



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899

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

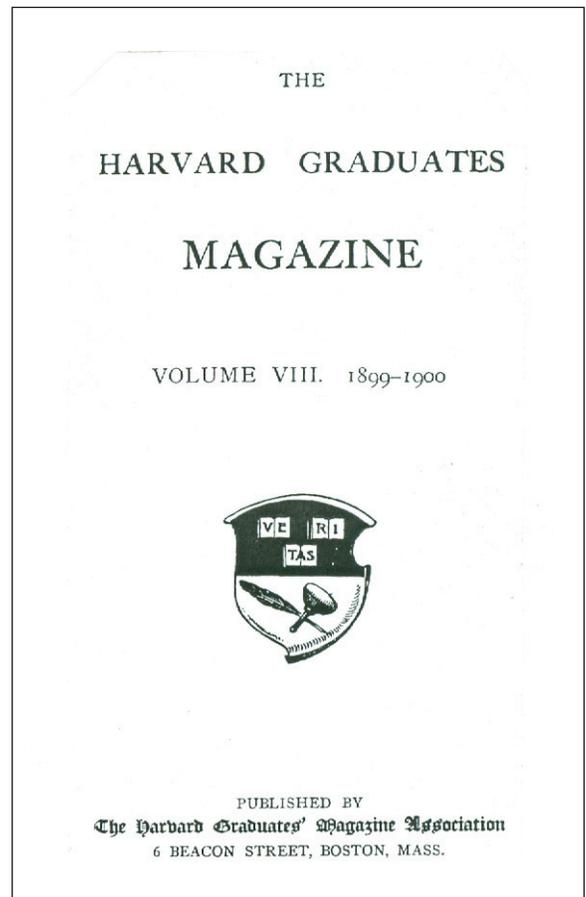
VOLUME XLI

JULY-AUGUST 2003

NUMBER 4

Horatio Alger's *Harvard Graduates Magazine* obituary

--See Page 3



Rollo's Journey to Cambridge

--See Page 7

More 2003 convention photos

--Pages 12-15

President's column

Summer has passed and my favorite season has arrived. The colors of the leaves in Wisconsin have been better than usual, with lots of red and orange. It would be interesting to look at the number of series books that are set in each season. I suspect that more stories take place in the summer, but what about the other seasons?

There has been a sprinkling of interesting Alger material on eBay recently. Books with dust jackets, unusual reprints, etc., as well as a rare true first edition have all been spotted and sometimes fiercely fought over by the bidders. There are also hundreds of common reprints, many of which do not receive a single bid. Judging by the pictures, some of these books would best be thrown away. Still, there are lots of nice looking reprints going cheap or not receiving a bid

It is certainly true that the Internet, especially eBay and Advanced Book Exchange (ABE), have shown us that what we thought was rare is really pretty common. Good if you are buying, bad if you are selling.

I actually made a three-day book-hunting trip recently to Minnesota. Enough odds and ends were found to make me feel that the trip was worthwhile. The best find was *Held for Ransom*, the second Skippy Dare Series title by Hugh Lloyd (Percy Keese Fitzhugh) in a nice dust jacket for \$10. I also found the last five titles in the Ranch Girls series in nice condition, but no jackets. All in all, I came home with about 20 books.

Don't forget to share your expertise or passion about an aspect of series book collecting. Bill Gowen, our **Newsboy** editor, wants to hear from you. One of the reasons that recent issues of **Newsboy** have been very late is the lack of Alger-related articles from our members. So please contact Bill with your story ideas. He can be reached at either hasnewsboy@aol.com, or 23726 North Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

Hopefully, the summer went well for everyone. Now is the time to get out for one or two last book hunting expeditions before the winter storms come and force us to stay home and actually read some of the books which we have bought. Depending on the book, that may be good or bad!

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Bob Huber
205 Ozark Trail
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 238-1298
E-mail: rhuber35@charter.net

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.

OFFICERS

ROBERT G. HUBER	PRESIDENT
ROBERT R. ROUTHIER	VICE-PRESIDENT
CHRISTINE DeHAAN	TREASURER
ROBERT E. KASPER	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEE T. ALLEN	(2004) DIRECTOR
E. CHRISTIAN MATTSON	(2004) DIRECTOR
JEANETTE ROUTHIER	(2004) DIRECTOR
BERNARD A. BIBERDORF	(2005) DIRECTOR
JIM THORP	(2005) DIRECTOR
STEVEN N. SUTTON	(2005) DIRECTOR
BART J. NYBERG	(2006) DIRECTOR
DAVID J. YARINGTON	(2006) DIRECTOR
ARTHUR W. SMITTER	(2006) DIRECTOR
LEO "BOB" BENNETT	EMERITUS
RALPH D. GARDNER	EMERITUS

PAST PRESIDENTS

KENNETH B. BUTLER	EUGENE H. HAFNER
JACK ROW	D. JAMES RYBERG
DR. MAX GOLDBERG	GEORGE W. OWENS
STEVE PRESS	WILLIAM R. WRIGHT
JUDSON S. BERRY	ROBERT E. KASPER
LEO "BOB" BENNETT	MARY ANN DITCH
JERRY B. FRIEDLAND	JOHN CADICK
BRADFORD S. CHASE	CARL T. HARTMANN
ROBERT E. SAWYER	ARTHUR P. YOUNG
	CAROL NACKENOFF

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 can visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at www.ihot.com/~has/

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.

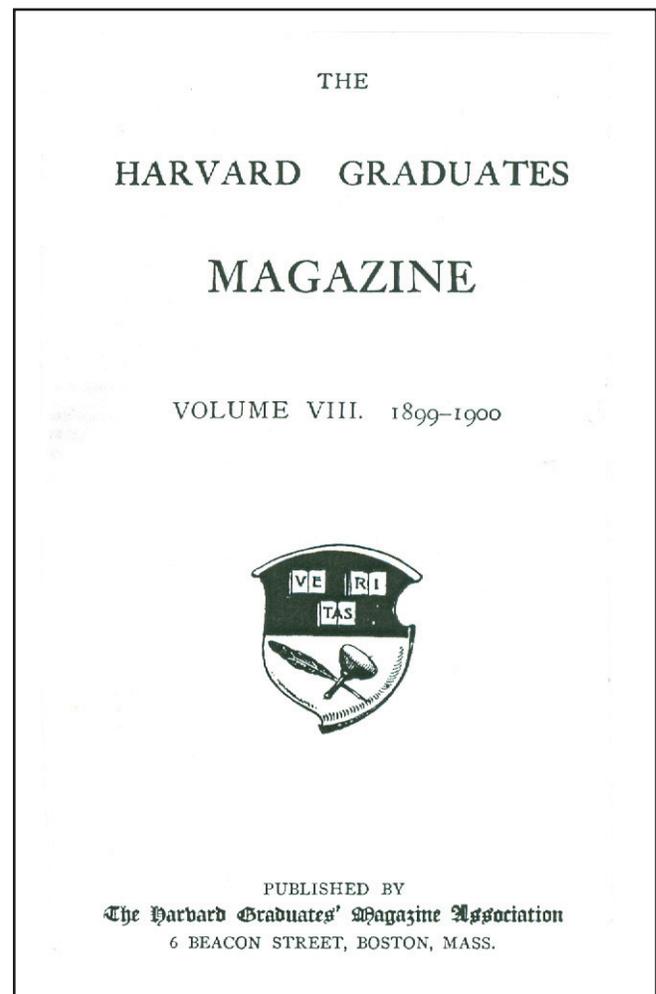
Horatio Alger's *Harvard Graduates* Magazine obituary

Obituaries for Horatio Alger, Jr., appeared in various commercial newspapers in the days immediately following his death on July 18, 1899. Several of these obituaries have been reprinted periodically in *Newsboy*, most recently in the July-August 1999 issue on the occasion of the centennial of Alger's death. The four publications represented were The Boston Globe, Boston Daily Advertiser, The New York Times and New York Herald.

