the date is not a matter of record) which have the key letters but which do not have the words 'First Edition.' This is, of course, important."

In the early teens the publisher sometimes used a matching date (in Roman numerals) in the title page.

Prominent series and authors: Best known are the **Mark Tidd Series** and **Catty Atkins Series** by Clarence B. Kelland. Also, the **Jim Spurling Series** by Albert W. Tolman and **Venture Boys Series** by Howard R. Garis.