Over the years, Alger researchers have noted errors in these obituaries, the most obvious the incorrect birth date of Jan. 13, 1834 instead of Jan. 13, 1832. Note that this obituary from The Harvard Graduates Magazine repeats this error. One other obvious mistake is the statement that "he wrote no books after June, 1865," most likely a typographical error.

The issue of The Harvard Graduates Magazine in which this comprehensive obituary was published, Volume VIII, 1899-1900, is held in the official Horatio Alger Repository at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. We thank Dr. Arthur P. Young, Dean of Libraries, for kindly providing a copy to share with all our Partic'lar Friends.

H. Alger, widely known as Horatio Alger, Jr., died of heart disease, in Natick, July 18, after a prolonged illness. He was born in the part of Chelsea which is now Revere, Jan. 13, 1834, the eldest son of Horatio Alger, '25, a Unitarian clergyman, — settled over a in what was afterwards North Chelsea, and Olive Augusta (Fenno) Alger. His father was the son of James and Hannah (Bassett) Alger, of Bridgewater, both of Pilgrim descent; his mother was the daughter of John Fenno, of Boston. Although he did not learn the alphabet till after he was 6, his progress was so rapid that at 8 he began the study of Latin and of algebra. When he was 10, he had been but little at a public school, being mainly taught by his father, whose numerous engagements left to the son largely the disposal of his own time, much of which he employed reading whatever came his way, from Josephus and works on theology to the "Arabian Nights" and "Jack the Giant-Killer." In December 1844, his parents removed to Marlborough, where his father was settled for some years. There he attended the Gates Academy, and completed his preparation



for college a year before his entrance, spending that year mainly in studying several modern languages. He passed a creditable examination for admission to the Freshman Class in 1848; took in the Junior year a first Bowdoin prize for a dissertation on "Athens in the Time of Socrates," also a Bowdoin prize for Greek prose composition; was the orator on Class Day, June 25, 1852; and graduated with an English oration, the eighth in a class of 87. He received help during his college course from his kinsman, Cyrus Alger, the eminent iron founder of South Boston. After a year at his home in Marlborough, he was at the Harvard Divinity School till November 1853, when he became an assistant editor of the *Boston Daily Advertiser* till May 1, 1854, after which he was assistant teacher in C. W. Greene's school for boys, East Greenwich, R.I., for nearly two years, and was principal of the academy at Deerfield for the summer term of 1856. He was then engaged as a private tutor in Boston till September, 1857, when he re-entered the Harvard Divinity School, where he graduated

(Continued on Page 5)

Editor's notebook

One of the more interesting aspects of collecting books is the existence of foreign editions, or more specifically, foreign reprints of books originally published in the United States.

In the case of Horatio Alger, the history of foreign reprints is a fascinating one, which was detailed in an article by Robert E. Kasper (PF-327) in the July-August 1998 issue of *Newsboy*, titled "Horatio Alger Goes International: Collecting Foreign Editions." Kasper previously covered one specific title published abroad, *The Nugget Finders*, in an article for *Newsboy* in 1991.

Postwar foreign editions of such American series books as Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, Tom Swift, Jr. and Ken Holt are well-known and popular with collectors on both sides of the Atlantic. In fact, several collectors I know specialize in foreign editions and have hundreds of these books in their libraries. These books come from Britain, France, Germany and the Scandinavian countries, to name just a few.

One particular author whose books I specialize in is Ralph Henry Barbour (1870-1944), one of the more prolific writers for boys, whose work spanned the years 1899-1943. His main area of interest was books about prep school and sports, although he wasn't afraid to expand his horizons to include the writing of adult romances, outdoors adventures, historical fiction and a decent selection of nonfiction instructional books.

My article on Ralph Henry Barbour and his books (162, by my count) appeared in the November-December 1993 issue of *Newsboy*. Although the facts of the article hold up quite well despite the passage of 10 years, one area was left out completely: foreign editions. That is because I had not heard about any foreign editions of Barbour's work at the time.

Then, in 1999, Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879) told me that he had purchased a copy of *The Cruise of the Endeavor* from an overseas dealer, with the authorship of the book listed as Ralph Henry Barbour and Henry P. Holt, and published in 1928 by the London firm John F. Shaw & Co., Ltd. (the publisher of *The Nugget Finders*).

Thinking it was a heretofore unknown title, Bart purchased the book. Upon its arrival, it became evident in a matter of moments that this was simply a retitled edition of the Barbour-Holt collaboration *Fortunes of War*, copyrighted in the United States by The Century Company in 1919.

Now, with eBay such a dominant player in the book-collecting hobby, and the fact that eBay's market stretches to foreign shores thanks to the World Wide Web, foreign editions are becoming more and more known within our hobby.

Just this summer, I noticed another copy of *The Cruise of the Endeavor* posted on eBay, this one with a dust jacket.



I assumed it was another John F. Shaw edition until I read further, only to discover it was listed a "first edition" by another London-based publisher, George G. Harrap & Company, Ltd., published in 1921, two years following the American copyright. It might well be the first English edition, and it obviously makes the John F. Shaw 1928 edition a reprint.

One other note: the dust jacket shown

on the August eBay listing of the Harrap edition, above, was a colorized version of Charles M. Relyea's frontispiece for the American edition, *Fortunes of War*, which became the subtitle for *The Cruise of the Endeavor*.

Anyway, in my routine searches on eBay, I decided to look for other foreign editions by Barbour or any other author within my collecting interests. Sure enough, another Barbour book popped up. This one was titled *The Story My Doggie Told to Me*, which in the United States was published in 1914 in standard hard-cover format (5 1/4 x 7 1/2 inches, 182 pages) by Dodd, Mead. It was reissued by the same publisher in 1920 under a new title, *My Dog's Story*. The illustrator for both Dodd, Mead editions was John Rae.

While this is a not school sports story for teenagers but a bed-time tale aimed at very young boys and girls, it is by Barbour and by definition, belonged in my collection. So, I ordered it.

Much to my surprise, when the book arrived, I discovered it was not in standard book form but in the familiar thin 7 x 10 picture-book size, published in 1919 by George G. Harrap. It has a full-color frontispiece and color internals by a new artist, M. Wood, presumably hired to do artwork specifically for this edition, printed for Harrap by The Riverside Press

(Continued on Page 6)

MEMBERSHIP

New members

Kathy K. Edwards (PF-1074)
1032 S. County Road 725 W.
Yorktown, IN 47396

Anders Jones (PF-1075)
73 Oxbow Road
Weston, MA 02193

Anders was sponsored for membership in H.A.S. by his grandfather, Norman A. Jones (PF-1032), who sent us the following news concerning his grandson:

Massachusetts Youth Wins National Award for Heroic Service Activity

Boulder, Colorado, Sept. 8, 2003 — Anderson Jones, age 16, of Boston, Massachusetts, has been named one of ten national winners of the **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes**. The Barron Prize honors outstanding young leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Barron prize winners each receive \$2,000 to be applied to their higher education or to their service project.

Anderson founded "Teens for Technology," a teen-run organization that has donated fully-equipped computer labs to 25 schools across Jamaica. Anderson was inspired to start his project three years ago following a trip to Jamaica, where he learned that a typical school there of 850 students had only

four computers. He considered sending the old equipment in his basement to Jamaica, hoping "to make a little difference." Instead, he founded "Teens for Technology," and has enlisted the support of Microsoft, Air Jamaica and UPS to help with his plan to equip 100 schools with 1,000 computers to serve 100,000 children. Word of "Teens for Technology" has spread worldwide and Anderson is now working to expand his program to other countries such as Rwanda and Trinidad. "It just seemed like the right thing to do," explains Anderson. "Too many people needed help and too many people were so willing to work to give that help. You just can't run away from that."

The Barron Prize was founded in 2001 by Colorado author T.A. Barron and was named for his mother, Gloria Barron. Each year, the Barron Prize selects ten winners nationwide. Half of the winners have focused on helping their communities and fellow human beings; half have focused on protecting the health and sustainability of the environment.

"Nothing is more inspiring than stories about heroic people who have truly made a difference to the world," says Barron. "And we need our heroes today more than ever. Not celebrities, but heroes — people whose character can inspire us all. That is the purpose of the Gloria Barron Prize: to share positive examples of heroism with as many young people as possible."

Change of address

Ivan McClymont (PF-722)
P.O. Box 116
Clinton, Ontario NOM 1L0
Canada (519) 482-9085

Horatio Alger's *Harvard* *Graduates Magazine* obituary

(Continued from Page 3)

in 1860. He next took a trip to Europe, being a regular contributor to the New York *Sun*, and occasionally writing for other publications. After his return, in April, 1861, he preached regularly, having the supplying of the Parish in Dover till December, when he established himself at Cambridge as a private tutor, declining in March, 1862, an invitation to take charge of the Unitarian society in Alton, Ill. In 1863-64 he served as assistant recording secretary of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Dec. 8, 1864, he was settled over the Unitarian Society at Brewster, where he remained till March, 1866, removing then to New York, where he remained till June 1895, writing for the young, and for some years taking private pupils. He left New York for Natick, where, and in South Natick, he had been in the habit of spending the warm months, and lived there with his sister till his death. At the age of 13

he wrote short stories for the local papers; and, beginning with "Bertha's Christmas Vision" in 1855, he published 70 volumes, including "Helen Ford," a novel, "Nothing to Do," a poem suggested by W.A. Butler's "Nothing to Wear," and a volume of miscellaneous poems, among which are four odes for dinners of the Harvard Club in New York, and several spirited patriotic and anti-slavery verses. Other books are still in the hands of his publishers. His contributions to newspapers and magazines are equal in amount to his other works. He was greatly interested in the life of the street boys of New York, and made them the subjects of many of his books. The popularity of his juvenile works has been great, and their circulation enormous, amounting to nearly a million copies. Feeling the effects of long-continued labor, he wrote no books after June 1865. In college, and in after life, he was a ready learner, a fluent writer, and an untiring worker. He was of a kindly and liberal nature, ever ready to help others. One who knew him well, being asked to speak of his benefactions, has said, "I should not know where to begin or to end, as he was always doing something for somebody."

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

Limited of Edinburgh.

A reasonably close comparison of the text with the Dodd, Mead American edition shows that it is virtually the same with a few exceptions such as the omission of a chapter "The Old Lady Who Didn't Like Dogs," which concludes Part One of the two-part story. Other changes are merely editorial, such as using "Animal Shop" instead of "Animal Store" in a chapter heading or altering the names of several characters to those more in tune with a British readership.

The story is told in first person by the puppy of the title and in the American edition he says his canine parents were named Gretchen and Fritz, "having been born in Germany."

In the British edition, "My mother's name was Bess and my father's name was Roger, who "came from an old English family named Turnspit, and I am told that the name was given because long ago my relations were employed to turn a wheel which made the roasting-spit revolve before the kitchen fire." (There is no equivalent

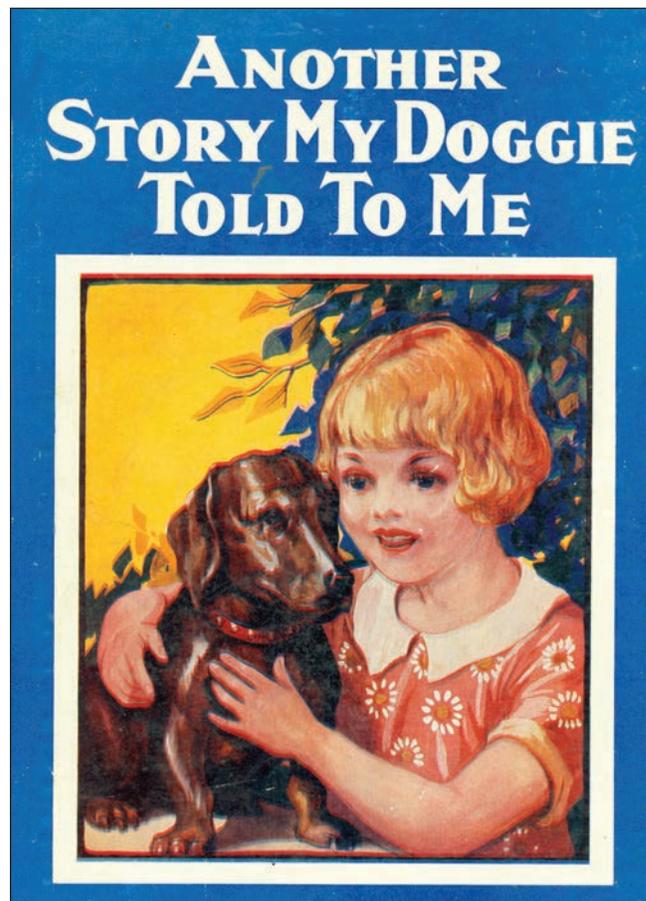
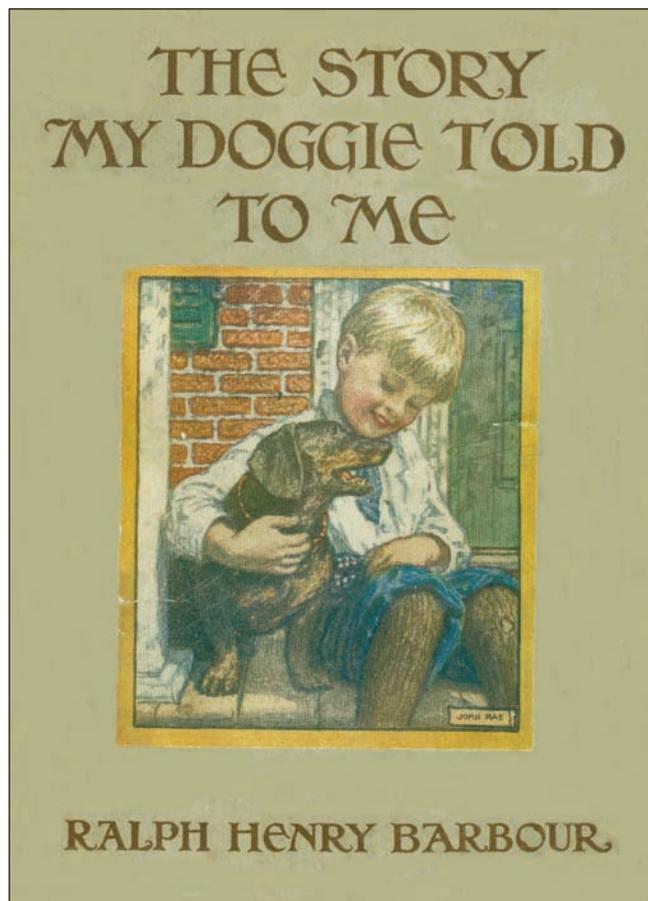
sentence in the Dodd, Mead edition). This clearly demonstrates that Barbour's book was not merely reprinted for British youth, but edited and revised with some care.

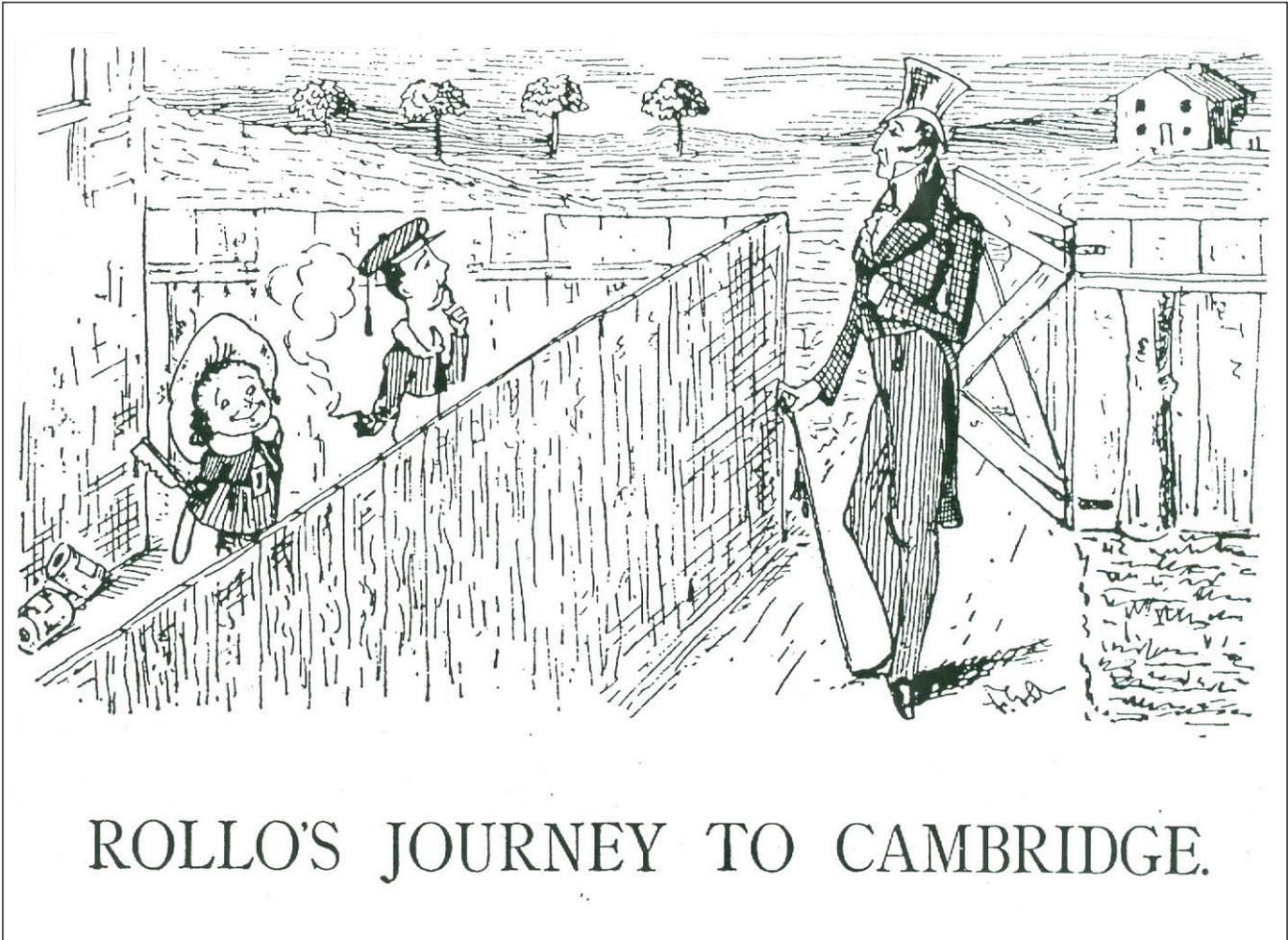
I thought that was the end of it until a few weeks later *Another Story My Doggie Told to Me* showed up on eBay. "What is that?" I asked, so I won the auction and eagerly awaited the arrival of the book from a dealer in New Zealand (it cost \$11.50 in U.S. dollars).

This book, published by The Shoe Lane Publishing Co. of London, was also in the 7 x 10 picture-book format (with a different cover design — see below) but there were no color internal illustrations, only a color frontispiece by M. Wood, identical to the internal illustration facing Page 10 of the Harrap edition. Making up for that are several nice black-and-white internal illustrations by Charles Gladwin.

At first, I merely thought the original Dodd, Mead story had been split into two picture books, but no; the Harrap edition, as mentioned, contains most of the original text with editing appropriate for its new British readership. The Shoe Lane edition is quite another matter. It is printed on much heavier, high-acid paper, the result being it is only 62 pages as compared with the George Harrap edition's 112 pages for the Barbour story, plus

(Continued on Page 11)





ROLLO'S JOURNEY TO CAMBRIDGE.

Rollo's Journey to Cambridge

By Cary Sternick (PF-933)

The Rollo's Travel books of the 1850s, which followed the fourteen Rollo Series' books of the 1830s and 1840s, were immensely popular in the 19th century. The 10 Travel books were published by at least 26 publishers over a 60-year period, verifying their wide readership.

Yet, when I sit down and page through them, I just cannot believe that anyone would read this boring, dull, moralistic jibberish unless absolutely forced. I guess I have thought that times were different back then and this type of book was par for the course.

If ever there was a series that could and should be made fun of, this was it. After 30-plus years the editors

of the relatively new **Harvard Lampoon** published the parody "Rollo's Journey to Cambridge." It was serialized in 1879-1880 and subsequently published in hardcover. It is the only series book parody that I am aware of.

The "Cambridge" book was written by John T. Wheelwright and Frederic J. Stimson. Illustrations were done by Francis G. Attwood. Wheelwright received his bachelor's degree as well as his law degree at Harvard in 1876 and 1878, respectively. He, along with Stimson and Attwood, were among the founders of the **Harvard Lampoon**. Stimson graduated the same years with Wheelwright and subsequently became an assistant attorney general in Massachusetts. Attwood never graduated from Harvard, leaving after his third year.

Just looking at the cover it is obvious that Rollo is no longer in Kansas. The earliest books have colorful board covers with the characters from this book, characters which only would be in an Abbott book found in the

(Continued on Page 8)



Rollo's trial: *On his right were the jury, composed of twelve men, who could neither read nor write, and did not know enough to form opinions. A large spittoon stood in the focus of their convergency.*

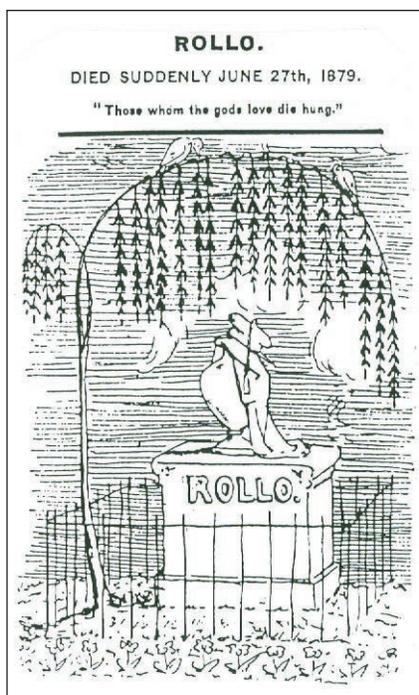
Rollo's Journey to Cambridge

(Continued from Page 7)

Bizarro world.

The introduction indicates that this book would have been part of a multivolume series had Rollo not met his untimely demise at the end of the story. Looking at the titles (see Page 10) it is obvious there are no moralistic lessons to be learned in these books.

From the very beginning when Uncle George comes upon Rollo and his brother Thanny in their yard, something is clearly not right. Rollo is smoking and both he and his brother are torturing their cousin, who has been locked in a wood-shed by throwing cans at the walls of her

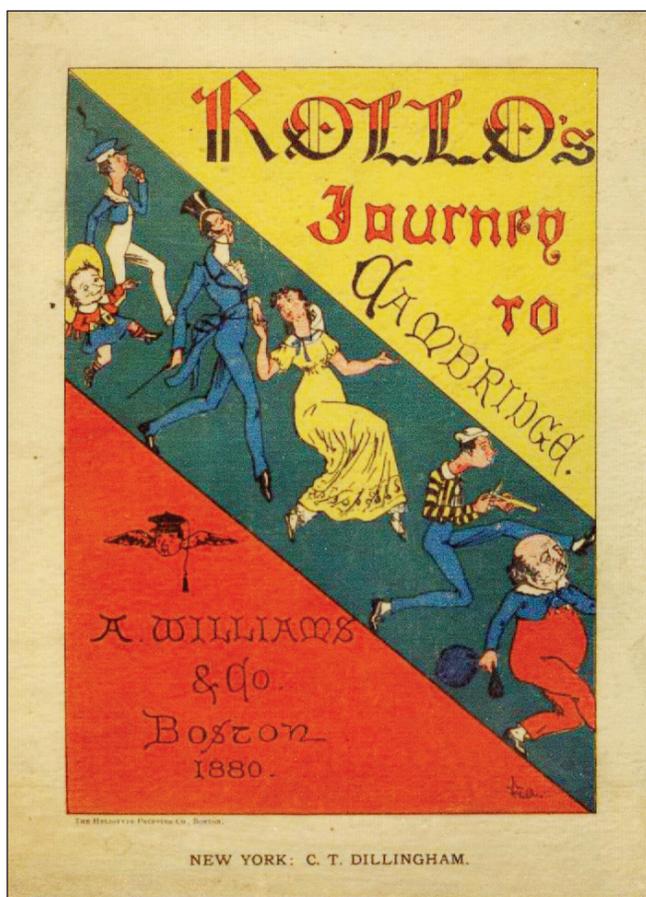


temporary prison. But the bottom line is that Rollo is to go with his brother to Cambridge for testing so that he might go to college. Off they go, not bothering to remove their cousin from the wood-shed. Oh, well.

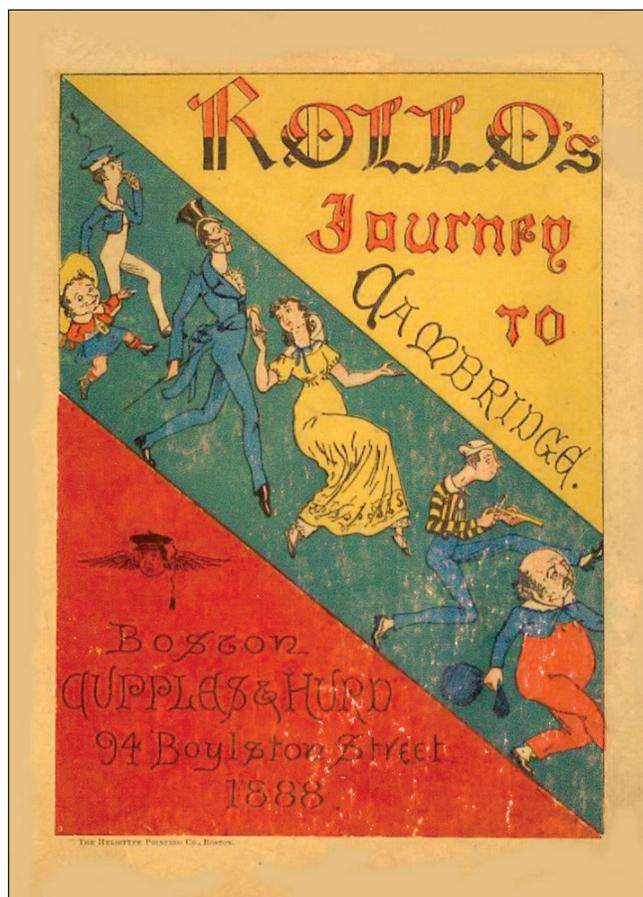
The rest of the book details the unlikely adventures in Cambridge. The dean is made to look like a total moron and the students are partyers, drinkers and smokers.

Thanny comes under the tutelage of a Chinese professor who locks him in a closet and is told he may come out in 17 years after he has studied the 7,000 books of the divine Confutsee, which are unfortunately all in the closet. So long, Thanny.

Meanwhile, Uncle George appears back on the scene totally inebriated after helping some college chums indulge in a local concoction. A



Example 1: A. Williams & Co., Boston, 1880+.



Example 2: Cupples & Hurd, Boston, 1888.

woman finds him so, decides to cure him of his drinking curse, and they elope.

Rollo falls into some misfortune of his own. He is accused of manslaughter, later found guilty by a strange court and sentenced to be hung — which he is.

That should be enough but it isn't. The writers, in a short epilogue, point out that Rollo's father thereafter embezzles some funds from the village for which he was the treasurer and absconds to Paris, where he finally dies miserably.

Rollo's mother gets a divorce and marries Jonas, another of Abbott's characters.

Uncle George is reading the encyclopedia backward and has gotten to the section of Zymotic.

Thanny is still in the closet reading about Chinese wisdom.

Jinny is still locked in the wood-shed.

Truly a strange and wonderful parody.

The bibliographical history of this book is rather interesting and I suspect not completely known.

1. **A. Williams & Co.**, Boston did at least the first two identical editions, beginning in 1880. The cover design is shown (in a later printing) in Example 1.

2. **Cupples & Hurd** of Boston in 1888 (Example 2) did a format identical with one exception to the Williams book. This book and the later editions have a different picture on page 15 of the 28-page book. The earlier book shows a baseball game whereas the later book shows Thanny sneaking away from Jonas. My book is cited as the 7th edition. Which of these first two publishers did editions numbered 3 through 6 is unclear.

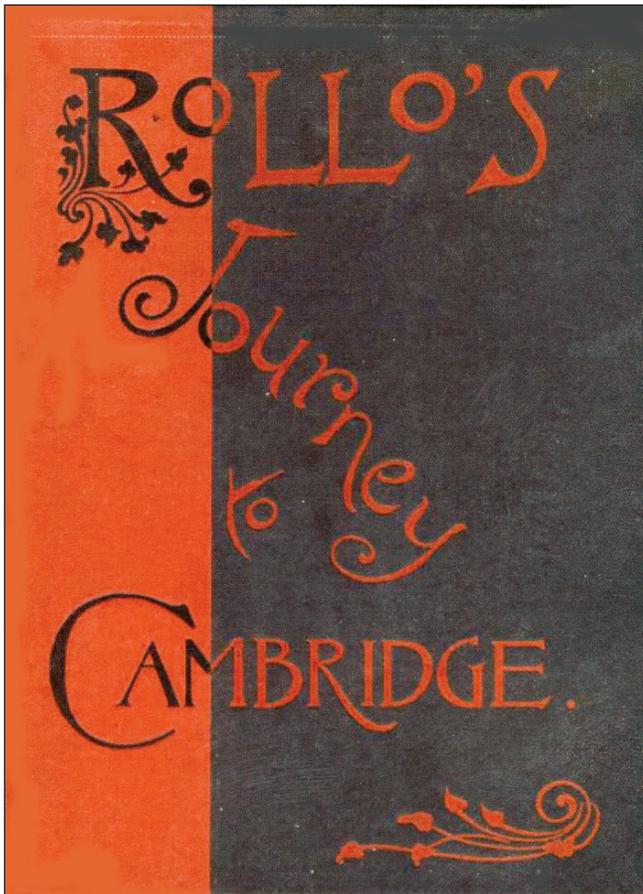
3. **Walker & Aspinwall** out of Cambridge did the 8th edition in 1895 (Example 3, Page 10). The cover was changed to a decorative black and red design. The book otherwise is the same as the earlier editions.

4. **Houghton Mifflin** did a dustjacketed memorial edition in 1926 (Example 4, Page 10). The cover is the same as the earliest publications and the book is the same, with a new preface.

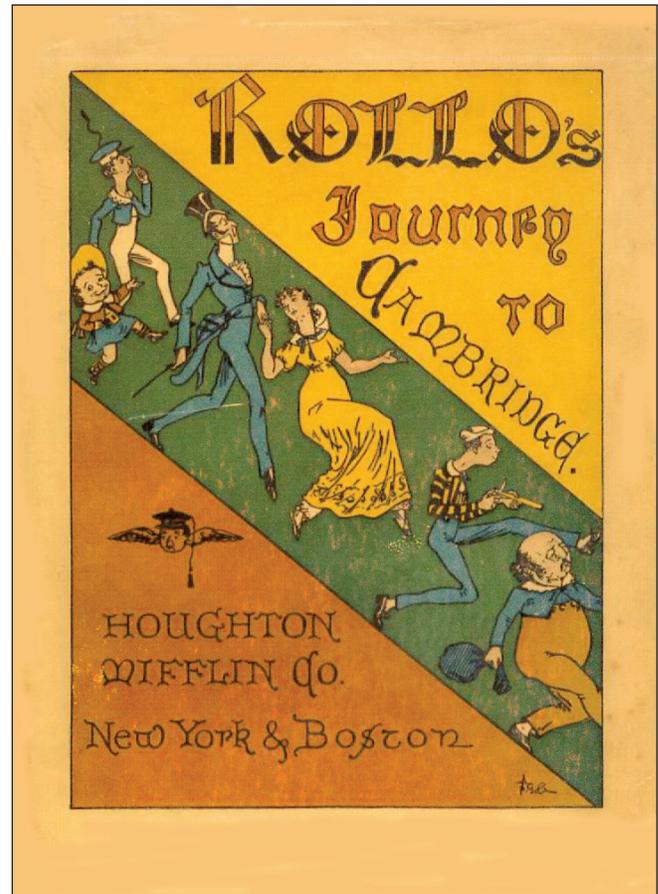
Book values are unclear because of the scarcity of the earlier books.

The Houghton Mifflin book does appear on the various sites from time to time. With a jacket, \$100 would be reasonable. The other editions bring between \$50 to \$150, more if jacketed.

(Continued on Page 10)



Example 3: Walker & Aspinwall, 1995.



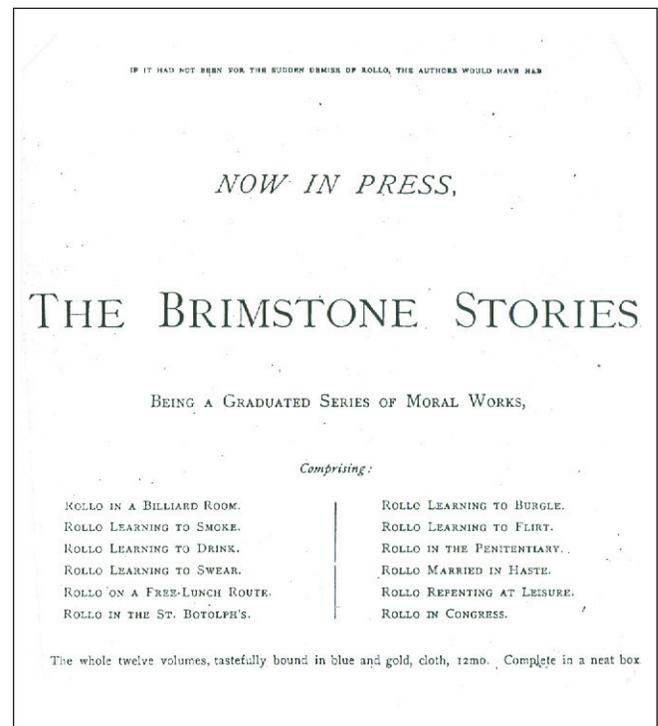
Example 4: Houghton Mifflin, 1926.

Editor's note:

Want to learn out more about the *real* Rollo books? Cary Sternick, author of this article, has just published *A Bibliography of 19th Century Children's Series Books with Price Guide*. This comprehensive volume of more than 800 pages includes information on 1,400-plus series by such authors as Horatio Alger Jr., Harry Castlemon (Charles Fosdick), Oliver Optic (William T. Adams), Edward S. Ellis, Capt. Mayne Reid, Hezekiah Butterworth, ALOE, Elijah Kellogg and, of course, Jacob Abbott. More than 300 publishers and their various corporate addresses are listed and cross-indexed with series and authors. Also included is a full-color section displaying more than 120 representative book covers.

To order at the introductory price of \$39.95, contact:

Cary Sternick
 425 Holderrieth St., #214
 Tomball, TX 77375
 E-mail: csternick@houston.rr.com
 Phone: (281) 351-9807 or (281) 363-9900
 Major credit cards accepted



Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 6)

12 pages of "filler" animal stories. Although the chapter titles are essentially the same, this edition has chopped Barbour's text by nearly one half. A child could read it in six or eight minutes! There is no publication date on the Shoe Lane edition, but my guess is that it came out several years following the Harrap edition.

This tells us that one of Barbour's more obscure books enjoyed quite a publication history in England (and probably Australia and New Zealand as well).

I believe this discussion merely scratches the surface of what's available in foreign editions of books by our favorite authors, and thanks to the Internet, we're likely to learn more as each week goes by.

If you have discovered previously unknown foreign editions of series books or books by popular authors we collect, please let me know and we'll publish the information in **Newsboy**. Please stay away from the myriad foreign Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew and Tom Swift reprints because they are already known. Also, I am not interested in foreign editions of books that were *later* printed here (G.A. Henty being the most prominent example).

Now, on to a completely different subject.

* * *

On May 9, 1961, Newton R. Minow, then chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, made a speech before the National Association of Broadcasters convention that has been entered into the history books. Below is the portion of Minow's speech that created such controversy:

"When television is good, nothing — not the theater, not the magazines or newspapers — nothing is better.

"But when television is bad, nothing is worse. I invite you to sit down in front of your television set when your station goes on the air and stay there without a book, magazine, newspaper, profit-and-loss sheet or rating book to distract you — and keep your eyes glued to that set until the station signs off. I can assure you that you will observe a **vast wasteland**.

"You will see a procession of game shows, violence, audience-participation shows, formula comedies about totally unbelievable families, blood and thunder, mayhem, violence, sadism, murder, western badmen, western good men, private eyes, gangsters, more violence and cartoons," Minow said. "And, endlessly, commercials — many screaming, cajoling and offending. And most of all, boredom. True, you will see a few things you will enjoy. But they will be very, very few. And if you think I exaggerate, try it."

I bring this up in relation to an Associated Press article reporting a study released on Oct. 28 by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Children's Digital Media Centers, that reported that "about one-third of children age 6 and under have TVs in their rooms and a similar proportion live in homes where a television is on most or all of the time."

In those so-called "heavy television households," 34 percent of children ages 4 to 6 can read, compared with 56 percent in homes in which TV is on less often, the article says.

The Kaiser report states that children ages 6 months to 6 years old spend about two hours per day watching television, playing video games or using computers, about the same amount of time they spend playing outdoors, or three times longer that they spend reading or being read to by a parent or other family member.

"Watching TV is far inferior to playing with toys, being read to or talking with parents," says Dr. Henry Shapiro, chairman of developmental and behavioral pediatrics at the American Academy of Pediatrics. "Watching TV without a parent is a junk experience, especially for young children."

The report also said that 27 percent of 4- to 6-year-olds use a computer on an average of one hour each day. In a typical day, 24 percent of boys played video games as compared with 8 percent of girls.

Despite this heavy electronic media exposure, the report states that reading remains a regular part of the growing-up experience, with almost 80 percent of children 6 and under reading or being read to every day. However, the average time spent in reading activities is 49 minutes compared with nearly 2½ hours in front of a TV or computer screen.

The books that we as members of the Horatio Alger Society collect were an important part of the daily lives of earlier generations of children, beginning in the latter third of the 19th century and carrying through the post-World War II years. Now, kids actually reading the printed word has been replaced by the TV and computer screen. Thankfully, the Harry Potter phenomenon has helped kids crave to pick up a book (other than school books) at least occasionally.

Even so, the TV-computer culture has its positive points, according to Shapiro.

"Kids are home, safe; they are hearing things," he said. "This is just part of the process over history of using the new medium and this is giving kids a chance to be competitive in the world."

Yes, he makes a point. But the "boob tube" can't replace the special joy of reading about Alger's "strive and succeed" heroes, or how Nancy Drew or Frank and Joe Hardy solve mysteries, and how several generations of

(Continued on Page 16)

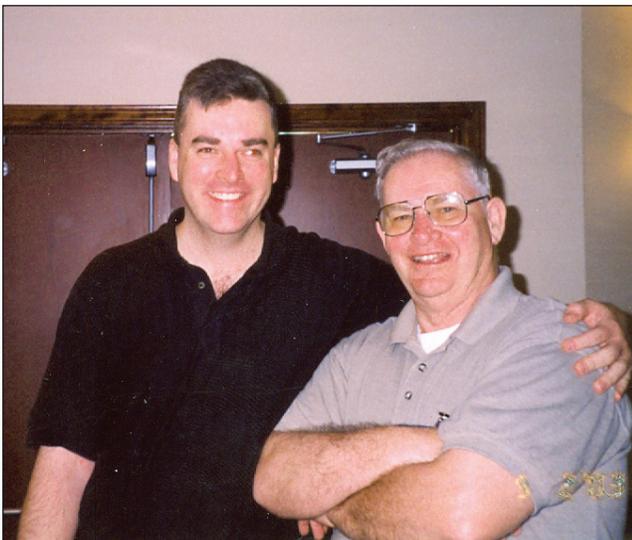


Larry Rice and Carol Nackenoff enjoy looking at Algers during the annual H.A.S. book sale.

Convention memories

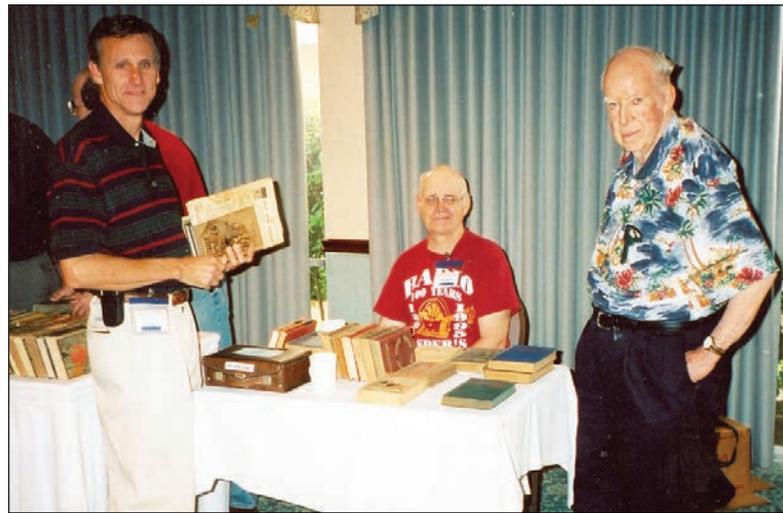


Hosts Marc and Michelle Williams welcome their Partic'lar Friends to Houston for "Adrift in Space City," the 2003 H.A.S. convention.

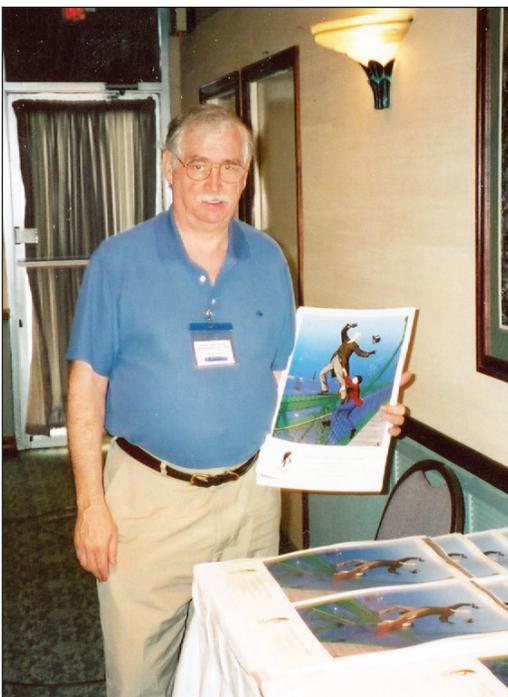


Frank Krieger and Brad Chase enjoy a few moments in the hospitality room.

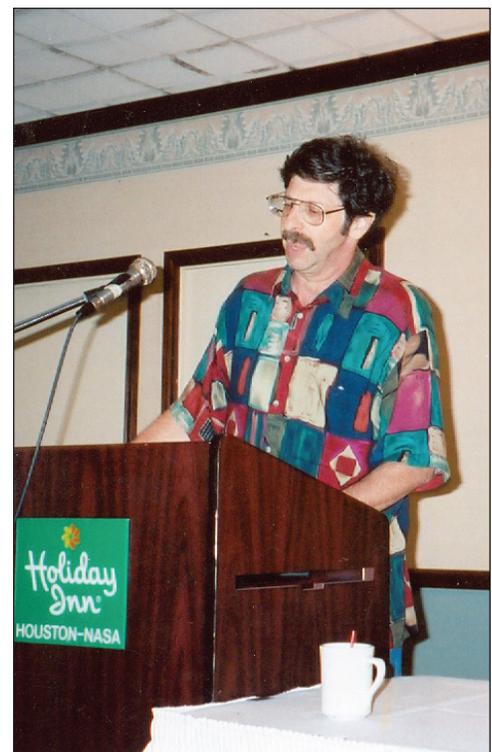
Photos submitted by Marc Williams, Ralph Carlson, John Juvinal and Cary Sternick



Ken Broadie, Dennis Lamoreaux and John Juvinall during the H.A.S. book sale.



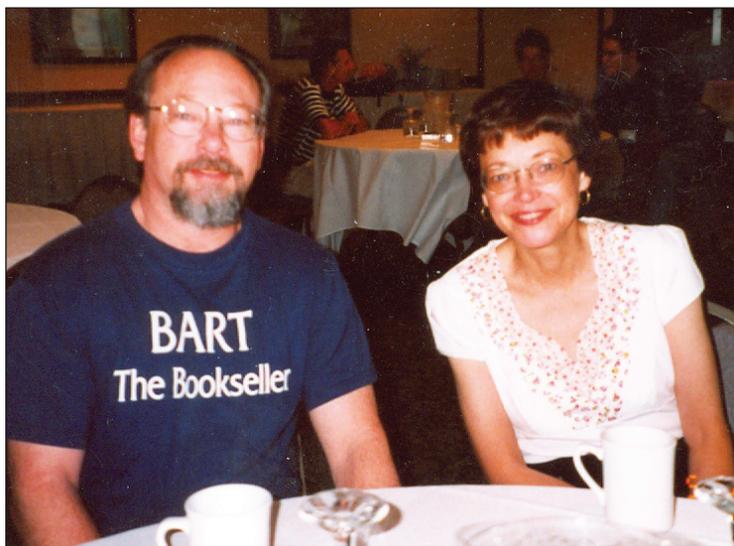
Polyglot Press president David A. Scott shows off a promotional poster for *A New York Boy*, one of the titles in Polyglot's Alger series.



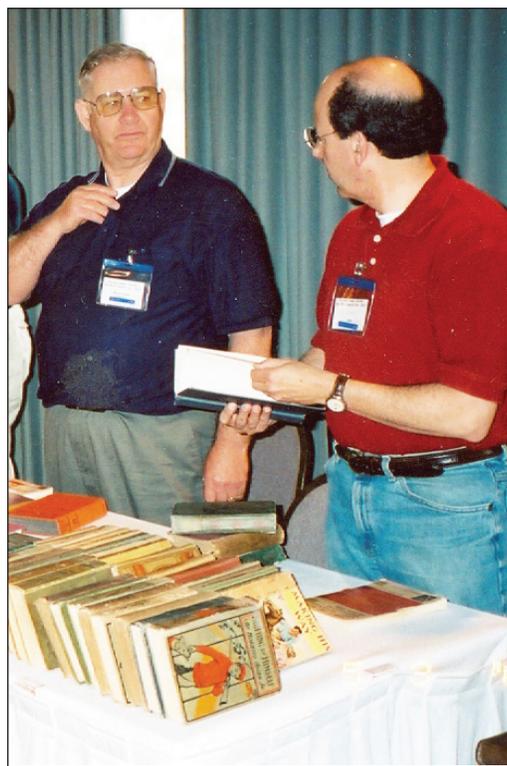
Cary Sternick makes a presentation on Friday during the convention, discussing 19th century juvenile literature.



Murray Levin and Carol Nackenoff examine one of the books in Polyglot Press's new Alger series.



Bart and Mary Ann Nyberg take a break prior to dinner.

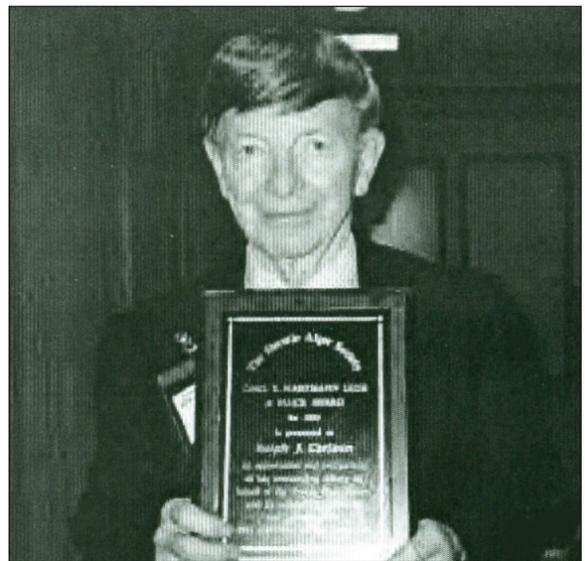


Brad Chase explains a few of the finer points of his new book to Bob Linguiti.

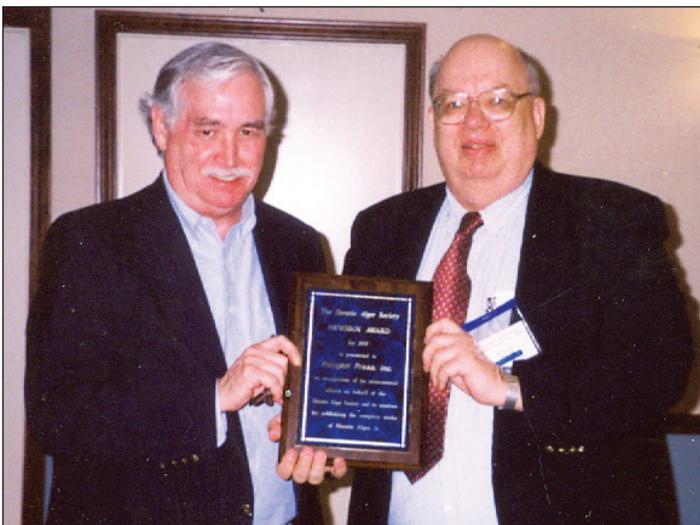


Last year's recipient Bob Routhier, left presents the *Dick Seddon Award* to Larry Rice.

Annual H.A.S. awards



Ralph J. Carlson, host of the 2002 convention in Salt Lake City, proudly shows off the 2003 *Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award*.



Newsboy editor Bill Gowen, right, presents the *Newsboy Award* to Polyglot Press president David A. Scott.

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 11)

Tom Swifts create marvelous inventions.

There's something irreplaceable about a book. Shut your eyes, and blindly take a volume from the shelf holding your collection and read it this week. See if you don't agree with me.

* * *

Speaking of Alger-type heroes, our 2002 convention host, Ralph J. Carlson (PF-955), recently mailed me an article published by **The Deseret News** about a film made in the Salt Lake City area this fall, the fifth in Disney's family series about the lovable, heroic pooch Benji, who first made the big screen in 1974 and also appeared in the TV series "Petticoat Junction." The full title of the newest film? "Benji Returns: Rags to Riches."

The director and writer, as he was in the earlier Benji films, is Joe Camp. From the title, it sounds like he's an Alger fan.

* * *

To close, we might as well report the latest on eBay: According to an article in **AntiqueWeek**, the third quarter of 2003 has been a record one for the Internet giant, with the July-September revenues at \$530 million, an amazing 84 percent increase over the same period last year.

As a result, eBay posted an operating profit of \$155.9 million, up 73 percent over 2002, with a 2003 net profit of \$103.3 million.

There are several reasons for this. First, that M.A. Donohue Alger reprint you're selling for five bucks certainly doesn't make much impact. It's the high-ticket items, such as collector cars in the six figures, oceanfront real estate, etc., that fuel the runaway eBay engine.

Also, traditional brick-and-mortar retailers (jewelers, furniture stores, clothiers) are turning to eBay to supplement their walk-in trade. Many have done it simply to remain open, while others have closed their retail locations and become exclusive on-line sellers ("Look Ma, no rent!"). In addition, major art galleries like Sotheby's are running eBay auctions in addition to their traditional live sales and the results have been stunning.

Another factor has been eBay's streamlining of its payment procedures, which in the site's early years were admittedly clunky. Buyer and seller had to contact each other, agree on a method of payment (if not stated up front), and then you mailed a check or money order.

But following eBay's acquisition of the leading international on-line payment service, PayPal, the process is a snap. That's particularly true if you're buying an item from an overseas or Canadian seller. The foreign exchange rate is applied automatically with no need to

convert the amount yourself. Payment is made electronically and the item shipped immediately with no delay waiting for your check to clear.

There are now eBay sites in 28 foreign countries, with a Chinese-language site for Hong Kong the latest to go on-line. As of this fall, the number of active users of eBay had risen from 24.2 million to 37.4 million in the last year, a 55 percent increase.

For book collectors, eBay has been a major help to those of us tired of putting hundreds of extra miles on our cars driving to some back-country book shop. Yes, competitive bidding drives some prices unrealistically high, but it's simply market economics at work.

Try window-shopping through the various eBay categories and you'll see the atmospheric prices being asked (and bid). Two categories in the nostalgia area that are similar to book-collecting are sports memorabilia and Hollywood/movie memorabilia. Take a look and you'll be amazed at the prices being bid.

Really, we've chosen a relatively inexpensive hobby. So, the next time you contemplate bidding \$1,000 for a *Ragged Dick* first edition, maybe you'll step right up!

A New Book by Brad Chase!

Horatio Alger Books Published
by Twelve Small Alger Publishers

Paperback, 8 1/2 x 5 1/2, Blue, 166 Pages
\$15, if purchased alone



I have also produced a gold-stamped blue slipcase to hold all five of my books. Its cost is \$5 if purchased with the new book, \$10 if purchased separately.

If you are missing any of the other four books on other publishers, *i.e.*, A.L. Burt, M.A. Donohue, Whitman or N.Y. Book Company, the cost is \$12 each as part of this promotion. The cost of the entire set of five books, plus slipcase, is only \$60.

I will pay the postage
Connecticut residents please add 6% tax

Brad Chase (PF-412)
6 Sandpiper Road
Enfield, CT 06082